



## **Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the meeting on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

### **Hybrid Meeting**

#### **Present:**

Cllr Val Simmons (Mayor)  
Cllr Jackie Burnham (Deputy Mayor)  
Cllr Ivor Beech  
Cllr Ann Davies BEM  
Cllr Reg Davies  
Cllr Mike Elgin  
Cllr Mike Kermode  
Cllr Arwel Roberts  
Steve Wilson - Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer  
Hayley Gibbons – Assistant Clerk

There were approximately 20 members of the public present in person and a reporter from the Rhyl Journal on Zoom.

The meeting was recorded from this point (audio only)

The council stood for one minute's silence to remember previous Assistant Clerk Paul Smith who sadly passed away recently.

#### **1. Apologies**

Cllr Gareth Rowlands – illness, absence accepted by Council  
Cllr Bleddyn Williams – away with work, absence accepted by Council.

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 14.

### 3. Urgent Matters

Resignation of Cllr Rob Williams.

The Mayor read out the resignation letter from Mr Williams followed by a personal response to the resignation letter. Cllr Ann Davies was invited to give her response to the resignation, as did the two previous Mayors, namely Cllr Mike Elgin and Cllr Mike Kermode. Other councillors shared their views and the members of the public were invited to ask any questions. One member of the public asked about the statement that the Ombudsman expects councillors to have a “thick skin” and this was explained by a councillor and the Town Clerk. There were no further questions from members of the public.

Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that the Town Council totally refutes the allegations made in the resignation letter and that it writes to Mr Williams to remind him that if he has any evidence to make any formal complaints, as itemised in his resignation letter, then these should be sent to the Local Government Ombudsman. Cllr Kermode added that the council should invite Denbighshire County Council’s Standards Committee to randomly attend any council meeting and report their findings back to the Monitoring Officer. Seconded by Cllr Mike Elgin. 6 votes in favour and 2 votes against. **Resolved.**

### 4. Police Matters

The Police sent their apologies and the Clerk ran the council through the crime figures for July and August.

The Mayor introduced Hayley Gibbons the new Assistant Clerk to Councillors.

### 5a. Minutes of Town Council Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024

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

**5b. The Minutes of the Library & Museum Working Group meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024.** Cllr Mike Kermode took members through the minutes and asked members of the group whether they were an accurate record. **Resolved.** He also explained the aims and objectives of the group for the benefit of members of the public present.

### 6. Progress Report from Minutes

The Clerk updated councillors regarding the following:

- Reminded councillors regarding “partnership with DCC” meeting needs to be held prior to Precept setting for next year.
- The Clerk has written to DCC regarding lack of sufficient information in relation to the public toilets on Princes Road.
- Chased DCC regarding improvements to Vicarage Lane Car Park. Cllr Ann Davies updated councillors on the situation and proposed meeting with BCUHB and our MS regarding this issue and also the lack of health provision in Rhuddlan. Cllr Arwel Roberts agreed and seconded the proposal. Cllr Mike Kermode reminded the car

park is owned by DCC and it is a DCC issue. Cllr Ann Davies will update the council at the November meeting.

- Cllr Arwel Roberts informed councillors that the Twinning project will be postponed until 2025.

## **7. Reports from**

a. The Mayor had submitted a written report and added she had also attended the Dementia Group Dance, Litter Pick, and St Marys Church Harvest Service. She reminded members of her Charity Evening on 23/11 and Civic Sunday on 8/12.

The Deputy Mayor added she had participated in the Foraging event at Rhuddlan Nature Reserve.

**Both reports were accepted.**

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

- Request by Cllr Arwel Roberts that a letter of congratulation is sent to the organisers of Behind the Gate. Proposed by Cllr Ivor Beach who informed members that the event was a huge success and raised over £18k that will benefit 8 local charities. Seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**
- Informed councillors of 33% increase in the cost of funding the free car parking in Parliament Street. Members discussed and it was proposed that a survey is carried out with businesses, High Street users and Community Centre users whether this is having a positive impact and therefore value for money. Members also highlighted the impact to Community Centre users and hospitality businesses of the charges being up to 11pm. Proposed by Cllr Mike Kermode, seconded by Cllr Ann Davies. **Resolved.**
- Agreed to purchase cooking equipment and utensils for Youth Club. Proposed by Cllr Mike Elgin and seconded by Cllr Ann Davies. **Resolved.**
- Email from DCC asking for all councillors to refresh their code of conduct training. Cllr Ann Davies proposed the Monitoring Officer be invited to carry out the training in one session for the whole council, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**
- The Clerk warned councillors regarding a risk in getting an unmetered electricity supply for town's Christmas lights.

