



Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the meeting on the 8th July 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
Town Clerk
Clerical Assistant/Minute Clerk
Deputy Town Clerk

1. Apologies

Cllrs 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

Cllrs Mike Elgin, Jackie Burnham, Mike Kermode Part 2 grant application
Cllrs Mike Kermode, Arwel Roberts and Ann Davies regarding Rhuddlan Dementia Group
Cllr Ann Davies regarding planning matters
Cllr Gareth Rowlands in relation to item 6f Rhyl Rotary
Cllr Reg Davies on a planning application

Members were informed that when the items are discussed, those who have declared an interest will be placed in the waiting room.

3. Urgent Matters

None

4. Police Matters. Appendix A

A member commented that a local resident had mentioned to him information on a potential crime and he had advised them to contact the police on the matter.

A member had noted that a regular e-scooter user had been reported to the police as he was riding it on the pavement. It was noted that the police have powers to confiscate illegally used e-scooters.

Report received

5. Minutes

Town Council Meeting 10th June 2021

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

Matters Arising

- a. **Admiral's Field Treeline** – It was reported that the new layered hedge was curtailing growth of the new trees. Cllrs Arwel Roberts and Gareth Rowlands kindly offered to deal with the issue. **Resolved.**
- b. **Dementia Group** – Cllr Mike Kermode provided an update on the various events held including the sponsored cycle ride raising £500 and the tea, coffee & cake event over £400. The support shown for these events was extremely good and Members asked that this be recorded in the Minutes.
Cllr Mike Kermode & Cllr Ann Davies had attended a Living with Dementia group in the community centre, which is a referral system of attendance. This was the first weekly session by Carers Trust North Wales for people diagnosed with dementia and their families/carers – these sessions were previously in Rhyl Rugby Club and it is very pleasing to see them using Rhuddlan Community Centre.
Cllr Arwel Roberts had attended the community poly tunnel in Rhyl.
Cllr Andrew Smith congratulated the Dementia group on all their hard work.
- c. **Anti-Speed Campaign** – The Mayor and Cllr Ann Davies had met with DCC Highways officers reference the Morfa Lodge complaint. They agreed to review the data provided by the new SID after 3 months to investigate a reduced speed limit change. Members were informed that the officer dealing with Council's SID has left DCC and there is to be a site meeting on 14th July to progress. A Councillor asked that any speed data be shared with Members. **Resolved.**
Cllr Mike Elgin informed Members that there was no response yet from DCC about the central reservation on Rhyl Road and he had been told there was a 3-month backlog of e-mails.
- d. **Dog Fouling** – The Clerk confirmed that the website and Facebook page now highlighted the health issues associated with dog waste. DCC Street Scene Manager had now agreed that the litter bins on Admiral's Field, which belong to Rhuddlan Town Council, can have stickers informing that dog waste can be placed in the litter bins. These have been ordered.

- e. **Enforcement Signs** – The simpler Environmental Enforcement, Public Space Protection Orders, and CCTV signs design has been sent to DCC for their approval before putting the DCC logo on them, printing and installing them. It will include the level of fine for any transgression.
- f. **A525 By Pass Speed Limit** – A DCC officer had responded on the dual carriageway limit being reduced by saying that this had been looked at before, that what currently is in place is considered the best suitable limit, and that there is no funding for noise barriers to be installed. Members were told that the dual carriageway was built 25 years ago and at that time the houses in the area were assessed for noise and offered compensation where needed.
Members were disappointed in the response and wondered what could be done to progress the issue. The future Meet the Civic Leaders event could be used to discuss the issue, and the lack of funding, as the MS, MP, and regional MS would be invited and potentially be in attendance. **Resolved.**
- g. **Budget & Finance** – The bank had confirmed that the £85k protection limit is restricted to the sum of all accounts the Council own. The Clerk had surveyed other town clerks on their way of dealing with this limit, and DCC finance section for any advice. The result was to try and limit the reserve account with the sum equal to 2 or 3 months of Council's precept, and although Town Council has several initiatives progressing, we should reduce the account amounts to below the £85k limit. It was suggested that Council awaits the completion of Coed y Brain before reducing the accounts. **Resolved.**
- h. **Ebenezer Chapel Youth Club** - the Deputy Town Clerk has met with DCC Youth Service officers who are keen to support a youth club in Rhuddlan and stated that the only suitable indoor venue was Coed y Brain (when completed,) and outdoors on Admiral's Field before that. There then followed a lengthy discussion about relative issues i.e., temporary use of chapel whilst awaiting Coed y Brain completion, Town Council finances used to meet chapel floor resolution, outdoor use of Admiral's Field, and use of Ysgol y Castell facilities. It was proposed by Cllr Arwel Roberts that Council do not pursue the chapel facilities but be patient and await completion of Coed y Brain. Seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**
- i. **Litter Picking** – The next event will be held on 24th July 10am – 12pm commencing at the community centre. This has been posted on the Council's website and Facebook page. Please remember to follow the Covid 19 rules on such an event.
- j. **Meet the Civic Leaders** – The date for this event to be Friday October 8th. The Clerk asked Members to agree the date. **Resolved.**
Members then had a short discussion on adding other invitees whose constituency boundaries includes Rhuddlan, and it was agreed to add MS Llyr Huws Griffiths. **Resolved.**
- k. **Parking on High Street by local Businesses** – It was reported that the parking enforcement officer is aware of the issues and will visit in the future. The Council

