

Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

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.

Mgk / 9/11/23

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 *Appendix 4*

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

Appendix 1

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

Appendix 2

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 *Appendix 3*

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** Appendix 5

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.

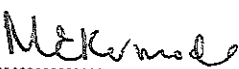
g) Cllr Mike Kermode asked whether one of the Scout Leaders had recently achieved 25 years' service. Clerk to enquire and report back.

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.

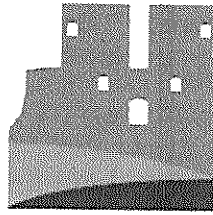
i) The Clerk reminded members that the Precept meeting is being held on 4th January next year.

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

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

9/11/23.



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Rhuddlan Town Council
9th November 2023

Mayor's Report

Events/Attendances

- 17th October – I attended the area around Ysgol y Castell, with the Deputy Mayor, to view the trial of the school road closure proposal and to discuss the proposal with parents/guardians and residents (see note attached). Cllr. Jackie Burnham, the recently appointed Chairperson of School Governors, was also present.
- 20th October – The Mayoress and I attended the “Red Carpet” event organised by the Lunch Club team at the Community Centre. I was pleased to be able to award a number of trophies and certificates to people that had made significant contributions to the wellbeing town in a number of ways and many good causes, mainly working as volunteers.
- 26th October – I hosted a meeting comprising representatives from a number of local councils, to discuss the issue of a new cemetery in the area (see separate agenda item).
- 31st October – I met with the Town Clerk and the Rev. Peter Mayo-Smith to discuss the arrangements for the Remembrance Service.
- 2nd November – I have sent my apologies for not being able to attend the meeting of the Community Centre’s Trustees, because of a personal engagement outside of Rhuddlan.
- 5th November – The Mayoress and I will be attending the Mayor of Caerwys’ Civic Service.
- 8th November – I will participate in the Zoom conference organised by One Voice Wales and SLCC.

MEK/RTC – 1st November 2023

Sustrans – Active Travel – Hylas Lane trial closure 17th October 2023.

Notes from the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

We were both at the school area at the drop-off and exit times for pupils and we gathered views from a number of adults. Cllr. Jackie (the recently appointed Chairperson of the School Governors) was also there at the morning's drop-off time.

It was a dry and clear autumn day.

Hylas Lane was professionally closed at both ends by JT&M Signs and the junction between Hylas Lane the unadopted walk-through was also closed. The JT&M staff marshalled the closures and did allow vehicles to enter/exit if they had sufficient reason.

There was one DCC officer (wearing DCC hi-vis jacket) and a representative from Sustrans (not wearing any form of identification and could easily be confused with a resident or a walker/cyclist).

The main feedback gathered was:

A resident living in a house opposite to the school complained about several aspects of Sustrans/DCC's recent consultation process – said that the junction between Hylas Lane the unadopted walk-through should not be blocked because it was their vehicular entry/exit point – said that formal adoption of the lane with tarmac and street lights would be opposed.

Another resident in Hylas Lane said that a one-way route would restrict vehicular access to the rear of the houses on the school side of Hylas Lane.

Approx 50 adults were spoken to – some 40% of them live outside of Rhuddlan (the head-teacher said school enrolments were now open to all and there was no longer any requirement for Rhuddlan residency or a sibling connection).

Those people that live outside of Rhuddlan were opposed to the road closure proposal because their prime aim is to use their car for a quick drop-off and collection for their children. The main observation was that they had needed to find a parking place on an adjacent road rather than the quicker option of using Hylas Lane.

Those people that live in Rhuddlan were in 2 main groups – those that live relatively close to the school (such as up to the Admiral's Playing Field or up to the Library) and those that lived further away in the town. Those that lived further away tended to use cars for drop-off and collection. Many, but not all, of those that lived closer tended to walk. However, most people said that if the weather was wet than they would most likely use their car.

The people that had walked that day gave some positive and some negative feedback. The main positive one was about the lack of traffic using Hylas Lane. The main negative one was the increase in parked cars near to the exit/entrances of Hylas Lane and the problems this gave for pedestrians, especially those with very young children and those using push chairs.

Several people commented that the school was there when many of the local residents may have purchased their properties and it was therefore a potential problem that they should have taken account of.

Some people gave their ideas about how to resolve the Hylas Lane issue:

- A one-way road – from the Castle down to Abbey Road – this might be full-time or just at school entrance/exit times.
- Use of the Castle's car park for school entrance/exit times.
- An in and out loop for the school – which requires an additional entrance and losing school parking places.
- A pedestrian crossing on Princes Road somewhere between the junctions of Castle Steet and Abbey Road.

