



Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the meeting on Thursday 13th February 2025

Hybrid Meeting

Present:

Cllr Jackie Burnham (Deputy Mayor and Chair of this meeting)
Cllr Val Simmons (Mayor) (remotely)
Cllr Sophie Baker
Cllr Ann Davies (remotely)
Cllr Reg Davies
Cllr Mike Elgin
Cllr Mike Kermode
Cllr Arwel Roberts
Cllr Bleddyn Williams
Steve Wilson - Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

PCSO Alex Jones and Neighbourhood Sergeant Iwan Hughes
Police Commissioner Andrew Dunbobbins (remotely)

There was 1 member of the public present.

Cllr Jackie Burnham paid tribute to Cllr Gareth Rowlands who sadly passed away on 12th February. Councillors, staff and other attendees stood for a minute's silence.

The meeting was recorded from this point (audio only)

1. Apologies

Cllr Ivor Beech – Household Emergency, absence accepted by Council

The Deputy Mayor welcomed all present and reminded Councillors to follow the Code of Conduct and be respectful to other Councillors.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Arwel Roberts (item 10 planning) and Cllr Reg Davies (item 14 Community Centre parking)

3. Urgent Matters

None

4. Police Matters

The Police Commissioner and two Police Officers were welcomed to the meeting. Sergeant Iwan Hughes introduced himself as the new Neighbourhood Sergeant and reinforced that community policing was a clear priority for his team

Andy Dunbobbin gave Councillors an update on e-scooters and e-bikes including incident rates and stated the issue is one of his main priorities for this term. PSCO Alex Jones shared with Councillors the local schools educational project regarding raising awareness to children and parents of e-scooters. Crimes statistics for Nov 2024 to 12th Feb 2025 were shared, There were 69 incidents in Rhuddlan compared with 433 in Prestatyn and 1,368 in Rhyl. Councillors and the Police Team discussed other issues including dog fouling, cars parking on pavements, staffing levels, prosecution rates, CCTV and drugs. The importance of correctly reporting crimes was highlighted as police resource is allocated based on reported data.

The Police stated that parking on pavements was a DCC enforcement issue and that incidents should be reported to DCC. Ian Dunbobbin offered to write to DCC to encourage them to take enforcement action. Cllr Ann Davies will supply the Clerk with the complaint areas and he will forward to the Police Commissioner on this occasion.

PCSO Alex Jones agreed to send the training materials to Cllr Jackie Burnham.

Councillors thanked the police team for their attendance and information provided.

5a. Minutes of Town Council Meeting held on 9th January 2025

Subject to amending the date of the previous meeting the minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr Mike Kermode, seconded by Cllr Mike Elgin. **Resolved.** The Minutes were signed by the Mayor. Cllr Sophie Baker questioned the requirement to give the council a reason for absence as her recent One Voice Wales training had said this was not required due to data protection issues. This was discussed by Councillors and Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that the council review the OVW documentation at the next council meeting, seconded by Cllr Mike Elgin. **Resolved.** Cllr Ann Davies added that the ONW Code of Conduct training is important for all new Councillors.

5b. Other Minutes

Cllr Mike Kermode ran Councillors through the minutes of the Library Working Group and they were accepted. **Resolved.**

Cllr Mike Kermode ran Councillors through the Events Committee minutes which were accepted by the council. **Resolved.** Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed that the Certificate of Friendship with Carlow is taken forward, seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

Cllr Val Simmons proposed that the date of the full Council meeting for May is changed from 8th May to 15th May to allow councillors to attend the VE80 Church Service, seconded by Cllr Mike Elgin. **Resolved.** The Clerk reminded Councillors that the AGM will still be held on 8th May.

6. Progress Report from Minutes

The Clerk updated councillors regarding the following:

- Replacement fingerpost sign ordered.
- DCC Officer Paul Jackson sent his apologies and will now attend the March Meeting to discuss public toilets.
- Suggested that local groups are invited to view Hwb during the Summer Event on 2/8.
- Cllr Jackie Burham suggested that a defib is installed on the external wall at Ysgol Y Castell and the gate padlock has the same code as the de-fib cabinet. This was discussed by Councillors and Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed the council go-ahead, seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.** Cllr Ann Davies wanted it minuted that she did not agree to this proposal due to the time taken to get to the defib for people living outside of the school.

