



Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the meeting on the 16th May 2024

Hybrid Meeting

Present:

Cllr Val Simmons (Mayor)
Cllr Jackie Burnham (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr Ivor Beech
Cllr Reg Davies
Cllr Mike Elgin (virtual attendance)
Cllr Mike Kermode
Cllr Arwel Roberts (late arrival)
Cllr Gareth Rowlands
Cllr Bleddyn Williams
Steve Wilson - Town Clerk
Paul Smith - Clerical Assistant/Minute Clerk (virtual attendance)

There was 1 member of the public present and 2 PCSO's

1. Biodiversity Training

Delivered by Liam Blazey Senior Biodiversity Officer, DCC.

Liam explained that all variations of all life across the planet are important to biodiversity for various reasons which he outlined in his presentation. Slides on the State of Nature in Britain and Wales were compared discussing how biodiversity not only helps humans with our mental health, stress levels, and physical health, but also with the regulation of water, air quality, and pollination of crops

A DCC case study on the theme of urban meadows was explained, ecosystem stability, and ethical responsibility that everyone should have regarding biodiversity.

This was followed by Councillor questions which provided informative answers and concluded with Cllr Ivor Beech offering a visit to his farm to see how biodiversity is woven into their work. Cllrs accepted the kind offer and a date is yet to be confirmed. **Resolved.**

Liam was thanked by the Mayor for his attendance and interesting presentation and the meeting of the Full Council commenced at 19.05 hrs. Liam left the meeting.

The meeting was recorded from this point (audio only)

Members noting that should the virtual meeting technology fails; it is incumbent on them to attend in person.

2. Apologies

Cllrs Ann Davies and Rob Williams

3 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Mike Elgin and Cllr Arwel Roberts, item 16a.

4. Urgent Matters

None

5. Police Matters

PCSO's Alexandra Jones and Ben Harmsworth were present. The latest crime report for the last 12 months numbered 1034 incidents, of which only 26 were Anti-Social Behaviour, which was considered good compared to other neighbouring areas. There was a short discussion on online scamming and how to deal with it and a warning that ASB tends to increase in Rhuddlan by the river during the summer months.

Cllr Arwel Roberts asked for details of an incident in which a car had crashed into the Nature Reserve the previous Sunday. The police could provide no further details.

Cllr Mike Kermode asked how small businesses were coping with the reported increase in shoplifting and how the police deal with this. In response it was stated there have been no reports of shop lifting in the High St apart from the SPAR. When a report is received the police request CCTV footage to help facilitate the identification the offenders, once identified they are spoken to and this could result in a shop ban or an arrest.

Cllr Ivor Beech asked about an incident in which a door was broken down and it was potentially related to a terrorist incident, the police had noted no report and suggested this may be rumour.

Cllr Reg Davies commented again on the dangerous riding of bikes on pavements. A discussion took place regarding mixed cycling/pedestrian usage signs, cyclists dismount signage and the associated law. PCSO Jones said she would check up on and report back.

PCSO Hamsworth noting the dangerous usage of e-scooters was also troublesome and reminded Members that any information or CCTV coverage that could lead to the identification of the offenders would be required to ensure a conviction.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands thanked the police for their dealing with an incident involving paint spillage at his property and on the Hwb pavement.

The Clerk reminded the officers that the Gwledd Festival was on Saturday 18th May.

The Mayor thanked the officers for their attendance PCSO Jones & Hamsworth then left the meeting.

5a. Minutes of Town Council meeting held on 11th April 2024.

Members requested the Minutes highlight Members attending virtually as well as late arrival & early leaving of the meeting. **Resolved**

Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed the Minutes be approved, seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved**

7. Progress Report from Minutes

- i) The Declaration of Interest guidance had been added to the agenda.
- ii) The grant towards the volunteer fair of £2000 has been received.
- iii) The road safety poster competition entries from Ysgol Y Castell were recently judged and the winner's presentation is to take place near the end of term.
- iv) The CEO of North Wales Tourism has confirmed he will attend the July meeting.
- v) Regarding the DCC public toilets a document had been received and the Council had until July 4th to formally respond. Will be added to June meeting agenda.
- vi) Members heard about a British Legion wreath being offered for the D Day Anniversary event. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed the Council purchased one, seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. Resolved
- vii) The internal audit report will be on June agenda.
- viii) The High St disabled parking space has been repainted.