In addition, the following comments were made:

"The first priority must be the safety of children"

"A one-way system seems good"

"A larger pavement is needed; you cannot go on the pavement with a double buggy or a wheelchair"

"Tarmac the lane/walkway"

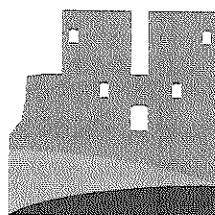
"Provide some form of drop-off area"

"Pick up the school and put it somewhere else"

"Open the school earlier, therefore it would be a staggered, not everyone arriving at the same time"

"I pay my road-tax, it is a public road I can park where I like"

"Make it a residents' only parking on Hylas Lane, permit holders only"



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Clerk's Project Report and Correspondence for October 2023 Meeting

Correspondence

The following has been received:

1. Letter from the Society of Local Council Clerks regarding membership renewal due on 1st December. The cost is £279. **Approval Required**
2. Verbal complaint from the resident who lives next door to the Hwb Storage Container complaining his garden floods more than it previously did before the Hwb improvements were carried out.
3. Email from resident living in Admirals Walk asking the council if it possible for the weeds at the edge of the park into Admirals Walk to be treated with weedkiller, also the area around the flower box at the end of Hendre Close?
4. Email from resident living in Admirals Walk concerned about speeding cyclists already using the incomplete path and concerns of the risk of collision with walkers. The resident thinks the path is only 1m wide when it is actually 1.5m. The resident also mentioned Electric Scooters using the path.
5. Discussion with DCC regarding additional Christmas Lights on the A547 towards Rhyl. Unfortunately, the lamp posts are not stronger enough for lights to be fitted. Additional lights rented will be doubled up throughout the town.
6. Email from Richard Polden on behalf of the Community Group asking whether the benches on Vicarage Lane could be located in front of the 'Outdoor Gym' so that it would provide seating for people wanting to sit and watch football matches etc, and a tree or three on the field side at the end of Hendre.
7. Email from DCC Liz Greaves stating the estimate for opening Rhuddlan Library for 3 hours each Saturday morning from April 1 2024 is £8,586pa
8. Local Government Services Pay Agreement applicable from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. Approval is not needed because we are committed to the agreed national pay levels as and when they change.
9. Response off NRW regarding the lack of maintenance concerns.
10. Email from a MOP concerned his personal data was identified via a google search as his name, address and email was on a PDF agenda posted on Rhuddlan Town Council website in 2020.
11. Anonymous letter from someone complaining about overgrown trees at Rosemary, Ffordd Dewi in Rhuddlan and impact to light etc.

Project Update

Community Market – the next market is scheduled on 18th November and is fully booked. Parking will be free for this and the Christmas Market. No take up yet by the Community Centre of the offer of taking on the market. I have offered to take bookings and deal with vendors with the CC doing all other activities.

Hwb improvements:

1. Venting radiator swapped
2. External light by entrance door to be installed

Improvements to Vicarage Lane Car Park – No change

Admirals Field path construction well under way and should be complete by the end November. Claim made on commuted funds for first invoice payment.

Youth club going well. They have requested a small cooker.

MUGA lights, lights delivered to DCC but no brackets, awaiting brackets and then installation.

Town Plan, still waiting on 4 councillors for their priority ratings.

CCTV Update

Denbigh's camera's have joined the partnership.

The maintenance contract will be awarded in November and the winning contractor will supply the replacement cameras.

The monitoring contract is going out to tender and will be awarded to commence May 2024.

It is anticipated that costs will increase so this will need to be reflected in next year's precept but the costs are unknown.

Crime figures very low for Rhuddlan and very little use of cameras required as a result.

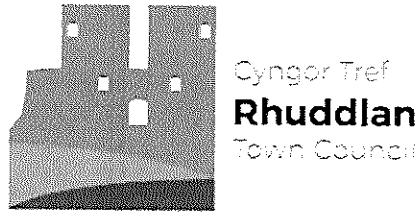
All requests for images must go through the police and each image takes the PCSO 20 minutes to process.

Contributions; Police £16.6k, Prestatyn £10k, Rhyl £15k, Rhuddlan £3.4k, Parking Services £20k, Transport £1.7k, Public Protection £5k and Environment £0.9k.

Shared prosperity fund will contribute £278k to replace older cameras and work will be completed by end October 2024. All cameras more than 4 years old will be replaced.

