



Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the meeting on the 9th February 2023

Hybrid Meeting

Present:

Cllr Mike Kermode (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr Jackie Burnham
Cllr Ann Davies (virtual)
Cllr Reg Davies
Cllr Arwel Roberts
Cllr Gareth Rowlands
Cllr Val Simmons
Cllr Bleddyn Williams
Town Clerk
Clerical Assistant/Minute Clerk

Members were informed that the meeting was being recorded, audio only.
There were 2 members of the public present along with PCSO Barry Williams

1. Apologies

Cllr Mike Elgin (Mayor), Cllr Rob Williams
Cllr Mike Kermode (Deputy Mayor) chaired the meeting
PCSO Philip Roberts

2. Declaration of Interest

None offered

3. Urgent Matters

None

4. Police Matters

PCSO Williams stated the police have targeted Highlands Road & Princes Road in relation to speeding but had not found any excessive speeding issues. More streets will be targeted in the next 3 to 4 weeks. Members suggested that times around returning home from work be targeted in addition to the morning and afternoon school run times. The following streets were suggested as targets, A525 by Sainsbury's to Ysgol Dewi Sant, New Road, Dyserth Road, and the A547 entering Rhuddlan from Meliden. PCSO Williams will take forward the suggestions.

The police had received complaints about vehicles not stopping at the High Street pedestrian crossing when lights are on red and asked Members for their observations. Two Members reported similar issues had been brought to their attention.

A Member reported seeing a vehicle using the Church Street car park for what could be abuse of a local vulnerable person, and an incident at a caravan causing criminal damage had not been identified on recent police reports. PCSO will investigate both these issues.

Another Member reported the presence of a white transit van parked on an informal layby on the Abergele Road as you leave Rhuddlan going towards Abergele. It has some damage to the front of the vehicle and has been there for about 3 weeks. PCSO Williams will investigate. Cllr Mike Kermode wanted to make the police and Members aware that an issue at his property was dealt with in a very professional and efficient manner.

PCSO Williams was thanked for his attendance and report, then left the meeting.

5. Minutes

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Subject to 2 minor amendments, the minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr Gareth Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

The minutes were duly signed

6. Matters Arising

- a. **Code of Conduct Training** – Two Members reported attending and highlighted the statutory nature of this training. The Clerk had already reminded Members who have not yet attended of the next available dates. After a discussion regarding the legal obligation to attend it was agreed that the monitoring officer will be asked for confirmation on the timescales for Members attendance post-election and the consequences of not attending.
- b. **Dog Fouling Signs** – Members noted that there was a lack of signage on Rhyl Road, in the dip, heading towards Sainsbury's. Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that DCC be formally asked to provide more signage in this area, seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.**
- c. **Tree Debris in River** – the written response from NRW has been received and circulated to Members by email.
- d. **Cemetery** – The Clerk reported that DCC have confirmed an officer will provide a report on progress for the March and April meetings then attend the May meeting.
- e. **Electricity Costs** – The Clerk is in receipt of revised electricity quotes from suppliers which have shown a reduction. The council will be moving to British Gas.
- f. **Commuted Sums** – grant claim submitted and acknowledged.
- g. **Vicarage Lane hedge works** – the work order has been signed and Members discussed delaying the work whilst recent correspondence from Cadw is considered. It was proposed by Cllr Gareth Rowlands that the work proceed as it is maintenance above ground. Seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**
- h. **Gwindy Street potholes** – repaired.

7. Correspondence from:

a. The Mayor

Particular mention was made of the Fei Von Chinese restaurant donating a community food project to celebrate Chinese New Year involving 2 local groups at the Community Centre. This had proved very successful. Members noting that the owners should be commended for this act of generosity.

The report was accepted.

b. The Town Clerk & Town Plan update.

The Clerk had circulated his report in advance of the meeting and read through the various items of correspondence and project updates from the town plan.

Elements of the report were discussed - in particular:-

- Letter from Urdd Gobaith reference providing activities in Rhuddlan which will trigger a grant uplift to £500 as previously agreed, if confirmed.
- Cadw correspondence received regarding the placement of trees and benches on the Rhuddlan Town Banks contravening the Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Act 1979. Members were informed that a site meeting with Cadw had been arranged for Friday 17th February to discuss a way forward. It was agreed that the Mayor, Cllr Reg Davies and the Clerk attend. Proposed by Cllr Jackie Burnham, seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved**
- Information had been circulated about the Shared Prosperity Fund which has a minimum grant value of £250k. Potentially there could be a smaller grants scheme emerging in the future.
- Various project updates included – the imminent provision of the SID's, the Community Centre road directional signs, and the plan for the circulatory path around Admiral's Field. Members decided to continue the Hwb delegated powers provision for the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Cllr Gareth Rowlands as it forms part of the Hwb project work. **Resolved.**
- It was proposed by Cllr Arwel Roberts, seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham that the suggested removal of the tree and hedge should proceed. **Resolved.**
- After a discussion on the planting of a tree near the bowling club on Admirals Field, it was agreed that a letter should go to the Bowling Club stating the Council's thanks for the tree but informing them to discuss with the Town Council prior to planting any further trees. Proposed by Cllr Jackie Burnham, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**
- The Clerk updated Members on the remaining Hwb items including the public toilets cleaning contract with DCC, waste collection by DCC, door signage, heating remote control provision, and the continued lack of Wi-Fi provision.
- The Hwb opening was discussed, a previous resolution had agreed a date of March 1st and that this date decision remains valid for 6 months. Some Members were suggesting a Saturday opening should be considered to allow more participation and awareness. After a lengthy discussion it was proposed by Cllr Arwel Roberts, seconded by Cllr Reg Davies that the opening on March

