

Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the meeting on the 11th June 2020

Virtual Meeting during the Covid 19 Restrictions

Present:

Cllr Arwel Roberts (Mayor in the Chair)
Cllr Mike Elgin (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr Reg Davies
Cllr Syd Gaskin
Cllr Andrew Smith
Cllr Bleddyn Williams
Cllr Mike Elgin
Cllr Gareth Rowlands
Cllr Mike Kermode
Town Clerk
Clerical Assistant/Minute Clerk

1. Apologies

Cllrs Charlotte Frobisher & Ann Davies

Although members of the public could be invited to join the meeting, and following the guidance, there were no members of the public who had taken up the invitation. It was reported that 1 member of the public had wished to be part of the virtual meeting but had no access to Zoom so could not participate.

2. Declaration of Interest

None

3. Urgent Items – having been advised to the Mayor 24hrs in advance

The Mayor had received a concern about the Admiral's Field MUGA and play areas and asked Cllr Gareth Rowlands to explain the issues to Members.

Cllr Rowlands had noticed youths inside the closed facilities. The wire closing them had been removed from the MUGA and others had jumped over the playground fencing. So, he had purchased 4 locks and closed them securely. All had now been removed and PCSO Roberts had been informed, and wondered how Members would like to progress this?

Cllr Syd Gaskin enquired if the CCTV system would be useful in dealing with the culprits.

Cllr Rowlands had informed the police who could request footage but had heard nothing back. He suggested 2 forms of action, leave them open, or weld the gates closed.

Cllr Mike Kermode thanked Cllr Rowlands for his concern and efforts to rectify the issue but proposed that the Council should leave the gates open but place a Covid 19 warning sign up on the facilities. This was seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. **Resolved.**

Cllr Mike Elgin wished PCSO Roberts to be informed of our decision.

Cllr Arwel Roberts commenting that PCSO Roberts has already been informed and a note of our action forwarded.

Cllr Mike Kermode will send a photo of the Covid 19 sign to the Town Clerk.

4. Police Matters

PCSO Roberts had sent the following report but reported that North Wales Police do not use Zoom so he could not attend.

The short report for March - May is very low due to the lockdown. There have been 294 calls to NWP for the same months for Rhuddlan alone. Although high, only a very small portion was crime related.

I have also contacted Councillor Arwel Roberts and Councillor Ann Davies respectively to update them on a couple of matters that have recently been circulated in the local press regarding social distancing, ASB littering/ Traffic issues at KFC Rhuddlan.

There have been 6 fines issued to members of public in the Rhuddlan area for non-compliance, even though having several warnings not to do so.

The KFC opened their drive through early May, although there were slight teething problems, the issues were quickly resolved and no further incidents occurred. This was managed with intervention from DCC.

The Abbey farm had also encountered ASB on their land due to the glorious weather. This resulted in large gatherings of youths attending the river bank and causing ASB and littering. NPW attended and moved on the group (including one arrest for drunk/disorderly) and also reminded them of social distancing rules. An appeal through our social media was also used to highlight this.

March- May

ASB Incidents at the following:

- High St
- Castle
- Maes Y Onnen
- Dyserth Rd
- Admirals walk
- Tan Y Eglwys
- Rhyl Rd
- Clos Y Berllan
- Abbey farm

12 shoplifting offences for Spar and CO OP

The report was accepted

5. Minutes

a) AGM 14th May 2020.

The Minutes had been circulated and there being no amendments Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed they be accepted as a true record, seconded by Cllr Syd Gaskin and all voted in favour. **Resolved.** The Minutes were duly signed.

Matters Arising - Cllr Arwel Roberts wished to add that £250 had been donated to both the Rhuddlan Community Centre & the Breast Cancer Treasure Chest.

He also reported that under Item 7a Appointment to External Bodies Gareth Smith (ex-Councillor) had volunteered to be a flood warden but no virtual discussion or decisions by the wardens' group had taken place.

b) Virtual Town Council Meeting 14th May 2020.

Cllr Mike Elgin had noticed a mathematical error in the voting of Item 5d Tourist Video. Members agreed to remove the voting results and just record a resolved decision.

Cllr Elgin wished to amend Item 5e to record that dog waste **was** being picked up.

Cllr Ann Davies prior to the meeting had wished to amend Item 9 Planning Applications to report that Abbey Farm Caravan Park already had permission for tourer & static caravans and this application was for glamping lodges.

Cllr Mike Kermode wished Item 14 Grant Applications to record his comment as "Over the years Rhuddlan Town Council has acted positively towards supporting grants for many community groups and he hopes that this will continue for all groups not just the Allotment Society".

