

Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the meeting on the 14th September 2023

Hybrid Meeting

Present:

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

There were two members of the public present, three members of Bodelwydden Town Council, PCSO3473 Rich Williams, Sophie Lloyd from Sustrans and Rebecca Musgrave Denbighshire County Council.

1. Apologies

Cllr Mike Elgin

2. Declaration of Interest

Cllrs Mike Kermode, Jackie Burnham, Reg Davies, Arwel Roberts, and Gareth Rowlands.

3. Aelwyn Morgan Award

The award was presented to Richard Polden by the Mayor prior to the Council's Business meeting. The Mayor providing a resume of Mr Polden's work within Rhuddlan's community and praised his hard work as a volunteer both in the town and elsewhere.

After the presentation, the business section of the meeting was called to order.

4. Active Travel Masterplan — appendix 1 (see website. Doc too large)

Cllr Mike Kermode welcomed Sophie Lloyd and Rebecca Musgrave and thanked them for attending the meeting this evening to provide the first view of the Active Travel masterplan. He explained that it was a listening brief only for the Members, with no questions at this stage but that a future consultation opportunity for Members will be arranged.

MAK
14/9

Rebecca Musgrave, DCC, stated that on 16th October 2023 a trial of the School Streets element of the Masterplan will be undertaken by Sustrans and DCC. She informed Members what the trial will encompass. The Head of Ysgol Y Castell has been informed of this trial. Sophie Lloyd then described the process used in creating the masterplan by community engagement, technical feasibility, existing infrastructure, engineering issues that may arise, and options of how to mitigate them.

Sophie took Members quickly through the main elements of the masterplan, including individual street suggestions, modal interventions, strategic interventions and posing the question of where to start an active travel route. She stressed that local knowledge and further information gained from the next online and face to face consultations will be used to review and enhance the plans.

A copy of the masterplan will be circulated by DCC to Rhuddlan Town Council for Members perusal and comment.

Sophie stressed that the masterplan is just the beginning and that more consultation will be organised with the Council, local community, and local businesses to shape the masterplan as it progresses to achieve the best outcome for Rhuddlan. DCC will be looking at the best ways to publicise this consultation and would welcome any ideas from Town Council on how best to achieve this.

Cllr Kermode said that discussions about the Council's next Town Plan had agreed to take on board key elements of the master plan, after suitable further discussions and the Town Council will be arranging a special Active Travel meeting to discuss the masterplan proposals as part of this. He thanked Sophie and Rebecca for their presentations.

Members were informed the meeting was being recorded, audio only.

5. Police Matters

a) **Crime Report** – PCSO3473 Rich Williams explained that PCSO Phil Roberts had now left North Wales Police and proceeded to present verbally the crime report. Members were then asked if they had any comments or questions. There were several concerns voiced about fighting on Gwindy Street, e-scooters and how to report an incident. As NWP use their website to list incidents it is very important that all incidents are reported to them so that any pattern or regular occurrence can be acted upon.

— appendix 2

b) **Smart Water** – Members had been circulated with a document on Smart Water. It was estimated that the costs of providing a kit to every household was some £18,000. The Clerk had been unsuccessful in finding any grants that might help to these costs. After a short discussion it was proposed that the Council do not purchase any kits but will promote the scheme locally. **Resolved.**

6. a) Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th July 2023

Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that they be approved as a true record, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

Progress Report from Minutes

- i) The Clerk had not received any update from Prestatyn Iach and Members noted that the Rhuddlan surgery will now be open for only 2 days a week because of staff shortages, caused by maternity leave. Following some concerns voiced by Members it was agreed to get details of why and when the surgery will be open so patients can be informed. **Resolved.**
- ii) Admiral's Field entrance gates – The Clerk was having difficulty obtaining suitable quotes for the design and replacement of the gates and questioned the need for the gates. Cllr Gareth Rowlands suggested that Council investigates alternative ideas to replace the gates only if they are currently not safe. Assuming they are safe then keep as is until they become unsafe. **Resolved.**
- iii) Replacement of Planters on Parliament Street and High Street – members acknowledged the positive work that volunteers provide with the planters and as they are now the property of the Town Council it has a responsibility to maintain or replace them. The cost of the two planters is £950 and agreed to replace them. **Resolved.**
- iv) Barrfield Road – a Member noted that although this area had been tidied up there were now weeds growing through the stones. It was agreed to ask the owner to spray the weeds. **Resolved**
- v) River Bank knotweed – need to write to Natural Resources Wales as it's on their land.
- vi) Flooding – around Kerfoot Avenue, Tan Yr Eglwys, and Gwindy Street. No meeting yet been arranged with DCC officers to discuss the issues as DCC are waiting for information from Welsh Water.
- vii) Admiral's Field Circulatory path – construction begins on Monday 18th September 2023
- viii) Rhuddlan Community Association – the Mayor attended their monthly meeting when it discussed the Council's request for the Deputy Mayor to become a co-opted trustee. The Association refused this request but offered for the Deputy Mayor to attend as a replacement if the Mayor could not attend for any reason. After discussion it was agreed not to accept this offer. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed, seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. **Resolved.**