letter does not seem to have rectified the illegal parking and Members discussed their observations of the situation, particularly the timing of enforcement visits to Rhuddlan and residents using the library car park for car share parking. Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed that a letter be sent to the DCC Legal Officer Gary Williams to enforce the issues, asking that the days and times of visits by enforcement officers be varied. Seconded by Cllr Andrew Smith. **Resolved.**

- l. Local Resident in Receipt of Social Care** – Council had resolved to ask DCC Head of Social Services to comment on this delicate matter. Without disclosing personal details Members heard that the person involved is in receipt of social care up to a level that he accepts, he has recently had a review of that care, and nothing more can be done. If intimidating behaviour continues then it needs to be reported to police. Members had a short discussion on reports they had received from residents and acknowledged this resident right to live as he pleases.
- m. MUGA Keep Fit Class** – The Clerk had written to the instructor reference the 6.30am class and complaints about noise. No further complaints have been received.
- n. CiLCA Qualification** – The Deputy Town Clerk is to start the course on 21st September 2021 and he thanked the Council for their support in funding it.

6. Correspondence from

a. The Mayor. Appendix B

The Sustrans Cycle Route meeting highlighted in the report brought about a meaningful discussion on the nature reserve cycle route. Members were informed that the Nature Reserve Group had debated the route being removed from passing through the reserve and circumnavigating it alongside the main road instead. Issues such as: -

- original route was funded by Sustrans and so is part of the national cycle route network,
- cyclists preferred route,
- the poor repair of the route which would circumnavigate the reserve,
- what's best for the wildlife,
- safety of cyclists whilst using the new route, especially children

Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed that Council writes to DCC asking that the nature reserve circumnavigation route surface be repaired and designated as part of the national cycle route network instead of the route through the nature reserve. Seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. **Resolved.**

The report was accepted

b. The Town clerk. Appendix C

The Clerk thanked Cllr Syd Gaskin for checking the defibrillators.

The report was accepted

c. Tree Felling at Tan yr Eglwys – Members were informed that due to these trees being in a dangerous condition and diseased, they had to be felled. The site had not been cleared of debris and was an unpleasant view as visitors enter Rhuddlan.

Several points were raised as to why the debris was not removed, who owns the land, who could help with the debris removal, and that Town Council has no responsibility on this issue. Cllr Ann Davies proposed that Council writes to the land agent to remove the debris. Seconded by Cllr Mike Elgin. **Resolved.**

d. DCC Shaping the Future – The Clerk had written to DCC with a copy of the Town Plan and the offer of the Town Council becoming one of the online focus groups. The offer was not accepted due to the level of engagement being used by DCC, but suggested that one or two of Council's Members attend the online focus group or complete the survey response. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that Town Council approve the Clerk to complete the survey response. Seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. **Resolved.**

DCC's response also referred to the successful Rhuddlan Dementia Group being written to formally to attend the Dementia Friendly Council meetings that DCC regularly arrange. Town Council agreed to support this idea. **Resolved.**

e. Rhuddlan Cemetery –Cllr Ann Davies is in receipt of an e-mail from the Head of Highways & Environmental Services along with the CCTV Survey Report of the cemetery drainage system. Both had been circulated to Members.

There are numerous defects in the system, DCC design team are working on suitable remedial work, and the options for funding those works, which is not currently budgeted for.