Safer Streets 5 grant will pay the £100k for a new server.

The Rhyl bid for daytime live monitoring decision moved out to January 2024. If happens all camera's will be live monitoring.



Adroddiad – Report – Tachwedd – November 2023

County Councillor – Arwel Roberts

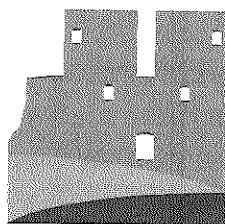
1. Workplace Recycling is changing.

Denbighshire are developing a new depot in Colomendy, Dinbych. This is in preparation for the changes regarding workplace recycling. I have a meeting with one of the SLT officers on the 9th of November. More details in our meeting.

2. Still waiting for Tim Towers to come back to us regarding a meeting with DCC and Dwr Cymru regarding flooding in Kerfoot Avenue.

3. Very grateful to the Clerk for representing our Town Council in the CCTV meeting on the 26th of October. I wonder if our other representatives were present.

4. The financial future is dire and grim to all County Councils including Sir Ddinbych. In a virtual meeting on the 26th of October we discussed the cuts to the library service. It was gratifying to have support from Cllr David Williams who represents Dyserth ward. He reacted like me against any cuts to the library services, residents from the Dyserth regularly use the library in Rhuddlan. Remember we already pay £12k as a Town Council annually to support the running costs of the library as do Llanellwyr City council. They still propose to have a 50% cut to all libraries even the 2 councils mentioned sponsor the facilities.



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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
 Town Clerk
 Clerical Assistant/Minute Clerk

1. Apologies

Cllrs Ann Davies and Bleddyn Williams.

There was one member of the public present and PCSO 3473 Rich Williams

2. Declaration of Interest

None given

3. Urgent Matters

None

4. Police Matters

PCSO Williams apologised for not having prepared a written report. He informed the council of a cold calling scam and also about several complaints received about the library car park, playground and surrounding grassed sections regarding dog fouling and young people smoking cannabis. A Member mentioned that at a recent meeting with the librarian the provision of a fence to block off the grassed area at the rear of the library was suggested.

The Mayor then stated that a resident near Admiral's Field had reported an issue of someone urinating on the field in full view of their house and the resident had also sent an email to the council about this.

A Member reported that since the 20mph limit, vehicles are speeding down Highlands Road between 5-6pm. PCSO Williams advised to contact DCC to ask them to install a speed data recording device to get evidence.

Another Member reported the dangerous and illegal use of e-scooters in Rhuddlan especially on Rhyl Road in front of the police station. One even had a blue flashing light on it. PCSO

Williams stated they have received no formal complaints and described the difficulties the police have in stopping and identifying the users of e-scooters.

The same Member stated that the police did not call to see him regarding an incident reported at the June meeting regarding a man begging. PCSO Williams was not aware of this so a description of the person begging was given.

The meeting was recorded from now audio only

Continuing with police matters, a Member reported the use of a child's e-motorbike on Admiral's Field and asked that the police monitor the situation. The Clerk and PCSO Williams once again asked Members to encourage residents to report incidents to the police either on 101 or webchat so they can be properly logged and acted upon. PCSO 3473 Williams then left the meeting.

A member stated that PCSO Philip Roberts had resigned and left the Police. It was resolved that a letter of thanks be sent to PCSO Roberts for his work in Rhuddlan proposed by Gareth Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts **Resolved**.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th July 2023

Minor amendment – Clos Dewi Sant should read Clos David Owen.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that subject to the amendment the minutes be approved as a true record, seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved**.

Progress Report from Minutes

- i) The information materials relating to Smart water have not yet been received from the Police.
- ii) No response from Joe Lunn at Prestatyn lach surgery had been received regarding the council's enquiry about Rhuddlan opening hours. Members agreed to escalate to Alison Kemp BCHUB and to copy in the AM and MP. Proposed by Cllr Mike Kermode, seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. **Resolved**.
- iii) NRW have responded that the river bank knotweed is not on their land and is not compromising the flood defences. Members were not satisfied with this response and discussed at some length as to who did own the river bank and whose responsibility it was to remove the knotweed. It was hoped that time might be available for a visit to the site as part of the next meeting of the Nature Reserve MAG to get views from DCC's Countryside Services team. It was stated the issue is not affecting any council assets. A member stated that knotweed does slow water down and can impede the flood defences. **Resolved**.
- iv) Brief details of the Town Plan's 13 agreed projects have been drafted and will be circulated tomorrow for Members to review and rank as their priorities by Friday 20th October.
- v) The Admiral's Field circulatory path construction is progressing and when it is completed DCC will be invited asked for advice on how best to add our wilding plan.
- vi) Letter has been sent to resident reference the replacement/repair of his boundary wall with Admiral's Field stating that this is not Council's responsibility.
- vii) Mayor's chain and pendants have been ordered.
- viii) Twinning contacts received for Carlow and the Clerk to progress.