- Cllr Arwel Roberts asked for a list of Hwb Users. The Clerk agreed to put up a monthly calendar on the Hwb Notice board which will show this.
- Backboards delivered for MUGA and precept letter received by DCC.
- The 2 SIDs are still not working have not been repaired. Clerk will escalate to DCC and requested the help of our two County Councillors to expedite.
- Gift to Royston Williams will be presented at the March Meeting
- The litter pick was poorly attended but worthwhile as a lot of litter was removed from the town.
- Letter to DCC regarding cemeteries sent but no response received yet.
- Regarding Sewer issue, letter sent to Cllr Ann Davies as requested and response from Cllr Ann Davies sent to Cllr Reg Davies.

Cllr Ann Davies updated Councillors by reading out the statement response from Natural Resource Wales. Cllr Reg Davies responded stating he did not dispute what Cllr Ann Davies had said but had disagreed with her saying that there was no smell, he told Councillors that he was the first person on the scene and that the smell was terrible and sewerage was running down the side of the bridge and would have seeped into the river, he had three witnesses. He stated he felt that Cllr Ann Davies was accusing him of telling lies. Cllr Ann Davies responded stating she spoke to the Engineers in passing, she could not smell anything and they said it was not going into the river as was minuted. Cllr Reg Davies stated he didn't say it was going into the river but seeping into the ground and could enter the river as a result. Cllr Ann Davies said the Clerk had minuted that it was seeping it to the river. Cllr Reg Davies stated he had only said seeping into the ground and would eventually leak into the river. Cllr Ann Davies responded stating she is entitled to her opinion and that she did not smell anything, she asked that the Clerk include the NRW statement in the minutes (see appendix 1) Cllr Sophie Baker stated that councillors should be allowed to give their opinions on issues and that it is positive that the incident was resolved quickly by NRW and Welsh Water.

7. Reports from

a. The Mayor submitted a written report and informed Councillors that she had not attended many of the Community Centre Trustee meetings as they have changed the meeting dates or cancelled on a number of occasions meaning that the Mayor was unable to attend. The Deputy Mayor added she participated in the Community Market. **The report was accepted.**

b. The Town Clerk had circulated his report and highlighted the following correspondence:

- Reminded councillors that there was no money allocated to Rhuddlan in this year's commuted sums but the council could still apply if there were any unallocated funds. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that an application is made for biodiversity improvements on Admiral's Field, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**
- The state of the Knights was discussed by Councillors. Cllr Ann Davis suggested that Countryside Services are consulted in the first instance. Cllr Mike Kermode suggested that the sculpturer is also contacted. Clerk agreed to contact both. Cllr Reg Davies offered to collect and store the loose items until they can be repaired.
- The Clerk informed councillors that permission from DCC for a fingerpost pedestrian sign could be installed on Rhyl Road directing people to the Hwb, toilets, Admirals Field etc. Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed the sign is purchased and installed, seconded by Cllr Reg Davies. **Resolved.**

- Cllr Ann Davies highlighted awards that Abbey Farm had received and asked if the council should send a letter of congratulations. This was discussed by Councillors. Cllr Ann Davies proposed a letter is sent to Abbey Farm, seconded by Cllr Sophie Baker. Cllr Mike Elgin proposed an amendment that the council acknowledge their success in the minutes but do not send a letter as it could alienate other businesses in town that have also won awards but not been sent a letter of congratulations, Cllr Mike Kermode seconded the amendment. **Resolved.** Cllr Ann Davies voted against the amendment.
- **The report was accepted.**

8. County Councillor Reports

Cllr Arwel Roberts had circulated his written report for Councillors attention and ran through key items. Councillors discussed damage to trolli-boxes and residents having to pay and also the four week emptying cycle of general waste causing issues. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that the Council write to DCC regarding these two issues, seconded by Cllr Mike Elgin. **Resolved.**