b) Minutes of the Town Plan Meeting held on 14th September 2023

Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that they be approved as a true record, seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.**

Progress Report from Minutes

The Mayor stated that the meeting had been constructive and described the next stage of the process in agreeing a new town plan was explained by the Clerk. Once the amended plan was populated with all the ideas, Members will be given an opportunity to score them into a priority order and those scores be aggregated to provide a corporate priority order for approval by Full Council

7. Correspondence from:

a. The Mayor — appendix 3

The Mayor had circulated his report prior to the meeting.

He added two items verbally at the meeting. The first was attending the inaugural youth club evening and the second was attendance at the Odyn to see the new defibrillator purchased by the council with the support of the Rhuddlan Scout Group. Members thanked the Mayor for his work during the recess period.

The report was accepted

b. The Town Clerk & Town Plan update. — appendix 4

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:-

- A resident has complained about graffiti and ball kicking on an Admiral's Field boundary fence. Cllrs Mike Kermode and Jackie Burnham declared an interest and left the meeting. The Members had a lengthy discussion on this issue noting the comments that the ball kicking item mainly happened when the Dragons FC were on the field. The resident requested that the Council highlight this to the Dragons asking them to monitor the situation. The resident also suggested that Council might plant shrubs/trees once the circulatory path was constructed to reduce the vandalism and ball kicking issues.

It was also noted that this is an area earmarked by Council previously for a wild flower area and that DCC Countryside may be able to assist with supplying the shrubs/trees.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that any planting will be done as part of the agreed wilding of the area post path completion and a letter be sent to Dragons FC and the new youth club leader to encourage young people not to vandalise or kick balls against the fence. Seconded by Cllr Bleddyn Williams. **Resolved.**

The Clerk was tasked with investigating DCC contributing free plants and if there would an interest in young people planting them to encourage participation. **Resolved.**

Cllrs Kermode and Burnham were readmitted to the meeting.

- A resident had requested that the Council consider assisting with the repair/replacement of his property boundary wall adjacent to Admiral's Field entrance path, which was now leaning over. Members agreed that nothing the Council had done had contributed to the

wall leaning over and therefore it was not the Council's responsibility. Proposed by Cllr Gareth Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Bleddyn Williams. **Resolved.**

- An invitation from One Voice Wales to send a representative to their AGM and Annual Conference to be held at the Royal Welsh Showground on September 30th. In response to this Cllr Ivor Beech would check his commitments and if able, would attend. **Resolved.**

The report and project update were accepted

8. County Councillor Reports – appendix 5

- a. Cllr Arwel Roberts had circulated his written report for Members attention.

In particular he added verbally that he was shocked to hear that BCHUB had still not enacted the plans to modernise the Royal Alexander Hospital in Rhyl. These plans were announced in 2009 with an expectation to be completed in 2017. He also stated that DCC were facing some very serious financial cuts for the coming financial year. An example was given of not replacing any staff member that might leave the authority. In general terms DCC was conducting surveys of their buildings for reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) due to the dangers of collapse recently reported in the media. The former Rhyl rugby ground in the Waen planning refusal for a leisure park has been upheld by appeal so it is unlikely to proceed at this time.

The report was accepted

- b. Cllr Ann Davies had not prepared a written report but verbally informed Members of the following matters. An update on the Nant Close wild flower meadow. Informed Members that The Rise appeal against the planning refusal for four dormer bungalows has been won. DCC have served a Planning Enforcement Notice a property on Hylas Lane. In response to a question about providing a written report Cllr Ann Davies responded that she will, when time permits.

