



Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the meeting on the 11th January 2024

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 Gareth Rowlands
Steve Wilson - Town Clerk
Paul Smith - Clerical Assistant/Minute Clerk

1. Apologies

Cllrs Ann Davies & Rob Williams
The meeting was recorded from this point (audio only)

Present were Cllr Emrys Wynne DCC portfolio holder for Welsh Language, Culture & Heritage, Tony Ward Corporate Director of Economy & Environment, Liz Grieve Head of Service for Community Services & Housing, and PC Rob Jones 72538.
The Mayor welcomed all those present to the meeting.

2. Declaration of Interest

Cllr Arwel Roberts as a DCC Planning Committee member

3. Rhuddlan Library

The Mayor reminded members on DCC's proposals to reduce library opening hours by 35%, that this council supports the library financially, the proposals for a potential museum partnership and how the library is considered a valued asset to Rhuddlan used by many community groups and external support organisations.

Tony Ward and Liz Grieves updated the council on the outcome of DCC's Scrutiny Committee meeting and that the library services team had been tasked with identifying

other funding opportunities before a final decision is taken on 23rd January. They also stated that Rhuddlan library was seen a model for best practice.

The Mayor informed Tony and Liz that the council had provisioned an additional £8,500 in its 2024/2025 budget that could be used to further financially support the library. Liz stated she will look at the options on how this could be used to best increase library provision in Rhuddlan.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands asked why the council was not informed much earlier on the proposals and why some external users could be asked to pay for usage. Liz apologised but explained that this was because of due process being applied and that all revenue opportunities were being explored.

Cllr Ivor Beech asked why there was a 35% cut when the council made a significant annual contribution. Liz explained that this was taken into account when looking at the cuts in opening hours.

It was agreed that the situation with the Library would be reviewed at a future meeting when more information was available from DCC about the best potential use of the Council's additional support for next year.

The Mayor thanked Cllr Emerys Wynne, Tony Ward and Liz Grieves for attending the meeting.

Cllr. Gareth Rowlands left the meeting at this point.

4. Urgent Matters

None

5. Police Matters

PC Rob Jones updated Members on the recent crime incidents which included anti-social behaviour at the play area in the new estate opposite the golf club and enquired if Town Council might assist in providing some nets to reduce its occurrence. The Mayor informed PC Jones that this area of land was not in the ownership of the Council and the enquiry should be made to DCC or the developers.

Members then highlighted speeding issues in town.

PC Jones was asked if the police would discuss with DCC the recent flooding seen near the golf club and its danger to road users. He will pass this on to his sergeant.

Cllr Mike Elgin passed on his thanks for the actions of the rural policing team in dealing with the dumping of dead geese on Abbey Rd on 30th December.

The Mayor then thanked PC Jones for his attendance The Clerk asked that if no officer was available attend a future meeting, then a written crime report be provided for circulation.

6. a Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th December 2023

Proposed as a true record by Cllr Arwel Roberts, seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.**

Progress Report from Minutes

- i) Prestatyn IACH response has been circulated to Members
- ii) The Catholic Church directional sign quote from DCC had been received and forwarded to the church informing them that neither DCC nor the Council have any funds for this.
- iii) The Youth Club budget will be changed in 2024/25 to separate out Hwb rental costs.

- iv) Town Plan printing tenders returned and a sample is arriving on Monday for confirmation. A news letter from the council is to be added and it is hoped to deliver the updated town plan and letter in late February.
- v) The Clerk had written to DCC Cllr Barry Mellor and officer Ben Wilcox-Jones regarding council discussions on speed limits.
- vi) Significant flooding on A5151 has been reported to DCC.
- vii) CADW have fixed the castle illumination lights.

b Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held on 12th December 2023

Proposed as a true record by Cllr Arwel Roberts, seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved**

Progress report from Minutes

It was noted that the Community Christmas carol event had been successful and all those who assisted were thanked for their efforts. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 16th January when the potential DLL grant for community events would be discussed.

c Minutes of the Budget & Precept Meeting held on 4th January 2024.

