



Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the meeting on Thursday 9th January 2025

Hybrid Meeting

Present:

CLlr Val Simmons (Mayor)
CLlr Jackie Burnham (Deputy Mayor)
CLlr Sophie Baker
CLlr Reg Davies
CLlr Mike Elgin (remotely)
CLlr Mike Kermode
CLlr Arwel Roberts (remotely)
Steve Wilson - Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

There was 1 member of the public present.

The meeting was recorded from this point (audio only)

1. Apologies

CLlr Ivor Beech - illness, absence accepted by Council
CLlr Ann Davies – no reason given
CLlr Gareth Rowlands – illness, absence accepted by Council
CLlr Bleddyn Williams – child care issues, 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

None

3. Urgent Matters

None

4. Police Matters

The Clerk took councillors through the crime figures for November. Concerns regarding e-scooters and e-bikes were discussed by Members. It was suggested that the Clerk invites the Police Commissioner to a future meeting to discuss. **Resolved.**

5. Minutes of Town Council Meeting held on 14th November 2024

Subject to adding note regarding the recruitment process for the Assistant Town Clerk in part 2, the minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr Jackie Burnham, seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.** The Minutes were signed by the Mayor

6. Progress Report from Minutes

The Clerk updated councillors regarding the following:

- Code of Conduct training is confirmed for 27/2 at Hwb Rhuddlan.
- Gone out for quotes for the replacement finger post pedestrian sign on the High Street, one quote for £1,170 received so far. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed if the cost is below £1,500 then the Clerk should proceed, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.** The other finger post sign that has been removed incorrectly by DCC should be reinstalled by DCC at their cost.
- DCC Officer Paul Jackson is attending February meeting to discuss public toilets.
- Regarding de-fib for Ysgol Y Castell, the headteacher had informed the council that the school gate could have a padlock with a number code the ambulance service could give out for access if the unit was located on an external wall of the school. This was discussed by Members who preference is for it to be more accessible to residents as well as the school. Further investigation is required.
- Cllr Kermode updated members on the success of the Treasure Chest Christmas Event and that they would like to use the Hwb for regular meetings but are concerned at the £20 cost. He suggested the group could apply for an grant for their operational costs that would fund the Hwb rental.
- Cllr Arwel Roberts highlighted that North Wales Pulmonary Fibrosis Support Group would like to use the Hwb. The Clerk confirmed that they had already been in touch and a grant application form sent to them.
- Cllr Mike Elgin highlighted available grants for warm hubs and whether the council could apply to help support local groups. The Clerk will investigate.
- Cllr Kermode proposed that the Council support local voluntary groups applying for grants for operational costs, Cllr Jackie Burnham seconded. **Resolved.** Cllr Sophie Baker suggested local group should be invited to view the Hwb. The Clerk suggested that the grant availability is promoted locally.

7. Reports from

a. The Mayor submitted a written report and informed members of the success of both Christmas competitions. The nomination process was discussed and it was proposed by Cllr Val Simmons that the six prizes be increased by £5 each for the 2025 competition, seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.** The Deputy Mayor added she had attended the December Market and judging of the Christmas Houses competition. Cllr Sophie Baker suggested using a discreet Google form for future nominations.

The report was accepted.

b. The Town Clerk had circulated his report and highlighted the following correspondence:

- Covid day of reflection on 9th March. This was discussed by Councillors with a Church Service being the obvious thing to do. The Clerk will contact Canon Jayne to discuss. Cllr Sophie Baker suggested a wellbeing walk. Cllr Jackie Burnham proposed it is passed to the Events Committee, seconded by Councillor Val Simmons. **Resolved.**
- Updated councillors on a successful grant application to equip Hwb Rhuddlan with learning equipment.
- Asked councillors to approve new basketball backboards for the MUGA. The replacement was proposed by Cllr Jackie Burnham, seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.** The Mayor thanked the Clerk for his efforts in obtaining various grants for the council.

The report was accepted.

8. County Councillor Reports

Cllr Arwel Roberts had circulated his written report for Members attention and ran through each item. He stated he will share information regarding DCC owned garages and for Members to contact him if they are interested. He had information from Natural Resource Wales from a recent Scrutiny meeting which he would share with Councillors and highlighted concerns regarding skips not being emptied and cars left rotting outside houses. Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed that this discussed further and then reported to DCC to try and resolve these issues, seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.**

The report was accepted

9. Planning

No planning applications to consider.