8. Correspondence from:

a. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor Reports

The retiring Mayor's last report was circulated and he noted that his nominated charities had benefitted from £3,500 during year in office and offered his sincere thanks to the Members for their support.

The formal donation of £1,150 to Ty Gobaith was made on 8th May.

The new DCC waste collection service public meeting had proved successful in his opinion and residents seemed to go away happy as to how it would work. There were some concerns expressed about those with cognitive health issues that might wrongly place rubbish in the wrong bin. DCC are to offer support on this. It was also reported by the retiring Mayor that apartment blocks have concerns that their collection bins are openly available to the public and the public might wrongly place items in the wrong bins.

The Clerk explained how the Council's Hwb waste recycling system would work, once the new bins had been received.

The report was accepted

The retiring Deputy Mayor last report was circulated and Cllr Simmons informed Members she had attended the Treasure Chest meeting who appear to be interested in booking the Hwb for their next meeting. This brought about a short discussion on permitting free use of the Hwb by charitable organisations and Cllr Mike Kermode proposed such free use, seconded by Cllr Mike Elgin. **Proposition defeated.**

The report was accepted

b. Town Clerk Report

The clerk took members through his report that included:

- Audit Wales email confirming RTC have no outstanding submissions but last year's full audit result is still outstanding.
- Mr John Saunders Lewis has written to ask for support for a charity event in September to celebrate 80 years of agriculture at Pengwern Farm. Members

are aware that this man has suffered with health issues and wants to organise this event as a thank you to the NHS for his treatment received. This cannot be considered using the normal grant application procedure as it concerns an individual applicant which is not permitted via the grant scheme.

After discussion involving consideration of how best to support this request, Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that the Events Committee investigate how it might be able to do that. Seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

- The Clerk had received an email from DCC Rights of Way Officer regarding a bench adjacent to the river Clwyd path asking if the Town Council own it. The bench is not on the Council's asset list and Members confirmed it does not belong to RTC. The Clerk to inform DCC of the above. **Resolved.**

9. County Councillor Reports

Cllr Arwel Roberts had circulated a written report for Members attention.

He wanted to add that he had attended a recent meeting of the local MS group which he particularly found interesting and informative.

Cllr Roberts mentioned the state of a footpath within the old ditch and said that DCC were aware of it but had no resources to maintain it. A member added that the old highway lane was also in a poor state of repair and was also a DCC issue.

The report was accepted

Cllr Ann Davies had circulated a written report for Members attention.

A Member asked if Cllr Arwel Roberts had any further information regarding the item in the report referring to the commuted sum of £55,000. Cllr Roberts couldn't elaborate further.

The report was accepted

10. Minutes of the Events Committee held on 16th April 2024

The Minutes were proposed a true record of the meeting by Cllr Arwel Roberts, seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

Cllr Arwel Roberts reminded the Clerk that he would need both Ysgol Y Castell car park gate security numbers for the Gwledd event. Cllr Jackie Burnham noted that construction works were in progress within the rear car park and so would enquire with the school on Friday and report back to the Clerk. **Resolved.**

11. Minutes of the Road Safety Working Group held on 2nd May 2024

The Minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Cllr Mike Kermode, seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.**

Cllr Mike Elgin reiterated that the road safety poster competition had been judged, that there was no update on the Active Travel issue, and that there is to be a public consultation about the 20mph speed limit and their suggestions for roads to be return to 30 mph. Members noted that RTC could collect local people's views on any such roads and forward them to the Welsh Government ensuring that the suggestions are not RTC's view but those of the local residents. **Resolved.**

12. Minutes from the Cemetery Meeting held on 7th May 2024

Representatives from Rhuddlan, St Asaph, and Rhyl Community Councils met to discuss a way forward in trying to secure a new cemetery for the combined area. Each representative gave a view of their position on this issue and the debate centred around DCC's views not being acceptable, if any new cemetery would be available to local residents only, and a potential free desk top report by a specialist consultant on any proposed sites.

