

Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the meeting on the 13th May 2021

Virtual Meeting during the Covid 19 Restrictions

Present:

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

1. Apologies

Cllr Charlotte Frobisher

Members of the public were invited to join the virtual meeting but none had requested to do so. Members were informed that the meeting was being recorded, audio only.

2. Declaration of Interest

Cllr Ann Davies declared an interest in any planning matters and took the opportunity to congratulate Cllr Mike Elgin on his appointment as Mayor.

3. Urgent Matters

None

4. Police Matters

No report received

ME

5. Minutes

Town Council 8th April 2021

Subject to two spelling amendments the Minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr Arwel Roberts seconded by Cllr Andrew Smith. **Resolved.**

Matters Arising

- a. **Welcome Sign** – The Town Clerk reported that DCC have now installed 4 of the 5 signs. The outstanding sign is on the A525 when approaching from St Asaph.
- b. **Admiral's Field Treeline** – Members heard that children were still climbing on the old willow tree and new hedge, as well as uprooting the stakes. Following a short discussion Members noted that this behaviour was generally by children in red jumpers, after school around 4pm, and although the police had been informed previously it should be reported again for it to be monitored. It was also agreed that the CCTV Partnership should be asked to focus the cameras on the hedge area and for any evidential footage. **Resolved.**
- c. **Council's Tourism Video** – Members were informed that the video is now on the Town Council website.
- d. **Dementia Group** – The National Dementia Week posters have been put up and Members were informed of a national petition being circulated about the need for change in the social care system. This petition will be circulated after the meeting for those Members who might like to sign it.

The Rhuddlan group have successfully restarted their Sit & Fit sessions and a local member of 86 years old is to have her first tattoo to raise funds for the group. Details will be circulated after the meeting on how to donate should any Member like to donate. Their local awareness week will be towards the end of June, and the sponsored bike ride being undertaken by Cllrs Mike Elgin, Arwel Roberts, Andrew Smith, accompanied by the Clerk, will be on June 25th. Voel Coaches have confirmed they will help support the local group.
- e. **Anti-Speed Campaign** – Members were informed that the preferred locations had been sent to DCC and that the work is going ahead. There is a 4-week lead in time for the Speed Indicator Devices.

A question was asked about progress on the central reservation on Rhyl Road. It was agreed that Cllr Ann Davies, as a County Councillor would follow up this matter on the Councils behalf.

The Mayor reported that the GoSafe van had been seen in the town (Abergele Road, Rhyl Road and by the Golf Club) and had circulated details about the 6th annual UN Global Road Safety week were circulated. This year's theme being Low Speed Streets Save Lives.

