Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10th April 2025 at Hwb Rhuddlan - Hybrid Meeting

Present:
Cllr Jackie Burnham (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr Sophie Baker
Cllr Ivor Beech
Cllr Reg Davies
Cllr Mike Kermode
Cllr Arwel Roberts
Cllr Bleddyn Williams
Steve Wilson - Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
Morgan Ditchburn – Assistant Town Clerk
PCSO Alex Jones
Ben Wilcox Jones and Becky Musgrove - Active Travel Plan DCC

There was 1 member of the public present.

The meeting was recorded from this point (audio only)

1. Apologies
Cllr Val Simmons (Mayor)
Cllr Ann Davies
Cllr Mike Elgin

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

2. Declarations of Interest
Cllr Sophie Baker regarding item 4, Cllr Mike Kermode regarding items 11c and 13 and Cllr Arwel Roberts item 10.

3. Urgent Matters
Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed the council allocate £100 to buy gifts from Rhuddlan Town Council to gift to Carlow on his upcoming visit to Ireland. He has created a gift basket of local goods. Cllr Mike Kermode seconded. **Resolved.**

4. Active Travel Plan
Cllr Sophie Baker declared an interest in this item.

Ben Wilcox-Jones refreshed members on actions taken so far by Denbighshire County Council, and the next steps proposed to move the Active travel plan forward. There will be another stakeholder consultation on the 13/5 at Ebeneezer Chapel, from 5:30pm to 8:30pm. All residents will receive notification of the consultation via a leaflet drop with additional promotion on social media. Further engagement will be carried out through classroom-based activities at Ysgol y Castell, along with conversations with parents outside the school.

The focus of the upcoming consultation will be to present a review of the feedback received so far and look at the latest proposals. Concerns previously raised by residents included the potential loss of parking and lack of and narrowness of pavements will be addressed. The original proposals have since been reviewed and revised accordingly, and the updated proposals will be shared for public consideration.

The plans will be made available for Councillors to review. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed the plans are reviewed electronically with feedback given at the face-to-face consultation in May. Cllr Jackie Burnham seconded. **Resolved.**

5. Police Matters

The Clerk provided councillors with an update on crime figures since January. PCSO Alex informed members that between 1/3 and 10/4 there were 79 reported incidents in Rhuddlan However, it was noted that this figure includes all enquiries, not just confirmed crimes. During March, there was one reported burglary, in which nothing was taken; the incident remains under investigation. Only one minor case of anti-social behaviour was reported. Many of the other reports were not crime-related; for example, a single road traffic collision generated nine separate reports.

Alex updated the council on staff redeployment to Prestatyn.

Posters concerning the use of electric scooters have now arrived and will be distributed to local schools. Cllr Reg Davies reported seeing two individuals riding electric scooters at speed on the pavement after working hours. This has occurred at the same time each day, and he witnessed a near-miss as a result. The Clerk reminded all councillors that any such incidents should be reported directly to the police.

6. Minutes of Town Council Meeting held on 13 March 2025

a. Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed the minutes were accurate. Cllr Mike Kermode seconded. **Resolved.**

Cllr Sophie Baker noted that some of her points had not been recorded in the minutes and requested that they be included. The Clerk explained the importance of maintaining brevity in the minutes to ensure they remain clear and manageable in length. A discussion followed regarding the level of detail included in the minutes. Members were reminded that recordings of meetings are kept for six months and that meetings are open to the public to attend in person or remotely.

DRAFT

b. Cllr Mike Kermode ran Members through the minutes of the Library Working Group meeting held on 21st March. He told members that the open day to promote the concept of the "Friends of the Library" group was a success with 35 individuals expressing an interest. Mathew Baker will be taking the initiative forward.
Regarding the Heritage Centre, progress is being made in collaboration with Denbighshire County Council who have provided draft architectural structural drawings. Discussions regarding the ownership and lease of the property will need to be made. The next step involves securing external grants for construction; however consideration is also needed for the ongoing running costs, which will ultimately be funded by Rhuddlan Town Council.

7. Progress Report from Minutes
The Clerk updated councillors regarding the following:

- No commuted sums available for 2025, however, £5,000 will available next year so alternative funds will need to be sought for 2025 biodiversity projects on Admiral's Field.
- Finger post sign – replacement and new one installed. No feedback from DCC regarding the sign they removed by mistake.
- Defib for school has been ordered.
- The Clerk had requested an update from DCC regarding public toilets but has not had a detailed response. Cllr Ivor Beech proposed the Council contact DCC regarding the issue. Cllr Jackie Burnham seconded. **Resolved.**
- Presentation to Scout Leaders: Second gift delivered. The Clerk will arrange a date to do the presentation with the Mayor.
- No response from DCC regarding the communications regarding evening car park charges and advice on repairing the Knights.
- The annual newsletter has been delivered to all residents. If any councillors have not received it then email the Clerk so that it can be checked.
- Permission from DCC to put up the dog waste signs onto lamp posts. Councillors will place signs around the hot spots in town.
- The Clerk was asked to obtain costs for similar signs about e-scooters and e-bikes.
- A date to move the three trees on the town ditch that Cadw wanted to remove has been set for 11/11. This was discussed by members with Cllr Reg Davies objecting to the removal of the trees. Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed to invite a member of Cadw to come to the meeting and explain their reasoning. Second by Cllr Sophie Baker. **Resolved.**
- Internal audit information has been submitted to DCC for internal audit completion.
- Two vandalised SIDs are being assessed for repair.