9. Mayoral and Consort Council Chains of Office

- a) The Mayor's Chain has no more space for recording the names of the future Mayors. The Clerk has received a quote for £1,848.16 to modify the chain by adding an inner chain with 14 new links. It was proposed to accept the quote by Cllr Gareth Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved**
- b) The Mayoress chain needs to be changed to add Consort or an interchangeable Consort pendant be purchased. The current pendant was donated to the council and it was agreed that this pendant be retained to preserve the engraved inscription. It was proposed by Cllr. Ann Davies and seconded by Cllr. Jackie Burnham that a Consort pendant will be purchased which can be worn on the existing chain. **Resolved.**

10. Twinning **appendix 6**

The Mayor had drafted a report on Twinning as resolved at the June Council meeting. The report looked at the issue of reinvigorating of twinning relationships across the EU as raised by One Voice Wales. It included several factors to be considered such as location/similarities, costs/benefits, organisation by whom, and community support. After a short discussion, it was suggested making enquiries with towns in the Republic of Ireland as a Celtic nation initiative, with particular mention of Carlow as a potential town. Proposed by Cllr. Arwel Roberts and seconded by Cllr. Gareth Rowlands. **Resolved.**

11. Cemetery – Flooding Problems

The Clerk reported that DCC had emailed stating the business case for the drainage improvements had not been approved by DCC finance scrutiny committee and he had asked for feedback as to why it failed. DCC were disappointed that the Town Council couldn't assist by allowing them to utilize the soakaway on the MUGA car park. Members were reminded that Town Council had an independent surveyor's report on the ground conditions which proved that the soakaway was not working.

After a discussion it was agreed to inform DCC again of the details of Town Council's independent survey and the historic position relating to DCC's past planning conditions and drainage construction by the developers of Clos David Owen. Cllr Mike Kermode so proposed, seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. **Resolved.**

13. Request for a Road Sign

Council had received a request to provide a directional road sign to the Catholic Church on Vicarage Lane. Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that this be requested that DCC consider this at their expense. Seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved**

14. Review of Policies

Model Standing Orders – circulated for approval as amended and agreed by the Working Group on 5th September. Proposed to approve by Cllr Mike Kermode, seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. **Resolved.**

15. Planning

The Clerk took Members through the applications.

Cllr Arwel Roberts declared an interest as he sits on the DCC planning committee.

Pre-Planning Application consultation – Former Rhyl Rugby Club, Waen, Rhuddlan. As previously mentioned, the planning inspector had upheld DCC refusal for a leisure park development. Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that Town Council's original objection be repeated, seconded by Cllr Bleddyn Williams. **Resolved**

44/2023/0470 – Change of use from shop to hot food takeaway/restaurant at Clwyd House, High St, Rhuddlan. This application has been amended due to resident's objections. Members acknowledged residents objections and it was proposed that Council objects on the grounds

of adversely affecting resident's lives, increased fire hazard, noise, and safety. This proposal from Cllr. Gareth Rowlands and seconded by Cllr. Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

44/2023/0534 – Erection of extension and alterations to Sunnymead, 4 Fairlands Crescent, Rhuddlan. No objections.

44/2023/0578 – Erection of classroom extension, playground alterations, and associated works at Ysgol Y Castell, Rhuddlan. Cllr Ann Davies declared an interest. No objections.

44/2023/0609 – Felling of a tree 3 Vale View, Rhuddlan. No objections.

16. Budget & Finance

a) Grant Requests

i) **Rhuddlan Town Community Association** – Cllr Reg Davies declared an interest. To review the association's bank statement that had been missing from the original application. Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed approval of the £4,000 grant, seconded by Cllr Ivor Beech. **Resolved.**

ii) **Love North Wales** – To review bank statements missing from original application. Cllr Ann Davies proposed approval of the grant, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved**

Applicant offered to attend a future Council meeting for a presentation of their work which Members welcomed.

