



Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the meeting on the 9th November 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 Mike Elgin
Cllr Arwel Roberts
Cllr Gareth Rowlands
Cllr Bleddyn Williams
Town Clerk – Steve Wilson

The meeting was recorded from this point (audio only)

1. Apologies

Paul Smith – Assistant Clerk

There was one member of the public present and PCSO's Rich Williams and Steve Gunning.

2. Declaration of Interest

None given

3. Personal Matters

The Mayor passed on best wishes from the Council to Assistant Clerk Paul Smith for a speedy recovery and to Cllr Reg Davies celebrating his birthday on the night of the meeting.

4. Police Matters

PCSO Williams run through the reported crimes for October including a number of driving/speeding issues, a street fight, motorcyclists riding with no helmets, youths smoking cannabis and drink driving. He stated that no speed monitoring would be done by DCC until April 2024. Regarding the illegal drug use in the library vicinity PCSO Williams said he has discussed with library staff and is monitoring.

Councillors highlighted incidents of speeding in Highlands Road, lack of action regarding the report of a man seen urinating on the High Street, tailgating and overtaking by vans in 20mph areas and fly tipping in gateways on Abergele Rd.

Regarding the 20mph issues, the Clerk was asked to determine the criteria for 20mph zones and Cllr Mike Elgin proposed to hold a Council Road Safety Group meeting to look at areas which might revert to 30mph, seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. **Resolved.**

PCSO Williams reminded councillors that they could report crimes by calling 101 and by using the North Wales Police online reporting web page

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th October 2023

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

The minutes were duly signed by the Mayor.

6. Progress Report from Minutes

- i) Letter of thanks to PCSO Phil Roberts sent.
- ii) Lack of response from Joe Lunn at Prestatyn IACH escalated as requested. No response.
- iii) Requested that the 4 councillors who have not responded to the prioritisation of town plan projects to do so by Friday 10th November. Proposed by Cllr. Mike Kermode to move forward with town plan if no responses by end of week. Seconded by Cllr. Gareth Rowland. **Resolved.**
- iv) The Clerk confirmed a PA unit and microphone has been purchased. A member suggested it could be used by bona fide local groups, proposed by Cllr Arwel Roberts and seconded by Cllr. Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.**
- v) A5 poster of upcoming events completed and issued.
- vi) Regarding library, response sent to Liz Greaves at DCC and cost received for opening on a Saturday from 1/4/24 of £8,586/year. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed it is considered as part of the precept setting process, seconded by Cllr. Gareth Rowland. **Resolved.** Councillors discussed concerns regarding the cuts, consultation process with employees, whether it was possible to open on a Saturday, RTC financial support, impact on residents in Dyserth who use Rhuddlan library which may generate for support from Dyserth Councillors.
- vii) Untidy library road entrance reported to DCC and awaiting action.
- viii) Tim Towers (DCC) emailed regarding offer by Cllr Ivor Beech of use of land near Glan Clwyd Hospital to connect to footpaths adjacent to hospital. No response received to date.
- ix) Profit/Loss sheet for community market sent to the Community Association together with breakdown of how they can potentially make an additional £2k/year for the Association. Council committed to run the market up to the end March, suggestion made to see if an independent vendor would like to take the market on to ensure its longevity.
- x) Hwb toilet signage ordered and will be installed by Clerk with support from Cllr Gareth Rowlands next week.

7. Correspondence from:

a. The Mayor

The Mayor had circulated his report prior to the meeting.

He added he and the Clerk attended the virtual One Voice Wales conference which stimulated some ideas and suggested that other members participate next year. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor's observations regarding the Active Travel road closure trial had been fed back to Sustrans and no response has been received. The Mayor shared his observations including the high amount of non-Rhuddlan children attending the school and that in inclement weather most parents would probably drive to school. Cllr Jackie Burnham (as councillor governor) also observed the trial and was disappointed with the lack of engagement of Sustrans staff and whether they were asking the right questions. Cllr Ann Davies mentioned the pros/cons of the proposals, the use of the cut through and residents only parking permits.

