



Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the meeting on the 10th June 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 Reg Davies
Cllr Syd Gaskin
Cllr Mike Kermode
Cllr Arwel Roberts
Cllr Gareth Rowlands
Town Clerk
Clerical Assistant/Minute Clerk
Project Officer

1. Apologies

Cllrs Ann Davies, Charlotte Frobisher, Bleddyn Williams

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 Jackie Burnham Part 2 grant application

Cllrs Mike Kermode and Arwel Roberts regarding Rhuddlan Dementia Group

3. Urgent Matters

None

4. Police Matters – Appendix A

Report from new Inspector Jason Davies, Inspector for Denbighshire Coastal & Abergele introducing himself and looking forward to working with Rhuddlan Town Council.

Report received

Report from Sergeant Kevin Smith informing of recent increased police activity in the Rhyl area, the execution of arrest warrants, and the provision of community reassurance patrols.

Report received

Report from PCSO Phil Roberts listing briefly recent Rhuddlan incidents

Report received.

5. Minutes

Town Council AGM 13th May 2021

Subject to one grammatical amendment the Minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr Mike Kermode seconded by Cllr Andrew Smith. **Resolved.**

The Minutes were duly signed.

Matters Arising

None

Town Council Meeting 13th May 2021

The Minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr Gareth Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved**

Matters Arising

- a. **Welcome Sign** – The Town Clerk reported that all signs are now completed.
- b. **Admiral's Field Treeline** – The Clerk informed Members that the CCTV cameras have now been focused on the treeline area and the PCSO asked to monitor the problem.
- c. **Dementia Group** – Cllr Mike Kermode was invited to give a verbal report on the group's activities. Details are on the Town Council's website and Rhyl Journal. Cllr Arwel Roberts, Chair of the group, congratulated Cllr Kermode on his hard work on all these activities, and also thanked Mrs Awen Roberts for translating the poster into Welsh. He added that the Rhuddlan group is seen as a leading light in dementia activities in Denbighshire. Members were informed where dementia mats are situated and a Member asked if Web Studio could have one. The group have been invited to a community poly tunnel in Northwest Rhyl.
- d. **Anti-Speed Campaign** – The Mayor reported that he had met with the resident of Morfa Lodge accompanied by Cllr Ann Davies and a meeting with a DCC highways officer is being organised. The GoSafe van operating on Rhyl Road near the police station had between the end of March and end of May caught 54 vehicles breaking the speed limit and several had been prosecuted. This information will help when Council is pressing for a pedestrian crossing in that area. Cllr Arwel Roberts was then invited to report on the results of a speed survey by Rhuddlan golf club. Many vehicles had been recorded travelling over 40mph and several over 47mph in both directions. This worrying data led to a discussion on what could be done to reduce speeding which included rumble lines, moving speed warning signs further out of Rhuddlan to encourage earlier slowing down, Town Council potentially sponsoring a pedestrian refuge on Rhyl Road, and seeking the assistance of the MP if DCC do not act soon.
- e. **Bird Droppings** – The Clerk had written to the Head of Environmental Services and had received a reply confirming that DCC do not have powers to fell or cut

back the overhanging trees, but will ensure regular cleaning of the droppings. Members agreed to report unacceptable accumulation of droppings to DCC Customer Services or the Clerk. **Resolved.**