iii) **Cerebral Palsey Cymru** – The application was in the form of a generic letter. Discussed by councillors and proposed by Cllr. Gareth Rowland that no grant is awarded, seconded by Cllr. Jackie Burnham. **Resolved**

iv) **St Mary's Church, Rhuddlan** – The application is for £2,250 towards energy costs for community events, maintenance of car park, grounds, and floodlighting. Cllr Reg Davies declared an interest. The Clerk reminded Members that under legislation Council cannot fund churches unless a general improvement to assist the community can be demonstrated by means of the application. After a discussion it was proposed to support the energy costs and floodlight elements of the application only. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that £1,250 be approved, seconded by Cllr Ann Davies. **Resolved.**

v) **Rhuddlan Allotment Society** – Application for £700 towards their electric and water standing charges for 2 years. Cllr Gareth Rowlands declared an interest and left the meeting. There followed a discussion around general household energy costs being increased and an observation that the Allotment Society should increase allotment rental and investigate alternative income generation. Members were generally supportive of the benefits the allotments provide for Rhuddlan but some were against approval. In conclusion Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed approval on the condition that

this was a one-off grant whilst the society looked to increase their income generation as they do demonstrate benefit to the town. Seconded by Cllr Ivor Beech. **Resolved.**

Cllr. Gareth Rowlands was readmitted to the meeting.

b. Payments list **appendix 7**

Agreed the entries on the list. **Resolved**

17. Community Matters

a) Cllr Mike Kermode highlighted the great success that several organisations in Rhuddlan had achieved in the "Your Neighbourhood" awards, as part of the Wales in Bloom scheme. The Nature Reserve achieving a Level 5 as outstanding, plus the award of a National Distinction. The Allotment Society was awarded as Level 5 and the Bowls Club as Level 4.

b) Cllr Gareth Rowlands, in acknowledging the success of the above, suggested that Council acknowledge all who have assisted the organisations in their great achievements such as the Fagan family and DCC Countryside Services. Cllr Ann Davies mentioned other people who had also contributed to the development of the project. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed the Town Council write formally to all of them, acknowledging their involvement. **Resolved.**

c) Cllr Arwel Roberts reported that BCHUB had sent out the next round of Covid boosters but included the wrong venue address. He also noted that the Knights area boundary looks untidy and asked that Council contact the owner to clean up. **Resolved**

d) Members were informed that the Town Plan meeting had discussed a collaborative approach for a new cemetery, involving neighbouring councils; this was now being taken on by the Mayor who has invited the Mayors/Chairs of neighbouring Councils to an initial meeting to discuss the issue.

18. Date of next meeting – 12th October 2023 Full Council Hybrid Meeting 7pm

Signed..........Cllr Mike Kermode (Mayor)
14/9

What Is Smart Water?

In a nutshell - Smart Water (Deter Tech) is a water-based liquid that effectively has its own unique DNA Code, All victims get given a pack, which includes smart water, it is a small tube that has a barcode on the bottle, that gets registered to the owner of the property and they can mark up to 100 items, you only need a small amount on each product, If the property is scanned over with a UV torch Smart Water will show up florescent yellow in colour.

What happens when we find Smart Water?

The forensics team to take a swab from the item and they can trace it back to the owner.

How Much Does It Cost?

Smart Water PHH is £59.50 to purchase from the website, however, if you do wish to purchase and you contact the We Don't Buy Crime team, we will give you a discount code which means you can buy it at a discounted price of, £25.00 (which is a lot cheaper)

wedontbuycrime@northwales.police.uk

What Does A Smart Water Pack Look Like? (This May Vary)



We need your help!!

Why Do We Need The Local Council To Assist?

- If the council purchase around 100 smart water packs or more, this will retail at Roughly £9.99 Per Household, included in this, you will get big signage to go on the streets and outside the town and village.

(Which is a lot cheaper and a lot more advertising to the public)

- To get the signage we need to get at least 80% of the town of village signed up to smart water.

- It is a great deterrent to make criminals aware the area is marked, monitored, and all criminals will be checked, the more houses we get signed up to smart water, the more signage we can get put out there.

- This has worked in other forces such as **Gwent** and **West Mercia**,

- The Chief Constable Amanda Blakeman has worked within Gwent Police Force, where it was rolled out there and wants to bring it to North Wales.