Subject to these amendments the minutes were proposed by Cllr Mike Kermode seconded by Cllr Syd Gaskin as a true record and signed.

Matters Arising

a. **Tourist Video** - The Town Clerk had now instructed Web Studio to start work on the story board but warned that they will have to work around the videographer timescale once the story board was confirmed.

b. **Dog Waste Bag Dispensers** – The Town Clerk Informed Members that new bags had been ordered from Amazon. There then followed a discussion by Members on stocks of both dispensers and bags getting low as people are taking them and using them in a positive manner. Cllr Gareth Rowlands reported that Denbighshire might be able to supply more of both, or perhaps the Council could purchase more from their suppliers at a discounted price.

Cllr Mike Kermode thanked the Councillors who are assisting with this issue and that he was pleased to see it being taken up by people in a positive manner. He proposed that the Town Clerk ask Denbighshire for more free dispensers and bags. Additionally, Members agree to allocate a sum of up to £100 a month to purchase more stock from wherever had favourable prices. **Resolved.**

c. **New Cemetery** – the Town Clerk reported that she had written to the owner of the land in April who had replied that no progress had been made within the family due to the lockdown situation and to await lockdown restrictions being lifted.

d. **Bus Shelter Cleaning** – project finished and invoice received

e. **Seating Bench Proposal** – The Town Clerk reported that Denbighshire had given the go ahead and had received an estimated cost of £700 for the bench and its installation. **Resolved.**



- f. **Marsh Road Pavement** – The Town Clerk had received communication from Denbighshire's Tony Ward confirming that this is an outstanding part of the scheme and that an officer will contact her to progress.
- g. **DCC Destination Partnership** – Cllr Mike Elgin reported that 2 virtual meetings had now been held and the overwhelming concern of businesses was a need to start preparations for opening up when lockdown restrictions are lifted, observing the guidance provided. They discussed that messages need to be put out by partners as to how this would be done as there are many scared and concerned people in our communities. They saw a need to be proactive in ensuring it would be safe after lockdown and that guidance would be followed to ensure customer safety. Cllr Arwel Roberts listed local businesses that are delivering orders and how important it was to remember to support local shops & to encourage a return for tourists when safe to do so.
Cllr Gareth Rowlands was concerned that the Town Council should not be seen to be marketing that it's safe to use businesses because no one can guarantee safety during this pandemic.
Cllr Mike Elgin proposed that a statement be posted on the Rhuddlan Town Council website saying that we are liaising with local businesses to follow guidelines and making it is as safe as possible to open once lockdown is lifted.
Cllr Andrew Smith adding that this should be a simplistic statement along the lines of opening in a safe way. **Resolved.**
- h. **Planning Complaint** – Cllr Andrew Smith informed Members that the complainant had attempted to use the DCC Planning portal as advised but it was down. **Resolved** that the Town Clerk inform DCC planning.
- i. **Rhuddlan Mag** – Cllr Arwel Roberts had received a positive comment on his Rhuddlan Mag article explaining the Town Council precept.
- j. **Welcome Sign** – the order has been sent to DCC to install 2 Welcome signs and 2 Wales in Bloom Gold Medal Winner signs.
- k. **Local Places for Nature Pack**– application has been sent and acknowledgement received.
- l. **KFC Litter** – Cllr Arwel Roberts had been to see the Manager who said that the site belongs to Aldi but Cllr Roberts commented that KFC have a responsibility too around their outlet.
Cllr Andrew Smith wondered why it was such a difficult issue. He had spoken to Aldi Manager who said that if they had a key to the DCC bins they would empty them and they did have a car registration camera that could be used of evidence of litter dropping.
- m. **Grass Cutting** – Members had noted that this had been completed shortly after the Council's last meeting and agreed that a letter be sent to Public Realm to record the Town Council thanks for a good job. **Resolved.**
- n. **Budget** – The Town Clerk reported that a £7,154 VAT re-claim had been received.
- o. **Coed y Brain** – The Town Clerk updated the Members that the planning application for change of use had gone in, and DCC have acknowledged it being received. The timetable for a decision is up to 8 weeks, providing there are no complications. Members were also informed that the Town Clerk had spoken with the vendor to update him. He was concerned at the length of time the sale was taking.

Cllr Arwel Roberts told Members that the planning timetable and procedure could be affected by the Covid 19 issues.

Cllr Mike Kermode asked for reassurance that the sale would not be completed until the change of use was confirmed. The Town Clerk confirmed that this was the case and a condition of the Welsh Government loan.

