

Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the meeting on the 9th September 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 Charlotte Connolly
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

Cllr 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 Mike Elgin for Coed y Brain works.

Cllr Syd Gaskin planning application 44/2021/0883.

Cllr Ann Davies planning matters.

3. Urgent Matters

The Mayor informed Members that two urgent matters had been brought to his attention in the last 24 hours and will be placed before them later in the meeting. Planning Appeal for the Rise, and funding opportunity for Communal Events.

4. Police Matters

No report had been received

5. Minutes

Town Council Meeting 8th July 2021

Subject to minor amendments the Minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr Gareth Rowlands seconded by Cllr Syd Gaskin. **Resolved.**

Matters Arising

- a. **Anti-Speed Campaign** – The Mayor reported further meetings had been held on the issue and the Deputy Town Clerk would be updating Members in his town plan projects report later on Item 8.
- b. **Dog Fouling** – The Clerk confirmed that stickers informing that dog waste can be placed in the litter bins have been placed on the bins.
- c. **Enforcement Signs** – Working with DCC for a simpler Environmental Enforcement & Public Space Protection Orders design. There is a possibility of a grant from DCC and who will design the sign in-house if the local school is involved. Members will be update at the next meeting.
- d. **Litter Picking** – The latest event had proved very successful and a member had received a request for another one from residents. The Mayor agreed and a date is to be confirmed. **Resolved.**
- e. **Meet the Civic Leaders** – The Clerk updated Members on those leaders who are attending on October 8th and a suggested agenda was put before Members for their approval. During a short discussion a method of informing residents was agreed, along with a procedure for pre-event questions only, and lastly the use of the Eventbrite providers for residents to book their attendance and questions. Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that the agenda be approved, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**
- f. **Parking on High Street by local Businesses** – One Councillor noted that there are still two cars that abuse the parking rules since the very beginning, and another that they had not seen any change in attitude or enforcement.
The Clerk informed Members that this lack of enforcement powers being used for this issue was included in the Town Council's response to the DCC Consultation survey.

Active Travel Consultation – The Clerk circulated an email reference the Denbighshire Active Travel Maps for further consultation, and informed Members that she had previously written on the past resolution: whilst members realise that people like cycling through the nature reserve could DCC also consider the current track around the perimeter of the nature reserve which runs alongside St Asaph road; for this route to have better surface and better signage so that the more competitive cyclists would be more inclined to use this alternative route.

Given this further consultation how would Council like to respond? A full and interesting discussion ensued raising the following points:-

- Not clear if the Nature Reserve route is now removed from map
- Requesting cyclist to dismount through Nature reserve.
- Provision already of chicanes to slow cyclists down
- Different levels of cyclists and their varying needs from a designated route

g. Tree Felling at Tan yr Eglwys – The Clerk had written to Bodrhyddan Hall Land Agent who responded by offering the land for the Town Council to maintain. Members noted that the trees will grow back in time but that “fly tipping” from a neighbouring property, is now visible. It was noted that DCC will not clear this as it is not on DCC land.

Cllr Arwel Roberts as a County Councillor made Members aware that DCC has a Climate Change Committee with a budget of £1m for the improvement of biodiversity. He wondered if the Nature Reserve Group would be interested in a project to purchase this parcel of land, and another in front of Rhuddlan Castle, with this funding opportunity. Adding that DCC Countryside Officers were aware of the idea and had shown support for it. Cllr Roberts proposed to approach the Nature Reserve Group to investigate further, seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. **Resolved.**

h. Silent Soldier & Poppies – the poppies are currently with the painter.

i. Donated Trees – Not actioned yet as it is too soon to plant the trees.

j. Fly Posting & Abergele Road advertising signs – The Clerk informed Members that owners of various postings had been contacted and asked to remove them, adding that most had been removed with the exception of two posters which will be removed. A cost of £40 had been quoted for “No Fly Posting”. Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that Council approve the cost, seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

