



Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the meeting on the 11th February 2021
Virtual Meeting during the Covid 19 Restrictions

Present:

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

1. Apologies

Cllr Jackie Burnham, Cllr Ann Davies

Members were informed that the meeting was being recorded, audio only.
The Mayor thanked Cllr Gareth Rowlands for organising the virtual meeting

2. Declaration of Interest

The Town Clerk reminded councillors that no councillor should prompt another councillor to declare an interest in an agenda item. The advice from Society of Local Council Clerks guidance is that it is the responsibility for each councillor themselves to declare any interest. Cllrs Arwel Roberts, Andy Smith, and Mike Kermode declared an interest in the Rhuddlan Gwledd Fest.

Cllr Reg Davies declared an interest in the DCC Town Centre Covid Response grant for shop awnings.

3. Urgent Matters

None

4. Police Matters – Appendix A

A report had been received and circulated. The Town Clerk highlighted that a brief summary of calls was included in a response to Members resolution.

Cllr Arwel Roberts added that North Wales Police had been delivering leaflets on crime prevention which are now posted on the Council's website.

5. Minutes

Town Council 14th January 2021

The Minutes were proposed by Cllr Gareth Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Syd Gaskin.

Resolved.

The Minutes were duly signed.

Matters Arising

- a. **Cemetery** - Members were informed by Cllr Arwel Roberts that he had information from DCC Head of Highways, Facilities & Environmental Services that after a survey is completed, the cemetery might be eligible for support from the Significant Investment Group (SIG).
- b. **Webcast** – a successful audio recording had been made of the January meeting.
- c. **Welcome Sign** – The Town Clerk updated Members that DCC had appointed Rhys Eden to this project who is investigating Members request for more signs, and asked that Town Council be patient for this work due to Covid restrictions affecting staff and resource shortages.
- d. **Admiral's Field Treeline** – The Town Clerk reported that a tender invitation for the clearing of dead wood, hedge laying, and shredding of brash had resulted in 2 contractors responding. One had only quoted for the clearing out and hedge laying at approximately £1210. The other contractor was interested in shredding of brash but wished to wait until the hedges have been cut back.
Denbighshire County Council Countryside Services Team have very kindly offered to help with the planting if the Town Council could supply.
Cllr Rowlands proposed that the quote be accepted with a condition that the contractor is instructed to leave the brash in an orderly and tidy manner. Cllr Mike Kermode seconded. **Resolved**
- e. **Visit Wales Marketing Event** – The Town Clerk had received information that Visit Wales were seeking short video clips to showcase Wales to the world and Cllr Mike Elgin had suggested the Council's tourism video. Web Studio has a suitable short clip but does not currently include the castle being illuminated and the captions being bi-lingual.
Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed that the short clip be forwarded to Visit Wales, seconded by Cllr Mike Elgin. **Resolved**
- f. **Menter Iaith** – The Mayor at this point wished to inform Members that he had been approached by Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych for financial assistance of £100 from Town Council for a St David's Day celebration which he was paying from his Council allowance. He added that in the near future there would be financial

assistance request for a children's workshop on a buildings video similar to Minecraft.

- g. **Precept** – The Mayor asked why the precept information was not in the Parish Magazine. The Town Clerk answered that she did not know why not, but it had been sent in on time to Rhyl Journal and Parish Mag.
- h. **Dementia Group** – Members were given an update that the group had now all the finance required to complete the sensory garden and that DCC Countryside Services would act as agent for the project. In highlighting the grants received he thanked all for their kind support and generosity.
- i. **January Visitors** – the Mayor wished Members to know that the two visitors to our last meeting, DCC Leader Member for Town Councils and Member of the Standard Committed were happy with how this Council had conducted itself.

Anti-Speed Campaign Working Group 2nd February 2021

Matters Arising

The Chairperson on the above group spoke on the success of the meeting with Ben Wilcox Jones a DCC officer which proved very useful to the campaign. Two of Council's suggested sites meet the criteria for the Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs). They are on the A547, Rhyl Road near to the Pentre Lane Junction and possibly on Rhyl Road between the petrol station and the roundabout. The potential of reducing the speed limit on Abergele Road from 40mph to 30 mph was also discussed but DCC do not have the resources for this at present.

It was noted that DCC have two portable SIDs and there is a 12-month waiting list for them.

- a. **Recommendation 1** – resolve to work with DCC to get costings for signs on Rhyl Road (near Pentre Lane), and Abergele Road, with a priority given to Rhyl Road. After some discussion Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that the recommendation be accepted by Full Council, seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. **Resolved.**
- b. **Recommendation 2** – agree to support the anti-speeding poster campaign in principle, and not as a competition, deferring it until Covid 19 restrictions are lifted. **Resolved.**

The Town Clerk is to make enquiries with DCC regarding permission of placing posters in bus stops, lampposts etc.