- p. **Pentre Lane Bin** – The Town Clerk read out correspondence received from Cllr Ann Davies commenting that the minutes for this item was not correct. In the last meeting Cllr Charlotte Frobisher raised the need for a new bin in Pentre Lane. Cllr Ann Davies stated that she had made this request through CRM and Street Scene did not support this request. “At this point I did not say they would not buy a bin but would empty it. It was then proposed by Cllr Roberts that TC purchase a bin. It was only then that the issue of emptying the bin was raised - I did say I assumed the County would empty it. Cllr Rowland's then asked for assurance that the council would empty it. I was to ask Street Scene to confirm they would empty the bin.

After some discussion Cllr Gareth Rowlands said that the original Minute was correct that is why he had made an amendment to the original proposal requiring DCC to formally agree to empty the bin before any purchase, and proposed that the Minute stands. Cllr Mike Kermode seconded and it was **Resolved**.

Cllr Arwel Roberts had contacted DCC about the placing of a bin at this site who said that due to this being a highway junction this was not a good site for a bin. Cllr Gareth Rowlands agreed saying that he had assessed the site previously and vision would be impeded.

It was reported that the Town Council owned bin at the library cost around £343 to buy and install by Glascoed and £6 a week to empty.

Cllr Bleddyn Williams suggested that a red dog waste bin could be sited at Pentre Lane. Cllr Gareth Rowlands answered that this was not possible as this would be termed “designated waste” and would be difficult and expensive to collect as a consequence.

Cllr Arwel Roberts mentioned that there is a red dog waste bin on Kerfoot Road but it was not placed there by the Town Council or DCC and therefore not their responsibility to empty it.

- q. **Councillor Vacancy** – The Town Clerk had posted Notice of Vacancy on the Council noticeboard, website, and local newspaper as required. Following some discussion on the election process due to Covid 19 Cllr Mike Kermode added that it is now up to the residents of Rhuddlan by requiring 10 signatures for an election. If this is not received within the timescale then the Council can co-opt for the vacancy.
- r. **Cylch Meithrin Grant** – The Town Council has contacted the applicant for more detail regarding the large surplus in the accounts. It was confirmed that this is due to the payment of staff salaries. In accordance with the delegation of the grant decision to the Town Clerk, the grant of £350 for the laptop has been **authorised**.

6. Correspondence from:

a. The Mayor.

Cllr Arwel Roberts said that due to the Covid 19 restrictions he and the Mayoress had nothing much to report. However, he had donated £100 to the North Denbighshire

District Nurse Team for some equipment for the dementia group Flying Fox. Also £100 to McMillan Nurses.

The report was accepted

b. The Town Clerk

In addition to the report, the Town Clerk thanked Cllr Syd Gaskin for checking on the defibrillators which are in good working order.

The report was accepted

c. Funding for Local Sustainable Transport Measures

Cllr Arwel Roberts had received an email from a Rhuddlan resident asking that the Town Council consider encouraging DCC to make an expression of interest to this scheme. It asks for low cost, high impact imaginative measures to increase sustainable transport in the area. It was noted that the application date had expired and that this has to be led by the Local Authority.

Cllr Mike Kermode suggested that we formally support the principle of sustainable transport but look at the coastal region.

Cllr Arwel Roberts mentioned his previous work in Safe Routes for Schools whereby he had initiated an Abergele Primary School "walk the children" route to and from school.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands commented on a cycle friendly High Street and maybe add to the Town Plan.

Cllr Andrew Smith agreed with safe pathways for children going to and from school but the Council cannot support the closure of Hylas Lane as residents need continued access at all times.

Cllr Arwel Roberts concluded that it was up to DCC to consult on any expression of interest for Rhuddlan.

7. Town Plan

Cllr Mike Kermode had previously emailed his presentation to all Members and proceeded to explain its contents and ask for their comments.

20 proposals had been received from Members which he was suggesting should be collated into a schedule of proposals for Members to discuss at a meeting to be held on Thursday 18th June at 7pm. Members could then agree a priority order for delivery and the creation of a prioritised list for the Town Plan. Cllr Kermode set out 3 factors that members should consider in making priority lists, Finance, Staffing Resources, and Public Consultation.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands thanked Cllr Kermode for his hard work in this presentation and his reasoning behind it.

Cllr Arwel Roberts mentioned that Town Council should also seek assistance where possible from DCC officers to deliver and support the priority proposals.

This matter will be included on the next agenda.

