

Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the meeting on the 14th October 2021
Virtual Meeting during the Covid 19 Restrictions

Present:

Cllr Andrew Smith (Deputy Mayor in the Chair)
Cllr Charlotte Connolly
Cllr Reg Davies
Cllr Syd Gaskin
Cllr Mike Kermode
Cllr Arwel Roberts
Cllr Gareth Rowlands
Cllr Bleddyn Williams
Town Clerk
Deputy Town Clerk

1. Apologies

Cllr Jackie Burnham
Cllr Ann Davies
Cllr Mike Elgin
Clerical Assistant/Minute Clerk

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

3. Urgent Matters - None

4. Police Matters. Appendix A

Report received. Concern expressed over the recurring problem in the Co-op i.e., people making off without payment. PCSO Phil Roberts asked if any members would like to sign up for Neighbourhood alerts. The following members put forward their names – Andy Smith, Mike Kermode, Bleddyn Williams, Charlotte Connolly.

5. Minutes

Town Council Meeting 9th September 2021

The two following correction needs to be made:

Cllr Charlotte Connolly to be added to attendance list.

Cllr Mike Kermode said that Item 8 on Coed y Brain needed to be corrected to reflect the proposal made and agreed.

Subject to these two corrections the Minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr Gareth Rowlands seconded by Cllr Syd Gaskin.

Matters Arising

- a. **Enforcement Signs** – DCC officer has confirmed that a grant will cover the cost of producing a new sign for Admirals. Town Clerk will liaise with local printer to get sign done.
- b. **Litter Picking** – Town Clerk to organise.
- c. **Meet the Civic Leaders** – This event had to be cancelled due to lack of bookings.
- d. **Active Travel Consultation** – The Clerk has responded to this consultation again with the request that DCC / Sustrans look at the current route 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. DCC have responded by saying that the route around the periphery of the reserve could be improved. This would be subject to a number of issues, such as identifying grant funding, and that it would be in addition to the existing Nature Reserve route rather than instead of.
- e. **Tree Felling at Tan yr Eglwys** – The Clerk had received a letter from a resident with a property in Pen y Bont expressing concern about the untidiness of this area. The Town Clerk advised the resident to write to Bodrhyddan direct as this land is their responsibility. The Town Clerk forwarded the residents letter to Bodrhyddan.
- f. **Silent Soldier & Poppies** – the poppies are currently with the painter who has promised to replace them in time for Remembrance Sunday. A perspex soldier which was broken will be replaced soon. Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that poppies to be put on lamp posts. Seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode.
- g. **Abergele Road advertising signs** – DCC have confirmed that the sign located on the gateway opposite Phoenix House, Station Road does not have planning permission and will investigate.
- h. **Vicarage Lane Car Park** - The Town Clerk had contacted the Town Clerk who had been employed in the 1980's with regards to deeds and ownership of the car park. He recalls that the car park area which was owned by Town Council had been given to the Borough Council when it was tarmacked in the mid 80's as the Town Council would not be able to cover the cost. The Town Clerk to visit the archives to check minutes pertaining to this matter. The Town Clerk to also follow up with DCC to pursue this matter.
- i. **Defibrillator Training** – The North Wales Pads Support Officer is unable to deliver a training session due to NHS Covid Regulations. It was agreed that the Town Clerk look into the costs of a local commercial organisation so that the training can carry on

- j. **Scooter on Pavements** - Following on from members concerns about use of e-scooters on pavement, especially at night, the Town Clerk had reported this to North Wales Police and had been given an incident number. The police contacted Cllr Reg Davies to get more details.

6. Correspondence from

a. The Mayor. Appendix B

The report was accepted. Members wished to thank the Mayor for the excellent work he is doing and in particular for the successful fund-raising event in the Golf Course.

b. Town Clerk. Appendix C

The report was accepted. The Clerk thanked Cllr Syd Gaskin for checking the defibrillators and also the new defibrillator at Coed y Brain. The town Clerk had checked the defibrillator at the Library and the Clerical Assistant will take over this role.

c. Rhuddlan Trees of Hope

Members agreed that this is a very worthy charity and need supporting. However, need to be mindful of the annual Christmas tree competition in St Mary's Church and that it does not clash with that event. The Town Council can also offer support to Ty Gobaith by adding on the Xmas banner "RTC support Ty Gobaith Competition" that is displayed by the Xmas tree. Proposed by Cllr Gareth Rowlands and seconded by Cllr Awel Roberts.

d. Rhuddlan Library Progress Report – This report highlighted work that the manager and staff of the library did which allowed the library to continue providing a range of crucial services for the local community. The staff have shown a great commitment to the community and have made every effort to create a safe and welcoming place for people to return to. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that a letter of appreciation be sent to the manager and staff for the excellent work that they do. Seconded by Cllr Awel Roberts.