Proposed as a true record by Cllr Val Simmons, seconded by Cllr Mike Elgin. **Resolved**

Progress report from Minutes

The Mayor referred Members to the circulated agreed spreadsheet and asked for any observations. A debate took place on the reclaiming of VAT and the timing of receiving that reclaim. It was agreed to make one annual claim for 2023/2024 with more regular claims in 2024/2025.

7. Correspondence from:

a. The Mayor

The Mayor had circulated his report prior to the meeting.

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:-

- The British Heart Foundation "Go red in Feb 2024" initiative was noted.
- Hwb neighbour complaint about rain water from the Hwb storage container flooding his garden. Members agreed to install a gutter on the container, proposed by Cllr Jackie Burnham, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**
- An email from DCC regarding consultation on a fairer council tax system for Wales has been circulated and the Clerk asked for Members comments. It was agreed to place this on the agenda for the February Council meeting. **Resolved.**
- Complaint about speeding in Ffordd Ganol and a broken SID. Members agreed that this should be discussed at the next Road Safety meeting on 7th February.
- The Mayor asked Members to help out and support the running of future community markets, the next one being held on February 10th.

8. County Councillor Reports

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

In particular Members discussed the two items on flooding:

Gwindy Street & Kerfoot Avenue - DCC have responded that there has been no recent flooding since the ditch was cleaned out.

A5151 New Rd - being investigated by DCC. No cause yet identified but warning signs and a clearing of several gullies have been actioned. Further work is promised to determine what can be done as this remains a priority.

The report was accepted

The Mayor noted his disappointment that Cllr Ann Davies had not provided a written report. This is especially important if a County Councillor is unable to attend the meeting.

9. DBS Checks for Councillors

The Clerk took councillors through a paper on DBS checks. Unless councillors are directly involved in the delivery of services for children relating to education or social services and to adults relating to social services then a DBS check is not required. The Clerk explained he had checked with 5 other local councils and none had had their councillors DBS checked. It was agreed not to pursue DBS checks for councillors.

Resolved.

10. Planning

The Clerk took Members through the applications.

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

44/2023/0825 – Felling of a tree at Ty Mawr, Castle St, Rhuddlan. No objections

44/2023/0741 – Pruning works along with crown raising & reduction at 15 Tirionfa, Rhuddlan. No objections.

44/2023/0708 – A glamping site with associated ground works and treatment plants at the old Rhyl Rugby Club sports ground, Waen Rd, Rhuddlan. Cllrs Ivor Beech declared an interest.

Members had concerns that this site was not in Rhuddlan's jurisdiction but resides within Tremeirchion Waen and Cwm Community Council and as such cannot directly object or support the development on the site. However, after discussion, Members acknowledged the potential benefits such a development could bring to the businesses and tourism aspects of Rhuddlan. Proposed by Cllr Mike Elgin, seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.**

44/2023/0909 – Installation of replacement flat roof & associated works at 2 Fairlands Crescent, Rhuddlan. No objections.

11. Budget & Finance

a) Grant Requests

None received

b. Payments list

Cllr Mike Kermode proposed the list approval, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts.
Resolved

12. Community Matters

a) Cllr Mike Kermode was aware that Malcolm & Carol Boyton have retired from Rhuddlan scout group after 25 years' service and asked Members if Town Council would like to mark this service by presenting them with an award. It was proposed by Cllr Mike Kermode that a suitable award be made, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts.

Resolved.

b) Cllr Ivor Beech reported a loose paving slab on the High St and the lack of gritting last weekend on the pedestrian path across the river, Cllr Arwel Roberts noted these issues. The Mayor reminded Members that they are able to report DCC problems directly to the county council using the customer contact facility.

The audio recording was switched off.

**13. Date of next meeting – 16/1/2024 Events Committee at 7pm at the Hwb
7/2/2024 Personnel & Road Safety Committee at 6pm and
7pm at the Hwb
8/2/2024 Full Council Meeting 7pm**

All the above to be hybrid meetings.

SignedCllr Mike Kermode (Mayor)