The Clerk had contacted DCC reference the advertising signs which have been removed. In discussions with DCC enforcement officers the Town Council could adopt a system to check permissible signs. Members agreed to send photos of any concerned signage to the Clerk for forwarding to DCC officers. **Resolved.**

k. Aelwyn Morgan Award – There was a short discussion on the eligibility criteria for those nominated reference paid employment or voluntary work. Members agreed that the criteria on eligibility should be reviewed before next year’s award. **Resolved.**

Point of Information – A Member voiced concern that too much time was being spent on Matters Arising especially repeating updates or reports on the same items later on the agenda. Members were in agreement but noted that items from the Minutes sometimes will require updating, so anything currently active is minuted for a conclusion or progression at the next meeting.

Members agreed to shorten the time allocated to Matters Arising. **Resolved.**

ME

6. Correspondence from

a. The Mayor

The report was accepted

b. The Town clerk

The Clerk thanked Cllr Syd Gaskin for checking the defibrillators.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that Rhuddlan Town Council place Council logo stickers on each defibrillator to promote our provision. Seconded by Cllr Ann Davies.

Resolved.

The report was accepted

c. Community Woodlands Grant – Members agreed not to pursue a grant on behalf of the Town Council, but to investigate other Rhuddlan groups to participate e.g., Nature Reserve, especially in considering the DCC Climate Change opportunity to purchase two parcels of land for a biodiversity project.

d. Request to extend 40mph at the Cwm junction – A letter had been circulated from a resident asking Members to investigate an extension to prevent any future accidents into the current 60 mph section. Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that this request be passed on to DCC Highways Department, seconded by Cllr Syd Gaskin.

Resolved.

During a short discussion about such requests and the fact that Rhuddlan Town Council are not responsible for highway issues, Members agreed that by regarding this particular request as setting a precedent, the Clerk be approved to pass on to DCC highways directly. Cllr Andrew Smith so proposed, seconded by Cllr Mike Elgin.

Resolved.

e. Request for Poppy Cascade – members heard that the resident making the request is not in a position to progress the idea. Cllr Syd Gaskin proposed that the request not be progressed, seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. **Resolved.**

f. Awel y Mor Consultation – A Councillor had reviewed the consultation documents and the proposed route of the underground cabling from the off shore windfarm to an electric substation in Bodelwydden. All Members were encouraged to do the same and advise residents that the consultation is live till October 11th 2021 and the various ways of accessing it, and commenting if they so wish.

7. County Council Members Reports

a. Cllr Ann Davies

Members were updated that the Clerk had written to the Health Minister, MP and BCHUB Bethan Jones reference the GP appointments systems, but had yet to receive a reply from the latter. The MP had replied in reference to the Welsh Health Minister statement on Clinical Triage at GP surgeries using the latest technology. Adding that all GPs had been written to reference face to face appointments and that he was meeting the local GP practice manager soon. Members were of the opinion that this question would be made at the Civic Leaders event in October.

MS

Members were encouraged to hear that the Prestatyn Surgery had appointed a new GP which should have a positive knock on effect on Rhuddlan.

The report was accepted.

b. Cllr Arwel Roberts

Cllr Roberts updated his report by stating that DCC had now increased its support for five Afghanistan refugee families from the original one.

Cllr Roberts wanted to add to the report two new items that have arisen. DCC are having difficulty in recruitment and retention of staff, and the Meifod facility in Denbigh for residents with disabilities is under consideration regarding its future. A task and finish committee is meeting during this month. Their recommendations will be brought to the Performance Scrutiny middle of October.

A Member asked for an update on the A55 brown tourist signs which the Town Council had already paid for. Cllr Roberts requested the Clerk to email DCC Head of Service Emlyn Jones to ask for the latest news. **Resolved.**

The report was accepted

8. Town Plan Projects Report

The Deputy Town Clerk updated Members verbally on the ongoing projects.