- f. **Dog Fouling** – A Councillor had received a positive response from a resident on the Council's dog waste bags initiative, but they added that dog waste carries a very dangerous health problem which has resulted in a leg amputation. They suggested placing this health issue on the Council's Facebook page and website. Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that Council actions this, seconded by Cllr Andrew Smith. Cllr Jackie Burnham added a suggestion that the Journal run the issue. Members wanted to also add that DCC are approached about sticker signs to place dog waste in litter bins as seen in Rhyl. Although DCC wanted to investigate this County wide first, members agreed to ask DCC to follow the Rhyl precedent already set. **Resolved.**
- g. **Enforcement Signs** - The resolution to make the Environmental Enforcement, Public Space Protection Orders, and CCTV signs larger and simpler had not yet been actioned.
- h. **A525 By Pass Speed Limit** – The Clerk had written to DCC reference placing a speed limit on the dual carriageway to 50 mph on 26th May 2021, and asked for a response on 10th June 2021 but has received no reply. Members agreed to write again emphasising that this was a Rhuddlan Town Council initiative, not a DCC one, pointing out that the lower the speed the lower the transmissions & noise levels. **Resolved.**
Cllr Arwel Roberts as a County Councillor will back the formal request up.
- i. **Telephone Kiosks** – The Clerk has informed DCC that Town Council would like to adopt the 4 kiosks in Rhuddlan. DCC is collating the requests and then BT will contact the Clerk.
- j. **Budget & Finance** – The Clerk had actioned ensuring an amount of money in the Council's accounts equal to the threshold for the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, and had received a leaflet from the bank that the various accounts may be viewed as one account, and so the scheme might not operate on all accounts. Members discussed investigating this issue more, grant eligibility criteria requiring low bank funds to be successful, and spending the Council's financial assets to reduce the account balances.
- k. **Ebenezer Chapel Youth Club** - the Project Officer has met with chapel representatives and felt there was a reluctance to allow youth club provision due to the unsafe floor surface. Cllr Arwel Roberts had met with the new Head of Youth Services who is investigating the issue. The Project Officer was meeting a DCC officer on site to investigate a potential simple resolution to the floor issue.
- l. **Future Litter Picking** – The Clerk advised Members that Covid regulations have changed the rules on our litter picking events, we are insured but the equipment is not. A litter pick to be organised soon.

- m. **Meet the Civic Leaders** – the new Police & Crime Commissioner has been contacted and the decision is to await the First Ministers future advice and announcements before arranging.
- n. **Pendorlan** – Members heard that the parking issue has been improved and yellow lines are being done.
- o. **Parking on High Street by local Businesses** – the proposed letter has been sent out to all businesses.

6. Correspondence from

a. The Mayor – Appendix B

The report was accepted

b. The Town clerk – Appendix C

The Clerk thanked Cllr Syd Gaskin for checking the defibrillators which are in good working order.

The report was accepted

c. Consultation by DCC on new Corporate Plan

The Clerk had circulated a letter which launched DCC's consultation for the next corporate plan and running some online focus groups. Members agreed to send DCC a copy of the town plan and suggested that DCC be invited to see the good work of the Rhuddlan Dementia Group. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed, seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands that Rhuddlan Town Council offer themselves to be an online focus group. **Resolved.**

d. **EU Settlement Scheme** – Members had been circulated an email from a charity called Settled to raise awareness of the scheme set up under the terms of the UK's Withdrawal Agreement with the EU. The Clerk explained the details and asked if Members would like to place this information on the Council's website. After a short discussion it was proposed by Cllr Andrew Smith, seconded by Mike Kermode that the information could be posted on the website but with the advice that it is from the charity Settle and not the Town Council. **Resolved.**

e. **Conwy & Denbighshire Youth Justice Service** – Information asking if the Council had any project ideas that the Reparation Officer for the Youth Justice Service can support as part of the young offender's community payback. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that this information be passed on to the Rhuddlan Community Group, seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. **Resolved.**

7. County Council Members Reports

Cllr Arwel Roberts – Appendix D

Members were given an update by Cllr Roberts on the two sewerage incidents mentioned in his report which had been received today from Natural Resources Wales. The problematical valve that caused the incidents has now been replaced and there have been no more incidents since.

Another item of particular concern to Members was the local resident who lives under the auspices of Care in the Community at Ffordd Aber and can often be seen

sitting on the bench near the chemist on the High Street, drinking alcohol. Cllr Roberts had discussed the problem with the DCC Head of Social Services who report that they were aware of the situation and that he is considered a safe person to be in the community. Several Members reported that they had received complaints from residents about this man and concerns were growing that he is intimidating. One Member informed the meeting that the man is local and from a long established Rhuddlan family, he does have drug and alcohol problems, has no concept of social distancing, but is harmless.

It was proposed by Cllr Arwel Roberts that via Phil Gilroy Head of DCC Social Services Care in the Community are contacted to learn more about this delicate matter. This was seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

The report was accepted

8. Town Plan Projects Report

The Project Officer had circulated his report prior to the meeting and updated Members verbally on several of the ongoing projects. Without going into too much detail in the Minutes these were the potential museum, farmer's market, Coed y Brain, defibrillators sites, basketball backboards, awnings, road safety, outdoor gym sessions, youth club, Vicarage Lane car park and the town cycle path provision.