Members were very concerned at this news and one Member noted that one of the survey options was to connect the cemetery drains to the MUGA soak away system. This was not supported and Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that DCC be formally informed that Town Council object strongly to this option and ask that it is removed. Seconded by Cllr Andrew Smith. **Resolved.**

f. Rhyl Rotary – A request has been received for Rhyl Rotary to bring their Christmas float to Rhuddlan library car park for one evening.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands as a member of St Asaph Rotary declared an interest.

Member's discussion centred around the fact that St Asaph Rotary already support Rhuddlan with their Christmas float at the lights switch on and Christmas carols event, town council's ownership of the car park in light of the new lease for it, residents of Rhuddlan being members of Rhyl Rotary, and the good work Rhyl Rotary do in relation to young carers. Cllr Syd Gaskin proposed that Town Council gives it support to the request of using the library car park on the condition we still own the land after the lease is signed. Seconded by Cllr Andrew Smith. **Resolved.**

7. County Council Members Reports

a. Cllr Ann Davies. Appendix D

Members discussed in particular the item in the report about primary health care. There are many concerns about GP appointment systems which adds to the pressure on the A&E department at Glan Clwyd hospital. Cllr Davies has been asked to raise this issue at the next N Wales Regional Health Partnership Board before a winter crisis is experienced. The closing of community hospitals has not helped this issue. Cllr Davies proposed that Town Council writes to Bethan Jones the BCHUB Community Officer to register this concern. Seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. **Resolved.**

Members wished to emphasis strongly in the letter, the issue of a potential winter crisis and to copy in Eluned Morgan the Health Minister for Wales, the local MS and regional MS.

The report was accepted.

b. Cllr Arwel Roberts. Appendix E

The report was accepted.

8. Town Plan Projects Report

The Deputy Town Clerk had circulated his report prior to the meeting and updated Members verbally on the ongoing projects.

Cllrs Mike Kermode and Arwel Roberts declared an interest of the Gwledd Festival but offered their support to help with several items e.g., contacts for the Farmer's Market project.

The three approvals requested for the Farmer's Market were agreed by Members. These were free car parking, obtaining an alcohol licence, and the marketing of the events as highlighted in the report. **Resolved.**

Coed y Brain planning application for internal works has been approved, the gas main is being installed 16th July, and the fencing quote is sorted. But Members need to agree on the tender process so far, costs of structural engineer, as well as taking into consideration the volatile costs of materials and labour currently being experienced. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that a special meeting be convened once all tenders have been received. Seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

The remainder of the report was accepted.

9. Planning Applications

i) 44/2021/0597 – land adjacent to the church yard entrance fronting Church Street. Cllr Reg Davies declared an interest as a previous owner of this land and a previous planning applicant.

It was reported that the land is too close to the lichgate which is a Grade II listed structure, and is in a conservation area. Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that the Town Council object to the application on the grounds of over development of the site and its proximity to a Grade II listed structure. Seconded by Cllr Andrew Smith. **Resolved.**

ii) 44/2021/0626 – 6 Conwy Court, Princes Road. No objections.

10. Budget/Finance Matters

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

b. 2020/21 Internal Audit Report was presented to Members for their comments. It had concluded that the Town Council had effective governance and financial controls for 2020/21. They congratulated the Town Clerk for her diligence. Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed acceptance of the report, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

11. Community Matters

a. Painting work is required with the Silent Soldier and poppies on the Rhyl Rd roundabout, as well as the poppies in front of the prosperity restaurant and the Parliament building. He proposed that the local metal worker repair them on behalf of the Town council. **Resolved.**

b. The Silent Soldier on the bench in front of Parliament building was broken and Cllr Gareth Rowlands has a spare replacement if Town Council would agree to him replacing it. **Resolved.**

c. Trees donated by a resident to be planted professionally and the costs met by the Town Council. This would be in September/October and sited by the bowling club. The Town Cllr Rowlands proposed that Council agree to fund this cost up to the allowed £1000 threshold, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

d. The weeds by the Admiral's Field Gate have been sprayed and should die back shortly.