8. Reports from
a. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor
A report had been submitted to members. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor added they had attended three further events. The report was accepted.

b. The Town Clerk
A report had been submitted to members. He updated members:
On the annual report, that the Election Notice for the Councillor vacancy was published on 31/3 with the deadline of 22/4.
Reminded Councillors that the Community Market is 12/4, Library Meeting 15/4, Events Meeting 22/4 and Information and Website Group meeting on 22/4.
The AGM and VE day service and lighting the beacon take place on 8/5. The Clerk to ask St Mary's if they will provide tea and biscuits after the event.
The Gwledd is taking place on 17/5, and Morgan is working on the Summer Picnic in the Park and Volunteer Fair scheduled for 2/8. The report was accepted.

9. County Councillor Reports
A report had been submitted to members. Cllr Arwel Roberts updated members:
He was very grateful for all the cards received and well wishes he has received. The Treasure Chest made £1,662 at their recent event and noted the hard work put in by some Councillors to make it a success.
On his upcoming Carlow visit and plan to continue with the Twinning process in memory of Gareth Rowlands.
Regarding Denbighshire Leisure: the cabinet has been split so will see what happens.
Public Toilets provision is a concern and that DCC Officer Tony Ward in charge of the issue. He suggested the three towns with potential closures come together to discuss the situation however with DCC not providing requested information, it makes the discussions difficult.
The replacement Pont Llanerch is still an issue, and no solution has been found. That an in-house enforcement team from DCC will be in place to deal with litter and dog waste issues.

10. Planning
Cllr Arwel Roberts declared an interest.
a. 44/2023/0874 - Demolition of existing bungalow and garage and erection of two storey dwelling including first floor balcony to rear, a detached garage and associated works at Edgefield Eton Park, Rhuddlan.
This was previously discussed in early 2024 with no objections. Cllr Bleddyn Williams proposed no objection or comments, Cllr Jackie Burnham seconded. **Resolved.**

11. Budget & Finance Matters
a. Grant Requests

i) Request for Financial Assistance for Easter Egg Hunt - Rhuddlan Library
This was discussed by Members and Cllr Mike Kermode proposed a grant of £200 to enable the event to run over three days with any eggs to go to the food bank. Cllr Reg Davies seconded. **Resolved.**

ii) 2025 Llangollen International Eisteddfod

This was discussed by Members and Cllr Bleddyn Williams proposed a grant of £100. Seconded Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

b. To agree third signatory for the Rhuddlan Charity Account
Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed Cllr Bleddyn Williams, Cllr Mike Kermode seconded. **Resolved.**

c. Approve the payments listing due
Cllr Mike Kermode declared an interest. Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed the payments list is accepted and payments made, Cllr Bleddyn Williams seconded. **Resolved.**

12. Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor elect
Cllr Mike Kermode proposed Deputy Mayor Cllr Jackie Burnham as Mayor elect for 2025/26, Cllr Reg Davies seconded. **Resolved**.
Cllr Jackie Burnham nominated Cllr Ivor Beech as Deputy Mayor elect for 2025/26, seconded by Cllr Sophie Baker. **Resolved.**

13. Wildlife adventure hunt for Rhuddlan Beavers & Squirrel groups - to consider funding
Cllr Mike Kermode and Cllr Arwel Roberts declared an interest.
A wildlife adventure hunt at Rhuddlan Nature Reserve involving Rhuddlan Beavers and Squirrels was shared with Members that would cost £250 to put on. Cllr Bleddyn Williams proposed that the Council fund the event, Cllr Reg Davies seconded. **Resolved.**

14. Community Matters
Cllr Arwel Roberts: Nature Reserve - failed to get extra parking. Suggestion to have wildflower garden over that area instead. The reserve will also participate in Wales in Bloom this year as will the Community Centre for the first time.
The sign showing the map of Rhuddlan near the car park on Parliament Street is in terrible condition. Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed Clerk write to DCC to inform them and get the sign replaced. Cllr Bleddyn Williams seconded. **Resolved.**

Cllr Ivor Beech highlighted concerns over the condition on the approach to Rhuddlan either side of the bridge and proposed the landowner is contacted with some photos to ask for the area to be made tidy. Cllr Arwel Roberts seconded. **Resolved.**
The Clerk will visit the area and get photos to support the letter.

Cllr Sophie Baker shared concerns regarding the ongoing issue of public toilets and informed members that she is attending training on public asset transfer to understand the process fully.

Cllr Mike Kermode reminder Members of the VE event taking place on 3/5 at the Community Centre.

DRAFT

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 Mike Kermode proposed the Council move to part 2, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

The member of the public left the meeting.

15. Review reasons for apologies

The reasons for the three apologies were shared with members. Cllr Sophie Baker proposed that all three are accepted by Council, seconded by Cllr Bleddyn Williams. **Resolved**

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

16. Date of next meetings:

AGM on Thursday 8th May 2025 and Full Town Council meeting Thursday on 15th May 2025.

Signed …… Cllr Val Simmons (Mayor)

DRAFT