1st should involve pupils from Ysgol Y Castell to participate, along with the Urdd, Welsh language performers, and any older residents groups. Cllr Jackie Burnham offered an amendment that Cllr Robert's proposal becomes the official opening, and a Saturday opening be arranged for residents. Seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

The report and project update were accepted

8. County Councillor Reports

- a. Cllr Ann Davies gave a verbal report which included news on the Pentre Lane electricity power cut resolution, result of meetings with DCC officers reference the cemetery, drainage issues on New Road, and the continuing wild meadow issues particularly a meeting with DCC to discuss future sites in Rhuddlan. This was a heavily debated issue, and it was agreed that more accurate information should be provided by DCC for the next Council meeting to enable a response from RTC to be formulated. Noting the nearness of the deadline for comments and the DCC officer emails not being received in a timely fashion, it was proposed by Cllr Jackie Burnham, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts, that a letter be sent to Graham Boase, Emlyn Jones, and Jason McLellan requesting the deadline be extended. **Resolved.**

The report was accepted

- b. Cllr Arwel Roberts had circulated his written report and congratulated Cllr Ann Davies on the wild meadow work. Cllr Roberts took the opportunity to inform Members of an event as Chair of DCC at the Rhuddlan Fei Von restaurant on April 27th 2023.

The report was accepted

9. Mayors Newsletter

The Clerk had circulated a drafted newsletter for Members to approve along with the costs of printing & delivering it to Rhuddlan households to showcase Council's work. Printing was £312 and delivery £320 making a total cost of £632. Cllr Bleddyn Williams requested his middle name be changed from Rees to Rhys and Members asked that a section of the newsletter be placed in the parish magazine. Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed the costs be approved, seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.**

10. Events Committee Minutes.

The Deputy Mayor explained that two meetings had taken place on January 24th. One was to review the Christmas Carol Event held on 18th December, and the other a public open meeting to give local groups the opportunity to discuss any future events they might be considering in 2023 to determine if they required any financial support from the Town Council.

- a. Review of Christmas Carol event – The rotary float referred to is from Prestatyn, not Rhyl. Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed that after this amendment being made the minutes are an accurate recording of the meeting. Seconded by Cllr Val Simmons.

Resolved

The 2023 event will be held on December 16th

- b. Public Open Meeting – proposed as an accurate record by Cllr Arwel Roberts, seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.**

Members were informed that Council is not financially supporting street parties but is encouraging streets to organise if they so wish. One application for financial support had been received to date which will be reviewed at the next Events Committee meeting.

There then followed a discussion on what if anything Town Council would like to organise for the Kings coronation. Cllr Ann Davies proposed that Council engage a professional company to erect bunting from the nature reserve to the golf club roundabout but not crossing the highway. Seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.**

Cllr Jackie Burnham proposed that a best dressed business and best dressed house & garden be organised, along with a commemorative water bottle. Seconded by Val Simmons. **Resolved.**

Cllr Ann Davies proposed a best King & Queen Competition be organised which she will judge with the assistance of Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.**

In summing up Cllr Kermode requested that an article be placed in the parish magazine and that the next events committee meeting is on Thursday 2nd March.

11. Town Plan

Cllr Mike Kermode presented a suggested methodology to review the current town plan, and to begin the preparation of a new town plan. After a short discussion Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed the methodology be approved, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

12. MUGA Lighting

The Clerk reported that two tenders have been received and one is outstanding for change to LED lighting with a control provision built in to make it easier to alter the frequency of operation. Members were reminded that there is already a budget provision of £10k for this matter and Cllr Gareth Rowlands explained the timing of the proposed works in response to a Members question.

13. Review of Policies

a. Financial Regulations – there were two changes agreed. 3.2 *No expenditure may be incurred that will exceed the amount provided in the revenue budget for that class of expenditure* shall have “unless approved by the Council” added. Under *Contracts* the phrase *Each tendering firm shall be supplied with a specifically marked envelope* be replaced with something more suitable to contemporary times.

The Clerk confirmed that Council does have a Register of Assets.

b. Code of Conduct – no changes but Members again raised concerns about the statutory nature of attending the training in a certain timeframe which is to be confirmed with DCC. The training policy currently states six months.

c. Local Resolution policy - no changes required but Members noted that the use of this policy is being actively encouraged and the council agreed to ask the monitoring officer whether the policy was suitable and to the required standard.

14. Planning

No application received

15. Budget & Finance

- a. Grant Applications – none received
- b. Payments List – This had been previously circulated and the Clerk read through the various payments with particular attention being made to the recent reduction in electricity costs for the MUGA. Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed the list be approved, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

16. Community Matters

- a. Cllr Reg Davies reported that somebody had issues purchasing entrance tickets to the castle on the day. The Clerk understood that the prepaid tickets are for an annual pass and that Cadw state that day tickets can be purchased with cash on the day. He suggested that Members should try themselves and report back. Following a discussion on local residents free ticket passes Members agreed to circulate information of free passes which can be obtained at the library.
- b. Cllr Burnham wished to report road surface damage on Princes Road near the Odyn
- c. Cllr Arwel Roberts asked for volunteers to help with a raffle stall the community market on February 18th.
- d. Cllr Mike Kermode had concerns about the Parliament Street car park ticketing machine instructions which many residents are finding confusing, in particular, how to change from one language instruction to another. Members agreed to write to DCC to try and resolve this. **Resolved.**

There were no Part 2 Matters to be considered

17. Date of next meeting – 9th March 2023 Full Council Hybrid Meeting 7pm

Signed.....Cllr Mike Elgin (Mayor)