



Rhuddlan Town Council Meeting

Minutes of the Hybrid Meeting on Thursday 13 March 2025

Present:

Cllr Val Simmons (Mayor)
Cllr Jackie Burnham (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr Sophie Baker
Cllr Ivor Beech
Cllr Reg Davies
Cllr Mike Elgin
Cllr Mike Kermode
Cllr Arwel Roberts
Cllr Bleddyn Williams
Steve Wilson - Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
Morgan Ditchburn – Assistant Town Clerk

There was 1 member of the public present and Steve Gunning from North Wales Police. The Mayor welcomed all present and thanked Cllr Jackie Burham for chairing the February meeting.

The meeting was recorded from this point

1. Apologies

Cllr Ann Davies

2. Declarations of Interest * See page 2

Cllr Mike Elgin - Rhuddlan Bowls Club Grant (item 10.a.c)
Cllr Arwel Roberts – as above (item 10.a.c) and Planning (Item 9a)

3. Urgent Matters as Agreed by the Chairperson

The Clerk shared a RTC tribute to Cllr Gareth Rowlands that will go into Rhuddlan mag.
Resolved.

4. Police matters

The new Community Beat Manager, Steve Gunning, attended the meeting and provided an update. Between the 1/2 and 12/3 there were 22 incidents reported in Rhuddlan, compared to nearly 200 in Rhyl. A rise in calls regarding shoplifting at the retail park has been noted. He emphasized that they are open to being contacted about any issues and are eager to engage in community policing.

Cllr Reg Davies asked if reports are anonymous, as some elderly residents have concerns. Steve Gunning reassured everyone that all reports are anonymous.

The Clerk shared the December Crime figures with the councillors.

The issue of policing e-scooter activity was discussed, and Steve Gunning acknowledged the challenges, assuring that attention would be focused on it.

Cllr Sophie Baker agreed with Cllr Mike Elgin regarding a recent incident on Dyserth Road that was mentioned on social media. Steve Gunning was not aware of the incident but will enquire and provide feedback. **Resolved.**

Steve Gunning left the meeting.

5.

a. **Minutes of Town Council Meeting held on 13 February 2025**

The minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr Mike Kermode, seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.**

b. **Minutes of any Committee and Working Group meetings held since last meeting**

Cllr Mike Kermode ran Councillors through the minutes of the library meeting held on 18/2. Councillors accepted the minutes as a true record. **Resolved.** Cllr Mike Kermode reminded councillors that there is £8,000 in the 2025/26 budget for Town Plan projects including the development of Heritage Centre. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed the working group are authorised to spend the money on Design consultancy etc. Seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.**

Cllr Jackie Burnham ran Councillors through the Biodiversity Meeting held on 20/2. Councillors accepted the minutes as a true record. **Resolved.** Cllr Jackie Burnham has now taken over as chair from the Mayor. She stated that the committee had met with Officers from DCC and shared two ideas to improve biodiversity at Admirals field, one was a scrape with a wetland wild garden and the other was the planting of pollinators. Cllr Jackie Burnham clarified that any proposed changes would be drawn up and shared with the council.

6. **Progress report from minutes**

The Clerk updated councillors regarding the following:

- Parking on pavements - no detail has been provided yet.
- Reminder that AGM is on 8th May – short meeting followed by a VE day service at the St Marys Church.
- Finger post will be installed week commencing 24th March.
- DCC have stated that the sign that they took down by mistake at the top of Vicarage Lane will not be replaced unless the Town Council pay. The issue has been escalated to County Councillors for action.
- Defib at school - work in progress.
- DCC Officers were unable to attend the March Council meeting and asked if the council want an extraordinary meeting. Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed the Council write to the DCC cabinet lead for an update, seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**
- Presentation to Scout leaders: Proposed do a joint presentation for service. Scout Leader Royston Williams had retired after 42 years of Service. Derek Hayes

has done 50 years of service. Proposed by Cllr Val Simmons that the Clerk purchases a second award, seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

- Saturday's litter pick has been postponed as there is a party on at the Hwb at the same time.
- Repair of Knights Sculpture: the sculptor doesn't get involved in repairs therefore awaiting advice from DCC.
- NO response from DCC regarding charging for damaged bins and trolli-boxes.
- The Clerks laptop has now been replaced.
- The Clerk has renewed the Christmas lights contract for a further three years.
- The container for Dragons has been ordered.
- A letter has been sent to DCC regarding the impact of evening parking charges is having on users of the Community Centre.
- The Newsletter has been printed and, once the bill has been paid, they will be delivered.
- Cadw raised the flag on St David's Day. Cllr Reg Davies proposed we write to Cadw to thank them, seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.**

7. Reports from:

a. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor

The Mayor had submitted a written report. The Mayor added that she attended the Community Centre Trustees meeting and ran members through what was discussed. It was reported that Martyn's law will come into place that could impact council run events.

The report was accepted.