- ix) Drawings of soakaways and ditch around Clos David Owen been forwarded to DCC and no response received regarding the direction sign to the Catholic Church.
- x) The Mayor has invited the Mayors/Chairs of local Councils to a meeting on October 26th to discuss the potential of collaborating on efforts for a new cemetery in the area. Members thanked the Mayor for this initiative.

6. Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held on 3rd October 2023

Cllrs Mike Kermode, Mike Elgin & Val Simmons who attended the meeting agreed that the Minutes were a true record. **Resolved.**

Progress Report from Minutes

- The Clerk had investigated a suitable PA/microphone/music system for events at a cost of £320 plus VAT. Cllr Mike Kermode said that 3 different systems had been looked at and this was the cheapest and most suitable one and proposed its purchase, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**
- A Member reported back that Rhyl Rotary Christmas Float would be able to attend the Rhuddlan Christmas Light Switch on Monday December 4th at 4pm and suggested that the Council might give a £50 donation to Rotary. The events committee agreed. Proposed by Cllr Arwel Roberts, seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.**
- Rotary had also offered a Santa to accompany the float, to which Council agreed to write thanking them for the offer, but declining it. **Resolved.**
- Cllr Ivor Beech agreed to be recruited as Santa again this year for the community carols around the tree. **Resolved.**
- A discussion took place on how best to inform Rhuddlan residents of the various events planned. One suggestion was a paper newsletter costing £700 for printing and delivery. Members agreed not to follow this suggestion due to the costs involved. Instead, the Council agreed to promote the events on social media, a poster, a small leaflet which can go to shops and the library and an article in the parish magazine. **Resolved.**

The Mayor reminded members of the importance of the Remembrance Sunday event and he hoped that there would be a good turnout by them.

7. Minutes of the Biodiversity Meeting held on 12th September 2023

Cllr Val Simmons took Members through the minutes and Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed them to be a true record, seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. **Resolved.**

Any progress on the various biodiversity actions will be reported back to Council. **Resolved**

8. Minutes of the Special Active Travel Plan Meeting held on 5th October 2023

Cllr Val Simmons proposed that the Minutes were a true record of the meeting. Seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. **Resolved**

Progress report from Minutes

a) Library service reduction - The Mayor informed Members of the meeting with DCC and a note of this had been circulated for discussion. He added that the public consultation exercise was to finish on 30th October, placed before Cabinet for discussion on 21st November with a planned implementation on April 1st 2024 if agreed by Cabinet at DCC.

The Mayor stated that the library managers held Rhuddlan library as an exemplar partnership library, with greater use than most other county libraries post-Covid and a great perceived value to residents and many community groups. He asked councillors to encourage residents and library users to engage with the consultation. It was noted that without Town Council's financial contribution of £12,000 the service would not be as successful as it is now.

The issue was fiercely debated with many reasons noted why Rhuddlan library should be saved from any reduction in service. This included use by Welsh Language group Menter Iaith, book club, children attending on Saturday whilst not in school, the importance of using libraries for other DCC services e.g. One Stop Shop, and the small amount of money saved by the reduction in opening hours. In addition to the Town Council's financial contribution councillors were concerned about the potential impact to peoples' wellbeing and hoped it did not impact the proposed Rhuddlan museum project.

The Council believe that Rhuddlan library should be considered differently particularly in view of the councils' financial contribution.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that a letter be sent stating Council's dissatisfaction at any reduction in service at Rhuddlan and include the above reasons as to why it should be treated differently particularly the financial contribution. Seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

b) Ysgol Y Castell School Active Travel Zone – The Mayor reminded Council of their resolutions above to approve the meetings Minutes that a request be made to Sustrans and DCC to arrange more meaningful consultation exercises and conduct a survey to gather information on the likely numbers of children that may walk/cycle to school. If the feedback shows that the school zone proposals do not appear to increase active travel, then there is little point in pursuing them further.

Members noted that a similar school zone at Bryn Hedydd school, Rhyl had also received no consultation. Reports about the active travel exercise in Llangollen showed little consultation had taken place with the town council there.