8. County Council Members Report

County Councillor Report – Cllr Ann Davies

1. VOLUNTEER WEEK

I was delighted to be asked to get involved in this initiative to reward the wonderful residents of Rhuddlan who have stepped up at this difficult time. Cadburys, who had surplus Easter eggs this year, offered to donate these eggs to COVID19 Volunteer Community Responders.

I have been working with The Denbighshire Voluntary Service Council to identify volunteers, carers and many other deserving people.

In Rhuddlan, we have identified several volunteers who have provided such help as gardening, delivery of medication and shopping for vulnerable residents. We are also now able to allocate some of these eggs to many carers.

Along with Sandy, DVSC, I was delighted to give eggs to Will Evans and family. Will provided excellent technical expertise in lighting up Rhuddlan Castle, St Mary's Church - Rhuddlan, St Margaret's Church - Bodelwydden and Bodfari Church in Blue in support of the NHS. Well done to all involved."

2. LIBRARY

The reintroduction of libraries in Wales will be a phased approach in line with Welsh Government guidance.

Phase 1 will see Home Library Services re- instated and expanded, and an "Order and Collect" service for books offered from each library. This will happen in the next few weeks.

Phases 2 and 3 will see limited access by appointment, to public ICT facilities and one stop shop services.

Phase 4 will eventually see limited access for browsing and use of library spaces.

3. FEEDING OF SEAGULLS

There have been reports of seagulls causing some injuries to individuals as they try and find food. Residents are being urged not to feed seagulls.

4. WASTE BIN IN PENTRE LANE

Pentre Lane residents have reported an increase in litter and dog bags been thrown into their gardens. This has been exasperated during lockdown as more people are walking in this area.

Initially, Street Scene refused to support the need for a bin in this area. Following discussions with the Head of Highways and the Street Scene Officer they have now agreed to relook at the request at the end of the summer, when, hopefully it will be possible to have site meeting.

5. COUNTY COUNCIL MEETINGS

We are all having to look at different ways of working, County Council meetings are now being held via Webex. This has been a challenging experience for many of us.

6. CARERS WEEK

The work of unpaid Carers in Denbighshire will be highlighted as part of Carers week, 8th- 14th June 2020. DCC is thanking Carers as part of the annual campaign to raise awareness of caring. The council has recently produced a new information leaflet with the North East Wales Carers information service (NEWCIS) leaflet to provide Carers with a range of information.

As Carers Champion for DCC I'm pleased to support the work the council is doing to support Carers by improving the provision of information, advice and assistance as well as helping Carers access leisure facilities, providing financial support to allow Carers to take short breaks and by offering training. Carers are so important to our communities and they deserve our thanks. This week I have delivered Easter eggs (donated by Cadbury's) to many Carers in Rhuddlan.

7. THANK YOU

While it is not possible to thank everyone going above and beyond during this unprecedented time, I feel we need to acknowledge all the key workers keeping everything running during this time. The businesses and residents in our town have once again shown their community spirit.

I would particularly thank the staff in the Chemist who have been extremely helpful and a real lifeline to our residents by delivering vital medication.

Despite extremely difficult circumstances, Jayne Coxall our Vicar has gone over and beyond her duties by providing vital support and comfort to many residents. Her kindness is very much appreciated.

Pat a Volunteer with the community group has been busy painting the flower boxes in readiness for the summer planting. Today a group of volunteers kindly planted the flowers. Thanks must go to this wonderful group for making Rhuddlan high street one to be proud of.

Thank you all.

The report was accepted

Members agreed to send a letter to the Rhuddlan Community Group for flower boxes proposed by Cllr Arwel Roberts seconded by Cllr Andrew Smith. **Resolved.**

County Councillor Report - Cllr Arwel Roberts

Meeting via webex – one only for me – Elwy area Mag.

Have been involved through zoom regarding the Town Council.

Another meeting regarding zoom with Denbighshire Connect for learning disabilities – very useful meeting with ladies who have relatives who have learning disabilities. PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL ZOOM MEETINGS ARE ON OUR PERSONAL LAPTOP. The county is against the use of zoom on their iPad

Other problems are dealt on the phone or e-mails.

