



Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the meeting on the 12th September 2024

Hybrid Meeting

Present:

CLlr Val Simmons (Mayor)
CLlr Jackie Burnham (Deputy Mayor)
CLlr Ivor Beech
CLlr Reg Davies
CLlr Mike Elgin
CLlr Mike Kermode
CLlr Arwel Roberts
CLlr Gareth Rowlands
CLlr Bleddyn Williams
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 Ann Davies

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 item 15, CLlr Reg Davies –agenda item 16b/c and CLlr Val Simmons – agenda item 16b/b

3. Urgent Matters

The Mayor congratulated CLlr Arwel Roberts on being appointed Vice Chairman of Denbighshire County Council.

4. Police Matters

The Police sent their apologies and the Clerk run the council through the crime figures for May and June. A member reported an issue that the Clerk agreed to pass onto the Police Team.

5a. Minutes of Town Council Meeting held on 11th July 2024

The Minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr Gareth Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.** The Minutes were signed by the Mayor

b. The Minutes of the Events Committee meeting held on 16nd July 2024

Cllr Mike Kermode run through the minutes. Cllr Val Simmons proposed council acceptance of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

c. The Minutes of the Library & Museum Working Group meeting held on 11nd July 2024.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands run through the minutes. The main point was it being a Heritage Centre rather than a Museum. Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed council acceptance of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

6. Progress Report from Minutes

The Clerk updated councillors regarding the following:

- Complaint to Cwybr Fawr Partnership – no further action.
- Response to lack of gardening maintenance was discussed, Cllr Jackie Burnham proposed it is discussed at a future meeting, seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. **Resolved.**
- Discussion on other DCC activities that may need council intervention was discussed including financial pressure on residents. Agreed as previous point to discuss at a future meeting.
- Response from the DCC CEO had been received and forwarded to councillors.
- Next foraging event 28/9 after the first one was cancelled.

7. Reports from

a. The Mayor had submitted a written report and added she had visited with Cllr Arwel Roberts, residents in Pentre Lane regarding waste collection issues.

The Deputy Mayor's reported she had attended the Picnic in the Park Event, a charity fashion show, recruitment meetings and presented the Women of the Year awards at the Rhuddlan Slimming Group event. **Both reports were accepted.**

b. The Town Clerk had circulated his report and noted that several items that need Members approval.

- The Rhuddlan Dragons have identified a safety issue regarding hollows where the line markings are on Admiral's Field. They have offered to do the rectification work if RTC purchase the top soil and seed at a cost of approximately £360. Cllr Jackie Burham proposed the council fund, seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

- Updated members on an ‘unowned’ dog waste bin overflowing in Gwindy Street. The Clerk had got it emptied and stated annual costs of a twice monthly empty would be £156. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed the council fund and Cllr Arwel Roberts seconded. **Resolved.**
- Cllr Gareth Rowlands had obtained some DCC dog waste signs for use in problem areas that can be attached to lamp posts. Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that the council put them up, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**
- Updated members on household waste in council maintained waste bins. Waste issues were discussed by councillors including a suggestion that bins could have narrow openings to prevent this and issues with fly tipping in rural field gateways.

8. County Councillor Reports

Cllr Arwel Roberts had circulated his written report for Members attention. In addition he stated he had met with Mr Gethin Morgan from the North Wales Regional Partnership Board at a DCC Scrutiny Committee meeting and had encouraged him to meet with the Rhuddlan Dementia Group.

Two councillors passed on further concerns regarding the bin collection situation not improving and the increase in fly tipping. **The report was accepted**

9. Assistant Clerk Recruitment

Cllr Ivor Beech explained his concerns with the way the recruitment was debated at the July Council meeting. Cllr Mike Kermode chair of the Personnel Committee clarified that the correct process was being followed. This process was agreed by councillors at the July meeting, without any votes against the proposed arrangements.

10. Update regarding meeting with DCC on Finance and Partnerships

The Clerk took councillors through the summary of the meeting (pre-circulated). Councillors empathised with DCC’s financial challenges and discussed the information and stated it should be considered as part of the council’s annual budget planning process.

11. Public Toilets

The latest information received off DCC regarding accurate costs of running the toilets is not sufficient for the council to debate and make any decisions. This includes condition surveys of the buildings and footfall. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed the council inform DCC that the council are unable to make a decision as it does not have sufficient accurate information, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

12. Active Travel Plan

Cllr Mike Egin took councillors through concerns a member of the public had noted about the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July 2024. Councillors discussed this and Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that the council notes the discussion with the member of the public and welcome his observations. The minutes do not need any alteration but the council confirms that they are not working hand-in-hand with DCC because the Active Travel is a DCC project.

The town council's role is to help facilitate consultation with relevant stakeholders. This was seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

13. One Voice Wales guidance on the Six Month Rule

The Clerk took councillors through the guidance document. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed the document is adopted, seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved**

14. Planning

a. 44/2024/1211/HH - Demolition of existing garage and outbuildings to rear. Erection of single storey rear extension, formation of additional parking to front and associated works at Fairfield, 17 Vicarage Lane, Rhuddlan, LL18 2UF – The council had no objections or comments to make regarding this application. Cllr Arwel Roberts declared a personal interest and did not participate in this item.

15. Budget & Finance Matters

a. Review of external audit 2022/23 report.

The Clerk took councillors through the 'Qualified' audit report in detail and explained the actions taken to rectify the identified issues. The council accepted this update.

b. Grant Requests

a) **Samaritans NE Wales** – application for £100 towards providing this service in North Wales. Cllr Jackie Burnham proposed approval of the grant, seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.**

b) **Bethan Jones Singing Tuition** – application for £257 toward holding a local competition. Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed no grant is given as this is a business and the council does not give grants in these circumstances. Seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. Cllr Val Simmons declared an personal interest in this item. **Resolved**

c) **St Mary's Church** – application for £1,700 towards supporting community events such as School Events, Civic Events, Artisan Fairs and floodlighting of the church. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed grant of £1,250 be awarded. Seconded by Cllr Ivor Beech. Cllr Reg Davies declared a prejudicial interest and left the meeting whilst this was discussed. **Resolved.**

d) **Positive Action For Strokes** – application for £1,075 to fund activities at the club for one year. Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed the grant is given, seconded by Cllr Mike Elgin. **Resolved.**

c. Payments List

The list was proposed for approval by Cllr Gareth Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

16. Community Matters

Cllr Reg Davies expressed concerns that the Vicarage Lane car park is always full. The Clerk agreed to discuss the issue with DCC.

Cllr Arwel Roberts reminded members about the potential twinning with Carlow in Ireland and the Clerk will put on the October agenda.

Cllr Mike Kermode reminded members of two upcoming Dementia Group events.

Cllr Ivor Beech reminded members of the upcoming Behind the Gate event.

Cllr Val Simmons highlighted the Scottish Power site at Barrfield Road needs further maintenance.

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 moved to part 2. Seconded by Cllr. Jackie Burnham.

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

17. Minutes of the Personnel Committee 10th July 2024

The Minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting and Cllr Mike Kermode updated the council that of the 4 shortlisted candidates for the Assistant Clerk position, 2 had pulled out prior to the interviews and that Hayley Gibbons has been offered the position subject to the receipt of satisfactory references.

18. Aelwyn Morgan Award 2024

The council received 5 nominations and councillors voted Mrs Maggie Thompson- Williams as the 2024 recipient. The award will be presented before the October council meeting.

18. Date of next meeting – 10th October 2024 Full Council Meeting 6.30pm

Signed Cllr Val Simmons (Mayor)