



Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the meeting on the 8th September 2022

Hybrid Meeting

Present:

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

The Mayor welcomed all present and asked that due to the recent passing of Queen Elizabeth II that those present stand and observe a two minute silence.

1. Apologies

Cllrs Bledwyn Williams, Rob Williams. Cllr Ann Davies apologised as may not be able to attend the whole meeting.

2. Aelwyn Morgan Award

Before presenting the award the Mayor delivered a resume of how the award had come into existence, and details of Brian Taylor's outstanding community work over several years. Especially during the recent Covid pandemic and creating Love North Wales. The nomination by Sue Butterworth was also read out. In attendance was some of Brian's colleagues from Rhuddlan Men's Shed who he supports.

The award was presented to Brian Taylor and a bouquet of flowers to his wife Sara.

Brian Taylor thanked the Council for the honour and all members of the public then left the meeting

PCSO Phil Roberts was present along with Joe Lunn Prestatyn GP Practice Manager and Dr Eastwell a Prestatyn GP.

3. Declaration of Interest

None declared

4. Urgent Matters

The Mayor informed Members that he intended to deal with a Council response to the Queen's death as an urgent item later in the meeting.

5. GP Issues in Rhuddlan

The Mayor introduced Joe Lunn and Dr Eastwell who had agreed to provide an update on the situation at Rhuddlan Surgery. Members were asked in turn, to put any questions they may have. This led to a lengthy and meaningful debate on many issues which included Rhuddlan's population of over 80's, lack of GP's at Rhuddlan's surgery, appointment booking system, transport issues, staff recruitment issues, overstretched operational issues, triage services, the large number of patients registered, and the delivery of future vaccines.

One Member voiced concerns that many of these issues are national and well documented by the media on a daily basis and asked what can Rhuddlan Town Council do to support the practice in trying to solve them? Both representatives were appreciative of the support shown and a future idea may revolve around the transport of Rhuddlan residents to Prestatyn by community volunteers. It was noted that this wouldn't happen overnight but perhaps there was a partnership approach between the Practice and Town Council that could be created.

The Mayor summarised the discussion, then thanked both Joe Lunn and Dr Eastwell for their attendance from their busy jobs, reminding them that if Council can do anything to support them contact the Town Clerk in the first instance.

Both representatives then left the meeting.

Members were informed that the meeting was being recorded, audio only.

6. Police Matters

PCSO Phil Roberts had now returned to operational duties and proceeded to present a report on August incidents and crimes. New Councillors since the election were introduced to the PCSO. There were 8 incidents in total ranging from social media scams to burglary, and 2 x assaults. In several cases during investigation it was found that no further action could be taken due to lack of evidence or victims not wanting to pursue charges. Cllr Beech joined the meeting at this point.

During September there had been a report of arson in Gwindy Street and an investigation is continuing.

Members discussed the reoccurring issues of cyclist riding on river footbridge, efficiency and operational procedure of CCTV, and a letter found on St Mary's church door.

The police are asking that Members encourage residents to sign up for the Community Alert system so that a Rhuddlan local alert can be created as opposed to a N Wales wide alert which should prove more useful for residents. A link to the site will be sent to the Clerk for distribution to Members.

The Clerk highlighted that a defibrillator outside the police station had been taken to a road traffic accident by the police but no notification had been given to the Welsh Ambulance Service circuit so that its deployment could be registered. Likewise when returned they should be notified so as to signify its return and potential availability in an emergency. Regular

monitoring takes place of all the defibrillators and that is how this deployment was discovered. The PCSO will pass this on to his supervisor.

A Member reported a young lady present in the community centre building who appeared to be homeless, sleeping within Aldi curtilage, and asking for help. The PCSO was not aware of this and Members were asked to pass on any information on this lady to try and get the proper assistance she may need.

The Mayor thanked PCSO Phil Roberts for his attendance and update who then left the meeting.

Cllr Ann Davies left at this point.

7. Minutes

Town Council Meeting 14th July 2022

Two amendments were made. Item 14 Welsh Language. Cllr Burnham proposed Cllr Bleddyn Williams as the Council's Welsh Language champion. Item 18 Community Matters ref Vicarage Lane overgrown hedges. Remove the last sentence.