Example of a sign from West Mercia Police:

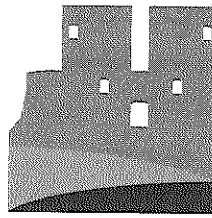


Rhuddlan Town Council
14th September 2023

Mayor's Report

Events/Attendances

- July 16th – The Mayoress and I attended the Mayor of Ruthin's civic service in St. Peter's Church, Ruthin.
- 18th July – We both attended a memorial football tournament at Cambian Pengwern College. The teams came from several schools that provide services for students with various learning difficulties. It was an extremely wet day but all of the players greatly enjoyed the occasion and were very pleased to receive their medals from the Mayor and the Mayoress. Members of Rhuddlan Football Club kindly provided the match officials.
- 29th July - The Mayoress and I attended the Treasure Chest's Strawberry Tea in the Community Centre. A very successful event which saw some £700 raised to support equipment and activities at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd's Breast Cancer ward.
- 30th June – We both attended the Mayor of Rhyl's civic service at St. Thomas' Church, Rhyl and later on we were at the "soul music" event in Rhyl Arena, which was organised by Rhyl Town Council and Denbighshire Leisure Ltd.
- 24th August – As Mayor and as a member of the Nature Reserve's Management Advisory Group (MAG); I met with representatives from MAG and DCC to discuss the potential use of a piece of land adjacent to the Nature Reserve for a disabled car park area and its potential for a coach parking area. Very positive discussions and we now await further information from DCC.
- 1st September - The Mayoress and I attended a DCC flag raising event at County Hall, Ruthin. This was to recognise the work of the Merchant Navy and the important contributions it has and continues to make for the people and businesses of U.K.
- 4th September – I was at the Hwb for the first of a series of seated keep-fit and games activities for people aged 75 plus. The sessions are funded by the Re-engage charity and are delivered by local volunteers. Many thanks to Keith Hall and Paul Oxley for taking the time to run these valuable and fun sessions.
- 8th September – The Mayoress and I will be attending a DCC flag raising event at County Hall, Ruthin, to mark the work of the Emergency Services.
- 10th September – We will both be attending the Mayor of St. Asaph's civic service at St. Asaph Cathedral.



Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

Clerk's Project Report and Correspondence for July 2023 Meeting

Correspondence

The following has been received:

1. Email from DCC with usage of free parking at Parliament Street Car Park. Sept 654, Oct 812, Nov 591, Dec 503, Jan 557, Feb 667, Mar 746, Apr 676, May 729 & June 809.
2. Email from DCC Michael Bennion stating that the NRW sustainable drainage brought to their attention by RTC cannot be used towards the cemetery project as it does not fit the criteria.
3. Email from the Allotments society requesting soil from the path construction for the allotments and confirming enforcement of no parking on RTC land at Admiral's outside of the car park.
4. Thank you from St Kentigern for the donation vis the Rhuddlan Golf Club event.
5. Email from DCC Andy Clark stating that the business case for the drainage improvements and associated funding was reviewed at a recent meeting of the Capital Scrutiny Group and unfortunately the business case was not supported.
6. Email from resident asking if the council would consider holding the food festival twice a year.
7. Emails from DCC Stuart Thomas regarding additional parking enforcement on Rhuddlan High Street.
8. Requested feedback from DCC Andy Clark regarding why the cemetery business case was not approved. Will be discussed as an agenda item.
9. Email from resident whose property is adjacent to Admirals Field stating he caught some kids writing on the fence and is concerned it could become hot spot for vandals. He is also having a lot of problems with kids when the football is on the field. There's are groups within and outside of the Rhuddlan Dragons that have decided that it's great to kick the ball against the fence and use it as a goal or rebound service. He would be grateful if the Town Council could highlight this to Rhuddlan Dragons and ask them to ensure that it is monitored. It only seems to happen when the field is being used by the teams and others can't access the pitch. To help reduce the risk of vandalism and damage to the fence he asked that when the path is done, some shrubs like holly bushes and trees (naturally defensive `Police approved` wild plants) are planted. This would limit access to the fence and deter kids from kicking the ball against it.

10. Phone call from a resident who lives in the detached property on the path into Admirals Field stating that the wall (owned by him) is leaning inwards and would the council; contribute towards or pay for the wall to be rebuilt. He states that the surfacing of the path maybe the cause.
11. Email from Kenna & Turner Funeral Directors asking if the council would put a link on its website to government funding guidance for funeral arrangements.
12. Notice from One Voice Wales inviting a council representative to its Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting at the Royal Welsh Showground on Saturday 30th September.
13. Complaint from a resident regarding a bonfire at the allotments.
14. Notice from the SLCC and One Voice Wales regarding a remote JOINT ONE VOICE WALES/SLCC EVENT – Wednesday 8 NOVEMBER 2023.
15. Notice from Audit Wales regarding Consultation on Fee Scales 2024-25.
16. Letter requesting financial support from the Rhuddlan Allotments Society.
17. Freedom of Information request regarding benches.
18. Email from resident regarding plants and shrubbery on the Pentre Lane footpath growing all over the path, narrowing the pavement and pedestrian space to walk making the crossing unsafe to use. She states that the crossing should have a metal pedestrian barrier on the Pentre Lane side for extra safety, the same as at the golf club crossing
19. Email request off the Welsh Government Climate Change and Rural Affairs Group asking for details of all buildings owned by Rhuddlan Town Council in relation to Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC).
20. External Audit Annual Return results for 2021-March 2022 – unqualified audit with no issues identified.