- Museum – meeting Rhuddlan Historical Society 27th September. No response from CADW reference Rhuddlan artefacts.
- Farmers Market – 18th September. In total 80 vendors have been invited to attend but only 17 indoor stalls and 1 outdoor stall confirmed so far all of which were verbally listed by the Deputy Clerk. Most of the town households have now had leaflets delivered and posters placed around the town. There is a list of volunteers but more wanted if available.
- Coed y Brain – The Mayor had declared an interest in the tender considerations and did not participate in the discussion.

Three tenders had been received for the building works and proved too expensive, so it was suggested by the Deputy Clerk that the work be split into work packages based on different trades e.g., plumbing, joinery, electrics etc. and the Council oversee the works to save further costs. Although Members were supportive of this way forward there was some discussion on how the tenders would be evaluated, especially a quality indicator and value for money. Council has the budget but must be careful with the use of public money. The Deputy Clerk described a list of the first work package, the tendered costs, contractor's reputations, whether Local Authority approved or not, and lastly the contractor's capacity to deliver on time. He also reminded Members that they had already authorised a working group for the works made up of Cllr Gareth Rowlands, Cllr Mike Elgin, the Town Clerk, and the Deputy Clerk. It was acknowledged that the Full Council needs to approve the decisions and this is why it is being discussed this evening. Members were reminded that the cheapest is not always the most economical viable tender,

and that Members should be included as things progress so as to scrutinise the working group decisions fully.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that the Deputy Clerk's recommendation to split the work into the different trade packages be approved, and that the working group oversee the works on the council's behalf. Seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

Cllr Mike Kermode supported the proposal to do the work in manageable elements and pointed out that the working group needed the financial authority to agree and to pay for different elements and not be constrained by the rules in Financial Orders as this would slow down the process of progressing with this project. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that the working group be allowed to carry on with the various pieces of work and that the acceptance of tenders and the payment of bills to be supervised and authorised by the Town Clerk & Finance Officer. Seconded by Cllr Andrew Smith. **Resolved.**

- Fence – to be constructed in November
- Gas supply – now installed and the grant received so no cost for this action to the Town Council.
- Defibrillators – Out of the 4 kiosks that are up for adoption, only two can be adopted as they have to be used to house a defibrillator. The two in question are located on Clwyd Avenue and Princes Park.
- Awnings – all ordered with 8 weeks lead in time so probably October now for installing. The quotes for phase 2 have been received.
- Road Safety – awaiting DCC Highways installation costs
- Vicarage Lane car park – legal advice on the issues have now been received and there is a question as to where the Deeds are for this land. The Clerk will investigate Council records, Members noting that the Clerk at the time of purchase from Rhuddlan Borough Council was Terry Pemberton and the solicitor Gwyn Lloyd Jones.

Members wished to record their thanks to the Deputy Clerk for all his hard work on the various town plan projects.

9. Planning Applications

- i) 44/2021/0790 – Installation of a gas fired domestic heating system at 2 Parliament Street. No objections.
- ii) 44/2021/08465 – Erection of a single storey extension at Barrfield Close. No objections.
- iii) 44/2021/0698 – Erection of a single storey extension to Kenton, Hylas Lane. No objections.
- iv) 44/2021/0883 – Installation of air conditioning system at 8 Abbey Court. Cllr Syd Gaskin declared an interest and did not participate in the discussion. No objections.

v) Planning Appeal – Notification that the Planning Inspectorate has received an appeal for the erection of 4 no, dwellings and the construction of an access road, The Rise, Rhyl Road. Members were reminded that twice the Council has objected to the application on the grounds that it is not in keeping with the surrounding bungalow properties, and access issues. Cllr Ann Davies declared an interest but in her capacity as a Rhuddlan County Councillor, and a member of the DCC Planning Committee, informed the Council that a site meeting had taken place and asked for any comments on the Appeal. This prompted a debate on several issues including Council's previous objections which still stand, the felling of numerous trees, properties being overlooked by the development, and concerns about potential surface water flooding.