- f. Defibrillator Request** – The Project Officer had circulated a report on potential locations for additional defibrillators, explained the reasoning behind the sites, their suitability, and estimated costs. There then followed a full discussion on the report and the potential of the four telephone kiosks. The Project Officer was thanked for his comprehensive report. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that we enquire if DCC will work in partnership with the Town Council on this project with regards to access to lamp posts for defibrillators and that the identified sites in the report be agreed, along with the estimated budget costs. If grants are available, then that's excellent. If not, the Town Council need to invest in the safety of the public and go ahead with ordering defibrillator. Cllr Gareth Rowlands seconded. **Resolved.**
- g. Town Centre Awnings** - The Project Officer said that the planning application had now been lodged and is progressing with DCC. Indicative costs for Phase 2 are near completion. In response to a Member's question, he indicated that the application was lodged Wednesday 12th May.
- h. Bird Droppings** – The Clerk had received correspondence from DCC that the removal of the bird droppings is not legally enforceable. Members discussed their surprise at this reply as this seems a definite health & safety issue. Especially as an elderly lady had fallen in this area recently. Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that a formal question on what legal action could be taken be sent to the Head of Environmental Services in DCC. This was seconded by Cllr Andrew Smith. **Resolved.**
- i. Dog Fouling** – The Clerk had been in contact with the Street Scene Manager (North) to discuss placing signs on litter bins highlighting that dog waste can be placed in them. It appears that a corporate approach to this needs to be applied and is on the Manager's future agenda. Members asked that the County Councillors put pressure on the officer to progress this issue, and Paul Smith is to take photos of litter bins that already have such signs on them. **Resolved.**
- j. Cycling on Pavement** – A meeting to discuss this further with the Sustrans Cycling Officer, and DCC Active Travel Officer has been scheduled for June 11th.
- k. Coed y Brain** – The Council is now the owner of the property and a photo shoot held to mark the occasion. The Project Officer will be sending out the agreed specifications for the refurbishment works and needs Member's approval to order the gas main works. **Resolved.**
- l. Mud on Station Road** – The Town Clerk confirmed that one of the farmers had cleaned up the mud and if DCC had to do it for them then they would be charged. DCC is investigating further and can formally issue notices if needed. One Member noted that Lon Cwybyr was particularly muddy when wet. It is encouraging that this issue is now on DCC radar and that it needs monitoring.
- m. Concern about Dogs on Twthill** – Members were informed that the original complainants had reported that the problem seems to have gone away but it still needed monitoring. A Member noted that there appeared to be a new group of dog owners using Admiral's Field and not conforming to the rules in this area. They should be monitored. Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that the Council request DCC

and the PCSO to monitor the area for illegal dog issues. Seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.**

- n. **Cars for Sale** – Members were informed that people are within their rights to sell one car in this way. Members agreed to draw a line under this issue. **Resolved.**
- o. **Archaeological Artefacts** – A member who has a great interest & knowledge on this agenda item was unfortunately unable to comment last month due to technical issues so was asked by the Mayor to now contribute. This then produced a full discussion on why the Rhuddlan artefacts cannot be bought back to the town, and the creation of a Rhuddlan Museum which is a project within the Town Plan. Another Member spoke about their involvement with previous planning conditions applied to a local site, and their involvement with the following extensive national media interviews on the item. Members were also reminded of a full report on the various artefacts being available, and certain archaeological finds were discussed along with their current known whereabouts. A temporary exhibition of some artefacts was discussed to raise awareness, along with the potential of creating a digital list of the artefacts, or a list in the parish magazine. Perhaps in conjunction with Rhuddlan Historical Society. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed, and Cllr Reg Davies seconded, that the Project Officer investigates the potential of a grant to establish a web-based article. **Resolved.** Cllr Ann Davies will make enquiries with the relevant archaeological bodies with regards to what Rhuddlan artefacts are listed.
- p. **Basketball Backboards** – The Project Officer confirmed that the boards had been delivered but were very heavy and required a strong fixing plate. A quote was being sourced from local metal worker.
- q. **Enforcement Signs** -The Town Clerk & Clerical Assistant/Minute Clerk had reviewed signs appertaining to Environmental Enforcement, Public Space Protection Orders, and CCTV in operation. Their meaning was explained, and members discussed the large number of signs along with a need to simplify them. It was proposed by Cllr Andrew Smith that the signs are made simpler and larger. Seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.**
Members agreed that the Clerical Assistant/Minute Clerk send the photos of the signs to the County Councillors to pursue with DCC enforcement teams. **Resolved.**

6. Correspondence from

a. The Mayor

The report was accepted. **Appendix A**

b. The Town clerk

The Clerk thanked Cllr Syd Gaskin for checking the defibrillators.