The report was accepted

b. The Town Clerk

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:-

- Membership renewal of the SLCC for coming year is £279. Proposed by Cllr Gareth Rowlands to renew and seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**
- Complaint from neighbour to Hwb storage container who was concerned that the recent works are causing his garden to flood. Clerk explained this was on the day of the storm and that two other councillors had suffered flooding in addition to Admiral's Field and the Hwb garden. Members then discussed flooding, concerns with the lack of drainage in Rhuddlan and the impact of additional housing being built. Members agreed the Hwb works have not had an adverse effect. Clerk to write to the neighbour and explain.
- Letter from resident of Admirals Field requesting weeds on the edge of the field be treated with weedkiller. Clerk will action. Same resident complained of concerns of cyclists speeding and electric scooters using the new path. It was suggested that the Clerk look at options for solar lighting for the path.
- Regarding the additional Christmas lights that cannot be attached to lamp posts on A547 towards Maes Y Bryn as they are not strong enough. Members noted one of the lights was hidden by an overgrown cherry tree but this is due to be trimmed in the near future. Clerk to determine costs of putting on alternative lamp posts and to include in Precept budget for consideration.
- The benches on Vicarage Lane located on the town ditch cannot be moved until the Spring to minimise damage to the ground. The benches are likely to be relocated onto Admiral's Field. The location of the memorial garden was discussed and it was suggested the best location would be adjacent to the library. Proposed to discuss this option with the library by Jackie Burnham and seconded by Bleddyn Williams. **Resolved.**

- Privacy complaint discussed. Clerk confirmed that personal details are not disclosed on any council documentation. It was reminded that as meetings are recording then members and officers should not mention any personal details in the meeting.
- An anonymous letter about overgrown trees had been received. Cllr Ann Davies stated she is already looking into the issue. As it is an anonymous letter councillors agreed no further action.
- A member asked about the Youth Club requesting a cooker at the Hwb. Discussion took place regarding how to ensure the cooker is only used by the Youth Club. Agreed to install an isolation switch in locked cabinet.

The report and project update were accepted

8. County Councillor Reports

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

In particular, he mentioned meetings he had attended at DCC including Mental Health issues with children, planning and waste management which would affect all businesses and could affect the Hwb and Community Centre. The Mayors and Clerks in the county will be invited to a future meeting to discuss the changes.

Cllr Ann Davies had not provided a written report but she said that this would happen for future meetings. Her verbal report highlighted a number of issues; including problems with trees and hedges, which she has asked DCC to attend to. She informed members that Commuted Sums funding is open for applications. She mentioned the consultations about parking issues at Abbey Road and a member asked for the County Councillors to speak to the residents in Abbey Road, so that they are aware of the process and can put forward their different views about the issue.

The reports were accepted

9. New Cemetery and existing Cemetery

The Mayor took councillors through the minutes of the meeting with other local councils. This was discussed with members including why it was not in the Denbighshire LDP or to be included in any future LDP, whether it was realistic to expect DCC to spend money on a new cemetery with current and future funding cuts and the existing town plan objective for a new cemetery. The Mayor recognised the financial challenges faced by DCC and members stated the need to have DCC support to provide a new cemetery. The agreed Town Plan identifies the need for a new cemetery, so investigations will proceed.

The continued extremely wet conditions in the present cemetery and DCC's decision not to implement the proposed drainage scheme, were also mentioned.

10. Budget & Finance

a) Grant Requests

i - Wales Air Ambulance – Members suggested a £500 donation, proposed by Cllr Jackie Burnham, seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.**

ii – Rhyl Raptors Wheelchair Basket Ball Team – Members suggested a £100 donation for photography carried out at council events by a member of the Raptors. Proposed by Cllr Gareth Rowlands and seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

b) The payments listing was reviewed and proposed by Cllr Gareth Rowlands to pay and seconded by Cllr Mike Elgin. **Resolved**

11. Community Matters

a) Cllr Gareth Rowlands asked council permission to plant 300 crocus bulbs adjacent to MUGA path. Proposed Cllr Mike Elgin and seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

b) Cllr Ivor Beech highlighted fly tipping issues in gateways on Abergele Road.

c) Cllr Jackie Burnham concerned with high hedges at the junction of Grenville Avenue when turning right that restrict the view when driving. Cllr Ann Davies will take issue up with DCC.

d) Cllr Mike Elgin informed the council that Jane Colclough has retired as Rhuddlan Castle Custodian and proposed a letter of thanks and appreciation be sent from the council, seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. **Resolved.**

e) Cllr Reg Davies highlighted depression in footpath at entrance (castle side) to Twthill needs filling with stone that needs reporting to DCC.

f) Cllr Arwel Roberts reminded members of Memory Café at Rhuddlan Library being held on 24/11.

g) Cllr Mike Kermode asked whether one of the Scout Leaders had recently achieved 25 years' service. Clerk to enquire and report back.

h) The Mayor reminded councillors that costed proposals of any new projects that need to be considered for next year's budget will be considered at the December meeting. Proposals need to be sent to the Clerk prior to the meeting.

i) The Clerk reminded members that the Precept meeting is being held on 4th January next year.

j) The Mayor reminded members of the Remembrance Parade this coming Sunday.

12. Date of next meeting – 14/12/2023 Full Council Hybrid Meeting 7pm

SignedCllr Mike Kermode (Mayor)