



## **Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the meeting on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

### **Hybrid Meeting**

#### **Present:**

Cllr Val Simmons (Mayor)  
Cllr Jackie Burnham (Deputy Mayor)  
Cllr Sophie Baker  
Cllr Ivor Beech  
Cllr Ann Davies (remotely)  
Cllr Reg Davies  
Cllr Mike Elgin  
Cllr Mike Kermode  
Cllr Arwel Roberts  
Cllr Bleddyn Williams (remotely)  
Steve Wilson - Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (remotely)

There were 2 members of the public present.

The meeting was recorded from this point (audio only)

#### **1. Apologies**

Cllr Gareth Rowlands – illness, absence accepted by Council

The Mayor welcomed all present and reminded Members to follow the Code of Conduct and be respectful to other members.

#### **2. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Arwel Roberts – agenda items 10 and 11b(c)

Cllr Jackie Burnham – agenda item 11b(c)

#### **3. Signing Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

The Mayor formally welcomed newly elected Cllr Sophie Baker who then read out, agreed to follow and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

#### **4. Urgent Matters**

None

## **5. Police Matters**

The Clerk ran the council through the crime figures for October.

### **6a. Minutes of Town Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

Subject to adding a note regarding some potential new sites for Rhuddlan Town Football Club, the minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr Arwel Roberts, seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.** The Minutes were signed by the Mayor

**6b. The Minutes of the Library Working Group meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024.** Cllr Mike Kermode took members through the minutes. Members present at that meeting confirmed they were true and accurate. He reminded Members that the Library needs to be considered in the Precept setting process in January. Cllr Ivor Beech asked to clarify the point on ownership that was subsequently clarified by Cllr Kermode.

## **7. Progress Report from Minutes**

The Clerk updated councillors regarding the following:

- Code of Conduct training will take place in-house on 27/2 at Hwb Rhuddlan.
- No response from the North Wales Police regarding e-scooters and e-bikes so the Clerk will write to the Police Commissioner for a response.
- No formal response received off Cllr Ann Davies regarding Cllr Mike Elgin's statement at the October meeting.
- Update on MUGA lighting and CPR training.
- Cllr Burnham stated the paving slab has not been repaired and Cllr Beech reported another issue with paving slabs which was promptly resolved by DCC.

Cllr Ann Davies was given the opportunity to verbally respond to Cllr Elgin's statement. She gave Members a refresh of the history of the Station Road and Abbey Road issues. She states that neither she nor Robert Williams arranged the meeting with DCC but she had sent a lot of emails to DCC regarding the issues and that Mr Williams was not formally invited to the site meeting at Abbey Road as stated by Cllr Mike Elgin. Cllr Davies stated that she attended another recent meeting with Officers at Abbey Road and again that Cllr Elgin's facts in the October meeting were incorrect.

Cllr Elgin responded stating that what Cllr Ann Davies had just said did not address the point made in his statement to members in the October meeting. The point was that Cllr Ann Davies had not told the truth regarding Gareth Davies MS arranging the meeting in Abbey Road and that Cllr Ann Davies had accused Cllr Elgin of not telling the truth in front of Councillors and a large number of members of the public. Cllr Elgin stated that he had evidence from Gareth Davies MS that proved the point. Cllr Elgin reiterated that Cllr Davies had not in any way addressed the issue in his statement and had not apologised for making factually incorrect statements to the council and members of the public regarding him. Cllr Elgin stated he was very disappointed with Cllr Davies response.

## 8. Reports from

a. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor had submitted a written report and informed Members that the Treasure Chest Event was rescheduled due to the storm to 14/12 at the Hwb. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that no charge was made for Hwb hire, seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.** Both the Mayor and Deputy added they attended the Carol Concert at St Mary's on 12/12.

**The report was accepted.**

b. The Town Clerk had circulated his report and added the following late items of correspondence.

