



Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the meeting on the 11th May 2023

Hybrid Meeting

Present:

Cllr Mike Kermode (Mayor)
Cllr Val Simmons (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr Ivor Beech
Cllr Jackie Burnham
Cllr Reg Davies
Cllr Mike Elgin
Cllr Arwel Roberts
Cllr Bleddyn Williams
Town Clerk
Clerical Assistant/Minute Clerk

Members were informed that the meeting was being recorded, audio only.
There were 2 members of the public present.

1. Apologies

Cllrs Ann Davies, Gareth Rowlands, & Rob Williams.

2. Declaration of Interest

Cllr Mike Kermode for Item 12 Rhuddlan Nature Reserve, and Cllr Arwel Roberts in his capacity as a County Councillor on Item 12.

3. Urgent Matters

None

4. Police Matters

No report received and no NWP Officer present

The Mayor reminded Members of the Council formal protocol for meetings e.g. no side discussions, turn mobile phones off etc.

5. Cemetery Update from DCC Officers

The mayor welcomed Andy Clerk and Mike Bennion to the meeting to inform the Council regarding cemetery flooding and the provision of a new cemetery.

Andy Clerk thanked the Council for the invitation to update Members and the Council's patience on the issues. Continuing with a short history of the various reports, surveys, meetings, and investigations that had taken place which has now led to the preparation of a Business Case for DCC Capital Scrutiny Committee in the near future. Expected to be in the region of £300-500k. This is for the only option to install an underground storage tank, which will require emptying by pumping out. Welsh Water were approached to allow the stored water to be pumped into the main system but this was refused. The storage tank will incorporate telemetry systems to inform on levels so emptying can be achieved at the right time.

Andy Clerk reminded Members that repairs had already been completed on the collapsed drains found during the investigations.

There then followed a discussion on how DCC informs burial plot applicants of the potential flooding of their loved ones graves which has only been undertaken in the last 18 months consequently raising several complaints about the issue.

A Member had concerns about any contamination of the stored water from the cemetery which could require regular testing. This has not been factored into the Business Case, only the construction costs of the underground tank system.

Another Member had historical knowledge of a stream that diverted water from the land before development of Clos David Owen into an old RAF Camp septic tank and asked if this could be an option. The DCC officers had not discovered any such system from their lengthy investigations so assume that this is not an option anymore.

In a response to a question from the Mayor as to how the Town Council might assist in seeking the necessary funding it was decided to write formally to DCC supporting the scheme and its funding by DCC. **Resolved.**

The Mayor then moved the update to the question of a new cemetery reminding the officers and Members that the Town Council had investigated certain sites themselves over the last 4 years but to no avail. Andy Clark responding said that DCC Scrutiny had discussed his issue and resolved "That there was no appetite to explore another cemetery site due to cost and the capacity available in other towns". Although Members questioned the fact that people from Rhuddlan would be buried in other town cemeteries the officers could not change the policy adopted by DCC.

There was a question about who was responsible for grave stones or memorials that had been damaged or knocked over. In some cases the remaining family of the deceased had either passed on themselves or moved many miles away so would not be repairing them. Mike Bennion answered that DCC does complete cemetery memorial surveys but they are the responsibility of the deceased family. The last known contact would be formally written to and if not reinstated, DCC will make the memorial safe.

The Mayor thanked both officers for their time in attending the meeting and giving the update.

6. Minutes

Town Council Meeting 13th April 2023

The Minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr Jackie Burnham, seconded by Cllr Mike Elgin. **Resolved.**

The minutes were duly signed.