7. County Council Members Reports

a. Cllr Ann Davies

The report was accepted. Appendix D

b. Cllr Arwel Roberts

The report was accepted. Appendix E

Cllr Arwel Roberts added by saying that he is the Chairman of The Governors at Ysgol y Castell and the school is eagerly awaiting news on a new extension at the school. Also, a special mention to St Kentigern Hospice for their fundraising effort which saw £13k being raised which is very impressive.

8. Town Plan Projects Report

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

- a. **Speed Indication Devices** – a provisional date of 27th October has been given by DCC.
- b. **Awnings** – Phase 1 to be installed 25 & 26th October. Phase 11 is fully costed. An application for grant funding had been submitted to DCC but did not fall within the criteria. The Economic Development officer has advised to submit the application to the Town Centre Regeneration Grant which will be available early next year.
- c. **Coed y Brain** – Work is under way to get quotes on other aspects of work that needs carrying out – electrics, doors, plumbing
- d. **Fence** – to be constructed in November
- e. **Farmers Market** – Very good response on the first Farmers Market. Five more vendors will be attending the next market on the 16th October. It was proposed to apply for a licence to sell alcohol for the December Market so that drinks such as mead can be sold which is appropriate with the Christmas theme.
Cllr Mike Kermode declared an interest at this point and asked for a discussion to be held soon on two matters:
 - Once the Town Council has used the free allocation of free car parking from DCC, what are the future plans? The Town Council don't want to be in a situation to pay DCC to recoup losses for providing free car parking.
 - Need clarification on the use of traders for the Farmers Market and Gwledd Rhuddlan. Need to minimize hassle between overlap of using the same traders.
- f. **Museum** – a very positive meeting with Rhuddlan Historical Society who are keen to get things onto the virtual museum. Also, got information from Cllr Reg Davies with regards to Cadw and location of artefacts. More work required here to identify Rhuddlan artefacts to go on to the virtual museum.
- g. **Community centre** – a grant application has been submitted to DCC for £30k for the provision of external electrical sockets which will be useful for Gwledd Festival and Farmers Market. Also included in the application is funding for Gazebos and Storage Unit.

9. Planning Applications

- i) 44/2021/0877 Church Gates, Church Street – Conversion of garage and outbuilding to provide ancillary accommodation to existing dwelling and construction to a new vehicular access. **No objections**

10. Budget/Finance Matters

- a. The Town Clerk circulated the list of payments to be approved by Members. A member questioned the payment of £250 to Denbighshire Leisure Ltd. The Town Clerk explained that this payment was for activities for youngsters and not for the Fresh Air Gym sessions which had been disappointing as the instructors were unreliable. The Town Clerk to write to Jamie Groves with members concerns.

The list of payment was accepted.

- b. The Town Clerk gave an up to date balance per Cash book = £131,533.

11. Anti-Speed Working group minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 21st of September were accepted.

Members were pleased to hear that the Speed Indicator Devices will be installed very soon. The Head Teacher of Ysgol y Castell is very keen to work in partnership with the Town Council to run a poster competition and invited the Mayor to the next School Council. The Head Teacher to inform the Town Clerk when a date has been agreed.

A member has received concerns from residents of Tirionfa housing estate stating that drivers travelling to Rhuddlan from Meliden on the A547 are not slowing down when approaching Rhuddlan and travelling past the estate. He was glad to hear that Go Safe are putting in a hard-standing area for a speed camera. If this does not work then it is anticipated that a request will come for a Speed Indicator Device to be located in this area. Following a discussion on benefits of rumble strips, Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that the Town Clerk contact DCC for rumble strips to be put in this area. Seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode.

