



Rhuddlan Town Council

Full Council Hybrid Meeting

Thursday 11 September 2025

Present:

Cllr Jackie Burnham (Mayor)
Cllr Ivor Beech (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr Sophie Baker
Cllr Reg Davies
Cllr Mike Elgin
Cllr Mike Kermode
Cllr Gloria Lambert
Cllr Arwel Roberts
Cllr Val Simmons
Steve Wilson - Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
Morgan Ditchburn - Assistant Town Clerk
Kate Thew - Council Liaison Officer

Cllr Ann Davies via Zoom

There was 2 members of the public present.

The meeting was recorded from this point (audio only)

1. Apologies

None received.

Reminder that Councillors to send apologies to either the Clerk or Mayor.

2. Declaration of Interest

Cllr Val Simmons – Item 11.

Cllr Ann Davies – Part 2, item 16.

3. Urgent Matters as Agreed by the Chairperson

No matters arisen.

4. Rhuddlan Active Travel Scheme

Postponed until November

5. Kate Thew - City, Town and Community Liaison Officer

The City, Town and Community Liaison Officer position was established in May to strengthen partnerships between local communities and the County Council. Since taking up the role, the officer has been visiting town councils to introduce herself and to act as the main link between them and the county. A meeting has been arranged for 29 September, with two representatives from each town council invited to attend. This will provide an opportunity to meet the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council, hear a presentation, take part in a Q&A session, and network with others. In addition, a programme of training sessions has been organised to support knowledge sharing, with topics so far including climate and nature, internal audit, and procurement. Further sessions will be developed based on suggestions received. Council members introduced themselves. Cllr Arwel Roberts stated the Town Council need more support from the County offices regarding the issue with the public toilets as they are not working in partnership with the Town Councils. He would like the County Council to come in and speak with the Town Council directly regarding the situation with the toilets. Kate Thew will discuss the possibility of arranging a meeting.

Cllr Reg Davies stated he has been asked by the council are not disclosing where the new Travellers site will be located. Kate Thew stated that as far as she is aware, nothing has been agreed yet but she will raise the question but the site may still be confidential. Cllr Ann Davies stated the location will be disclosed when the application for the site will be submitted.

Kate Thew left the meeting at this point.

5. Police Matters

No Police Officers in attendance. The Clerk ran through the crime data. The police have asked to review the CCTV for the library on one occasion.

6. Minutes:

a. Town Council Meeting held on 10 July 2025

Proposed Cllr Mike Kermode, seconded Cllr Reg Davies. **Resolved.**

The Mayor duly signed the minutes.

b. Committee and Working Group meetings held since last meeting (Library/Heritage Centre held on 25/6 & 8/9 and Events Committee 17/7 & 2/9 2025)

Heritage Centre & Library Group: The meeting on 25 June was a progress meeting. Good progress has been made with the library and the Friends of the Library, and there is a great deal of positive work being done. The Heritage Fund and application was also discussed. This group followed a twin-track approach. The first track followed the sustainability of the library, the other to establish a heritage centre next to the library. The Council will fund the 40% gap in hours until 31 March 2028, and the Friends of Rhuddlan Library has been a great step forward. The Heritage Centre intended both to provide a town museum/centre and to help sustain the library. Plans had been drawn up by DCC, with figures of around £740,000 given, but this only covers the building and not the internal works and fitting. The Heritage Fund has been approached, but they are not supportive of new builds, preferring instead to fund the repurposing of existing buildings. Cllr Mike Kermode stated he is stepping back

from the project, feeling he has taken it as far as he can. He suggested the two groups need to separate so each can function effectively, and that the Heritage Centre group should be re-formed with those who wish to take the project further, possibly with additional stakeholders. The Mayor expressed concerns about attaching a Heritage Centre to the library given the uncertainty over the library's future, and also about the costs from DCC. She confirmed she would not support a new build. Cllr Sophie Baker noted she had kept up to date with the minutes and discussions, and thanked Cllr Mike Kermode for his work. Cllr Mike Elgin felt the project may not go ahead, citing awareness of the costs, while Cllr Arwel Roberts agreed with Cllrs Mike Kermode and Mike Elgin, opposing the new build and suggesting that repurposing an existing building would be a better approach. It was therefore proposed that the idea of a museum/heritage centre be retained, but that the new build should not continue, with the project to be resumed if a suitable building for repurposing is found. Proposed by Cllr Arwel Roberts, seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.**