Subject to the amendments, the Minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr Jackie Burnham, seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

The minutes were duly signed

8. Matters Arising

Town Council Meeting:-

- a. **Cyclists on footbridge** – A Member asked for a review of the cycle route and its guidance/rules. Agreed to discuss with traffic management at the meeting on Weds 14th September.
- b. **Free Parking** – commenced on September 1st at Parliament St car park for 1 hour. The Clerk explained how it operated.
- c. **Internet Banking** – The Clerk informed Members that this was progressing but slowly.
- d. **Cemetery** – The report had highlighted that Welsh Water were not agreeing to directing the surface water to the main drains and DCC were suggesting holding tanks under the road which would later discharge it as a soakaway.
- e. **Code of Conduct Training** – The Clerk had written to DCC about the late training information and reminded Members of the importance of attending on 21st September.
- f. **Admiral's Field Grass Cutting** – it will be cut when required during the winter
- g. **Wild Meadow** – Following a short discussion Members agreed to discuss further with DCC at the meeting next week
- h. **Dog Fouling Signs** – awaiting the signs to be amended and then DCC will install them
- i. **Long Service Medals** – The Mayor informed Members that the presentation would take place on Friday 16th September in the afternoon at Rhuddlan golf club
- j. **Rhuddlan Castle** – The Mayor had met with the senior visitor's manager on 26th July along with the MS and attending town councillors. Although there was an aspiration to work closely together on opening the attraction Members were informed that tickets can only be arranged via the internet and a visitor had experienced refusal of

admission as she wasn't aware of this and had wanted to pay at the gate. The Clerk is to follow this up with CADW.

- k. **Litter & Weeds** – All removed from the alleyway to Admiral's field from Rhyl Road.
- l. **Pedestrian Refuge, Rhyl Rd** – currently being constructed. A Member suggested again that one is also needed opposite the entrance to Admiral's Field from Rhyl Rd. Members agreed to discuss at next week's meeting.
- m. **Speed Posters Campaign** – awards presented by Mayor to the winners and the posters are now painted on the bus stops. There were 8 winners not 10.
- n. **Eisteddfod** – to be progressed by Clerk.
- o. **Access gate to River** – NRW responded that the land is not theirs but the gate chain and lock is, and to check with DCC about any Right of Way. This brought about a discussion on the merits of opening up this area for water sports access and complicated land ownership issues which do not involve the Council. The Clerk agreed to look further into ownership.
- p. **Tree Debris in River** – Members discussed concerns on this item causing serious flood issues and that Council should write to NRW about removal as an urgent matter. Proposed by Cllr Ivor Beech, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**
- q. **Community Matters** – Bron Castell, Castle St is owned by DCC and is required for much needed housing for a local family. Members however, discussed requesting the property potentially being listed given its rich history and reinventing as a museum for the many Rhuddlan artefacts that exist. Consideration was given to employing a specialist to ascertain if it is suitable to become a museum, would it be suitable for the existing artefacts, creating the house as a museum in its own right, could the artefacts be returned to Rhuddlan. Although DCC have said they require it for local housing would other departments be interested in its conservation and historical role? It was suggested that a video of the artefacts could be done along with the Bron Castell special features and be made available through the Council's website or the library. This would negate the need to purchase the property at a large cost.
Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed that Town Council write to DCC to ask if they would consider selling the building. Seconded by Cllr Reg Davies. **Resolved.**

9. Correspondence From

a. The Mayor

The Mayor's report had been circulated.

The report was accepted.

b. Town Clerk

- a) The Clerk had received an invitation from Menter Iaith to provide a guided walk around Rhuddlan in line with their Guided Walks for Welsh Learners Agreed to contact them for a date.
- b) The Community Group had requested the council replace two planters (owned by the council) outside the High St Chemists shop at a cost of £220+vat. Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed to support this request, seconded by Cllr Mike Elgin. **Resolved.**
- c) The Community Centre had requested Council hold a first aid course at the centre and inviting people running groups. There was some confusion as to who would

meet the cost of the course tutor and room hire but Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that Council organise and advertise a first aid course at the community centre. Seconded by Mike Kermode **Resolved**.

- d) The Clerk had received a letter from the Planning Inspectorate about a planning application for Awel Y Mor windfarm and asked if Members had any comments to make. After some discussion Members noted that the route of the cabling is not through Rhuddlan town and so there are no objections. **Resolved**.
- e) Rhuddlan Bowls Club is to hold a fundraising event at the community centre on 22nd October with Micky Thomas as quest speaker.

The report was accepted

10. County Councillors Reports

Cllr Arwel Roberts had circulated his report.

- In light of the Queen's death and as the Chair of DCC Cllr Roberts read out DCC's response and his official statement. This included information on current arrangements by DCC to the news e.g. book of condolences.
- Ysgol Y Castell requires a new clerk to the Governors so please contact Cllr Roberts if you have anyone who may be interested in this role.

The report was accepted.

11. Town Plan Projects Report

The Town Clerk had circulated his update.

- Members were asked to consider the need for the internal folding doors to section off the main room. After a discussion members agreed to hold back on this whilst its requirement is investigated during Coed Y Brain's first few months of use.

The report was accepted.