- DCC have stated that they will not replace the unsafe finger post directional sign on the High Street at the top of Gwindy Street. They have also removed the wrong one. Cllr Beech asked if an insurance claim could be made and the Clerk explained that was not possible in this case. Cllr Kermode proposed that the council get a cost for a replacement sign with an additional finger post for the Spiritualist Centre (at their cost), seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.** Cllr Ann Davies stated that the Town Council funded the original sign purchase.
- Email received from DCC regarding a new consultation on the closure of public toilets in Denbighshire. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed the council strongly argue that there is a need for public toilet in Rhuddlan, seconded by Cllr Ann Davies. **Resolved**

**The report was accepted.**

## 9. County Councillor Reports

Cllr Ann Davies gave her verbal report which included:

- Welcomed and congratulated Cllr Sophie Baker.
- Reported collapsed drain at top of Highlands Road – sorted by DCC.
- Working with a DCC officer Graham White to resolve remaining bin collection issues.
- Investigated pavement issues in Ffordd Nant area – sorted by DCC.
- Very little storm damage in Rhuddlan.
- Had visited a number of people who live alone to see if they were OK.
- DCC library meeting scheduled for Monday 16/12.

Cllr Arwel Roberts had circulated his written report for Members attention and ran through each item.

He highlighted the potential for the Mayor and others to visit Carlow in April when the pan-Celtic festival is held and sign a "Certificate of Friendship" with the town.

Cllr Roberts updated members on freshwater ponds and suggested they may be an opportunity for one at the Cemetery.

Cllr Ivor Beach highlighted that some of the swans had migrated and shared some ideas regarding the dropped kerb issue at the Community Centre.

Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that a Carlow based music band were invited to perform at the Council's summer event, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.** He suggested that the Clerk looks to identify a funding stream to pay for this to happen.

**The report was accepted**

## **10. Planning**

Cllr Arwel Roberts declared an interest as County Councillor on Planning and did not participate in this item.

a. 44/2024/1501/HH - Erection of a two storey extension to side and single storey extension to rear of dwelling and associated works at 16 Tirionfa, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire, LL18 6LT. Proposed by Cllr Mike Kermode and seconded by Cllr Reg Davies that the council has no comments or objection. **Resolved.**

b. 44/2024/1374/HH - Alterations to dwelling including extension to roof to form flat gable to side and flat roof dormer to rear of dwelling at Fron Deg Princes Road, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire, LL18 5RA. Proposed by Cllr Arwel Roberts and seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode that the council has no comments or objection. **Resolved.**

c. EN010137 – Changes to Mona Offshore Wind Farm – received.

## **11. Budget & Finance Matters**

a. The Clerk ran members through the P3 financial summary stating there were no financial issues and spend was on plan to budget.

b. Grant requests were discussed by councillors and:

- The Urdd's Fund for all appeal - Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed a £220 grant, seconded by Cllr Bleddyn Williams. **Resolved.**

- Rhuddlan Scouts - Members were keen to support but the application was not specific enough with no quotes received for any of the work. It was suggested that they are asked to resubmit and the Clerk offered to assist and signpost towards other grants such as Gwynt Y Mor and also from the owner of the Odyn.

- Ysgol Y Castell – Cllr Arwel Roberts declared an interest as County Councillor Governor and did not participate in this item. Cllr Jackie Burnham declared an interest as a she is Chair of Governors but as she is the Town Council Appointed Governor it was confirmed she did not need to declare an interest. This was discussed by members who support the idea but want the defibrillator mounted externally so it is available to members of the public as well as the school at all times. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed the council support this application subject to it being externally located, seconded by Cllr Reg Davies. **Resolved.**

c. It was agreed that Cllrs Jackie Burnham and Ivor Beech would become signatories for the Rhuddlan Charity Account in addition to Cllr Gareth Rowlands.

d. Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed to pay all payments on the payments listing, seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.** Cllr Mike Kermode proposed the Clerk contacts the

Christmas light suppliers to see if he can get a good deal to extend the contract, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

## **12. Community Matters**

None.

### **Part 2 Exclusion of the Press & Public**

By virtue of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press & 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. Cllr Jackie Burnham proposed the council moved to part 2. Seconded by Cllr. Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

The recording was switched off and the member of the public asked to leave

Cllr Ann Davies left the meeting at this point.

### **13. Minutes of the Personnel Committee from 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

The Minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting and Cllr Mike Kermode ran Members through the minutes. Members of the committee agreed they were a true and accurate record. He confirmed that Martin Fearnley had been appointed and had accepted the role of Assistant Clerk starting on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025. **Resolved.**

The Mayor thanks everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

### **18. Date of next meeting – 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025 Full Council Meeting 7pm**

Signed ..... Cllr Val Simmons (Mayor)