7. Progress Report from Minutes

- a. **DCC Youth Service** – DCC still expected to start the youth club in May.
- b. **Kings Coronation** – The distribution of the commemorative water bottles was well received.
- c. **MUGA Light Replacement** – Quotes received and a meeting to view them is on May 18th.
- d. **Rhuddlan Castle Update** – Although 2 flag poles have been placed on the battlements it is understood this is only a temporary measure by Cadw before returning to their preferred erection on the ground level. Town Council will await Lord Langford's continued support on this matter.
- e. **Hearing Loop** – This will be installed on 2nd June.
- f. **Admirals Field Circulatory Path** – To be reviewed at the May 18th meeting
- g. **Wild Flower areas** – It was reported by a Member that there was now a concern over the lack of grass cutting at the Nant Clos area. Cllr Arwel Roberts as a County Councillor reported that he had been informed that a DCC officer, Mike Bennion, was trying to organise a meeting with all parties on this issue. After a discussion on the precedent set of DCC cutting this area for many years the Council decided to await the meeting before taking any action. It was agreed that Cllrs Arwel Roberts, Val Simmons and the Clerk attend any meetings arranged to discuss this issue. **Resolved.**
- h. **Repositioning of 2 x SIDs** – update included in retiring Mayor's report for this meeting.
- i. **Directional Road Signs** – DCC state that a sign to The Hwb cannot be provided as it directs into an unadopted road, Clos David Owen. Local knowledge believes that this road was adopted previously so the Clerk was tasked with enquiring with DCC Highways. **Resolved.**
- j. **Community Matters** – there is to be another litter pick on June 3rd at 9am.
- k. **Audit Wales** – The Town Council decided not to write to Audit Wales reference the delay of the 2021/2 audits but to progress latest audit as planned.
- l. **Admiral's Field** - Three quotes had been sought to clean the slippery playground surfaces. Two had been returned and Members agreed to accept the quote of £1200 +vat. **Resolved.**
- m. A meeting with a contractor for the provision of new access gates from Rhyl Road will be held soon and it is hoped to provide feedback at the June meeting. Members agreed to see any forthcoming designs before getting quotes for the construction and erection costs which are expected by August. **Resolved.**
- n. Tenders for the circulatory path have received and will be assessed on May 18th, and an application for this project has been made to the Burbo Bank wind farm.
- o. Internal Auditors – DCC engaged as agreed in April.
- p. Grass Cutting – Existing contractor's quote has been accepted.
- q. Barfield Road – Clerk to ascertain ownership of land .
- r. Public Footpath between Hylas Lane & Bonc Hill – Reported to DCC Customer Services who say they have done what they can to improve the path.

- s. Parking issues on Abbey Road – Clerk updated members that the provision of yellow lines would be not be possible what advice the police had given regarding the issue.

8. Correspondence from:

a. i) The Retiring Mayor

The mayor had circulated his report prior to the meeting.

Of particular mention was a meeting held with Ed Parry & Rebecca Musgrave from DCC road safety team. The subject of the SID on Meliden Rd was discussed as vehicles travel from Meliden towards Rhuddlan. Town Council had shown concern that it should be moved further towards Meliden nearer to the 30mph sign. Although the officers could see the point made, it was their opinion that this would not make any difference but could relocate it if the Town Council would pay for it. It was proposed by Cllr Jackie Burnham, seconded by Cllr Mike Elgin that the cost of this SID relocation be sought. **Resolved.**

The relocation of the SID on Rhyll Rd near Highlands Rd was also discussed at the meeting whereby Town Council asked if it could be relocated closer to the golf club near The Rise property. Ed Parry agreed and will seek the costs and discuss with Town Council again.

It was reported that due to the impending 20mph speed limit nationwide DCC will not be doing anymore surveys for now. Members confirmed to the Mayor that they were happy with this.

The report was accepted

ii) The newly installed Mayor

During his verbal report the Mayor mentioned 2 emails received. One sending residents congratulations to Cllr Mike Elgin as a successful Mayor. The other suggesting that a letter of congratulations be sent to Wrexham AFC on their promotion, not only for the men's side but also for the women's, and youth team sides. It was also suggested that the Manager should be congratulated. This was so proposed by Cllr Bleddyn Williams, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

The report was accepted.

b. The Town Clerk & Town Plan update.

The Clerk had circulated his report in advance of the meeting and read through the various items of correspondence and project updates from the town plan.

Several elements of the report were discussed - in particular:-

- Letter from Anita Fagan asking the Town Council to display the Achievement Certificate for the Nature Reserve in Y Hwb. **Resolved.**
- A request from Rhuddlan Community Association to relocate the 2 benches from the town ditch area to the proposed wild flower area somewhere near the circulatory path on Admiral's Field. Members agreed to review this request when Admiral's Field circulatory path is looked at. **Resolved.**
- Congratulations from Dyserth Community Council on reaching the next stage of becoming a site for the National Eisteddfod. They offer support with any application required to progress this project.

The report and project update were accepted

9. County Councillor Reports

a. Cllr Arwel Roberts had circulated his written report in which he mentioned that his year as Chair of DCC had been very busy but a wonderful experience seeing so many things going on within the County by many volunteers and officers.

The Chair of DCC dinner held at Fon Vei proved a great success and Cllr Roberts informed Members that over £1,000 had been raised on the night. He was particularly pleased to congratulate the young boy who had designed a new flag to commemorate the coronation of the new King, and him leading a tour of our lovely town of Rhuddlan to representatives of Ruthin town.