The report was accepted

c. Concerns about A525 from Resident. **Appendix B**

The Clerk had circulated a letter which highlighted concerns of a local resident of noise, speed, and road safety. Cllr Ann Davies as a County Councillor was discussing these issues with DCC Highways and would provide

an update for the next meeting. Members then had a short debate on the potential of asking DCC to reduce the speed limit on the dual carriageway A525 noting that there was a 40mph limit at either end of it. It was reported that DCC had previously looked at this but decided not to reduce the limit on

the dual carriageway. Cllr Bleddyn Williams proposed that letter be sent to DCC Highways enquiring about reducing the dual carriageway speed limit to 50mph. Seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved**

d. Complaint about new "Caked" outlet – Members noted that the issues stated were not covered by Rhuddlan Town Councils powers. It was noted that the DCC Conservation Officer had been informed who would investigate the comments made. It was proposed that a letter of reply be sent to the complainant stating that the issues raised were not within the Council's powers and referring them to DCC. It was agreed not to refer to the suitability of the colour or signage but that this Council does encourage and support new business start-ups were appropriate. This was seconded by Cllr Andrew Smith. **Resolved.**

e. Telephone Kiosks – Information from BT had been circulated reference a review into the demand for kiosks. BT are consulting with communities to see if they may have new ways of using kiosks that are not used very much, and that it would be possible to adopt a kiosk for a nominal fee. The information included a list of four in Rhuddlan should a suitable use be agreed. Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that three kiosks be purchased at High Street, Clwyd Avenue, and Princes Park. Cllr Bleddyn Williams amended the proposal to all 4 kiosks on the list and Cllr Andrew Smith amended the proposal to just 2 kiosks. Members voted by 3 for the second amendment of two kiosks, and by 6 for the first amendment of all four kiosks. **Resolved.**

7. County Council Members Reports

Cllr Arwel Roberts

Examples were highlighted whereby it sometimes proves very difficult as a County Councillor to deal with several agencies on a certain issue. Particular mention was made about the Castle Green development. Alternatively, examples of success were also reported e.g., the nature reserve.

The report was accepted. Appendix C

Cllr Ann Davies

A Member sought an update on the provision of yellow lines on Hylas Lane. It was reported that a DCC Officer is monitoring its junction with Abbey Road and was drawing up proposals for yellow lines. This involves a consultation of resident's support for the yellow lines and there seems that no support is likely.

The report was accepted. Appendix D

8. Planning Applications

None received

9. Budget/Finance Matters

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

b. The End of Year Accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting which was prepared in conjunction with a qualified accountant, and sent to the internal auditor. Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed approval, seconded by Cllr Andrew Smith. **Resolved.**

c. The bank reconciliation had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Clerk drew the Members attention to the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) which was introduced as a consequence of the 2008 financial crisis, which aims to protect up to £85,000 in bank accounts. Members were asked if they would like to transfer £20,000 from the Rhuddlan Town Council day to day account to the Deposit account which would result in both accounts being just under the £85,000 threshold. **Resolved.**

10. Community Matters

a. Cllr Andrew Smith had noticed someone camping on the river bank and noted that although this was illegal, he wondered if they needed help?

b. Cllr Syd Gaskin had two matters. Firstly, was the outdoor gym instructor returning? The Clerk confirmed that they were. Secondly, could the Council potentially do something about the Ebenezer Chapel floor issue which renders the building unusable for some activities? The Project Officer was going to view the issue but Members agreed that this was not the Council's responsibility but that of the chapel itself.

c. Cllr Andrew Smith in noting the previous success of the litter picking events wondered if the new Mayor would like to see this continued. The Mayor confirmed he would and Cllr Arwel Roberts offered to show him where the equipment is kept.

d. Cllr Mike Kermode had been approached by a member of the Community Centre Association to consider supporting a "Meet the Civic Leaders" event in Rhuddlan when Covid restrictions allow. Given we now have a new Police & Crime Commissioner and Member of the Senedd it could prove very successful and a great marketing tool for the centre and town. Cllr Kermode so proposed, and Cllr Andrew Smith seconded, on the condition that all town councillors can attend too. **Resolved.**