6. Correspondence from:

a. The Mayor – Appendix B

The donated iPad is now in the ownership of the school

The Mayor is hoping to hold a virtual and maybe a paper raffle for the school funds

The report was accepted

b. Town Clerk – Appendix C

Cllr Syd Gaskin who checks the defibrillators asked if there was any Member who might like to take over this activity. Please contact him if you want to volunteer. The assistant Minute Clerk offered to do this if there was no interest from Members.

The report was accepted

c. Silent Soldier

In referring to the letter received from DCC and circulated to Members, the Mayor had sent photos of the silent soldiers and memorials in Rhuddlan to DCC and that it was now DCC responsibility to contact Town Council on the issue.

One Councillor asked if all towns were subject to this letter and wondered how others were answering it. The Mayor confirmed it was sent to all town councils.

d. Rhuddlan Gwledd

Cllrs Arwel Roberts, Andrew Smith, and Mike Kermode had declared an interest and temporarily left the meeting.

The Deputy Mayor took the Chair

The Town Council had earmarked a grant of £1000 towards this event which was planned for May 2021. The Covid-19 lockdown meant that the organisers had to postpone until 2021 and the Town Council agreed that the grant be rolled over to 2021. The organisers recently held a meeting in where it was decided because of continuing problems with Covid-19 the event needs to be postponed until 2022. The organisers asked if they could roll-over the grant till 2022.

Cllr Mike Elgin proposed, seconded by Cllr Syd Gaskin. **Resolved.**

Members were re-admitted and the Mayor returned to the Chair.

e. Request for Defibrillator

A Member had noted a need for a defibrillator in the vicinity of Pentre Lane/Highlands Road due to an upsurge in walking, a new housing estate, and a large percentage of older residents in that area. Adding that Welsh Hearts had offered a grant of £200 towards the cost of another defibrillator and free training in its use.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that this be supported in principle whilst a site with a suitable infrastructure be investigated as there was no obvious power supply in the Pentre Lane/Highlands Road area.

Cllr Mike Kermode proposed an amendment that the Catholic Church area could be used as they might support the electric connection. Seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. **Resolved.**

Members agreed to investigate other sources of funding and look at several sites with electric power e.g., Pentre Lane/Highlands Road, Coed y Brain,

A.R.

Princes Park, Nant Close, new housing estate, and bus shelters. Tomos Hughes be contacted from Achub Calon y Dyffryn to assist. **Resolved**

7. County Council Members Reports

Cllr Ann Davies – Appendix D

The report was accepted

Cllr Arwel Roberts – Appendix E

Members were concerned about the sewage issue raised in the report which affected several streets. A meaningful discussion was had, which particularly highlighted the new housing development sewerage system being linked to the old one. Cllr Roberts had requested Dŵr Cymru to provide information as to what was happening and how the planning process for the new housing sewerage had been determined. The two Members of the Senedd for Rhuddlan Ann Jones and Llyr Huws Gruffydd are fully informed on the issue. Members agreed to keep a “watching brief” on the situation. **Resolved**

The report was accepted

8. Welsh Language Policy

Cllr Mike Kermode had been tasked with investigating a Welsh Language Policy for the Council and he had circulated his report. The report suggested that a working group be set up to prepare a draft policy for Full Council to consider. All Members could attend the working group and several gave their names to join, along with Cllr Kermode and the Town Clerk. These were Cllrs Arwel Roberts, Gareth Rowlands, Mike Elgin, and Bleddyn Williams. **Resolved**

9. Budget/Finance Matters

The Town Clerk circulated the list of payments to be approved by Members. **Resolved.**

The Clerk informed Members that £6000 of the library subsidy had been returned due to the Covid restrictions, and that across the two Council accounts there was a balance £127,000.

Members were also informed that Council needs to appoint an Internal Auditor for 2020/21. Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that DCC auditors be appointed as previously, seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

10. New Policies

As a consequence of the Dignity at Work Policy being approved at the last meeting, a draft Grievance Policy and Discipline Policy had been circulated to Members.

Members discussed the fact that both policies were very good but they did not quite fill Rhuddlan Town Council requirements. The Clerk was thanked for the hard work in preparing the draft policies.

A.R.

Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that the policies be accepted in principle and that the personnel committee be tasked to review them and bring recommendations back to Full Council. Cllr Gareth Rowlands seconded. **Resolved to accept in principle.**

11. Financial Risk Assessment – annual review.

There were no amendments. **Resolved to accept the Risk Assessment.**

12. Coed y Brain

The Mayor invited the Town Clerk to update Members on the property as an extra agenda item.