Members agreed to engage with Rhuddlan Historical Society, CADW, and investigate the potential of having a physical museum at the castle. **Resolved.**

Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed that the Farmer's Market be supported as outlined in the report including the date and covering the first three months of costs to encourage a take up by stall holders. This was seconded by Cllr Mike Elgin. **Resolved.**

Members agreed to install one defibrillator at the library, one at Coed y Brian, and first aid posts at two of the telephone kiosks. **Resolved.**

It was proposed by Cllr Mike Kermode that the reinforcement work quote for the basketball back boards be approved for now, and if a cheaper quote arrives go with that quote. Cllr Gareth Rowlands seconded. **Resolved.**

The Project Officer was thanked for all his hard work and determination on progressing the various projects.

9. Planning Applications

- i) 44/2021/0474 – first floor and single storey extension, The Orchard, Pentre Lane. No objections
- ii) 44/2021/0476 – first floor pitched roof extension, Gwindy Fawr Gwindy St. No objections.
- iii) 44/2021/0302 – two storey extension, Trefaldwyn, Castle St. No objections.
- iv) 44/2021/0498 – installation of 10 awnings, High St. No objections.
- v) 44/2021/0163 – development of 4 dwellings, The Rise, Rhyl Rd. Members agreed to object on the grounds of unsuitable access and the built height of dwellings as previously stated. **Resolved.**

10. Draft Safeguarding Policy

The Mayor invited Cllr Mike Kermode to inform Members as to why the Council needed a safeguarding policy and the details of what it included.

The duties and activities of Council often require Councillors and/or Officers to have meetings with, or gain information about, vulnerable adults that need care and/or support. It is therefore important that they know how to respond if they see a potential safeguarding issue.

The aims of the policy were described by Cllr Kermode along with the Care Act 2014 principles, the different types of abuse, and people's roles and responsibilities.

Cllr Kermode in particular stressed the importance of realising that adults are more complex than children, and that no safeguarding investigation or actions should be carried out by Town Council Members or officers but referred to DCC Social Services or the police.

It was proposed by Cllr Mike Elgin the policy be adopted, seconded by Cllr Andrew Smith. **Resolved.**

The Mayor reminded members that if the safeguarding issue was an emergency contact the police first not the Council's main contacts of the Clerk or Mayor. Adding his thanks to Cllr Kermode for his work on this policy.

11. Budget/Finance Matters

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

12. Community Matters

- a. Cllr Arwel Roberts had reported broken paving slabs outside Wilson's Garage.
- b. The Clerk had received a complaint via DCC Environmental Services about noise being created at 6.30am by the keep fit class. Members recognised the issue and some reported having complaints on the issue too. It was agreed to contact the keep fit class tutor highlighting that the Council is willing to work with them but reduce the noise at this session.

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.

The virtual meeting audio recording was stopped at this point.

13. Rhuddlan Community Group Grant Application

The application is for £800 to purchase wood preservative, compost, fertilizer, and plants. Cllr Andrew Smith proposed the full amount of £800 be granted. Seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

14. Eden Healing Grant Application

Cllrs Jackie Burnham and Mike Kermode both declared an interest.

The applicant is seeking to bring mental health support for women through mindful and meditative experience via various holistic healing methods. The total asked for is £760 for yoga mats, yoga bricks, meditation blankets, massage table, audio speakers, pillows, and candles. Members considered that the application was not put together very clearly and lacked detail. It does not seem to take into account Covid restrictions on numbers, have a clear business plan, and appears to be a new business starter. It was noted that if supported with a grant Rhuddlan women will have free access for one month and that there was a yoga provider in Rhuddlan already.

Cllr Andrew Smith proposed that the Council reply saying that the idea had great potential but it needed more detail as above, and the business plan expectations made clearer. Seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. Cllr Mike Elgin proposed an amendment that any extra detail includes lease confirmation, which is not currently evident, and how other items would be funded. This was seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts adding that the applicant could be directed to DCC business loans department as a new starter. **Resolved.**

15. Minutes of Personnel Committee 1st June 2021

The Project Officer and the Minute Clerk left the meeting because of the nature of the staffing issues raised at the Personnel Committee.