A new Heritage Centre Committee was formed with members Cllr Arwel Roberts, Cllr Sophie Baker, and Cllr Gloria Lambert. Cllr Mike Kermode thanked DCC for their assistance with the plans.

Events Committee: Focus on Picnic in the Park, next year's date is Saturday 1 August 2026. Next year there will be contractors taken on to help move the tables and chairs etc, and to help clear up. The event was successful this year.

Cllr Gloria Lambert suggested asking scouts, brownies, local cadets etc to help set up.

Remembrance Day was discussed along with the plan.

The Mayor thanked all who helped assist in the Picnic in the Park. Next year, we need more people to help assist the event.

Proposed Cllr Val Simmons, seconded Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

Twinning: Cllr Arwel Roberts has invited Carlow to the Mayor's Civic Service in December and also the event in St Asaph Cathedral. The Clerk will formally invite Carlow to the events.

7. Progress Report from Minutes

Clerk updated councillors regarding the following:

- Page 2, no. 6. The Urdd are in contact with Claire and they will be in touch with the Youth Group about Welsh language.
- No response from Cadw regarding a site visit for the trees.
- Active travel will be November.
- Second custodians for De-fibs should have received emails to those who nominated. Councillors said they have received no emails about them. Clerk to chase up.
- Clerk sent notes regarding 20 mph to 30mph to DCC and had them acknowledged, but no formal response yet.
- Hwb has been made available for play sessions and it was successful.
- Sent a letter to Pengwern Farm to thank them for the bales.
- Applied for Community Grant Scheme for lighting on the trail and it was successful.

- Library SLA has been amended as requested, and the Mayor will sign it.
- One Voice Area Community - Deputy Mayor will attend the conference and AGM in October.
- Cllr Ann Davies gave an update on the Park y Llong trees and ownership of boundaries discussed. Clwyd Alyn have agreed to cut the tall trees. The boundaries and tree ownership was quite complex and there will be a meeting to discuss it further.

8. Reports from:

a. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor had submitted a written report which was accepted by members.

Both written reports were accepted.

b. The Town Clerk - Correspondence and Project report

The Clerk had submitted a written report. He added that:

- A couple of SIDS had been damaged. DCC have asked if they are in the correct location and could they be placed elsewhere which would mean less damage.
- Email from resident querying what the Town Council's plan to resilience environmental upheavals. The Town Council feels it is a general comment, and they need clarification as to what specifically they referring to. There are several plans in place, but need to know what they are specifically referring to so they can send the information.
- A letter was received from a resident who recently lost their partner. They would like to donate a De-fib to the town. They would like the Town Council to help identify a location. Cllr Mike Kermode suggested the Nature Reserve as they do not have one in that area, but there was a question regarding electricity supply. Cllr Ann Davies suggested the Pentre Lane area. It was suggested to approach the Catholic Church. Proposed: Cllr Mike Kermode, seconded Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.** The Town Council will assess Pentre Lane and the Nature Reserve separately.
- Email received from an American Welsh museum that would like to twin with the town as their town is named after an area in Rhuddlan. Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre is based in Wymore, Nebraska, and is named after Wymore Villa in Rhuddlan.
- The bin in Vicarage Lane is suffering from fly tipping as people are putting household waste in the public bins. The person who empties it is getting frustrated with it and would like to know what the council would like to do about the bin, and if the bin should the bin be removed. Other councillors have identified other areas where this is a large problem. There are people fly-tipping at the local public bins. Proposal by Cllr Jackie Burnham not to remove the bin as it will create further problems. **Resolved.**
- Cllr Reg Davies reports people are complaining from the Gwindy Street area as there is no dog bin. One is needed in the area.
- The secretary from Owain Glyndwr Society asking if something could be done for Owain Glyndwr Day. A Facebook post will be shared on the day. qhwn
- Dates: Market Saturday 13 August, Remembrance Sunday 9 November, Mayor's Civic Service Sunday 7 December, Christmas Carols Saturday 20 December.