10. Budget & Finance Matters

a. The Clerk ran members through the forecast spend by cost code for the 2024/2025 budget then proposed the budget by category for 2025/2026. Each proposed budget was accepted with the exception of:

120/4450 Green Community Projects which Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed is increased to £3,000, seconded by Cllr Mike Elgin. **Not Resolved.** Cllr Mike Kermode proposed increasing to £2,000, seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.**

120/4903 Cemetery working Group, Cllr Mike Kermode proposed reducing by £500, seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.**

Cllr Mike Kermode proposed the council accept the 2025/2026 budget of £257,477, seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.**

The precept options were discussed by councillors and Cllr Jackie Burnham proposed that the precept per household is maintained at last years' cost of £116.70/year, seconded by Cllr Reg Davies. **Resolved.**

b. No grant requests to consider.

c. Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed to pay all payments on the payments listing, seconded by Cllr Reg Davies. **Resolved.**

11. Main Sewer Pipe Issues

This was discussed by councillors who were concerned that the pipe is very old and has been repaired many times. Cllr Arwel Roberts stated that some of the concerns of Cllr Ivor Beach were answered in the email from NRW that he will copy to Councillors and at the DCC Scrutiny Committee Welsh Water stated that the sewerage leak was repaired very quickly.

Cllr Val Simmons stated she had received a phone call from a concerned local business owner regarding the issue especially the strong stench.

Cllr Reg Davies stated he reported the issue to the Clerk and that Welsh Water had attended promptly within a few hours. He stated that sewerage was pumping out of the pipe into the river and the smell at the time was terrible. He states that 3 other residents witnessed the issue and that the Engineer had switched off the pump so the flow of sewerage ceased. Cllr Reg Davies was aggrieved that Cllr Ann Davies sent out an email to councillors that appeared to doubt what Cllr Reg Davies had said in stating that this was only a minor issue with no smell, Cllr Reg Davies stated he felt that Cllr Ann Davies's email was undermining what he had said, seen and reported. He believes that Cllr Ann Davies should apologise to him for making him feel like he had stated incorrect information. It was proposed by Cllr Val Simmons that the Clerk should write to Cllr Ann Davies regarding an apology, seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham.

Resolved.

12. Community Matters

Cllr Jackie Burnham:

- Informed Councillors of issues with 2 SID's. Clerk to report to DCC.
- Asked to check if the raised paving slab on High Street by the notice boards had been repaired. Clerk to check.

Cllr Reg Davies:

- Informed Councillors that Scout Leader Royston Williams had retired after 42 years of Service. Councillors agreed to invite him to a presentation at the Hwb and give him a gift. Proposed by Cllr Mike Kermode, seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.**
- Told Councillors that the Vicar Jayne Coxall has been promoted to Canon, it was agreed to send a letter of congratulation. Proposed by Cllr Reg Davies and seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.**
- Reported further graffiti on the by-pass bridge towards the Cob. Councillors discussed this issue and agreed the Clerk will report to DCC
- Suggested that the Council send a letter of thanks to Jessica at the Fei Von for allowing the Christmas tree to be located outside their premises. It was agreed to send a letter be sent. Proposed by Cllr Reg Davies, seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**
- Informed Councillors of a resident who celebrated his 100th birthday over Christmas, it was agreed the Mayor would visit with a gift and card when the address could be located. Proposed by Cllr Jackie Burnham and seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**
- Reported that a resident had complained of the lack of seats on Vicarage Lane path. The Clerk clarified the situation to Councillors.

Cllr Arwel Roberts requested a date for the next community litter pick. The Clerk agreed to set up dates for the year.

Cllr Mike Kermode proposed the council write to DCC to complain the wet weather has made visits to Rhuddlan Cemetery very distressing, ask them what they tell the undertakers prior to funeral bookings regarding the state of the cemetery and update the council on the latest view on when the cemetery will be full. Seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.** He also informed Councillors of a Charity Event on 24th January being held in the Community Centre.

Cllr Val Simmons informed Councillors of a proposed Charity Choir concert being held on the afternoon on 8th March. She also expressed concerns regarding residents being sent home from hospital for end of life care at home.

Cllr Jackie Burnham asked if there were any homeless in Rhuddlan and whether the Hwb could be used as a Warm Hub. Cllr Arwel Roberts stated that the Community Centre is used in emergency situations and homelessness is a DCC issue. This was discussed by councillors and agreed that this needed to be managed by a formal group (not the council) and the Hwb could be made available if required. The Clerk will discuss with DCC.

Cllr Sophie Baker commented that the health care issues are something that only the WAG and UK Government can address and that locals should be looking out for friends, families and neighbours especially during the cold weather.

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.

No part 2 business.

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

13. Date of next meeting – 13th February 2025 Full Council Meeting 7pm

Signed Cllr Val Simmons (Mayor)