The pilot road closure exercise is on Tuesday 17th October and councillors were encouraged to attend and gather feedback.

10. Correspondence from:

a. The Mayor

The Mayor had circulated his report prior to the meeting.

He added he was arranging his Charity Concert on December 9th at St Mary's church in aid of Ty Gobaith and Hope House children's hospices. Tickets are £10 each.

The report was accepted

b. The Town Clerk's projects 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 issue of the untidy state of the library entrance area highlighted by the Community Group, agreed to be report to DCC for maintenance. A Member wished to add that maintenance is also required at the Knights sculpture area.

Resolved.

- Correspondence from the Community Group who did not want the planters on Bodrhyddan Avenue and unless the Town Council wishes to do otherwise, they can be removed. Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed that they are removed by the Community Group as they own the planters, seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved**

- Slow Walks request that Town Council help validate and promote their walking routes. Members discussed the request noting that these are existing routes and were happy to post on social media and pass on to community walking groups to see if they would support the initiative. **Resolved.**

One Member voiced their concern that public footpaths across his land could easily be joined to Glan Clwyd Hospital to allow patients to have somewhere to walk but was experiencing difficulties with DCC progressing the opportunity. Cllr Arwel Roberts as a County Councillor offered to put the Member in contact with the officer responsible for public footpaths which was accepted. **Resolved.**

- The Clerk stated the council need to be aware of further potential cuts to DCC services which may result in Rhuddlan Town Council having to consider supporting locally and the potential impact on next year's budget and precept. It was agreed that Council await further information from DCC about the proposed cuts before having any further detailed discussions. **Resolved.**
- Members discussed the ongoing programme of Community Markets after March 2024. The Community Centre had been approached to take this over but the initial response had been fairly negative, although they are investigating further. Cllr Reg Davies declared an interest. Members commented that the Town Council started this as an initiative in the hope that a local community group would one day take it on. In the meantime, the Council should continue the market bookings until April 2024. The Clerk will continue with his discussions with the Community Centre. Proposed by Cllr Gareth Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved**
- Whilst noting the Admiral's Field path was under way, a Member asked that the drain near the allotment path should be lifted and examined for clearance of any debris to reduce potential flooding in that corner of the field. **Resolved.**
- A member stated the MUGA lights' timer is broken and an electrician should be engaged to replace the timer. **Resolved**
- The Mayor mentioned the complaint from the resident about people urinating in Admiral's Field near her home. A discussion followed on directing people to the Hwb toilets, use of more pictorial signs, use the old witch's hat pole, and potential upgrading of the current toilet signs. It was agreed that the Clerk would put a directional sign on the pole. **Resolved**
Cllr Jackie Burnham proposed to use a sticker on the large site maps to direct people to the Hwb toilets, seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. **Resolved.**

The report and project update were accepted

11. County Councillor Reports

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

In particular Members discussed the item on cattle being present on the public footpath which follows the River Clwyd towards Rhyl. It was noted that DCC/NRW both were not interested in assisting. A Member stated that Town Council had no jurisdiction on this matter. Another Member commented that a local landowner did own the river bank right up to the toe of the defence banking and that a site meeting could be arranged with the DCC officer responsible for footpaths to see what can be done. Cllr Arwel Roberts as a County Councillor will try to arrange and invite the Member who suggested it. **Resolved.**

Cllr Roberts then verbally added that he had run out of dog waste bags which DCC are not going to provide in the future. A Member noted that Town Council has several boxes in storage and proposed that they be given to Cllr Roberts for use around Rhuddlan. Seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.**

The extension to the school is nearly finished and a second phase of the extension is to continue soon.

The report was accepted

12. Review of Policies

The Clerk informed Members that it was Council's duty to update policies annually and had circulated the Disciplinary Policy, Dignity at Work Policy, and the Equality and Diversity Policy for review,

It was proposed by Cllr Gareth Rowlands that the three policies be approved as is, seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.**

Cllr Mike Elgin left the meeting due to internet problems with his zoom connection.

13. Planning

The Clerk took Members through the applications.