The Transfer of Ownership Form requires three signatures each witnessed by independent witnesses. The Clerk will arrange to have the form completed and returned to the solicitor.

Cllr Rowlands confirmed he had met on site with the Project Officer to familiarise him with the property and briefly discuss grant opportunities, but informed Members that nothing can be progressed until we own the property.

The Town Clerk will add Coed y Brain to the council's insurance which is due for renewal soon.

Gwynt y Mor small grant (up to £10,000) deadline is May 1st for a June decision panel meeting, and Members agreed that a £10,000 aspect of the refurbishment be considered for an application. **Resolved.**

13. Town Centre Awnings

The Project Officer had prepared an update which had been circulated, and was placed on the virtual meeting screen for Members to see. It showed a chart to demonstrate what businesses had been contacted, which had responded so far, their willingness to participate, and a phased approach to be able to take advantage of the Town Centre Covid Response grant deadline. He also highlighted some of the problems encountered and confirmed receipt of two responses to the tender opportunity sent to three suppliers of awnings. Following a wide ranging and meaningful discussion, including the suppliers' quotes, the potential effect of Brexit on suppliers, and the ability to deliver within the grant timescale. Members were asked to consider appointing one of the suppliers.

Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that Sign Express be appointed and this being based on their professionalism, deliverability and return on long term value. This was seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. **Resolved.**

The Mayor thanked the Project Officer for all his hard work on this project and asked the Town Clerk to e-mail the line managers of the DCC officers who had been very helpful in assisting our Project Officer to offer the Town Councils appreciation. **Resolved.**

14. Community Matters

- The Mayor had received a concern about the 30mph sign being relocated closer towards Dyserth. Another member noted that local residents, and Town Council, had previously voiced concerns about traffic accessing this road from the new housing development site during the planning stage. Members agreed to send a letter to DCC about the speed of traffic at this site, Councils previous objection to the housing developments access at the planning stage, and asking for a speed survey to be carried out.
- A Member highlighted that Council had purchased a bench which is now in store for 6 months, whilst a decision is taken as to where it will be best located. It was suggested that it could be placed at another site whilst awaiting that decision, then another bench purchased to replace the original. This prompted a discussion on suitable sites for the stored bench, there was a concern that potential sites might encourage youths to congregate, and the positive potential of having a "Happy to Chat" bench. It was proposed to place the stored bench on Rhuddlan Town Council land on the path between the library and Parc Edith. **Resolved.**
Cllr Andrew Smith abstained
- A Member reported a large pothole at the junction of Maes y Bryn and Trevor Avenue that needed repair.
- A Member noticed starlings' droppings on the pavement between Vicarage Land and Rhyl Road that required cleaning. Also, that dog fouling seems to have increased and needs reporting to DCC enforcement.
- Council was informed of a complaint from residents about parking on Castle Street yellow lines, near Princes Road junction, which has been previously passed on to DCC and the police, but is still happening. It was proposed a letter be sent to DCC enforcement along with photo's which Cllr Mike Elgin and Arwel Roberts will provide. **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.

15. Minutes of Personnel Committee – 8th February 2021

The minutes of the meeting had been circulated to members together with a proposed Terms of Reference for the Committee, which had been agreed at its meeting. The minutes of the meeting were approved and the various recommendations made by the Committee were agreed. As part of this the Council adopted a Communications Protocol which meant that communications by councillors will be directly to the Town Clerk who will pass them on to the staff and will provide appropriate responses/feedback to the councillors. The only

13. Date of Next Meetings: Welsh Language Working Group 2nd March 2021
Full Council Thursday 11th March at 7pm

The Town Clerk informed Members that her laptop was going to Catalyst on Friday 12th February and so would not be contactable by email till it was returned.

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

Date..... 20/3/21

Police matters

A very low level of crime to report for January 2021 for Rhuddlan. No ASB reported for Rhuddlan .

Criminal damage occurred on Abbey St to a resident's vehicle. No suspects found.

Shoplifting offences twice reported from the CO OP. No suspects identified.

Criminal damage to property on Princes Rd. Suspect charged.

Malicious communications – Tan Yr Eglwys- enquiries still ongoing.

There have been 78 calls to North Wales Police for January, ranging from Contact records, Road disruptions, Flood, Suspicious Circumstances, Abandoned calls, Alarm intruders, Concern for safety and Domestic crimes.

1. Dim gwahoddiad gan meiri eraill. No invites from fellow Mayors.
2. As the Mayor can I thank our Project Officer Steven for working brilliantly to support the businesses with the Welsh Government Grants. This is now in the hands of the County Planning Department. I'm sure the Clerk will enhance us further with his assistance in the meeting.
3. I was requested to find a family who would accept an iPad by a very kind family within our community. Mr and Mrs Ward are an example to us all. The local school has found a family to accept this kind gesture.
4. Others including the Mayoress and myself will follow their example.
5. Hopefully by the end of this term we can support the school further by organising a Mayor's raffle .