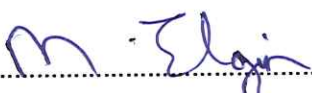
e. Cllr Bleddyn Williams noted problems parking at Pendorlan and Cllr Arwel Roberts will discuss the issues separately with Cllr Williams

f. The Clerk had received several text messages about a certain business occupying several parking places in the High Street in contravention to the permitted parking times. One particular vehicle was using a disabled space without a blue badge. There then followed a discussion on the issue whereby Members agreed this was a problem, noting that when enforcement officers are on patrol the vehicles are removed but soon return, and that patrols should be at different days and time of day. Cllr Jackie Burnham proposed that a letter be sent to the business in question to

follow the permitted parking times or purchase an annual parking permit which offers good value. Cllr Andrew Smith made an amendment that the Council should not target one business but send to all businesses. This was seconded by Cllr Burnham. **Resolved.**

All present congratulated Cllr Mike Elgin on conducting his first Full Council meeting as Mayor.

11. Date of Next Meeting – Full Council Thursday 10th June 2021 at 7pm

Signed:  Cllr Mike Elgin (Mayor)

Date: 

Cyfnod prysur ac annisgwyl.

An unexpected second term as Mayor and a busy period during lockdown.

It is good to note that two new businesses have just opened in the town, Baileys and Caked. We wish them well.

The three hotels/pubs have really prepared well to the relaxing of the rules regarding Covid. I was very pleased to be invited to open the outside facilities in the New Inn Hotel at 11am on Monday 26th of April, the day that the lockdown for outside service was relaxed. I am sure that all of the Town Council wishes success and prosperity for all the businesses in and around Rhuddlan in the future.

On the afternoon of 30th of April I was invited to the opening of the new season for the Rhuddlan Bowling Club. The main invitee was the Honourable Sheriff of Clwyd, Mr Steven Thomas. Awen and I were so pleased to meet him again and thanked the Bowling Club's officers especially the chairperson, Mr David B Evans, for a very special occasion.

Later that afternoon I received the keys to Coed y Brain, so can now make progress with this community facility on Admiral's Playing Field. We also took the time for me, the Mayor-elect and the Deputy Mayor-elect to swap our chains of office. Cllr Mike Kermode kindly acted as photographer on that day and also on many other occasions when I have been present. Diolch Mike! Also, many thanks to the other members who were present at Coed y Brain and the apology from Cllr Reg Davies.

My time as Mayor is ending. When I was invited to be Mayor in 2019 for a year, I never thought it would be for two years. The pandemic has changed our lives and I accepted the second year as Mayor full of faith. It hasn't been easy, but compared to other residents, my wife and I have been very lucky. We commiserate with all who have lost loved ones during the lockdown periods.

As you are aware I had a special birthday in November and Awen and I were very impressed with the amount of money collected for Breast Cancer Wales/Breast Cancer Research, it was over £1000. Other good causes we have raised money towards are the local surgery Rhuddlan Iach (£250), the Royal British Legion (£250) and our local school Ysgol y Castell (£800). Many thanks to all supported these activities.

To end my last report as Mayor, Awen and I thank our Clerk and her two lieutenants for all their hard work. Paul Smith and Steve Wilson have been a tower of strength to Sian our Clerk and myself. The work that Steve has managed on projects such as the businesses' awnings (canopies), shows that our decision to have a Project Officer is clearly paying dividends.

The last two years have not always been easy for our Clerk. I will not go into details but during this last year she has to deal with unfair and undeserved pressures from a certain

quarter. The Council has responded positively to protect our staff by agreeing new policies that cover Dignity at Work, Discipline and Grievances.

The continuing lockdown has meant that we still cannot do face-to-face meetings of the Council but we have coped very well using Zoom although there was certainly a learning curve for all of us, many thanks to Cllr. Gareth Rowlands for acting as the host.

Thanks to all councillors who distributed the Town Plan around the residents' houses and local businesses, there are still copies available in Fachwen.

I wish the next Mayor, my Deputy this year Cllr Mike Elgin all the best. It has been a pleasure to work with him and he will have my full support as will the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Andrew Smith.