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

44/2023/0642 – Erection of single storey extension to 2 Maes Y Bryn, Rhuddlan. No objections

14. Budget & Finance

a) Grant Requests

None received

b. Payments list

All entries were agreed. **Resolved**

Members were asked if they wished to continue the contribution it makes for 1 hour free parking at Parliament Street car park in partnership with DCC as the cost is likely to increase in the next financial year. Members commented that the ticket machine needs to be more user friendly, particularly how to change from Welsh to English. Also was it cost effective in terms of the high street businesses seeing the benefit? A Member who is a business owner confirmed it did have a positive benefit. Cllr Gareth

Rowlands proposed to continue the contribution payments. Seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.**

15. Community Matters

a) Cllr Reg Davies had noticed graffiti on the pillars near the river Clwyd cycle path and asked Council to request DCC remove it. **Resolved**

b) Cllr Arwel Roberts highlighted that the Nature Reserve next meeting was tomorrow 13th October and that they will be discussing the provision of extra parking by the sensory garden element, which he hoped would get through.

16. Date of next meeting – 9/11/2023 Full Council Hybrid Meeting 7pm

SignedCllr Mike Kermode (Mayor)

Date: 10/01/2024

Rhuddlan Town Council

Page 1

Time: 15:13

Current Bank A/c

List of Payments made between 01/11/2023 and 30/11/2023

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
09/11/2023	Goodsigns & Print	PABT0253	11.84	111352	A3 Posters for Community Marke
09/11/2023	Goodsigns & Print	PABT0254	109.20	111390	Pinger post fitting kit
09/11/2023	Goodsigns & Print	PABT0255	99.37	111391	Toilet signs and stickers
09/11/2023	David Kynaston	PABT0256	160.00	02303	Signwriting 2 boards
09/11/2023	HSBC UK	DD	8.00		Bank Charges 21/9 to 20/10
09/11/2023	Thomas Fattorini Ltd	PABT0257	313.54	I281628	Bars for Mayoress Chain
09/11/2023	RHUDDLAN TOWN COMMUNITY	PABT0258	150.00	119	Community Market October 23
09/11/2023	Renewable Green Energy Limited	PABT0259	180.00	831	Hwb heating modifications
09/11/2023	Premier Farnell UK Limited	PABT0260	379.00	4305270	PA Unit (Pay SW expense card)
09/11/2023	Denbighshire County Council	PABT0261	3,700.00	802032027	Youth Club Costs
09/11/2023	BT	PABT0262	64.80	M011 I8	Hwb Wifi (2 months)
09/11/2023	Glascoed Timber	PABT0263	2,220.00	A62	Fell Tree, hedge cuts AF & VF
09/11/2023	Steve Wilson	PABT0264	180.00	ME/MK/VS	Travel Expenses October
09/11/2023	Web Studio North Wales	DD	240.00		Website and Social Media Mgmt
09/11/2023	Rhyl Raptors Wheelchair Sports	PABT0265	100.00		Annual Photograpgy events
09/11/2023	Canda Copying Limited	PABT0266	40.44	463954	Photocopier copy charge Qtly
09/11/2023	Canda Copying Limited	PABT0267	37.20	463595	Photocopier rental charge Qtly
09/11/2023	British Gas	DD	57.81	5982494	Electricity Hwb
09/11/2023	British Gas	DD	94.06	5981948	Electricity MUGA
09/11/2023	Paul Smith	SO	227.87		Salary
09/11/2023	Steve Wilson	SO	1,780.11		Salary
09/11/2023	Atom Leaflets	PABT0268	312.50	0299	Remembrance Sunday programmes
09/11/2023	G J Teeson Ltd	CHQ102948	72,842.64	Inv 3180	Admirals Field Path first paym
09/11/2023	Vodafone	DD	13.73	Clerk's Mobile	Vodafone
09/11/2023	NEST Pension	DD	283.32		Pension
09/11/2023	HMRC	PABT0269	981.63		PAYE and NI
09/11/2023	British Gas	DD	198.73	6021730	Gas Hwb Rhuddlan
09/11/2023	KM Construction (NW) Limited	PABT0270	2,160.00	RHU002	Drainage excavations Dec 2022
09/11/2023	Mari A Williams Translations	PABT0271	485.82	1365	October Translations
09/11/2023	Angel Wilkins	PABT0272	60.00		Cleaning HWb
09/11/2023	SLCC Ltd.	PABT0273	72.00	BK21339-2	Conference Cllr. MK
09/11/2023	Sage & Co	PABT0274	91.20	W7298	Payroll Charges July to Sept
09/11/2023	HMRC	PABT0269D	-981.63		PAYE & NI Delete to correct
09/11/2023	HMRC	PABT0269A	981.43		PAYE & NI Correction
09/11/2023	British Gas	DD	-57.81	Nov Statement	Correction Elect Hwb
09/11/2023	British Gas	DD	57.71	Nov Statement	Correction Hwb Elect

Total Payments	87,654.51
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