



Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the meeting on the 8th April 2021

Virtual Meeting during the Covid 19 Restrictions

Present:

Cllr Arwel Roberts (Mayor in the Chair)

Cllr Mike Elgin (Deputy Mayor)

Cllr Jackie Burnham

Cllr Reg Davies

Cllr Syd Gaskin

Cllr Mike Kermode

Cllr Andrew Smith

Cllr Bleddyn Williams

Town Clerk

Clerical Assistant/Minute Clerk

Project Officer

1. Apologies

Cllr Charlotte Frobisher, Cllr Ann Davies, Cllr Gareth Rowlands

The Mayor was pleased to report that Cllr Frobisher had safely delivered a healthy baby girl recently and both are doing well. A congratulations card has been sent from Town Council.

Members were informed that the meeting was being recorded, audio only.

The Mayor thanked Cllr Mike Kermode for organising the virtual meeting

2. Declaration of Interest

None

3. Urgent Matters

None

4. Police Matters

No report received

5. Minutes

Town Council 11th March 2021

Under item 12 Community Matters - Twthill is spelt incorrectly.

Taking into account this amendment the Minutes were proposed by Cllr Mike Kermode, seconded by Cllr Andrew Smith. **Resolved.**

The Minutes were duly signed.

Matters Arising

- a. **Welcome Sign** – The Town Clerk reported that DCC is awaiting the sign manufacturer to provide a delivery date.
- b. **Admiral's Field Treeline** – There was a concern that children had been climbing on the new hedge and Ysgol y Castell Head had circulated a letter to parents warning them of this and the danger it posed.
The Town Clerk confirmed the thank you letter had been sent.
- c. **Council's Tourism Video** – The update of the video has been delayed due to the poor health of the person completing this work. Web Studio are hoping to have this completed by the end of next week.
Members also acknowledged the Town Clerk's work in arranging for the Castle to be lit up in yellow to remember the victims of Covid 19. The Clerk added that DCC technical staff at the Pavilion Theatre had been very helpful with this. Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed that a letter of thanks be sent to Jamie Groves CEO of Denbighshire Leisure Ltd, seconded by Cllr Mike Elgin. **Resolved.**
- d. **Dementia Group** – Unfortunately Cllr Arwel Roberts could not attend the virtual National Conference but Cllr Mike Kermode did, and updated Members on the event. Cllr Kermode highlighted the National Dementia Week from the 17th – 23rd May which the local group will make people aware by placing posters on the community noticeboard. Rhuddlan Dementia Group will also be holding their own week of events hopefully in June to observe Covid restrictions currently in place. Adding that the Sit & Keep Fit sessions are due to commence in the community centre after May 17th for 15 persons only as restrictions are lifted.
Cllr Arwel Roberts said he was going to cycle around Rhuddlan during National Dementia Week to raise awareness and invited Cllrs to join him. Cllr Mike Elgin confirmed he would, and Cllr Andrew Smith was hoping to.
- e. **Anti-Speed Campaign** – The Clerk updated Members that DCC officers had asked for photos of the Council preferred locations for the (SIDs) be sent electronically for approval. **Resolved.**
- f. **Defibrillator Request** – The Mayor and Clerk had met with Achub Calon y Dyffryn and several sites were considered as potential new sites. The Clerk informed Members of each one and asked for their comments as follows.
 - Library - DCC had asked for one and members agreed to provide one. **Resolved**
 - Pentre Lane bus shelter – DCC will check electricity supply working before progressing.

- Ffordd y Nant – needs consultation. **Resolved**
 - Catholic Church – Clerk to contact Sue Wyn Jones or Prestatyn priest to investigate further. **Resolved.**
 - Bowls Club – The Club will like to purchase a defibrillator but would the Council purchase one for them and the club will reimburse the Council. This to be considered in the future.
 - The Project Officer enquired if Rhuddlan had a First Responder group and explained how such a group worked in Caerwys. The Mayor wasn't aware of such responder but will make enquiries.
- g. **Town Centre Awnings** - The Project Officer said that the survey should be complete by the end of the week, drawings by the end of next week, and planning application submitted thereafter. This was then followed by an update on those businesses interested in phase 2, and that there is a potential DCC funding for another phase.
- h. **Provision of Benches** – The Clerk reported that the bench near Parc Edith was now in place, and referred Members to a list of proposals for more benches suggested at the February Council meeting for discussion.
- Nant Close – several objections from residents had been received. Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed that no bench should be provided at this site, Cllr Andrew Smith seconded. **Resolved.**
 - Rhyl Road area/Highland Close area/Abergele Road area – Members discussed the need to consult before proceeding with these areas noting why provide them if the residents near the sites are not asking for them. Cllr Syd Gaskin proposed that these sites not be considered for benches, or any other sites, unless residents ask for them. Cllr Arwel Roberts seconded the proposal. **Resolved.**
- i. **Bird Droppings** – Members discussed the issue noting that the tree owner did not want to cut back the tree parts that overhang the pavement. The droppings are cleared but they just come back causing hazards to health so perhaps a court order may resolve the situation. Cllr Syd Gaskin proposed that Council contact DCC to enquire about the provision of a court order, seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**
- j. **Mayors Raffle** – The Mayor reported that over £700 was raised and thanked all for their support. The beneficiaries are: The Royal British Legion, Local Surgery – Healthy Rhuddlan and Ysgol y Castell P T A.
- k. **Dog Fouling** – A Member noted that some of the litter bins have signs encouraging dog waste to be deposited within them and others don't. Cllr Arwel Roberts is to check with DCC if the litter bins have signs on them to support dog waste being disposed within them. **Resolved.**
- The Clerk had placed a poster on the Council's website and will circulate to Members.