Diolch yn fawr.

Arwel ac Awen

Town Clerk's Report

Meetings attended in April:

- 1st Agendas out, update notice board, cheques signed
- 12th Meet Mayor – cheques signing
- 15th Meet Deputy Mayor & Project Officer regarding Speed Devices locations
- 26th Solicitors Office – sign paperwork for Coed Y Brain

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

- Welsh Government Home Improvement Loan Scheme
- Welcome back to your Local Library
- DCC Leaflet Distribution Service for tourism businesses
- Changes at the New Inn
- A subsiding road in Rhuddlan could slide into the river
- Death of the Duke of Edinburgh
- The Aelwyn Morgan Award 2021
- A new Business in Town! Caked
- Welsh Government – Wales; a food destination workshops
- Town Plan 2020 – 2023
- Amazing Historical discovery on our very own discovery.

a. Pentre Lane.

As a County Councillor it's very difficult to deal with different agencies for example the Castle Green development working with the County. The amount of my time dealing with work done by this company regarding connecting drainage systems to the new development has taken many hours. Denbighshire officers agreed in the end to improve the dropped kerb in front of Somavern, Pentre Lane - it's now much better than it was.

The other issue in front of Somavern still hasn't been rectified. The grass verge in front of the property was really destroyed and very shoddy. The sub-contractors for Castle Green Homes still haven't improved the verge.

Another issue is the path from Pentre Lane to the Castle Green estate residents who have lived in Pentre Lane surely deserved a path properly tarmacked. This again is ongoing.

b. Car sales on main thoroughfare.

This is also on going, Denbighshire officers can only follow rules. If only one car is for sale in a lay by, like in front of Abbey Court the rules are not broken, if there are two cars, the rules are broken. Cllr Gaskin and others have contacted the police on our behalf. One solution is to make the lay by a limited parking spaces, then possibly the problem will be moved on to another area.

c. Spilt paint

Again, this is on the same road. Parts of the pavement and the bin by the bus stop is covered by paint. One suggestion is to have the painted slabs removed and new bin and new slabs provided. We await!

d. Vicarage Lane Parking Area

I'm at a loss why we are waiting for this issue to be finished with. We aware that the health board are supportive, the County Highways Officer and the Town Council. Last answer from the officer it's with the County Legal Department. We await!

I refused to support a scheme to have electrical power stations on eight Denbighshire car parks - I abstained, one reason being was the fact that Vicarage Lane wasn't included. There were other reasons, possibly Vicarage Lane will have one in the future.

The Co-options Ltd clothes has now been removed.

e. The Cemetery

Good work from the officer in charge regarding initial drainage report. There are steps still to be taken before we have a final recommendation what should be done. Who will pay etc? How will it affect the nearby properties and field if at all? Our parking space near the Muga - will the area be affected, big machines digging in the space possibly. Could the area be made much tidier and marked out for parking spaces etc.

f. Welcoming signs.

Four of the 5 signs have now been installed by contractors employed by the County Council.

g. Speeding

Residents are still concerned with the speed of traffic , but in the increase of vehicles travelling into Denbighshire lately has slowed their speed down especially on the main thoroughfares during day times. One resident very concerned with the speed of vehicles coming in to the town from Meliden/ Prestatyn. The roundabout near the golf club is a constant worry.

h. Flood wardens

We have had a virtual flood warden meeting with Miss Gwenno Talfryn Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru. Diolch Paul and Sian for your support on the night and Cllr Mike Elgin who will now chair the Food Wardens' meetings in the future.

i. White lines

The County have re-painted the white lines on the High Street including the disabled bay

j. The Nature Reserve

What a success this facility is. The parking area is always full during daytimes. Residents are clearing litter from the area quietly. We have an exciting project on the cards, as chair of the Rhuddlan Dementia Group I'm really proud that Denbighshire Countryside Services and the Management Group for the Reserve are working so well together to provide a Sensory Garden.