The report was accepted

No report from Cllr Ann Davies

9. Planning

- 44/2025/0005/HH - Erection of a single storey extension to rear of dwelling at 16 Clos Y Berllan, Rhuddlan. Discussed by Councillors and it was proposed by Cllr Mike Kermode, seconded by Cllr Bleddyn Williams that the council have no objection or comments to this application. **Resolved.**
- 44/2025/0013/HH - Alterations and erection of extensions to dwelling at Pen Y Lon Dyserth Road, Rhuddlan. Discussed by Councillors and it was proposed by Cllr Mike Kermode, seconded by Cllr Bleddyn Williams that the council have no objection or comments to this application. **Resolved.**
- 44/2025/1505/HH – Erection of a single storey side extension to dwelling, conversion of loft space to form additional living accommodation including the erection of dormer extensions and associated works at 9 Conwy Avenue, Rhuddlan, LL18 5PW. Discussed by Councillors and it was proposed by Cllr Mike Kermode, seconded by Cllr Bleddyn Williams that the council have no objection or comments to this application. **Resolved.**
- 44/2025/0044/HH – Alterations and erection of a two storey orangery style extension to rear of dwelling at 8 Hoel Hendre, Rhuddlan, LL18 5PG. Discussed by Councillors and it was proposed by Cllr Mike Kermode, seconded by Cllr Bleddyn Williams that the council have no objection or comments to this application. **Resolved.**

Councillors discussed allocating a Council Member to view and advise the council on planning applications but no proposal made to change the existing process. The Clerk will ensure planning applications are sent to Councillors as soon as they are received so they can prepare by visiting each application site.

10. Budget & Finance Matters

- The grant application from The Theatr Bara Caws was discussed by Councillors. Cllr Ann Davies proposed a £100 donation, not seconded. Cllr Bleddyn Williams proposed a £200 donation providing they are asked to perform in Rhuddlan at a future date, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. Cllr Mike Elgin proposed an amendment that they are not awarded a grant but asked to perform in Rhuddlan for

which the council would pay them for. The amendment was not seconded so Councillors voted on Cllr Bleddyn Williams proposal. **Resolved.**

- b. The Clerk informed Councillors that his Laptop needed replacing as it is obsolete and not working properly, he also stated that Paul Smith's laptop had been returned but is obsolete. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that the Clerk purchase a replacement laptop with the latest Windows operating system and that he is allowed to dispose of the previous assistant's laptop due to it being obsolete, seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.**
- c. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed the payments listing is approved, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**
- d. Cllr Mike Elgin expressed concerns regarding Cllr Ann Davies request to have visibility of the Clerks travel and expenses. This was discussed by Councillors and the Clerk agreed to ensure all councillors were copied on a monthly basis

11. Christmas Lights

The Clerk updated Councillors on the extension proposal from Blachere which would save the council £405/yr for three years and that the council could change its lighting display in 2026. Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed that the contract with Blachere is extended for three years, seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

12. Hwb Storage

Councillors discussed storage issues at the Hwb caused by the amount of equipment stored by the Dragons Football Club and the Youth Club. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that an additional container at a cost of approximately £2,325 plus £295 delivery is purchased and located adjacent to the MUGA away from the car park, seconded by Cllr Mike Elgin. **Resolved.**

13. Community Centre Car Parking

Cllr Ann Davies updated Councillors regarding this issue. Councillors discussed the impact to the Community Centre and users of the recently introduced evening car parking charges. Cllr Reg Davies declared an interest and did not participate. Cllr Ann Davies proposed that the Council write to DCC highlighting the close link between the Centre and the car park and request that charges after 6pm are reviewed, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

14. Annual Newsletter to Residents

This had already been shared with Councillors and it would be delivered by Royal Mail. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that the newsletter is printed and delivered to all residents and businesses in Rhuddlan, seconded by Cllr Mike Elgin. **Resolved.**

15. Community Matters

Cllr Reg Davies requested the Clerk writes to Cadw to get the Welsh flag raised for St Davids Day.

Cllr Sophie Baker raised dog fouling as an issue and stated she has a list of hot spots and would like to update residents on what actions can be taken. Cllr Ann Davies stated she has reported incidents to DCC to get the pavements cleaned and said that residents should be encouraged to report incidents to DCC Customer Services direct. Cllr Arwel Roberts updated Councillors regarding dog waste bags distribution.

Cllr Mike Kermode shared a email from a resident regarding world Parkinsons Day and lighting up buildings in Blue, Cllr Kermode had shared the Castle's and Church's contact details with the resident.

Cllr Ann Davies left the meeting.

Cllr Jackie Burnham suggested that the council could view the CCTV at hotspots which was discussed by Councillors. Cllr Jackie Burnham informed Councillors that Ysgol Y Castell is 90 this year and it was suggested that Ysgol Y Castell approach the Council Events Committee.

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.

No part 2 business.

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

16. Date of next meeting – 13th March 2025 Full Council Meeting 6.30pm

Signed Cllr Val Simmons (Mayor)