12. Events Committee

Cllr Mike Kermode had drafted Terms of Reference for Council approval, requesting agreement on the committee members, and to grant delegated powers to the committee to plan, organise, and manage local events via the funds already allocated to it of £6,750 for 2022/3. The following Members were appointed to the committee membership Cllrs Mike Kermode, Arwel Roberts, Mike Elgin, Val Simmons, and Ivor Beech. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed the Terms of Reference be approved as above, seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. **Resolved**.

13. Farmer's Market 2023– The Clerk's report had highlighted that attendance by the public was good but the amount of vendors was very poor and he asked Members to consider its future. Members noted that the market had not materialised as a farmers market but more of a community market and concerns were voiced about its competing with the artisan market in Rhuddlan. In addition it was noted that the community centre room hire was around 10% of the centre's income, and that there is currently a glut of produce at this time of the year in people's gardens and allotments. Cllr Jackie Burnham proposed that it becomes a community market

encouraging other types of vendors to attend. Seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. **Resolved.**

14. DCC Advice

The Mayor along with Cllr Gareth Rowlands and the Clerk met with DCC officer Jim Kilpatrick to discuss two site issues at Vicarage Lane play area field, and Tan Yr Eglwys land adjacent to the knight's sculpture.

The meeting findings were outlined in a short report circulated prior to the meeting. A following discussion of the findings noted

- a. Vicarage Lane play area field. The need to ask an arborist to confirm the suitability of the findings, a cost to complete them, and to consult with the nearby residents before any work is carried out. Proposed by Cllr Gareth Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

That the provision of a litter bin next to the two benches be approved was proposed by Cllr Mike Kermode, seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. **Resolved.**

- b. Tan Yr Eglwys land. Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that the land be left to the current owners to manage. Seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**
- c. Members then continued a discussion on the safety of a red bricked wall near the knight's sculptures which once was a part of the Machine House building. There was a lack of knowledge as to the owner of this wall so Cllr Jackie Burnham proposed that Council investigate who owned it. Seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.**

15. Playground Repairs

The Clerk highlighted the repairs and hazards that the inspector had noted in his recent visit to both playgrounds. The risk assessment score of these are recorded as low or very low but an access gate at Vicarage Lane could potentially be a trapping of fingers hazard, and the wetpour soft surfacing repairs at both sites will need regular monitoring. After a short discussion Members in noting the low risk assessment score agreed not to action any repairs.

16. Planning Applications

- i) 44/2022/0739 – 6 Maes Bedwen. Erection of a single storey extension and front porch. No objections
- ii) 44/2022/0750 – Byways, Princes Road. Erection of extension and alterations to the rear of dwelling. No objections
- iii) 44/2022/0768 – Unit 1 Castle View. Display of 1 no. high illuminated pole sign. Members noted this to be another Starbucks sign at the corner of the roundabout by KFC. They agreed to object on the grounds of a sign for Starbucks already in place, and that it proves detrimental to the historical view/entrance to the town.
- iv) 44/2022/0594 – Unit 3, the Old Water Works, Abergele Road. Change of use to form gymnasium. No Objections.

17. Budget & Finance Matters

- a. To agree revised standing orders for staff salary due to annual increment - Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed approval, seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**
- b. To agree additional capital funds be used from reserves to complete Coed Y Brain works - The Clerk had circulated a breakdown of these costs informing Members that the budget had £30,000 remaining but the estimated costs exceeded this amount. For clarity for the new elected Members, it was noted that Town Council reserves are available. Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that a contingency of £15,000 be approved, seconded by Cllr Mike Elgin. **Resolved.**
- c. To approve the payments list due – Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed approval, seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**
- d. The Clerk had circulated a detailed budget report and asked if Members had any comments to make. With none being voiced Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed the report be received, seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

18. Community Matters

- a. Cllr Mike Elgin asked Members to consider the erection of a Community Centre direction sign on the High Street to encourage further use. Cllr Arwel Roberts as a County Councillor had asked DCC about this previously. Cllr Jackie Burnham proposed that Town Council supported this action and meet the associate costs, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**
- b. Cllr Elgin asked Members that due to the sad news of the Queens death there were urgent matters that the Town Council should be considering in response, such as church service, website statement, and the ringing of St Mary's bells. Following a short discussion it was proposed by Cllr Gareth Rowlands that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Clerk be delegated to arrange and manage any event or response on behalf of the Town Council. Seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**
- c. Cllr Ivor Beech had received reports that the High Street yellow lines were badly faded and asked that Council agree to report to DCC Highways. **Resolved.**
- d. Cllr Arwel Roberts informed Members that new food business had been noted as parking on yellow lines and this had been reported to DCC Highways.
Cllr Roberts added that the Welsh Air Ambulance service is investigating moving to the Rhuddlan helicopter station off Abergele Road from Mid Wales.

19. Date of next meeting – 14/9/22 Road Safety Group 2pm 13/10/2022 Full Council Hybrid Meeting 7pm

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