Members agreed to ask residents and businesses to display “No Dog Fouling” posters in their windows. Proposed by Cllr Jackie Burnham, seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

Similarly, signs informing dog owners the direction of the nearest litter bin and stickers for putting on lampposts to be erected by Council. Members agreed that this could be considered as fly posting and that the Town Clerk needs to check with DCC. **Resolved.**

- l. Cycling on Pavement** – The Clerk is trying to arrange a meeting with the Sustrans Cycling Officer & DCC Officer responsible for cycle routes to discuss the reoccurring issues around this dangerous practice.
- m. Monitoring Officer** – Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed that the Monitoring Officer be invited to the June Council meeting to provide Code of Conduct training to Members. **Resolved.**
- n. Coed y Brain** – The Vendor has informed the Clerk that all the documents have been signed by him and the Clerk is now awaiting confirmation that the purchase has been “Completed”. Members asked the Clerk to inform them when this is done, and invite them to attend a photo shoot on site to advertise the purchase for the community.

Gas Boiler v Air Source Heat Pump – In response to a Members resolution in March the Project Officer had circulated a report comparing the best method of heating the building and water.

There then followed a thorough discussion on the report’s findings with particular reference to government incentives, set up costs, running costs, maintenance costs, inclusion of solar panels, and Council’s desire to embrace renewable energy sources. Cllr Mike Kermode made a 2 part proposal. Part 1 that the gas supply be made to the building and to provide a gas condensing boiler large enough to supply showers with hot water. Part 2 the solar panel provision be considered only if there is a grant to support this. Both parts were seconded by Cllr Syd Gaskin. **Resolved.**

The Project Officer was thanked for his diligence and hard work in this matter.

- o. Mud on Station Road** – The Town Clerk confirmed that letters had been sent to local farmers asking them to clean the highway after their work but Members noted that it was still there. It was agreed to monitor the situation and inform DCC by sending them a copy of the letter. **Resolved.**
- p. Concern about Dogs on Twthill** – a Member of the Council had spoken to the Bodrhyddan Estate game keeper who was unhappy about the incident, and was going to investigate the concern. PCSO Roberts had been informed.
- q. Cars for Sale** – The Clerk confirmed that DCC had been informed that the practice continues and had been advised that any evidence of cars for sale be photographed and copies sent to DCC. Cllr Arwel Roberts informed Members that he and Cllr Ann Davies had previously informed DCC officers adding that he had photos that he would send to the Clerk for forwarding to DCC.

6. Correspondence from

a. The Mayor. Appendix A

The report was accepted

b. The Town clerk. Appendix B

Members were informed that the Clerk was going to add an article about the artefacts found at the Rhuddlan archaeological dig on the website.

The report was accepted

c. Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021

Cllr Mike Kermode had provided a summary of the main issues of the act and what it means for Rhuddlan Town Council. The Principal Councils are being given more powers than previously and Town/Community Councils having provision for several things such as the general power of competence, annual reports, and training plans.