Cllr Andrew Smith proposed that the Council respond on the concerns and objections above, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

10. Budget/Finance Matters

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

Members were informed that the latest precept payment and the grant for the gas main installation had been received. Noting that some payments are to reimburse the Clerk for invoices paid on behalf of the Town Council there was a short discussion on how this can be better managed. The Council has to use cheques to pay for items as the Financial Regulations require counter signatures for payments and so debit cards are not an option or internet banking payments.

At this juncture Members were asked if they would like to consider sponsoring the St Kentigern Hospice golf tournament being held at Rhuddlan Golf Club. They unanimously agreed to a £100 donation. As £30 had already been spent, a further cheque for £70 will also be sent. **Resolved.**

b. External Audit Report - The Town Clerk had submitted all relevant financial documents since August and had placed Notice of date appointed for the exercise of elector's rights on the Community Noticeboard.

11. Community Matters

a. The Mayor wanted to bring to the attention of Members the Urgent Matter mentioned at the beginning of the meeting for the Communal Events Infrastructure grant opportunity. The closing date is the end of September hence the urgency. Members were informed that the Community Centre Association had been made aware of this opportunity and the Clerk had discussed suitable items that could be included which were verbally listed. Members were interested in adding items such as "pop up" electric supply, sockets, and public address systems. Perhaps consideration should be given to the Council applying itself for the storage container at Coed y Brain which already has planning permission. The Deputy Clerk will estimate costs of the various items discussed above and contact the Community Centre Association for their comments.

Cllr Mike Elgin proposed that we await the Community Centre Association response and look at Coed y Brain as an alternative if necessary. Seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

b. Cllr Arwel Roberts wanted to inform Council that he would be attending the Wales in Bloom event tomorrow 10th September as the Rhuddlan Nature Reserve and Allotment Society are involved. In addition, was concerned that DCC have not removed the dead weeds from the streets and pavements potentially causing severe surface water flooding. He will pass this concern on to the DCC Head of Service.

c. Cllr Syd Gaskin had tried to register the new defibrillator at Coed y Brain but found it is already registered to the Deputy Clerk. Cllr Gaskin kindly offered to take over this process. The Deputy Clerk to contact Cllr Gaskin to sort out.

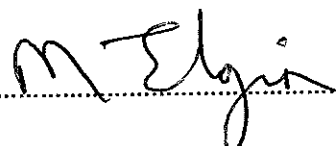
The Mayor asked the Clerk to investigate if the defibrillator instructor could provide a training event for the community now, we have two more. **Resolved.**

Cllr Gaskin informed Members that he and Cllr Gareth Rowlands had secured the basketball ring nets which were becoming loose.

d. Cllr Mike Kermode had three issues to report. Firstly, DCC Highways to be informed that the first expansion joint on the bye pass to Rhyl has developed a pothole and is dangerous. Secondly, the horse chestnut tree on Rhyl Road heading towards Rhyl has low branches and needs DCC to trim them. Thirdly, DCC to remove the spilt white paint at the exit of Abergele Road on to the bye pass roundabout.

e. Cllr Reg Davies had received complaints from several residents about the use of e-scooters on pavements especially at night without lights. Members agreed with Cllr Davies concern and wondered why the police are not acting on such illegal behaviour. Cllr Mike Elgin proposed that Town Council formally write to North Wales Police on the issue, report it to 101 to create an incident number, and also to PC Keating as an active officer in Rhuddlan. Cllr Mike Kermode seconded the proposal. **Resolved.**

12. Date of Next Meeting – Full Council Thursday 14th October 2021 at 7pm

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

Date.....