CCTV Update

I attended with Cllr Arwel Roberts the CCTV Partnership Meeting on 26/7. Crime figures were shared and Rhuddlan had 7.7% of the total crime incidents (between Rhuddlan, Rhyl and Prestatyn) and has 7.4% of the total population. Prestatyn had 22.9% of crime against a 37% of population and Rhyl 69.4% of crime against 55.6% of population.

The contract for maintenance runs out in August and will be awarded to the successful bidder. The contract for running the CCTV has been extended for 12 months then will be retendered. It is anticipated that costs could significantly increase so councils are encouraged to consider this when setting the next precept.

Denbigh Town Council would like to join the partnership by 1/4/24.

Considering active monitoring 9-5 in Rhyl and ballot in November. If approved it will include Rhuddlan and Prestatyn.

Bid for shared prosperity funding successful and will be used to replace older cameras which would include those in Rhuddlan.

There is a requirement to replace the Partnerships computer server which is getting very old and cost £100k to replace. 50% grant match funding will be required.

Project Update

Community Market – the next market is scheduled on 23rd September and Cllr Mike Kermode will be running. Full in Oct and Nov.

Improvements to Vicarage Lane Car Park – No change

Admirals Field path should start construction mid-September.

Hwb Wi-Fi installation complete.

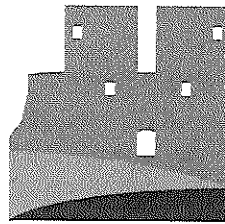
Hwb disabled external toilet door automation complete.

Hwb Youth equipment in store.

MUGA lights, awaiting date for installation

Admiral's Gate replacement only one supplier quote and was x2 the budget. Question is should the council bother, the gates could be removed as they are never used and posh bollards installed?

2000



Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

County Councillor Arwel Roberts - Report to the Town Council for September Council Meeting

- 1) August is a quiet time for county councillors. Some activities occurred including:
 - a. Visit to Rhuddlan Nature Reserve and attended a very successful meeting chaired by Anita Fagin with various officers from DCC. Barry Mellor lead-member for Highways is very supportive for an area to be a vehicle parking area, this is near to the Dementia Garden. Officer Mike Jones was very helpful to the nature reserve chairperson and has promised to carry out a survey of the entrance onto the A525. Hopefully it will be a positive one. During a discussion with Mike Jones and Garry Davies (Countryside Services Officer) a solution was established by working together to remove the sensor for the traffic lights to another position. This will avoid the need to remove the nature metal structure across the reserve entrance. Regarding the cycle path around the reserve, I suggested to Ben-Wilcox Jones that the County could cut branches which are a hazard to cyclists during the annual cyclic cleaning on the A525 – we live in hope.
 - b. Kerfoot Avenue and Gwindy Street. I am still waiting for a site meeting to be scheduled – flooding will always occur unless agencies start working together.
 - c. Regarding second homes and empty houses, this was discussed in full council and their tax rates are going to increase.
 - d. Potholes in Parliament Street and Princes Road have been reported.
 - e. Ysgol Y Castell – part of the extension will be completed next months with better facilities for infants. We await the next stages for juniors, it is going to be discussed at planning committee in the near future.
 - f. My suggestions for the Town plan were well received and I am pleased most have been accepted.
 - g. I am looking forward to the presentation of the Rhuddlan Active Travel Plan.

Rhuddlan Town Council
14th September 2023

TWINNING

Background

At the June meeting the Council considered an item from One Voice Wales on the issue of a reinvigorating twinning relationships across the EU through a Young People's Twinning Fund. The Council decided to consider the wider issue of twinning at a later date and this note provides some further information for this.

Twinning of Local Towns

Twinning became popular after the Second World War with the aim of building links and exchanges between towns in different countries so as to help bring reconciliation and prosperity after the years of conflict. A twinning town link is basically a friendship agreement involving co-operation between two communities in different countries and is endorsed by the relevant local authorities. The process can enable communities to exchange information about their history, culture and contemporary life-styles.