Cllr. A Roberts, Chairman of the Committee, presented the minutes which were approved as a correct record.

Cllr. A. Smith apologised for being absent from the meeting because of problems with his internet and access to Zoom.

Cllr. Roberts then referred to the recommendations of the Committee regarding the Project Officer's interest in gaining the CilCA qualification, the potential for a bursary to cover the course costs and a redefinition of the Project Officers role to include the role of Deputy Town Clerk. The grading and financial implications were also explained to members.

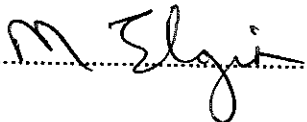
The Town Clerk said that she had found the CilCA course to be very beneficial to her and to her role as Town Clerk and she supported the Committee's recommendations.

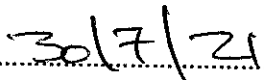
The Council resolved to accept the Personnel Committee's recommendations in full.

The Committee had also discussed a training session for staff and members on the Code of Conduct. The Town Clerk said that she had spoken to Denbighshire County

Council's Monitoring Officer and it had been agreed that this session will take place at the July meeting. It was proposed and agreed that this meeting should commence at 6-30pm to provide sufficient time for the training session before the usual business of the meeting.

16. Date of Next Meeting – Full Council Thursday 8th July 2021 at 6.30 p.m.

Signed..........Cllr Mike Elgin (Mayor)

Date..........

All,

Further to the below I just wanted to give a quick introduction having taken over the District Inspector role from Insp James Keene. I've lived and worked in this area for 30 years so I know it well. Although my most recent posting was in our force control room, the majority of my service has been spent in front line policing across coastal Denbighshire and Conwy.

I'm very keen to forge good working relationships with partners and am hopeful that the improving external picture may allow for some face to face introductions in the near future. As we have moved out of recent lockdown measures, it is a good time to review how often and in what format we engage with our community as your local police service. If you have any views on this I would be glad to hear them.

I look forward to working with all of you in the months ahead.

Kind Regards

Jason Davies

Inspector Denbighshire Coastal and Abergele

Local Policing Services

| North Wales Police

Police activity 1st - 3rd June 2021

Sent: 03 June 2021 14:41

Good afternoon all,

As per my previous correspondence relating to police activity, you may have been aware of more activity in the Rhyl area over the course of the week which commenced on Tuesday 1st June 2021. This is the result of a pre-planned policing operation which may be subject to an official press release at a later date by our investigation team, no further details have been released to the public to minimise the impact on the purpose of the operation. As part of this operation, other agencies and organisations will be providing assistance in the coming weeks and as a partnership we are committed to safeguarding vulnerable members of our community. We will continue to support the local community by carrying out these types of policing operations and extra patrols are being carried out to enhance community reassurance.

Over the course of the week a number of warrants have been executed and arrests have been made in relation to drug supply. Neighbourhood Policing Team officers have been tasked with providing reassurance patrols in the areas effected but I would like to add that there are no known risks to the public.

If you have any concerns or any members of your constituency raise concerns then please contact me or our partnerships officer PC Simon Keeting to discuss. In follow up to this month long activity our new District Inspector Jason Davies is keen to meet you all and I am hoping that I can facilitate a meeting in the near future.

Kind regards

Kevin Smith
PS2410

District Support Sergeant
Denbighshire and Abergele Coastal
Local Policing Services

1. During the past month there have been no civic Events brought to my attention.
2. This year Carers week will take place on the 7th -11th June. The launch will
officially take place at Rhuddlan Nature Park at 10am on Monday 7th June. Both Marianne and I were very pleased to be invited to attend the launch.
3. I intend to attend the Sustrans consultation meeting in The Community Centre on 11th of June.
4. Attended a virtual meeting of The Personnel Committee on 2nd of June.
5. Attended The Dementia Friendly Group AGM on 3rd of June virtually by Zoom.
6. On 25th May I personally met a resident of Abergele Road- Morfa Lodge to discuss his concerns re speeding traffic and his complaints to DCC re the speed limit being too high. Cllr Ann Davies was also present, and we are now trying to arrange a site meeting with Mike Jones of DCC

Meetings attended in May:

