



Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the meeting on the 22nd October 2020

Virtual Meeting during the Covid 19 Restrictions

Present:

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

1. Apologies

Cllr Charlotte Frobisher, Cllr Reg Davies

This meeting was called to interview the shortlisted candidates for the Project Officer role and the Mayor asked the Members if they would support 3 items for discussion after the interviews were concluded. **Resolved.**

2. Gaining Mayors Attention during Zoom Meetings

Cllr Ann Davies commented that the Town Council had coped well with using the Zoom virtual meeting procedures but enquired if the Members could agree an acceptable method of gaining the Mayor's attention when wanting to contribute to the discussions or asking for some information so as to add to the discussion. Cllr Davies explained how Denbighshire CC dealt with this in their meetings by tapping on the screen, and clicking "participants".

Cllr Gareth Rowlands explained that Members had several options such as the clap hands, or thumbs up signs in addition to "participants"

Cllr Ann Davies did not like the thumbs up method

Cllr Andrew Smith informed Members that when he clicks "participants" he loses the pictures of those present in the virtual meeting.

Cllr Rowlands suggested that Members agree what they feel is the easiest method

Cllr Jackie Burnham suggested using a written prompt that could be held up to gain attention.

Cllr Ann Davies proposed clicking on “participants”. There was no seconder.

Cllr Syd Gaskin proposed putting your hand up as presently done, this was seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved**

3. Recent Death

The Mayor informed Members of the sad passing of Mr Adie Jones who was the husband of Ann Jones MS. He was from Rhuddlan originally and was a member of Rhuddlan Bowling Club. Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed that a card of condolences be sent to Ann Jones. **Resolved**

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.

4. Interviews

The 3 candidates were then invited, in turn, and individually, to enter the virtual meeting. Each candidate was asked 5 identical questions by the Mayor which had been sent to them the morning of the interview.

The method of voting was identical to that used previously when using Zoom for the Councillor vacancy. Cllr Gareth Rowlands explained this again for clarity and passing over the Host role to the Town Clerk.

Each Member was then invited to vote and the Town Clerk declared the result in favour of Stephen Wilson.

Cllr Mike Kermode commented that the appointment be conditional on the references being followed up and proof of UK citizenship.

5. Extra Funding

The Town Clerk informed Members that she had been alerted to potential capital expenditure within the County, which could be used for things such as lighting up towns for Christmas, and events equipment like gazebo's, tables, and awnings. The deadline was 30th October. **It was resolved** to agree in principle and await further details.

6. Planning Application for the Former Rhyl Rugby Club site - 47/2020/0593

Cllr Mike Kermode wished to abstain from the vote

Cllr Ann Davies Declared an Interest

Although the old Rhyl Rugby Club is outside of Rhuddlan's boundary, is it only 100m outside and a Rhuddlan town resident had objected so Denbighshire Planning had asked the Town Council for comments as part of the consultation process.

The objections had centred on traffic level concerns and the closing of a Public Footpath.

Cllr Mike Elgin had viewed the application and commented that he believed any traffic going to the proposed holiday park development would be from the A55 direction and not via the town of Rhuddlan and therefore the concerns were not relevant. He added that the development would bring much needed employment, especially for the young, and it could potentially add economic benefits to Rhuddlan's business community.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands had concerns and although traffic is not really relevant here, he was disappointed that the Town Council was only receiving consultation because of a local resident's objections. He added that it would assist with local employment but noted the development was very near to an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Cllr Ann Davies had seen the plans, and commented that it was large development, but informed Members that the application had not yet gone before the Planning Committee.

Cllr Arwel Roberts in noting that it was a narrow lane accessing the development asked what the Town Council would like to reply to the Planning Department.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed sending Members observations of traffic concerns, access from A55, the narrow nature of the access lane, and its proximity to an AONB.

Cllr Mike Elgin wished to add the positive observations too of employment opportunities especially those for young people, and the potential economic benefits to Rhuddlan.

Cllr Ann Davies advised Members that when the Planning Committee discuss applications, they like to know how the local Town Council feel about them.

Cllr Arwel Roberts also added his disappointment that the application consultation did not come straight to the Town Council.

Cllr Rowlands then proposed that Town Council comment on the negative issues highlighted, and the positives as suggested by Cllr Elgin.

Cllr Andrew Smith commented that he had made comments on applications previously but felt as though they were not taken into account, but he too was concerned about the way the consultation had come about.

Cllr Ann Davies suggested that the Town Council ask for an extension to the consultation period so as to allow all Members an opportunity to discuss the application.

Cllr Syd Gaskin informed Members that if they go to the Denbighshire Planning Portal and enter the planning number, they can view the application and make comment.

Cllr Andrew Smith wanted to add to our observations, as proposed by Cllr Rowlands, our disappointment at the lack of proper consultation with Rhuddlan Town Council, and ask for an extension so as to be able to discuss properly at our next Town Council meeting on November 12th. **Resolved.**

7. Speed Surveys

Cllr Arwel Roberts had received the results of the various speed surveys (Appendix A) conducted in Rhuddlan and what actions would be taken by Denbighshire CC and GoSafe Partnership.

The Mayor reminded Members that the Council is in Part 2 and therefore to keep the results confidential for now.

Cllr Mike Kermode welcomed the news noting that although the Highlands Road result was technically within the legal speed limits people perception is that in this residential area it seems too fast.

Cllr Ann Davies informed Cllr Arwel Roberts and the Members that the results are already on social media and that a resident has already contacted her on the subject. She also reported that she had seen a plan of a pedestrian refuge for the Pentre Lane Highlands Road area.

Cllr Mike Elgin agreed that the 31mph average for a residential area like Highlands Road is far too fast. He proposed that the Town Council should investigate having 20mph limit on the town's problem streets. We now have this evidence and we could use it to support our case, potentially asking for electric real time speed signs that can be purchased. Cllr Kermode seconded.

Cllr Andrew Smith noted that certain residents are driving this issue and others are concerned about what measures would be used for traffic calming.

Cllr Elgin said that the data demonstrated that the majority of vehicles are abiding by the speed limit and he was not in favour of using certain calming measures.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands supports the proposal but added that he would like to make an amendment that a 20mph limit be introduced for all of the residential areas of Rhuddlan. Cllr Bleddyn Williams seconded the amendment. **Resolved.**

8. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 12th November at 7pm