9. County Councillor Reports

Cllr Ann Davies and Cllr Arwel Roberts submitted written reports.
The written reports were accepted.

10. Planning

Nothing has been submitted.

11. Budget & Finance Matters

a. Grant Requests

i) Friends of Rhuddlan Library

Discussion on the Friends group and the events they have hosted so far. All have been well supported and attended. Hoping next year to fund craft packs for events and as well as continue to put on events for the local community supporting the library.

Proposed by Cllr Mike Kermode, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

b. Approve the September payments listing due

Councillors reviewed the payment listing. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed, Cllr Val Simmons seconded. **Resolved.**

c. Receive and review ½ year accounts

Discussion on the payments and spending so far. Currently the Town Council are in a good financial position. There are no issues identified.

12. Donation of a Community Defibrillator

Discussed under Item 8.b

13. The Rhuddlan and Rhyl Relief in Need Charity Number 246542

The charity was set up a long time ago. The Charity Commission have been in touch as there is no activity taking place on the account therefore, they state the charity should fold. The charity was set up to provide grants for people in emergencies. £794 is currently in an Abbey National account that was last used 2013. The Trustees are happy to work together to release the money as the commission states it needs to be active or fold. The Trustees can decide what to do with the funds when they are released. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed they wind up the charity and make good use of the money. Cllr Arwel Roberts seconded. **Resolved.**

14. Community Matters

Cllr Sophie Baker: Had one query about when the next Active Travel update will take place. Mayor stated the public can attend the next meeting that they will attend in November if they wish an update.

Cllr Gloria Lambert: She has been contacted about overnight lorry parking near cemetery in the layby as some locals are not happy. There is no sign stating no overnight parking.

The Clerk will contact the Highways for clarification.

Cllr Mike Kermode: There have been complaints of speeding around Highlands Road. He asks if the council can explore the idea of a local speed group and would like it brought up when the police next attend a meeting. The Clerk has already contacted Sgt Ewan regarding the process for setting up a local group.

Cllr Val Simmons: Cllr Val Simmons lives on Highlands Road and she has received a letter from Gareth Davies MS that he is invited the residents to discuss the issue of speeding. The Council has not been approached about this or invited. The Mayor requested that the Clerk write to the MS to express disappointment at Mayor not being invited to the meeting as the Town Council should be made aware of the meeting.

Cllr Reg Davies: Has received complaints about an overloud car on the bypass every day and early evening. It's an extremely loud exhaust and the car is backfiring, which is scaring residents and animals. Also, a white line is needed on Gwindy Street junction as there will be an accident because there is nothing to warn drivers. The Clerk has reported it in a previously so will chase up.

Cllr Arwel Roberts: RSPCA have a good programme on responsible dog ownership. He thinks the Town Council should approach them to discuss working with them in the Biodiversity meeting. The Clerk will contact.

Cllr Ivor Beech: Attended Pengwern College and had a positive visit.

Cllr Jackie Burnjham: The Hwb will host a First Aid for Adults course, which is open to everyone and has been promoted to the locals.

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 Arwel Roberts proseed, Cllr Mike Kermode seconded. **Resolved.**

The members of the public left the meeting and the recording was stopped.

15. Review reasons for apologies

No apologies to review.

16. Aelwyn Morgan Award

Four nominations received. Voting took place and a winner was identified.

16. Date of next meetings:

Thursday 9 October 2025.

Signed Date:.....
Cllr Jackie Burnham (Mayor)