Community Matters

- a. The fence near Aldi is very much improved since the fly posters have been removed. However, the area by the Knight is a mess which gives a poor first impression when entering the Town.
- b. A Memory & Wellness Walk from the Community centre to the Nature Reserve has been arranged for 22nd October at 1.30 p.m. All welcome
- c. The Community Centre is being supported by various groups and activities. Concern was expressed over the Stroke Activities and Cllr Arwel Roberts has asked Betsi Cadwaladr and DCC if they can support further, financially and with expertise to help with activities.
- d. Dragon's Football want to purchase a container (to store equipment) and place it outside the Coed y Brain property. Members wanted to emphasize that Coed y Brain is a community facility for the benefit of the whole community. A number of groups have already made enquiries about hiring the facility. When Coed y Brain is completed, the facility will be hired out on a commercial basis. The football club may submit a formal request for the next meeting but members felt that it was too soon to consider.

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.

13 Grant Application – Samaritans N.E. Wales.

Members agreed that the work that the Samaritans do is invaluable. A number of residents from Rhuddlan have benefitted from this service and it was unanimously agreed to award £500 to the Samaritans.

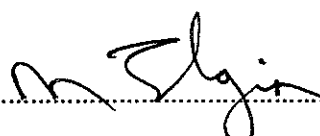
Cllr Bleddyn Williams proposed that the Samaritans Work is highlighted on the Town Council's Website. Seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands

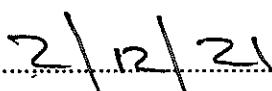
14. Coed y Brain

A shortlist of contractors to be appointed to strip out the facility had been submitted for consideration. There was no need to discuss this matter further as the decision to appoint a contractor has been delegated to the working group and to be authorized by the Town Clerk. This was resolved at the Town Council meeting on the 9th September.

Cllr Rowlands, the lead member on this project explained that the working group could benefit from another member who has expertise in financial/project management. This would increase the membership of the group to 3 members and 2 staff. Cllr Andy Smith proposed that Cllr Mike Kermode take on this role. Seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands.

12. Date of Next Meeting – Full Council Thursday 11th November 2021 at 7pm

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

Date.....

Police Matters

Appendix A

- 3 separate making offs from the CO OP station. Suspect vehicles identified.
- 2 shoplifting offences CO OP - Suspects ID circulated but negative response
- 1 Criminal damage Princes Rd. No suspects identified
- 1 Burglary Tan Y Eglwys – suspect identified and charged.
- 1 public order Nature reserve. No official complaint forthcoming.
- 1 Motor interference on Glyn Avenue – All lines conducted; no suspects identified.

1. On 26th September 2021 Marianne and I attended Bay of Colwyn's Mayor's Civic Service at Old Colwyn Methodist Church
2. On 3rd October 2021 Marianne and I attended The Mayor of Rhyl, Councillor Mrs Diane King, Civic Sunday at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Wellington Road, Rhyl
3. On 19th September 2021 I held a Charity event at Rhuddlan Golf Club. In total £1,137 was raised for the Charities I am supporting. The Royal British Legion, 2. The Osbourne Trust, 3 St Kentigern's. I would like to thank all fellow Cllrs and Sian Paul and Steve for all the help and support I received before and during the event. The support from numerous businesses in Rhuddlan was also very good and since the event The Spar shop have contacted me to say that they wish to donate a voucher- We have therefore set up a Hamper containing various local Welsh products to be raffled on Armistice Day in aid of The Royal British legion.
4. On 21st September 2021 I chaired a working group meeting of the anti-speeding Group
5. On 27th September 2021 I attended a meeting at The Library playing fields with The Rhuddlan Community Group to discuss the Remembrance Garden. I later attended The Dementia Friendly meeting via zoom
6. On 7th October 2021 I attended a meeting of The Rhuddlan Community Association.

Meetings / events attended in Rhuddlan in September:

- September 2nd Aelwyn Morgan Award Ceremony
- September 6th Zoom Training Session with Cllr G Rowlands
- September 14th Leaflet Drop in Rhuddlan
- September 18th Farmers Market in Community Centre
- September 19th Mayor's Charity Event in Rhuddlan Golf Club

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

- Farmers Market in Rhuddlan – September, October, November & December
- Mayors Charity Evening – 19th September
- Active Travel – Share, respect & enjoy the National Cycle Network
- Awel y Mor Public Update - September
- New Defibrillators in Rhuddlan
- Open Doors 2021 to 150 Wales's Historic Sites
- Aelwyn Morgan Award 2021 Ceremony
- Meet the Civic Leaders

BROWN SIGNS ON A55.

