



## **Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 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 Gareth Rowlands  
Cllr Robert Williams  
Town Clerk – Steve Wilson

The meeting was recorded from this point (audio only)

#### **1. Apologies**

Cllr Ann Davies  
Cllr Bleddyn Williams  
Paul Smith – Assistant Clerk

There was one member of the public present.

#### **2. Declaration of Interest**

Cllr. Arwel Roberts – planning applications.

#### **3. Urgent Matters - None**

#### **4. Police Matters**

No police officers in attendance or report provided. Clerk requested to obtain a report for the previous month's crime in Rhuddlan. A member praised the police for the way they dealt with one incident and another member asked for an update regarding a previous incident on Highlands Road.

#### **5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Cllr Jackie Burnham proposed that minutes be approved as a true record, seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.**

The minutes will be duly signed by the Mayor.

## **6. Progress Report from Minutes**

- i) Clerk stated no response received from Tim Towers at DCC regarding footpaths.
- ii) No response from Community Centre regarding taking on the market.
- iii) Toilet directional signage will be installed this week.
- iv) No response from Prestatyn IACH. Members requested the Clerk write to the Chief Executive of Betsi Cadwaller and copy in our MS's and MP.
- v) SLCC membership renewed.
- vi) Raw rainfall data received to review in relation to concerns of flooding of a garden adjacent to the Hwb.
- vii) No response of Cadw regarding delaying removing the benches from the town ditch until the spring.
- viii) Still waiting quotes off 2 electrical firms regarding Hwb electrics and Youth club cooker installation.
- ix) Awaiting feedback from neighbouring councils regarding support for local cemetery group. DCC stated have less than a years' capacity remaining at Rhuddlan.

## **7. Correspondence from:**

### **a. The Mayor and Deputy**

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor had circulated a joint report prior to the meeting.

The Mayor added that DCC had complained that the Christmas tree and barrier was blocking access to the traffic light's "black cabinet". The Mayor has rectified the issue. The issue of the Christmas tree leaning over was discussed and Cllr. Reg Davies will rectify with the help of Cllr. Rob Williams.

### **The report was accepted**

### **b. The Town Clerk**

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

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

- Section 137 maximum allowance for 2024/2025 budget will be £32,000.
- Email from member of the public asking for financial information regarding the Admiral's Field path and Hwb which they had asked for on Social Media. The Mayor reminded councillors that the council had previously agreed not to use social media to respond and that any appropriate responses be posted by the Clerk. The Clerk will provide the resident with the information by email.
- The Clerk informed members that he is keen to attend the Practitioners Conference on 31/1 and 1/2. Members agreed to support this as part of the Town Clerk's ongoing professional development and networking.
- Estimated cost off DCC to install directional signage for Catholic Church location is £4,000. Discussion on funding took place. Agreed to write to the Church to advise of them of the cost of the signage and because DCC will not

fund the sign; the church would have to pay. Proposed by Cllr. Mike Kermode and Seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.**

- Discussed showing Youth Club Hwb booking as Hwb income and paying Youth Club in their grant and they pay for Hwb booking. Proposed by Cllr Gareth Rowlands and seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**
- Suggestion by member to see if Bespoke Events would want to run the market.

**The report and project update were accepted**

## **8. County Councillor Reports**

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

He stated that the reason the report was in great detail was to allow fellow councillors and other residents see the number of hours that the work of a County Councillor involved. He added the issues of the large tree falling in the nature reserve and lying water on New Road.

**The reports were accepted**

The Mayor highlighted the importance of written reports being received from our County Councillors. This is very useful, especially when a County Councillor is unable to attend the meeting.