## **8. County Councillor Reports**

Cllr Ann Davies apologised for not preparing a report due to personal circumstances.

Cllr Arwel Roberts had circulated his written report for Members attention. He thanked everyone who participated in the recent litter pick. Members brought up further issues with waste collection.

**The report was accepted**

## **9. Budget & Finance Matters**

a. The Clerk ran through the financial report for the 7 months up to end October 2024. He stated that spend was in line with the council budgets.

b. The payments listing was presented and Cllr Ann Davies asked for clarification of the Clerk's salary payments and travel expenses. The acceptance of the payments listing was proposed by Cllr Mike Kermode and seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved**

## **10. Planning**

a. 44/2024/1304/HH - Installation of an Air Source Heat Pump at MEANDER, ABERGELE ROAD, RHUDDLAN, DENBIGHSHIRE, LL18 5UE. No comments and no objection

b. 44/2024/1314/PF Change of use of garage to a shop and general retail (Use Class A1) at ASH MOTORS MARSH ROAD, RHUDDLAN, DENBIGHSHIRE, LL18 5UB. The council have no comments nor objections and support this application.

c. 44/2024/1346/HH- Erection of a flat roof dormer to rear of dwelling at DELFRYN, ETON PARK, RHUDDLAN, DENBIGHSHIRE LL18 2UP. No comments and no objection.

## **11. Bench located on River Bank**

The Bench that was unsafe on the river bank was discussed by councillors. The bench is owned by the council and been removed and stored by Denbighshire County Council. The Clerk to find where the bench is and it can be stored in the area behind the Hwb for safety until it can be relocated.

Cllr Ann Davies left the meeting at this point.

## **12. Draft Reserve Policy**

The Clerk shared a proposed Reserve Policy and Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that the council adopt the policy, seconded by Cllr Mike Elgin. **Resolved.**

## **13. Community Matters**

Cllr Ivor Beech updated members on alternative proposals involving a group of local farmers to maintain the river to reduce the potential for flooding. The Clerk stated he will ask Natural Resource Wales to attend a future council meeting and involve the MS. Cllr Beech also updated Members regarding the success of the Behind the Gate charity event and thanked everyone who supported the event.

Cllr Mike Kermode mentioned a library questionnaire will be shortly available in all DCC libraries. He suggested that the Council publicised it. The Clerk to contact Mathew to obtain details. He also informed members that a Dementia awareness leaflet will be delivered to every household in Rhuddlan in October and reminded Members of the Dementia Film event being held in Prestatyn next week.

Cllr Jackie Burnham mentioned some recent flooding on the Dyserth Road where DCC had carried out recent improvements. Cllr Ivor Beech stated he had met with DCC Highways two weeks ago regarding flooding between Dyserth and Rhuddlan. He stated the Officer was excellent but there were budget constraints impacting the work.

Cllr Jackie Burnham stated that one Welsh flag was still flying, but the other had come off the pole and was hanging limp over the turret wall.

Cllr Reg Davies expressed concerns regarding adults on e-scooters on the High Street pavement at going home time. Cllr Mike Elgin proposed the Clerk write to the Superintendent at North Wales Police with details requesting urgent action. Seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts.

**Resolved.**

Cllr Arwel Roberts reported he had given his opinion on e-bikes to Radio Cymru and the lights are off at the Castle. The Clerk will contact Cadw.

Cllr Val Simmons highlighted an issue with waste and another issue regarding a blind resident struggling to find somewhere to walk her dog. Cllr Reg Davies offered the use of his field.

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

**18. Date of next meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024 Full Council Meeting 6.30pm**

Signed ..... Cllr Val Simmons (Mayor)