The report was accepted

10. Events Committee Minutes 18th April 2023

The mayor asked those Members of the Committee to confirm the Minutes as a true record. **Resolved.**

The main issues arising were the Kings Coronation events and the Gwledd Fest. The next meeting of the committee will review the coronation weekend activities, and it was reported that 3 banners for the Gwledd Fest have been erected but were seeking approval for 2 more to be purchased. **Resolved.**

Members were informed that Rhuddlan Bowling Club in particular had a successful day of activities for the coronation, raising much needed funding, and holding a children's colouring competition. It was also noted that the provision of a bouncy castle and other inflatables by the Dragons FCC was very popular.

A marching band had also proved popular who received a donation of £100 for their services. Although the committee have delegated powers to pay this, the Mayor asked if members were supportive of this action. They were. **Resolved.**

Members were encouraged to help at the Gwledd Fest.

At this point the mayor asked if the Town Council would consider holding a similar event as an annual fun day or summer fete. It was proposed by Cllr Arwel Roberts that the events committee be asked to investigate this idea further. Seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

11. Review of Policies

a. Remuneration Policy – The Clerk explained the mandatory nature of having such a policy and had circulated a drafted policy for Members consideration. It was noted that Members can donate this remuneration payment to local charities if they wish. Members approved the policy. **Resolved.**

12. Nature Reserve Request for Support

The reserve Management Advisory Group (MAG) has recently been informed by DCC Highways that the current welcome sign across the main entrance interferes with the operation of the traffic lights at the reserve's exit. The sign will be relocated within the reserve, and a directional sign from Station Rd will need to be provided. The MAG will

request this from DCC and is seeking the Town Council's support for this request. **Resolved.**

The MAG is seeking additional car parking to the reserve as the current one is often full and is some distance away from the recently developed dementia friendly sensory garden area. They have highlighted an area at the end of the reserve that links with the A525 dual carriageway and is a hard standing part of the old Station Rd. The land is owned by DCC and could provide car parking, disabled car parking, as well as coach parking which is an element of Rhuddlan Town Plan. The request is for the Town Council to support this proposal. **Resolved.**

13. Planning

Cllr Val Simmons as Deputy Mayor took Members through the application.

44/2023/0300 – Telephone Exchange, Gwindy St. Rhuddlan. Formation of a secure storage compound including 3 no. storage containers, perimeter fencing, and associated works.

No objections

14. Budget & Finance

a. Grant request from the 1st Rhuddlan Scouts Group – Members were informed that this was for a defibrillator at a total cost of £1400. During a short discussion members wondered if this would be better being organised by the Town Council and added to the list of Council's defibrillators as it would provide a good public facility. An agreement should be made with the scouts for them to meet the cost of the electricity required and the Council the purchase, install and maintain the defibrillator. **Resolved.**

b. Approve the payments list – Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed the list be approved for payment, seconded by Cllr Bleddyn Williams. **Resolved.**

c. Standing Orders Amendment – required to take into account the salary increases for the Clerk and assistant Clerk. **Resolved.**

15. Community Matters

a. Cllr Reg Davies asked for clarity on who is contacted for CCTV footage of incidents. Is it Town Council? Cllr Arwel Roberts as one of the representatives on the CCTV Partnership said that only the police can ask CCTV for footage. So any incident should be reported to police directly who can then request footage if necessary. It was noted that only one conviction has ever been completed.

b. Cllr Jackie Burnham highlighted an area of grass near the golf club roundabout which has an old bench on it. She had noticed that a fir tree has been planted there overnight. Members agreed that to write to the golf club to inform them in case they own the land in question. **Resolved.**

c. Cllr Burnham had noted that the grass verge along the A5151 had received a one 1m wide cut as opposed to a 2m wide cut as Town Council had resolved to ask for. Members agreed that the Clerk ask DCC again for the 2m cut. **Resolved.**

d. Cllr Bleddyn Williams reported a vape was found on Vicarage Lane playground.

e. Cllr Ivor Beech had noticed a loose kerbstone on the High St near the funeral parlour and opposite the parking bays. The Clerk will report this to DCC and Cllr Beech will send him a photo to include in the report. **Resolved.**

It was noted that any Town Councillor can report an issue directly to DCC Customer Services.

The recording of the meeting was switched off.

17. Date of next meeting – 8th June, 2023 Full Council Hybrid Meeting 7pm

Signed.....*Mike Kermode*.....Cllr Mike Kermode (Mayor)

8/6/23.