The Deputy Mayor Jackie Burnham added, she had attended a School Governors meeting at Ysgol Y Castell.

b. The Town Clerk – Correspondence and Project Report

The Town Clerk had submitted a written report. He added that:

- The insurance policy for the council has been renewed.
- A resident contacted the Clerk about lack of dog waste bins at Twthill. This was discussed by Councillors. Cllr Sophie Baker will send the Clerk a list of hot spots. Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed a poo bag dispenser is installed at the gate to Twthill, seconded by Cllr Sophie Baker. **Resolved.** Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that the Council ask DCC whether RTC can put up the dog waste signs on lamp posts and if so RTC would put them up, seconded by Cllr Sophie Baker. **Resolved.**
- Update on Cadw matters: Dr Fiona Grant has enquired about tree removal from the ditch. She has been invited to observe the removal of the remaining three trees as requested.
- Update on Hwb equipment: All numeracy equipment has arrived. The Hwb is now a training centre with new interactive Smart TV, 20 new Chromebooks, new chairs, printing station and cabinets.

The report was accepted.

8. County Councillors' Reports

The Mayor stated it was great to see Cllr Arwel Roberts in attendance. Cllr Arwel Roberts thanks everyone for all the get well wishes. Cllr Arwel Roberts provided a verbal report. He shared information regarding a report on improved DCC working with town councils, Castle Street drainage

issues and provided an update regarding the Nature Reserve including the engagement of children via the Beavers and Squirrels groups. He stated that the library will be displaying information on Philip Jones Griffiths in the room named after him and that Bryn Castell has been sold for a development of flats and housing. He confirmed that DCC Active Travel Officers have asked to attend the next council meeting.

9. Planning

- a. 44/2024/1583/PC - Siting of a container to house a biomass boiler with flue and attached fuel store (retrospective application) at Thorncliffe Building Supplies Station Road, Rhuddlan, LL18 5UA.

Retrospective application. Cllr Reg Davies proposed no objection or comments, seconded by Cllr Bleddyn Williams. **Resolved.**

10. Budget & Finance Matters

- a. Grant requests:

- a. North Wales Pulmonary Fibrosis Support Group

The application was discussed by Councillors and Cllr Mike Kermode proposed a grant of £300, seconded by Cllr Reg Davies. **Resolved.**

- b. Treasure Chest Breast Cancer Support

The application was discussed by Councillors and Cllr Jackie Burnham proposed a grant of £300, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

- c. Rhuddlan Bowls Club.

Cllrs Mike Elgin and Arwel Roberts declared an interest and left the meeting whilst this was discussed. Cllr Reg Davies proposed granting £775, seconded by Cllr Bleddyn Williams.

Resolved. The clerk was asked to get clarification off the club regarding the process for loaning the equipment for other groups.

- d. SSAFA, the Armed Forces Charity

The application was discussed by Councillors and Cllr Val Simmons proposed a grant of £100, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

- b. Cllr Jackie Burnham proposed that the Clerk is authorised to set up a standing order to pay the salary of the Assistant Clerk, seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.**
 - c. Councillors discussed the appointment of its Internal Auditor. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that DCC are used, seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.**
 - d. The Clerk ran councillors through the end of year payments and receipts summary. This was discussed by Councillors. He stated that overall spend was 76% of allocated budget and was in line with what was expected at Precept setting time. The Mayor thanked the Clerk for his work on the accounts.
 - e. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that the payments listing is approved, seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.**

11. Committees Vacancies

The following changes were discussed and agreed:

Cllr Sophie Baker to join Library and Heritage Working Group and tourism.

Cllr Val Simmons to join Admirals Field

Cllr Val Simmons to join CCTV.

Cllr Jackie Burnham to join Nature Reserve.

Cllr Bleddyn Williams to join Events Committee
Cllr Ivor Beech to come off Events due to a calendar clash.

12. Membership of One Voice Wales – 2025/26

The renewal of membership to One Voice Wales was discussed by Councillors. Cllr Jackie Burnham proposed the council renew its membership for the coming year, seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.**

13. Apologies process for councillors

The Clerk shared legal advice from One Voice Wales regarding the process. Councillors discussed the process and Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that apologies are noted at start of meeting, with any reasons discussed in Part 2, seconded by Cllr Mike Elgin. **Resolved.**

14. Community Matters

Cllr Mike Kermode: Council Tax bill received from DCC with cost breakdown. He noted the Town Council part was the only one not increasing.

Cllr Sophie Baker: Update on dog waste and will share hotspot list with clerk.

Cllr Bleddyn Williams: Congratulated Steve, patron of the New Inn, who has taken over the Golf Club kitchens.

Cllr Ivor Beech: Noted the bereavement of Tracy Ann Thomas, a well-regarded young community member who recently passed away.

Cllr Arwel Roberts: Reported on wooden staging available at Ebenezer Chapel for community use. Suggested viewing for potential events.

Cllr Reg Davies: Noted that scout leaders' awards should be presented simultaneously.

Cllr Jackie Burnham: Reported bin relocation in the park and creation of a community herb garden.

Cllr Val Simmons: Raised issue of electric car charging points at the castle only being available during castle opening hours. These are the only charging points in Rhuddlan. Clerk tasked with writing to DCC about promised charging points for Rhuddlan town.

Cllr Mike Elgin questioned usage given expense and availability elsewhere. Cllr Mike Kermode noted previous plans for charging points in the library car park when it was thought to be council-owned.

Part 2. Exclusion of press and public. By virtue of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and 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

15. Date of next meetings:

- Full council meeting scheduled on Thursday 10th April 2025

Signed Cllr Val Simmons (Mayor)

Steve Wilson - Town Clerk 07775 673706 clerk@huddlantowncouncil.gov.uk

DRAFT MINUTES