e. A request from the Trustees from the Community Centre asking if the Town Council would support a memorial garden for emergency workers and those who have lost their lives to the Covid pandemic. This would be done at the centre and would receive grants from the British legion. Cllr Ann Davies proposed that the Council support this memorial garden at the community centre. Seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

f. Concerns at the poor state of the bunting around the Knights statues which Cllr Gareth Rowlands offered to remove. **Resolved.**

g. Concern expressed about fly posting that is appearing by Aldi's hedge and a sign advertising Abbey Farm caravan park. Also concern about a sign on Abergele Road advertising business units to let. After a short discussion on the legality of all these signs, Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed Town Council send an e-mail to DCC asking if

these signs are legal and what policy allows them to be erected. If not legal, or permitted, then ask that they be removed by DCC. Seconded by Cllr Andrew Smith. **Resolved.**

h. It was reported that the Council had been offered some oak trees for the town if Council will fund planting them. A Member suggested that the best site would be the Nature Reserve and the Chair or Vice Chair should be asked if they would want them. Another, suggesting the involvement of DCC Countryside Services. **Resolved.**

i. Residents of Nant Close have raised a petition regarding DCC creating a wildflower area in Nant Close which they object to as they say it is not the right area for such a scheme. The matter is being looked at by DCC Scrutiny.

j. A request had been received for a tree to be planted for Sir Captain Tom Moore which is being overseen by DCC Countryside Services, and Rhyl Road had been suggested as a suitable site.

l. An enquiry from a resident asking if the Town Council would be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Anniversary in June 2022. Cllr Ann Davies proposed that the Town Council look at organising a celebration event. **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.

The virtual meeting audio recording was stopped at this point. Cllr Reg Davies had left the meeting by this time.

12. Eden Healing Re-submitted Grant Application

Cllrs Mike Elgin, Jackie Burnham, and Mike Kermode all declared an interest and were placed in the virtual waiting room. Cllr Andrew Smith took over the Chair of the meeting.

The re-submission was discussed at some length but Members were still of the opinion that it did not meet certain criteria required in the financial orders for grants from Rhuddlan Town Council, and as such, did not qualify for support. Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that the application be refused and a reply sent to inform the applicant why it didn't meet the criteria as mentioned originally, and to suggest they contact DCC Business Team for financial support. Cllr Arwel Roberts seconded. **Resolved.**

Cllrs Elgin, Burnham, and Kermode were re-admitted to the virtual meeting and Cllr Elgin resumed the Chair.

13. Aelwyn Morgan Award 2021

Cllr Arwel Roberts declared an interest and took no part in the discussion.

4 nominations had been received. Following a discussion on eligibility of some of the nominations, 2 of the nominations were deemed ineligible leaving 2 nominations to be voted on. Members moved to a secret vote virtually via Zoom. The vote proved a draw between the two nominees. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that the Aelwyn Morgan Award 2022 be a joint award and shared between Mrs Sandra Jones and Mrs Awen & Mr Arwel Roberts. Seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. **Resolved.**

Cllr Andrew Smith proposed that the award presentation will take place 1 week before the Full Council Meeting of September in the community centre. Seconded by Cllr Ann Davies. **Resolved.**

14. Date of Next Meeting – Extraordinary Meeting August to consider Coed y Brain tenders. Date TBC

Full Council Thursday 9th September 2021 at 7pm

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

Date 

Police Matters

Appendix A

It's been a very quiet June fortunately. The below is only of public interest.

5 x making off without payment for fuel at the CO OP station. Enquiries ongoing.

4 x shoplifting CO OP Suspects Identified.

1 x shoplifting Aldi enquiries ongoing.

2 x public orders – High Street enquiries still on going.

1 x ASB – Parc Edith – Suspect dealt with.

- On Sunday 4th July 2021 I attended Mayor of Denbigh, Cllr Rhys Thomas' Civic Sunday at Lôn Swan Chapel, Denbigh
- On 14th June 2021 I attended a photoshoot of the Rhuddlan bowling club receiving a special dementia mat from the Rhuddlan Dementia Group with whom they are working towards forming meaningful links.
- On 25th June 2021 I along with Cllr Arwel Roberts, the Clerk and a member of the public took part in a sponsored bike ride in aid of Rhuddlan Dementia Friendly Group. Despite the weather being poor it was a very enjoyable morning and we raised £500 towards the Group.
- On Monday 28th June 2021 I attended a site meeting in Abergele Road near Morfa Lodge with Cllr Ann Davies, Mike Jones DCC Traffic, Parking and Road Safety Manager, Cllr Brian Jones and resident Mrs Kennedy to discuss the 40 MPH speed limit along Abergele Road. Mike Jones declined the Residents request to lower the limit to 30 mph at present but will review it again 3 months after the SID sign we have purchased has been installed.
- I attended the Sustrans consultation meeting in The Community Centre on 11th of June.