The number of birds seen here lately shows its success. Chiff-Chaffs, Swans, Coots, Mallards, Jays, Herons, Wrens, Goldcrests, numerous different kinds of Tits , Blackcaps, Goldfinches and my favourite the Bullfinch. The plants in the Reserve attract different species of insects including Butterflies.

1. RHUDDLAN CEMETERY

I am now in receipt of the initial report of the survey that was carried out in January, the findings suggested further CCTV investigations of the existing drainage system. DCC are hoping to have the CCTV survey work completed in the next few weeks, the delay has been due to coordinating the work with other CCTV survey work the contractor is completing for DCC.

2. WAEN RUGBY CLUB APPLICATION - 108 Country Planning Act 1990.

A plan to build a “luxury lodge park” on the former Waen rugby ground was deferred by the planning committee after it was “called in” to the Welsh Government for scrutiny. Further update to follow.

3. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

Work is underway on the new LDP. We now have a new Elwy Area representative on the committee, this will ensure we are regularly updated on new developments and the candidate sites that have been put forward for consideration.

4. NORTH EAST WALES ARCHIVES

NEWA is pleased to announce a bid has been submitted to secure a National Heritage funding.

The joint service, a collaboration between archive services in Denbighshire and Flintshire has submitted an application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund to help fund a new purpose built archive centre, based next to Theatre Clwyd, Mold.

If successful this could ensure local Artefacts belonging to Rhuddlan could possibly be brought back to North Wales, until such time as Rhuddlan can display them safely.

The outcome of the bid will be known in July.

5. UNEARTHED 9,000 YEAR OLD ENCAMPMENT IN RHUDDLAN - BBC NEWS.

I was interviewed and filmed by BBC Wales regarding the latest archaeological watching brief that was carried out in Hylas Lane. I was also questioned about the wealth of history we have in Rhuddlan and why these artefacts should be brought back to Rhuddlan.

The Artefacts were brought back to Rhuddlan for the filming and these amazing finds were shown on BBC breakfast news, the story was also broadcasted on radio Wales.

S4C have also shown an interest and will be covering my story at a later date.

The news has brought interest from as far afield as Yorkshire - placing Rhuddlan firmly on the map.

6. YSGOL Y CASTELL

I attended a meeting with the headmistress and two County Officers. We discussed the proposed extension at the rear of the school, the initial plan was for a six foot extension, considering the vast amount of land available and the size of the school I have suggested a larger extension, officers are now working on plans/ costing for this larger extension. Although part of the funding is from the Park Tirionfa site, additional funding will need to be sought for this work.

7. POLICE ACTIVITIES

Extra police activities have been carried out in Rhuddlan in the last couple of weeks. This is the first stage of the pre - planned policing operation. They will continue to support the local community by carrying out these types of policing.

A series of warrants have been executed in the Rhuddlan /Rhyl area.

END OF REPORT.

Local Issues Raised with Denbighshire County Council CRM.

1. Dog Fouling.
2. Requested the pavement in Highlands Close be resurfaced, due to a resident falling on the uneven ground.
3. Following further concerns regarding traffic management in Hylas Lane the highway officer has agreed to draw up a plan for yellow lines on the junction of Hylas Lane/ Abbey Road .
- 4 Removal of graffiti in Rhyl Road is proving difficult, I have suggested removing/ replacing paving slab.
5. Raised awareness of Vans parking and blocking the pavement in Highlands Close, police officers attended the site and advised residents, the situation has now improved.
6. Had a meeting in Rhyl Road with a highway officer regarding the new planning application for The Rise. Residents have concerns regarding the height of proposed new builds , privacy and highway congestion .
7. Following the Census 2021 questionnaire there have been numerous complaints from residents who are receiving follow up letters asking further questions , they are told they will be visited if they fail reply to the letter. This is now being investigated.