Over the years a number of towns in North Wales developed twinning links. These include Abergele and Colwyn Bay (with a town in France), Denbigh (with a town in Germany), Flintshire (with a city in Germany), Holywell (with a town in France), Llandudno (with a town in Switzerland), Ruthin (with a town in France) and St. Asaph (with a town in France).

Informal discussions locally show that although these links were active some years ago, they have become less active more recently. This might be because of changes in people's travel/holiday patterns over the years which enables people to have individual experiences of people and cultures in foreign areas. The internet has also opened avenues of information and communication without people needing to make any journeys. The Covid pandemic may have had some impact more recently. Twinning might also seem to appeal to an older age profile of the community, rather than with younger people.

Rhuddlan Twinning

If the Council wishes to pursue the idea of twinning with another town it will need to consider these factors:

- **Location/similarities** – identification of a suitable town that may have relevant links/similarities with Rhuddlan.
- **Costs/benefits** – what are the costs of establishing twinning links and what benefits might they bring to the town – such as in community links and understanding and business/commercial links?
- **Organisation** – is it a role for the Council or for a voluntary group?
- **Community support** – is there adequate support locally for an active twinning arrangement?

Date: 18/10/2023

Rhuddlan Town Council

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Time: 16:43

Current Bank A/c

List of Payments made between 01/09/2023 and 30/09/2023

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
14/09/2023	Steve Wilson	PABT0224	142.20		Travel and expenses August
14/09/2023	British Gas	PABT0225	14.28	5495298	Electricity MUGA
14/09/2023	British Gas	PABT0226	32.74	5495302	Electricity Hwb
14/09/2023	British Gas	PABT0225C	-14.28		Correct to DD
14/09/2023	British Gas	PABT0226C	-32.74		Correct to DD
14/09/2023	British Gas	DD	14.28	5495298	MUGA Electricity
14/09/2023	British Gas	DD	32.74	5495302	Electricity Hwb
14/09/2023	Angela Wilkes	PABT0223	18.00		Hwb Cleaning
14/09/2023	HSBC UK	DD	10.00		Bank Charges
14/09/2023	R Jones Electrician	PABT0225	192.32		Install Defib at Odyn
14/09/2023	RHUDDLAN TOWN COMMUNITY	PABT0226	300.00	Invoice 98	CC hire Aug and Sept markets
14/09/2023	Rhuddlan Community Group	PABT0227	1,800.00	Minutes item 14ci	Grant agreed July meeting
4/09/2023	Goodsigns & Print	PABT0228	254.76	111253	Plaques
14/09/2023	Ecohound Limited	PABT0229	364.80	9971	Dog Poo Bags
14/09/2023	Web Studio North Wales	DD	240.00	7076	Social Media and FB Management
14/09/2023	One Voice Wales	PABT0232	38.00	7440	Training Charges
14/09/2023	British Gas	DD	6.49	5524844	Gas Hwb
14/09/2023	SLCC Ltd.	PABT0233	72.00	BK212025-1	SLCC & OVM Joint Conference
14/09/2023	NEST Pension	DD	283.32		Pension
14/09/2023	Vodafone	DD	13.73	B2-592466219	Mobile Phone Bill Clerk
14/09/2023	Angela Wilkins	PABT0234	48.00	12/9/23	Hwb Cleaning September x 4
14/09/2023	BT	PABT0235	554.98	GP01063616010	HWb Inst and first bill
14/09/2023	Love North Wales Community Sup	PABT0236	1,500.00	Sept 2023 meeting	Grant
14/09/2023	RHUDDLAN TOWN COMMUNITY	PABT0237	4,000.00	Sept2023 meeting	Grant - match funding
14/09/2023	St Marys Church	PABT0239	1,250.00	Sept 2023 meeting	Grant
14/09/2023	Rhuddlan Allotments Society	PABT0238	350.00	Sept 2023 Meeting	Grant 2023
16/09/2023	HMRC	PABT0230	981.43	120PP01122176	PAYE and NI
16/09/2023	Paul Smith	SO	227.87		Salary
16/09/2023	Steve Wilson	SO	1,780.11		Salary
16/09/2023	Rhuddlan Charity Account	PABT0231	44.00		two tickets paid for wrong AC
Total Payments			14,519.03		