## **9. Admiral's Field Path Gritting**

Councillors discussed whether the path needs to be gritted in cold and icy conditions. Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed not to grit and the situation should be monitored. Seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

## **10. Health and Safety Policy**

The Clerk took members through this new policy. Councillors agreed to adopt the policy subject to an asbestos register be added. Proposed by Cllr Gareth Rowlands and seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.**

Discussion took place on whether the councillor playing Santa at the Community Carol event needs a DBS check. It was noted that Santa is accompanied at all times therefore one should not be required. The Clerk was asked to clarify. It was noted that the council has its own Safeguarding policy and the Clerk to check whether he should be DBS checked as Rhuddlan Council's designated Safeguarding Officer. A member suggested that all councillors should be DBS checked and it was agreed to add to the January agenda. Proposed by Cllr Gareth Rowlands and seconded by Cllr. Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.**

## **11. Message from DCC's Standards Committee.**

The Mayor highlighted the main points from the message. Most of the points were being addressed in a positive way by the Town Council. In terms of a local disputes process, the Mayor asked if the council wished to involve another neighbouring council. Proposed not to pursue by Cllr Gareth Rowlands and seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

## 12. Town Plan

The Town Plan was discussed and agreed. Proposed by Cllr Gareth Rowlands to publish and deliver to all residents in January. Seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

## 13. 20mph Speed Limit

Cllr Mike Elgin explained that DCC are reviewing 20mph roads with a view to changing some of them that meet specific criteria back to 30mph and that RTC should pass on its opinion to DCC. He took members through his paper on which 20mph speed limits in Rhuddlan should be changed back to 30mph. This was discussed by members. Three lengths of road were considered. Cllr Jackie Burnham proposed that the A5151 New Road, A547 Meliden Road and the A547 towards Sainsburys be considered to change back to 30mph, seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. Cllr Mike Kermode put an amendment to only consider the A5151 to move back to 30mph, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Not Resolved.**

Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed an amendment that the 40mph on the A5151 into Rhuddlan leading to the 20mph was changed to 30mph. Seconded by Cllr Reg Davies. **Not Resolved.**

Cllr Mike Kermode proposed an amendment that the A5151 New Road and the A457 Meliden Road be requested to go back to 30mph; whilst the A547 towards Sainsburys remains 20mph. This was seconded by Cllr Mike Elgin. **Resolved.**

The Clerk will write to DCC with this proposal and also inform neighbouring councils.

## 14. Planning

Planning application 44/2023/0644 (resubmitted) for the erection of a flat dormer roof extension to facilitate a loft conversion at 11 Links Avenue, Rhuddlan, Rhyl. No comments or objections. **Resolved.**

## 15. Budget & Finance

a) Grant Requests

i - Stroke Club – agreed to move the item to part 2 of the meeting.

ii – Urdd Fund for All. This was discussed by members. Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed a donation of £180 which was seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.**

b) The Clerk stated that apart from the Town Plan's projects, the only submitted project was for Admiral's Field path lighting. These will be costed up and included in the Precept meeting on 4/1.

c) The Clerk took the council through the quarterly accounts which was **accepted** by members.

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

## 16. Community Matters

- a) Cllr Ivor Beech highlighted serious issues with drainage problems on the A5151 New Road that was causing significant flooding issues. Clerk and County Councillor Arwel Roberts will raise with DCC.
- b) Cllr Jackie Burnham stated that there are some new shops/existing shops with new owners in the town and that the Mayor may like to visit them to welcome them.
- c) Cllr Arwel Roberts stated that the castle was no longer being lit. Clerk to contact CADW to resolve the situation.
- d) The Mayor asked councillors to support the Council's Community Carols on 16/12.

## Part 2 Exclusion of the Press & Public

By virtue of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and 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. Proposed by Cllr Gareth Rowlands and seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham to move to part 2. **Resolved.**

The recording of the meeting was switched off.

### 17.1 Potential 2024/25 Budget Issues

Cllr Arwel Roberts informed members about potential cuts that DCC may make. There was the potential for RTC to consider making some financial provision to maintain some services. Agreed to consider as part of the budget/precept setting meeting on 4/1.

### 17.2 Stroke Club Grant Application

This was discussed by members and it was proposed that, as there was insufficient information, no recent audited accounts or a recent AGM; the decision be postponed until a future meeting and that further information be requested by the Clerk. Proposed by Cllr Gareth Rowlands and seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

## 12. Dates of next meeting

4<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Budget and Precept Hybrid Meeting

11<sup>th</sup> January 2024 - Full Council Hybrid Meeting 7pm

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