Meetings / events attended in Rhuddlan in June

- June 6th Letter drop to all business and shops in Rhuddlan
- June 9th Check out existing and proposed cycle routes - Active Travel
- June 11th Meeting with Sustrans & DCC Officers

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

- Sponsored Bike Ride Raises £500 for Rhuddlan Dementia Group
- Dog Fouling – the Facts
- Join the Litter Pick
- Denbighshire Encourages Businesses to Apply for Grant Funding
- Rhuddlan Lunch Club Re-opens
- Launch of Dark Night Skies Consultation
- EU Settlement Scheme Application Deadline
- Launch of Carers Week
- Workshop & masterclass for businesses
- You are invited to help shape DCC Future Priorities
- Denbighshire Encourages Businesses to Apply for Grant Funding

a. ABERGELE ROAD

Following complaints from residents regarding the speed of traffic in Abergele Road a site meeting was held with the traffic officer. It was suggested that the 40mph be reduced to 30mph, however, as Rhuddlan town council have purchased a flashing speed sign for that area it was agreed to re - look at the situation in three months time when it will be established if the new sign has an effect on the speed of traffic.

b. RHYL ROAD PEDESTRIAN REFUGE

The design of the pedestrian refuge between Highlands Road and Pentre Lane is complete and officers are in the process of planning the procurement and construction phase. Hopefully we should have the much needed safe crossing installed soon.

c. TAN YR EGLWYS

Due to Dutch elm disease many unsafe tree's have been felled in Tan yr Eglwys/ Road. Countryside services have agreed to look at the area to see if they can help develop this site.

d. PRIMARY CARE IN THE COMMUNITY

There are concerns regarding lack of GP appointments in the area ,in turn this is adding to huge pressures on the A&E department at YGC as many more people visit the hospital to seen by a doctor.

I have asked the lead member for health and well-being to raise this problem at the next North Wales Regional Partnership Board meeting. This needs addressing urgently before we have a winter crisis.

There are also challenges within Community Support Services in delivering domiciliary care. The closing of many community hospitals twelve years ago has, I believe contributed to this problem as more people are dependent on care in their own homes.

e. RHUDDLAN CEMETERY

I am now in receipt of the report regarding the CCTV survey that was carried out some weeks ago at Rhuddlan cemetery.

There are numerous defects in the drainage system with many drains totally collapsed. The main man hole in the footway has no connecting pipes fitted and the car park has no drainage. The surface water at the cemetery simply has nowhere to go.

The report has been passed on to the design team to look at potential options and associated costs , the work is not budgeted for, therefore additional funding will need to be found.

- a. 1/7/2021 – DCC Highways operatives were attending a problem with the footway in front of Dolwen, Ffordd Rhyl.
- b. 30/6/2021 – No 2 lamp post Gwindy Street was damaged by a passing vehicle – very good response from the Street Lights section.
- c. Rhuddlan Dementia Group week in June was partly successful . The visit to the Nature Reserve, “ Memory and Wellness Walk” and the “ Come and Meet” in the Community Centre – 26/7/2021 had to be postponed. Nevertheless the sponsored bike ride the day before went ahead – four of us with our Mayor in the lead cycled 18miles. Thanks to Cllr Elgin and our Clerk and the Mayor’s friend we managed to raise £500 for the Group. Good day indeed. Hopefully we can have a successful coffee morning in our home back garden Saturday the 4th of July – 10:30am to 12.
- d. You may recall that the Friends of Rhuddlan Surgery has ceased and the last secretary placed the minutes and files in my care, they have now been placed in the Archives Department, Rhuthun .
- e. Still waiting for a response from Highways officers regarding the Brown Signs on the A55 – we have already sent our finance to Denbighshire .
- f. Speed of traffic is still a problem on Meliden Road (by the Golf Club) and Pentre Lane – residents are becoming very frustrated.
- g. The ditch at the bottom of Kerfoot Avenue is another problem I have raised this many times with Tony Ward and Tim Towers. They are asking for a little more patience while arrangements are made for them to do the work.
- h. Ysgol y Castell has like many schools been affected by the new Covid Delta Virus and the head teacher and staff should be thanked for their sterling work coping with the Covid- 19 throughout this academic year.
- i. The proposed extension to Ysgol y Castell is still being planned. I have supported the staff with their preferred options and Denbighshire Education need to find the finances.
- j. The Nature Reserve is developing well and it was nice to have a meeting chaired by Mrs Anita Fagan in the open air on site. The site is being inspected for your Neighbourhood Assessment under the auspices of Wales in Bloom – Cymru yn ei Blodau . 8/7/2021