

Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of Cemetery meeting on the 26th October 2023

Present:

Cllr Mike Kermode (Mayor of Rhuddlan)
Steve Wilson (Rhuddlan Clerk)
Cllr Adrian West (Deputy Mayor Prestatyn)
Cllr Jacquie McAlpine (Mayor of Rhyl)
Gareth Nickels (Rhyl Clerk)
Dave Parry (Chair of Dyserth)
Cllr John Roberts (St Asaph)
Jill Ellison (St Asaph Clerk)

1. Apologies

None.

2. Declaration of Interest

None given

3. Cllr Mike Kermode welcomed everyone and run through his document 'New Cemetery for North Denbighshire' He summarised Rhuddlan's current position and actions taken to date:

- a. Only 3 years of burial space left at Rhuddlan cemetery, no space in Rhyl so when full, residents are likely to use Prestatyn cemetery which is difficult to get to unless you have the use of a car.
- b. Rhuddlan cemetery has serious flooding issues.
- c. Previously identified a site but was not for sale. Long Langford has offered to assist but needs details of suitable soil etc.
- d. Rhuddlan Council has previously provisioned a £5k budget to fund exploring options and that a new cemetery was on the previous town plan and will be on the next one when published.
- e. Denbighshire County Council are not willing to consider a new cemetery due to the capacity at other Denbighshire cemeteries.

Cllr Mike Kermode asked the other councils for their views and whether they would be willing to work together to facilitate a new cemetery for the area. The views are summarised below.

4. Cllr Jacquie McAlpine and Gareth Nickels, Rhyl:

- a. There a transport difficulty getting from Rhyl to the Prestatyn cemetery and if you can get a bus there is a 2hr gap between bus services.

- b. Rhyl Council have been looking at the issue since 2004 and struggled to find any suitable land due to the water table. Eventually identified 2 sites on Bryn Cwnin Road and costed up proposals. DCC voted against taking it forward but promised to include in the next LDP. This did not happen.
- c. Rhyl Council want DCC to include in the next LDP and to canvass DCC to find land and provide a new cemetery.
- d. A question was asked regarding sufficient cremation capacity and the discussion concluded there did not appear to be an issue.
- e. Rhyl are keen to participate in this group but would have to get council to approve the provision of any budget to fund further investigations.
- f. That DCC were good at obtaining grants and this could prove beneficial for any future projects.
- g. Questioned whether Towyn and Kinmel Bay Council should be invited to join the group and they have no cemetery and have always used the facility at Rhyl.
- h. Rhyl TC would not run a cemetery as it was too complicated and time consuming. DCC should run any future cemetery.

5. Dave Parry Dyserth:

- a. Dyserth had purchased an parcel of land near to Voel Coaches 50m x 100m with the intention of creating a cemetery. Approached DCC and they stated that the soil conditions made it unsuitable for burials but would be OK for the interment of ashes.
- b. The Bodrhyddan Estate wanted to buy the land back for housing development but Dyserth council decided to retain the land.

6. Cllr Adrian West, Prestatyn

- a. Issue has not been discussed in the last 3 years and is currently not a concern.
- b. Appreciates that it could become an issue as Rhuddlan and Rhyl residents use Prestatyn cemetery thus reducing the life of the cemetery.
- c. Thinks that Prestatyn Town Council will support the group putting pressure on DCC to resolve the issue.

7. Cllr John Roberts and Jill Ellison, St Asaph:

- a. Thinks that St Asaph City Council will support the group putting pressure on DCC to resolve the issue.
- b. Re-confirmed the complexity for a town council to manage a cemetery.
- c. Stated that St Asaph have no budget provisioned linked to cemeteries.

8. General comments made and discussed included:

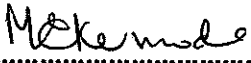
- a. Whether the public wanted a new cemetery in the area.
- b. The need to determine the specific requirements for a new cemetery and obtain expert advice.
- c. Family plots at existing cemeteries.
- d. Cost of living issues when considering any costs.

- e. The requirement to budget funds to investigate options to resolve the issue. Rhuddlan had previously allocated £5k which equates to £3 per resident/yr.
- f. Ratio of burials to cremations needs to be understood and that undertakers in the area could be asked. Generally, UK figures state a 25% burial and 75% cremation.
- g. County Councillors should not be involved in the group until a proposal to take to DCC is developed.
- h. Asking an expert organisation to present via Zoom to this group.

9. The next steps were agreed as follows;

- a. Any appropriate information regarding cemeteries should be emailed to the Rhuddlan Clerk who will share with the other councils.
- b. The minutes will be shared with all councils and each council to discuss with their councils and feedback at the next meeting to be arranged in December.

10. Cllr Mike Kermode thanked everyone for attending and looks forward to working together to resolve this issue.

Signed  Cllr Mike Kermode (Mayor)
26/10/23.