- May 6th Meeting at Coed y Brain with Members and Project Officer.
Also meet DCC Edward Parry regarding cycle routes
- May 10th St Asaph Business Park to collect official papers from Solicitor
- May 14th Meet Project Officer at Coed y Brain

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

- The Mayor Receives a warm welcome in Clwb Bowlio Rhuddlan
- A New Mayor for Rhuddlan
- Rhuddlan Dementia Group - Dementia Action Week 2021
- Coed Y Brain Official handover to the Town Council
- Town Council Thanks Dog Owners Helping Keep Rhuddlan Tidy
- Alzheimer's Society: Dementia – Cure the Care System Petition
- A Framers Market in Rhuddlan - Assessing Interest in the community
- Sustrans & DCC – Second phase of Active Travel Plan
- DCC – Consultation on Denbighshire County Council's future Priorities

1. Sewage seeping on to land near the river Clwyd.

Breakages has happened to two sewage pipes which transfers sewerage to a plant near Bae Cinmel. One happened on the 21st of May not far from the old police helicopter site near Abergele Straits. All I could do was report the incident to Denbighshire. This pipe was repaired and replaced by Dŵr Cymru.

Second incident happened on the 1st of June. Far more serious since it's nearer to the Pont Robyn stream and the water could be contaminated from sewerage which has Ysbyty Glan Clwyd affluent. This could be worse when the tide reaches the area pushing the affluent towards houses and businesses. I have reported this to Denbighshire and Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru. The land farmed by local agriculture experts could also be contaminated.

2. Pentre Lane.

Two issues here and good news with one and partly with the other. The verge in front of Somavern is now much better. The dropped kerb has been improved by Denbighshire and Castle Green have improved the verge significantly.

The path from the new development to the Lane hasn't been adopted. Castle Green therefore have agreed to surface the start of the path for a few metres and tidy up and put a dust surface on the rest of the path.

Another problem which is continuing with this road is the speed of the vehicles which is a rural road really, residents are still contacting me.

3. Lôn Cwybr.

Informed by a Town Councillor that a resident is very concerned regarding a house near where she lives has been repairing vehicles and boats on the street. I visited to see for myself and I have discussed the problem with some of the residents and the local constabulary are involved.

4. Cemetery

Latest information from Michael Bennion is that the CCTV survey of the existing drainage system in cemetery will be completed next week after the Bank Holiday, we will be updated when the survey results are reported to him.

5. Ysgol y Castell

Looking forward to a site meeting on school grounds to discuss with a Cadw representative to learn what archaeology evaluation can be done before to the extension works starts. This will be in the afternoon before the Town Council Meeting this month.

6. Safle Gwarchodfa Natur.

The Nature Reserve chair of the management committee is very keen to have a meeting on site and the Community Centre on the 18th of June. Hope Mrs Fagan can visit Cymru again.

7. Community events infrastructure.

If the Community needs any assistance with events in the town for example Farmers Market, Gwledd - Amy Selby and Fran Rhodes officers within Denbighshire are willing to be of assistance. For example, electrical points on streets or car parks no need for other power supply.

8. Denbighshire Destination Management Plan.

It's a plan which is really developing well and I'm glad our Mayor is an ambassador for our town .

9. Care in the Community.

An issue has been brought to my attention by one Town Councillor regarding a resident who lives under the auspices of Care in the Community. He is living in Ffordd Aber. He is frequently sitting on the bench near the Chemist Shop always with bottles of alcohol or cans of beer in his possession drinking and speaking in an intelligible manner. I have contacted Denbighshire Social Services, they are happy that he is safe person within our community. It's still a concern but the professionals are aware of the situation.

10. Youth Club.

Roger Ellerton has now retired as Denbighshire principal youth officer. I happened to be in a virtual meeting with the new principal last week - Jeanette Smalls, this was an opportunity to bring the project of establishing a youth facility in RHUDDLAN.

Since she has sent a message to the Clerk and me. I quote " in relation to a youth club in Rhuddlan I was aware of the exploration of the use of a building in the community before the pandemic and I have spoken to the Community Youth Worker (Claire Cunah) to review where we were at and to look at a new vision for youth work in Rhuddlan.

It would be great to meet to see what your project officer and the council would like in the area and how we can work together to provide positive activity for the young people in Rhuddlan and contribute to the Town Plan"