- On 5th of September 2021 Marianne and I attended The Mayor of Conwy and Constable of the Castle, Councillor Collette Ryan at her Divine Service at the **Church of St Mary and All Saints, Conwy**
- On 2nd of September 2021 Marianne and I presented the Aelwyn Morgan award to Arwel and Awen Roberts and Sandra Jones at The Community Centre.
- On 4th September 2021 Marianne and I attended The Rhuddlan Allotments open day where I was asked to open the event.
- On 25th August I organised and opened an Open day event at Rhuddlan Bowls Club specifically to encourage people from Rhuddlan who live with disabilities or Dementia to try Crown Green Bowls. The event was well attended, and everyone enjoyed the experience.
- On 20th August 2021 I met Richard Kendrick at Rhuddlan Castle to help promote his sponsored walk-in aid of The Royal British Legion on 31st August. I was joined by Cllr Ann Davies.
- On 16th August 2021 I attended a meeting at Coed y Brain with Cllr Gareth Rowlands, The Clerk and Project officer to discuss obtaining quotes for work to be done.
- Finally, I have arranged a Charity event at Rhuddlan Golf Club on the night of 19th September 2021. The Charities I am supporting in the event are, 1. The Royal British Legion, 2. The Osbourne Trust, 3 St Kentigern's. Ticket sales are going well with over 60 sold so far.

Meetings / events attended in Rhuddlan in July & August:

- July 19th Morning Fitness session at Admirals
- July 21st Evening Fitness session in Admirals
- July 24th Litter Pick
- August 5th Meet with DCC Environmental Officer in Admirals
- August 16th Meet with Mayor, Project Officer and Cllr G Rowlands at Coed y Brain

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

- Farmers Market in Rhuddlan – September, October, November & December
- Mayors Charity Evening – 19th September
- Allotment Open Afternoon – 4th September
- Awel y Mor Public Consultation
- New Defibrillators in Rhuddlan
- Charity Walk for Royal British Legion
- Notice of date Appointments for the exercise of electors
- Litter Picking – 24th July
- Awel y More Newsletter
- Rhuddlan Dementia Group
- Summer of Fun for North Wales with Asda
- DCC Free Leaflets Distribution Service
- Fitness Classed in Fresh Air Gym
- Summer 2021 Community Multi Sport Activities
- DCC Funding for Community Event in Denbighshire

1. RHUDDLAN BY PASS NOISE SURVEY

DCC commissioned a noise survey on the by-pass in 2018, following complaints from the residents another survey was carried out during June 2021.

As both surveys replicated each other as closely as possible it is clear that over the last three years there has been a measurable increase in traffic noise at all locations. Despite this rise in volume though, it remains the fact that measured noise remains below the threshold for intervention.

Go safe will have a presence during the next few weeks/ months.

2. RHUDDLAN CEMETERY

DCC are making plans for a contractor to repair the collapsed drain at the cemetery which is clearly needed to alleviate the flooding problem, depending on the result of this repair a further more significant scheme may be required in the near future.

3. RESPITE CARE

During August I visited the newly refurbished respite flat in Ruthin. This is now available for Carers to have a few days break from their caring role, the facilities include two bedrooms , lounge, fully fitted kitchen and a wet room. Small outside seating area with lovely country views.

Bookings through NEWCIS or SPOA at DCC.

4. MEETING WITH NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE.

During August I met with the new chief executive , he is extremely supportive on a range of local issues. He will be a great asset to DCC.

5. A meeting was held with highway officers to discuss Road safety / Traffic issues included the pending parking facilities at the Rhuddlan library.

The need for yellow lines on the corners of the following streets was also discussed, these will be prioritised in the near future .

Hylas Lane/ Abbey Road

Castle Street/ Parliament Street.

Princess Park/ Dyserth Road

Close David Owen.

Officers have now agreed to issue a monthly update.

6. RHUDDLAN SURGERY

Residents have raised concerns regarding the lack of GP appointments at Rhuddlan Surgery. I have referred this to Dr James Davies MP and the Senedd member Gareth Davies.

- 1) You are all aware of the happy camper who had few days in a tent on Admirals Field. I found the gentleman very mannerly and interesting. I had a chat with Tim Wynne Evans regarding drinking and camping or any other anti-social activity on the field (or indeed anywhere in Rhuddlan.)