1.Meetings / events attended in January:

7th January – Precept Virtual Meeting

14th January – Town Council Virtual Meeting

2.The following were placed on the Town Council's website in December:

Flood Alert – River Elwy from Spring Gardens Bridge to Rhuddlan

Welsh Government news release on support to residents whose homes have been flooded.

3 General

Rhuddlan Town Council's Budget & Precept sent to Rhyl Journal

1. RHUDDLAN CEMETERY

The initial survey of the drainage problem at the cemetery was carried out on the 22nd January by a specialist company from the South of England. I was present to provide general information of the area.

It is worth noting that the survey is only the first stage . Once DCC understand the issue, and the potential solution, they will need to discuss how they might be able to pay for that work to take place .

2. NEW ROAD

Following reports that dogs suffered mild electric shocks whilst walking on the pavement in New Road. Scottish Power responded very quickly and worked tirelessly in poor weather conditions to urgently repair the underground cable.

3. ABBEY ROAD

Further landslides have developed in Abbey Road. I attended a site meeting in this area two months ago and its disturbing to witness how quickly this road is deteriorating.

The head of highways informs me that DCC are currently mapping all locations across the county that were effected by the current flooding. Abbey road will be included in the assessment and beyond that they will decide if any remedial work is required.

4. STATION ROAD

A large tree which was trapped in one of the arches of Rhuddlan bridge has been safely removed.

5. AREA OF LAND - GWINDY STREET.

Officers have asked the land agent acting on behalf of the owners to deal with the tree issue here. Further updates to follow.

End of Report

1. Effaith y storm ddiweddar. The Storm Christoph.

We were fortunate not to be over affected here in Rhuddlan this time. I have been pressing for the Pont Robyn stream to be cleared for many months. During last Autumn National Resources Wales worked hard to carry out this work thoroughly.

We had lot of surface water problems and house on Abergele Road again had the manhole over and therefore the toilet facility wasn't available. The couple managed somehow. Gardens, the cemetery, the allotment and Admirals Field was saturated after the storm.

One house on St Asaph Road - Ffordd Llanelwy called Derwen is always flooded during Storms but the residents have my phone number but they seem to be taking flooding for granted .

The strength of the water dislodged trees and the ancient bridge between Trefnant and Tremeirchion was completely washed away and a large tree at its bank. A tree is stuck under our ancient bridge, I reported this Friday the 22nd of January. The Street Team will remove the tree when it's safe to do so.

We must remember that Rhuddlan is situated on the Morfa(swamp) . The river Clwyd tributary the river Fyddion flows through RHUDDLAN and I have never seen it so bad as when this storm came to force on the 21st of January.

I'm concerned about the cycle path on the river bank. Erosion is prevalent, have reported this to Natural Resources Wales and the County.

2. Carthffosiaeth - Sewage.

The new development is affecting the Fairlands estate with regard to Sewage disposal, I have been very busy representing residents in Ffordd yr Ucheldir, Ffordd Ganol and Bryn Hafod trying to have Dŵr Cymru answering my request to explain what is happening. Dŵr Cymru have allowed the new housing development to occur through planning. This a national problem these housing developments are passed by county planning committees with the aid of Dŵr Cymru and Natural Resources Wales. A resident was very keen to have the involvement of our two Senedd Members, Ann Jones and Llyr Huws Gruffydd. They are fully involved and are aware of the situation.

3. Trydan - Electricity

Informed the County that one lamppost was alive on Ffordd Newydd - New Road . Dogs who went too near to it jumped four feet because of the shock. The contactors have been out trying to find a solution, traffic light situated on the Golf Club Roundabout .

Residents in the vicinity including those on Ffordd Rhyl were without electricity for half an hour Saturday night the 23rd and for more than an hour Sunday afternoon the 24th of January.

4. Ysgol y Castell

As Chair of the Governors of the school I'm very sad that it has to close for the week. Covid - 19 has reached the school building. I have requested that the essential workers children should be educated somewhere else. Still waiting for an answer to this request I sent yesterday.

5. Visit to 19 Tan yr Eglwys 10:15 am 2/2/2021.

Accepted the invitation received from the housing officers to inspect this house after modernising. Very impressive, a family will move there soon and the house has facilities for persons with physical disabilities.

6. Westbourne Avenue pumping station.

I have raised concerns with the County and Natural Resources Wales regarding this pumping station. Untreated sewage has been pumped into the sea and the river. Still waiting for an answer. How many times has this happened I wonder? The Clwyd is a tidal river up to our ancient bridge and further.