1. 15A and 16 Highlands Road – have been in contact with officer regarding these properties. They have been flooded in the past. Very serious matter. I was informed that the county was improving sections of footways in Highlands Close, Ffordd Ffynnon, Barrfield Road and Ffordd Nant. No mention of Highlands Road. The road is not consistent with the gullies, surely there is a solution.
2. I have been contacted regarding the business rates run by DCC on behalf of Welsh Government. I have assisted three business who for different reasons couldn't manage the programme to release the finance they could receive. Two have thanked me and the third which is the Rhuddlan Community Centre I have heard that it isn't difficult for them to have the money even though they are a charity.
3. The bridge for pedestrians and cyclists has been a problem during these days of lockdown. The signs on a blue background only give advice. The signs are there for the safety of cyclists and pedestrians. A cyclist could easily fall into the river whilst cycling on the bridge. The County are not keen to change the sign to no cycling (Red circle). If the entrance is narrower how could persons on a wheelchair have access?
4. The strip of land between the bungalow Padarn and the cemetery has not been registered and Clwyd Alun/Pennaf will not accept responsibility and ownership for it. County Council similar response. I have requested that the County look at some trees that may be growing into the strip of land.
5. The DCC toilet opposite the King's Head is still closed. Residents especially the elderly are allowed now to travel along our streets. A resident requested for them to be re-opened. There is still a demand for them to be reopened – not fair when you see residents with cross legs outside. The answer from an officer is too longwinded to type here I'll read it on the night.
6. The County are very keen to tackle problems caused by seagulls. Rhyl being the main area where this problem occurs. Residents shouldn't not feed these birds. KFC/Aldi Rhuddlan is an area where they are common the fact that the public are throwing rubbish with leftovers on to land owned by these businesses is a constant issue. Our enforcement officers are now working again, they need evidence of a member of the public dropping litter. The public have no permission to enter land owned by farmers also. It was very sad to see the damage done to livestock and the land owned by a local farmer.

7. Ysgol y Castell has been used as a hub for key workers. I'm very impressed by the work of the headteacher and her staff during these difficult times. The re-opening of schools at the end of this month is going to be an enormous strain to all staff and headteacher across our county. An extra problem is the fact that the Head of Education & Children's Services will be leaving us next month to take a post in Wrexham Borough Council as Director of Education. Cabinet have decided that they will not immediately recruit a replacement for Karen. Instead they are putting in place interim arrangements where two members of Karen's team will be 'acting up' as Head of Services. A Governors meeting is to be arranged soon using another virtual facility – Hwb Cymru.

The report was accepted

Cllr Andrew Smith commented that it would be useful to receive County Councilors reports as part of the agenda that is sent out the Monday before the Town Council meeting on the Thursday.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands agreed and suggested the Friday before a meeting for reports.

Cllr Mike Kermode added that the County Councilor report should concentrate on that role and not a general comment about things happening in Rhuddlan.

At this point Cllr Arwel Roberts explained how he reports on town and County matters and his timetable and subject matter.

Cllr Andrew Smith agreed that any County Councilor report should concentrate on County business and the County's work in Rhuddlan and that a timetable of either Friday or Monday be agreed for receiving of these reports.

The Town Clerk stated that receiving reports on a Monday would be sufficient to be included in a Town Council Meeting agenda.

Resolved

9. Budget/Finance Matters

- a. The Town Clerk presented the due payment list for Members approval.

The payments were approved

10. Planning Applications for comment:

None Received

11. Community Matters – Cllr Arwel Roberts asked that this item be inserted in the Agenda before moving to Part 2.

- a. Cllr Syd Gaskin was concerned that a bench on the Castle Walk which overlooks the river was very low and difficult to use as a result. The Mayor explained that it is a Town Council bench but its design and appearance were requested by CADW to be in keeping with the Castle area.

Cllr Gaskin took the opportunity to commend all of the Members present for their discussions and participation under difficult circumstance of virtual meetings and stated he thought that the meetings are going well.

b. Cllr Bleddyn Williams had noticed a wooden palisade fence erected in the Nature Reserve and wondered why and if it was permanent. Cllr Gareth Rowlands explained that it was there to protect a swan's nest & eggs but as the eggs had been lost it will now be removed. Cllr Williams then described to the Members the outcome of a camper van parked inside his grandmother's gate on Bryn Castell. The land belongs to DCC and the Housing Officer has agreed she can have access to it for parking. Hatch markings are being provided.

Part 2 Exclusion of the Press & Public

By virtue of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press & public are excluded from discussions on the following items on the basis that disclosure thereof would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

12. Rhuddlan Community Group Grant Application – The Town Clerk stated that the application was for autumn planting and several ancillary items such as gloves, compost, and fertilizer totalling £800.

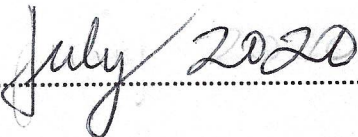
Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed a grant of £800, seconded by Cllr Reg Davies. **Resolved.**

13. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 18th June at 7pm for the Town Plan Meeting

Thursday 9th July at 7pm Monthly meeting

Signed.......... Cllr Arwel Roberts (Mayor)

Date..........