The highway works unit have been preparing the tender documents ready to go out to procurement for the sign manufacture and installation works. They have requested a date from the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road agency for when DCC will be able to undertake the works on the A55 eastbound and westbound carriageways. This will require two separate lane closures for both carriageways because of the need to let the concrete bases to strengthen (cure) for at least one week before the signs can be erected. All funding is in place for the works.

With regard to the timescale: the plan is to get them done this financial year so that they are in ahead of Easter 2022. DCC won't know a more exact date until the Trunk Road Agency tell them when they can do the work.

Updates will be given as soon as the DCC hear from the Agency.

1. SPEED DEVICES

I have been informed by the highways engineer that the speed devices for Abergele and Rhyl Road have been delivered, he has contacted the contractor and residents, hopefully the work to install these signs will be carried out in the next two weeks.

2. PUBLIC ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS PROJECT

Rhuddlan is very likely to be in phase 2 for the EVCP. We won't know exactly when phase 2 will happen yet because it depends on how popular the charging points implemented in Phase 1 prove and also on funding.

The electric charging points need bigger parking spaces and room for charging hardware. Parliament Street was felt to be a bit tight on space. Therefore, it is likely to be Vicarage Lane that DCC would consider. The land lease agreements are being progressed by the Estates team which will make things easier when they come to look at Vicarage Lane car park.

Gwarchodfa Natur – The Nature Reserve

Dog walkers are using this facility regularly and on the whole no dog muck is seen . You may have noticed that the warning signs regarding fines of dog poo have been removed to be replaced soon. They were dangerous, Town Council signs are rounded at the corners whilst these were had angles of 90 degrees. They were also loose- plastic tags not strong enough and slip down on posts. Metal clamps are to be used on new ones.

Fly tipping in the car park has been reported and removed, thanks to Garry Davies and his team. Sadden to see a young tree vandalised near the entrance to the Reserve.

Looking forward as Chair of RHUDDLAN Dementia Group to the occasion of the Memory Wellness Walk to the Reserve on Friday the 22nd of October, after the roast dinner organised by the volunteers of the luncheon club. Main aim is to show the Reserve at its best and the continuation of the Sensory Dementia Garden project which has been fully supported by the Management Committee of the Reserve and the Rhuddlan Dementia Group. Hopefully we will have the local MP, members of the Senedd from Cardiff and Denbighshire Cabinet Members present on the walk.

During this month I had a meeting with Cabinet member Brian Jones, Highways Officer Tim Towers, Garry Davies Countryside Manager and Gareth Rowlands Vice Chairman of the Reserve to discuss if it's possible to have a parking area near where the Sensory Dementia Garden is placed. This is now in the capable hands of the two officers and it's seems to be supported by all present.

2) Climate Change and Reduction of Carbon.

Since Denbighshire have a policy of reducing carbon emissions, they are now looking to plant trees and other plants in places the county owns for example " Community Woodland at Maes Esgob Dyserth"

They are also looking at areas they can purchase. I have proposed the purchasing of two pieces of land by the river. One is on Tan yr Eglwys Road, trees recently removed and land by river Clwyd under the ancient castle. The landowner is very interested when I discussed the matter with him. The officers involved will now be in contact with him.

3) Levelling up fund.(Coed y Brain)

I was pleasantly surprised that Coed y Brain could be supported by this fund in a meeting last week. I believe the Clerk will have more details.

4) Gypsy and traveller's liaison officer. During the meeting for Elwy Mag members, we listened to Rachel Wood Bignall who is the officer who deals with the movement of Gypsy and Travellers. She is aware that this a very serious problem and I wish her well.

5) Weeds and Clearing of Streets.

I have had to report blocked manholes, gullies and drains. Very concerned that weeds when sprayed are left on them and rainstorms push them to the drains. One car owner has parked his car (left front wheel on top of a drain) for at least three weeks or more. Have been in touch with Street Scene asking for more assistance- use of sweepers for example.

6) Farmers Market.

Looking forward to the next market 16th of October. My wife and I were present in a similar event in Dinbych and found some contacts for our project Officer.

7) Golf Competition (1st of October)

Supported this event all day nearly. There with the secretary of the Dementia Group. His enthusiasm is fantastic. I also sponsored a tee and gave the organisers a raffle prize of £40 . It was excellent to learn during this week that the event raised over £13k to the Saint Kentigern Hospice.

8) A55 Brown Signs

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