The advice from Denbighshire County Council on the matter is:

The laws and power around camping are not overly helpful. But no one in Wales is allowed to camp without the landowner's permission – it is classed as trespass if they do which is a civil offence – only becoming criminal if they refuse to leave when asked under "aggravated trespass" – even then there is guidance for consideration of homeless individuals.

Bi-lingual signs have been placed in Admirals Playing Field and Vicarage Lane Playing field "Strictly No Camping".

- 2) A virtual meeting was held on the 24th of August with Road Safety officers. Also present was Cllr A Davies and Cllr B Jones (Cabinet Member) – matters on the agenda were:
- a) Introduction P & D charging at Vicarage Lane car Park.
 - b) Request for parking restrictions at the following locations:
 - Rhyl Road/Clos David Owen
 - Abbey Road/ Hylas Lane
 - Castle Road/Parliament Street
 - Dyserth Road/ Princes Park.
 - c) Flower Planters in Highway outside Castle Inn Pub.
 - d) A55 Brown signs.
 - e) Pentre Lane – residents' concerns in relation to the speed of vehicles.
 - f) A525 Rhuddlan By-pass – residents' concerns noise/pollution.
 - g) Tirionfa – residents' concerns in relation to the speed of vehicles.
 - h) Rhuddlan Nature Reserve – concerns in relation to the speed of cyclists.
 - i) Rhyl Road – request for new pedestrian crossing near recreation ground gate.
 - j) A547 (near Pentre Lane Junction)
- 3) A547 (Abergele straights side – within the 40mph).
- A Go Safe has been asked to undertake enforcement on this road at off peak times .
- 4) The 2 SIDS (Speed Indicators devices) have been purchased for our town and they are in the process of being delivered.
- 5) Afghanistan refugees - ONE FAMILY? See attached

Afghanistan refugees - ONE FAMILY?

Dear Arwel,

Thank you for your email regarding the current Afghan refugee crisis.

As a Council we did initially offer accommodation for one family, but that was before the current crisis unfolded. We are now considering further options.

We will provide all Members with a more detailed update next week.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Prif Weithredwr Cyngor Sir Ddinbych

Chief Executive of Denbighshire County Council

From: Arwel Roberts

Sent: 31 August 2021 16:56

To: Martin Bailey >

Cc: Leader <leader@denbighshire.gov.uk>; Graham Boase <graham.boase@denbighshire.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Afghanistan refugees - ONE FAMILY?

Diolch Martin,

I agree fully with your points I will try to support them to the best of my abilities .

I have included the new chief executive on to this answer and the leader of the Council Cllr Hugh Evans, hopefully Denbighshire can accept more refugees as soon as possible.

Regards

Arwel

On 31 Aug 2021, at 12:33, Martin Bailey <wrote:

Dear Ann & Arwel,

I am writing to ask for your support in ensuring Denbighshire Council plays its part in housing families of refugees fleeing from Afghanistan.

The news coming out of Afghanistan is very concerning. It is inexplicable that we should even consider abandoning to a horrific fate so many people who have provided a service or assistance to the United Kingdom over the past two decades. Every story of reprisal, arrest, torture, rape and state sanctioned murder strengthens my resolve that rescuing and supporting these people is the correct course of action. We simply must provide meaningful help.

I understand the Council will have an established position on the housing of refugees which predates the current state of crisis. I hope that, given the rapid degeneration to the worst imaginable conditions for the families fleeing the Taliban in Afghanistan, the Council will already have upgraded the level of support it provides. If not, I implore you to put pressure on your council to offer the assistance we can and should provide as soon as possible. The people of North Wales are not cold hearted, nor blind to international suffering.

Offering to only house one family is pathetic and shameful. We can and must do better!

Warm Regards,

Martin.

Ecological Facilitator & Biodiversity Consultant

Mammal Recorder for Vice County 50

Wildlife & Countryside Services

Rhuddlan, Denbighshire