Members wished the Council's gratitude to be minuted for Cllr Kermode's excellent summary.

d. Archaeological Excavation – Rhyl Town Council had sent a letter congratulating Rhuddlan Town Council on securing an archaeological excavation of the 9,000 year old site at Castle Hill. Members discussed the success of the excavation noting that the finds are not archived well and hoped that in the future the Town Council could find a way to making people aware of Rhuddlan's amazing history. Especially referring to Project 12 in the Town Plan "Rhuddlan Museum", and a possible collaboration with Rhuddlan Historical Society who are a very active group. It was noted that Cllr Reg Davies who unfortunately had left the meeting due to technical issues is especially keen on this issue.

e. Basketball Backboards Request – The Disability Sport Officer for DCC had contacted the Town Clerk to request Council to consider installing backboards on the Admiral's Field MUGA. Cllr Syd Gaskin proposed that the backboards be purchased and installed. Seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

7. County Council Members Reports. Appendix C

Cllr Arwel Roberts

The report was accepted

8. Planning Applications

a. 44/2021/0151 – Erection of a single storey extension Highcliffe, Dyserth Road, Rhuddlan. **No objections**

b. 44/2021/0156 – Erection of a 2 storey extension at Holmiea, Vicarage Lane, Rhuddlan. **No objections**

c. 44/2021/0163 – Erection of 4 dwellings and construction of an access road, The Rise, Rhyl Road, Rhuddlan. Members noted that this was the third time an application had been received for this site and previously had agreed to object to this development as the development is for houses and this is an area that is predominantly bungalows. **Resolved to object.**

9. Budget/Finance Matters

- a. The Town Clerk circulated the list of payments to be approved by Members. **Resolved.**
- b. Minutes of the Precept Meeting 7th January 2021. The Clerk apologised to Members for not bringing these Minutes to the January Full Council meeting for approval. Cllr Andrew Smith proposed that the Minutes be approved, seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**
- c. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales. The Clerk verbally informed Members that this itemises allowances for Mayors and Councillors and that a copy has been posted on the Council's website under Financial Matters.

The Town Clerk reported that the Notice of Conclusion for 2019/20 Audit had been displayed on the Town Council's website and notice board for 14 days in accordance with Audit Wales Regulations. Cllr Mike Kermode confirmed that he had seen this notice on the Town Council's notice board.

10. Asset Register

The Clerk had circulated a copy of the Council's Asset Register for the annual review, and talked Members through the various entries, highlighting that the system does not list the assets chronologically, but does provide an insurance value. In a response to questions the Clerk will add the defibrillators to the register. **Resolved.**

11. Community Matters

- a. Cllr Arwel Roberts had received a plan for consideration from the Rhuddlan Community Group for a Peace/Remembrance Garden. This was aimed not only for those who had lost their lives due to Covid, but also those who have died through other medical problems, illnesses, or accidents. Cllr Roberts highlighted the types of planting they had suggested, the area required, and the offer that the group would meet the cost along with a bilingual plaque of commemoration.

Members discussed the ideas showing some concern for the area size required, the suitability of plants, and grass maintenance of the remaining area.

Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed that Council agree to the idea, seconded by Cllr Bleddyn Williams. **Resolved.**

Cllr Mike Kermode abstained.

- b. Cllr Roberts had also received a complaint from a resident about littering on Admiral's Field, broken glass, and dog waste.

Members highlighted the presence of alcohol discarded cans, playing of loud music, and litter from takeaways such as McDonalds, KFC, and chip shop. It was suggested that signs be erected about the presence of CCTV and to place dog waste in litter bins.

The Town Clerk informed Members that the police had been informed and said they would visit the site to monitor.

Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that a response be sent to the resident saying that the Council shares these concerns and the complaint passed on to the police. **Resolved.**

Cllr Jackie Burnham asked what signage was currently in place, and what if any public orders had been undertaken e.g., Environmental Crime Enforcement Area, or Designated Public Place.

The Assistant Clerk is to check the various signs already in place at Admirals Field when next inspecting the playground. **Resolved.**

c. Members were also informed of a resident criticizing a Member with regard to the Town Plan not being received. Councillors noted that they had not been delivered due to the Covid pandemic restrictions and that when it is safe to do so, another article would be placed in the Parish Magazine explaining the reason and that it will now be delivered. **Resolved.**

d. Cllr Syd Gaskin asked a question about the project at Ebenezer Chapel which Cllr Arwel Roberts updated Members on.

e. Cllr Bleddyn Williams had noted that a new community bank for Wales, Bank Cambria, had been created by a previous Rhuddlan resident who wanted to launch the bank in Rhuddlan. Cllr Williams enquired if Town Council were interested in assisting with the launch. Members agreed that Cllr Williams pass the details and contact to the Town Clerk for further investigation into the potential of assisting.

f. Cllr Mike Elgin had noticed that the land currently for sale opposite Aldi had been cleared and wondered if Members knew what was happening there. No Member did.

g. Cllr Syd Gaskin had heard a rumour that the chapel in Gwindy Street maybe coming up for sale. No Members had information.

h. The Clerk informed Members that she had now received 3 quotes for the power washing of the playground surfaces and wondered which met their approval.

Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that this be delegated to the Clerk to manage and report back at a later date as to who was chosen. **Resolved.**

12. Election of Mayor Elect 2021/2

Cllr Andrew Smith proposed Cllr Mike Elgin as Mayor, seconded by Cllr Syd Gaskin. In the absence of any other nominations this was **resolved.**

Cllr Elgin accepted the honour.

Cllr Smith then pointed out what an incredible job as Mayor Cllr Arwel Roberts had done especially as the pandemic had meant 2 years as Mayor and gave the Council's thanks for a job well done.

13. Election of Deputy Mayor Elect 2021/2

Cllr Mike Kermode proposed Cllr Andrew Smith as Deputy Mayor, seconded by Cllr Syd Gaskin. In the absence of any other nominations this was **resolved**.
Cllr Smith accepted the honour.

14. Date of Next Meeting – Investiture of Mayor 13th May 2021 at 6.30pm
Full Council Thursday 13th May 2021 at 7pm

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

Date*May 2021*.....

- Ymweliad â busnes newydd ar y Stryd Fawr. “ Baileys Coffee Shop” - 13/03/21.
Visited the new business on the High Street.
Diolch i'r Cyngorydd Mike Kermode am dynnu ein lluniau.
Thanks to Councillor Mike Kermode for the photos taken.
- Cerdded o gwmpas y dref yng nghwmni y clerch a Tomos Hughes - swyddog Cymorth Pads Gogledd Cymru. 18/03/21.
Walked around the town with the clerk and Tomos Hughes - North Wales Pads Support Officer.
- Cyfarfod tri aelod o'r grŵp cymunedol ger maes parcio Coetiau Postol, mae ganddynt gynllun i wella y safle 22/03/21.
Met three members of the community group by Vicarage Lane parking area, they have a plan to improve the area.

Town Clerk's Report

Appendix B

Meetings attended in March:

- 7th Town Council Work – Notice board, agendas etc.
- 18th Meet Mayor & Tomos Hughes – defibrillators
- 23th Meet electrician on site in Castle to change lights to yellow

The following were promoted on the website/local paper/Facebook:

- RTC Winner of St David's Day Shops & Businesses Competition
- W.G. Update on Covid 19
- RTC Mayor & Mayoress welcome new business – Baileys' Coffee Shop
- Trunk Road Agency – A55, J24 to J27 Resurfacing
- DCC – Denbighshire Active Travel Plan Consultation
- Awel y Mor Newsletter
- Rhuddlan Castle to change colour!
- DCC – Welcome back to your local library
- Betsi Cadwalader – Covid 119 update
- Clwb Bowlio Rhuddlan – pre-season information
- DCC – News Release
- RTC – A Big Thank you to Dog Owners.
- Encampment dating back 9,000 years has been discovered in Rhuddlan.

a) **CCTV .**

The destroyed barriers by the chemist has been an incident which has been thoroughly inspected by the police and one of Denbighshire officers. They hope with the aid of the camera coverage that the culprits can be caught and fined.

b) **Active Travel Scheme.**

If you the time and energy contact Ben Wilcox Jones regarding this scheme. Remember it's part of our Town Plan.

c) **Ysgol y Castell.**

Invited as the Chair of the Governors and the L E A governor to a virtual meeting headteacher and deputy headteacher also with two officers from the education department to look at plans for extending the building.

Four governors including myself were part of an interview process to appoint a new Deputy Head. Eight applications , the short list of four were very good and we were very happy to appoint a teacher within the school Mrs Joanne Bickerstaff. This virtual process was far longer than Town Council Meetings.

The headteacher agreed to send a letter to parents regarding pupils playing in the new layered hedge in Admiral Field.

d) **Public Footpaths.**

You may recall that I contacted the County Department regarding a public footpath . The Officer has informed me that the work is in hand and it's unlikely to start until after April the 1st.

e) **Flooding- Natural Resources Wales.**

During our Elwy Mag meeting I had a chance to thank NRW for the work they have done in Pont Robyn. I also suggested that on the right hand side of the river Clwyd towards Rhyl from Rhuddlan that the land should be returned to be a flood plain and this could alleviate problems with flooding in other areas within the river catchment . It's an item they are well aware of, but we are looking at ten years from now.

Since there was a representative from Denbighshire flood team also present, I noted orally that the area at the bottom of Gwindy Street and Kerfoot Avenue is still a concern for residents. Denbighshire officers seem to be ignoring the issue.

Flooding will always be with us, but decisions taken in the past has not been of assistance. The building of Clô's David Owen hasn't helped the Town Cemetery for instance.