It was agreed that the next step was to take the request jointly from all the local councils in this area's MAG for a new cemetery to DCC Communities Scrutiny Committee, with the aim to get this issue to Cabinet level in DCC.

Cllr Arwel Roberts as a Rhuddlan County Councillor agreed. Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that the Minutes be accepted and that RTC support the suggested way forward. Seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

13. Update from the Library & Museum Working Group meeting held on 14th May 2024

Cllr Gareth Rowlands (chairman) confirmed attendees and the group's main aim being to investigate funding opportunities. The group want to create two projects; the library's future sustainability and an extension for the museum. Those present showed concern for the library's future and that to apply for funding for a museum design and build would require DCC resource support. Cllr Rowlands is to attend the Meet the Funders event being held in June.

The next meeting to be held on 12th June 2024-+
4 at midday.

14. One Voice Wales Conference Wednesday 3rd July 2024

The conference theme is innovative practice and the council could benefit from a member and or the Clerk attending. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that any Member and the Clerk could attend and funded by the council. Seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

15. Planning

No applications received

16. Budget & Finance Matters

a. Grant Requests

Rhuddlan Bowling Club – Cllr Arwel Roberts was asked to read out information provided by the club and then left the meeting along with Cllr Mike Elgin having both declaring an interest and left the meeting.

The Clerk reminded Members of bowling club grants already received over the last 3 years. Members discussed the application and suggested that the council should only match fund rather pay the full amount. Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that 60% of the application be granted and this was seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham.

Cllr Mike Kermode proposed an amendment that £400 be granted and the club having to match fund the remainder. Seconded by Cllr Ivor Beech. **Resolved.**

Cllrs Arwel Roberts & Mike Elgin rejoined the meeting and were informed of the result.

River & Sea Sense (RASS) – This organisation was created by a Mum who lost her son in a drowning accident and the aim is to educate young people to the dangers of open water. The application for £450 is to train two teachers at Ysgol Y Castell. Cllr Jackie Burnham (Chair of the school governors) stated there was a disconnect between what the school had been told and what the grant application said. This dilemma brought forward a proposal from Cllr Mike Kermode to agree the grant in principle for the teacher training and await the school's confirmation that this is being offered. Seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. **Resolved.**

Llangollen International Eisteddfod – a letter sent asking for an unspecified donation towards their costs. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Jackie Burnham that a token £50 was granted, seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. A subsequent amendment by Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed a grant of £200 seconded by Cllr Bleddyn Williams. The amendment was defeated and the original proposal was passed. **Resolved.**

Kids Cancer Charity – a letter sent asking an unspecified grant. This was discussed by Members who agreed not to grant any money on this occasion, proposed by Cllr Mike Kermode, seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.**

b. Payments List

Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed the payments list be agreed, seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

c. Agree payments to Members

Technically these payments have been approved during the budget setting process but the Clerk reminded Members of what the payment are and circulated hard copies of the Members payment form for them to complete and sign. Proposed by Cllr Arwel Roberts, seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

17. Community Matters

- Cllr Ivor Beech highlighted issues with the River Clwyd regarding tree and weed issues being as bad as ever and the risks to Rhuddlan if no action was taken by NRW. Cllr Mike Kermode proposing that a representative of Natural Resource

Wales be invited to a future meeting to discuss the concerns, seconded by Cllr Jackie Burham. **Resolved**

- Cllr Gareth Rowlands asked if Health Prestatyn lach be contacted for an update on when it will be opened on a regular basis.
- Cllr Rowlands noted that a flower bed within the library car park has not been maintained and wished that DCC be asked for an update on when that might take place.
- Cllr Rowlands had witnessed a child walking from the playground to the Hwb public toilets who was in danger of being involved in an accident with a car. He suggested that RTC paint SLOW/ARAF on the tarmac. Cllr Jackie Burnham added that the marking of pedestrian crossing and a pictorial “danger children playing” sign be also considered.
- Cllr Burnham voiced concerns about residents depositing their household rubbish at the Hwb, play area and Parliament Street bins. Members agreed to report this to DCC. **Resolved.**
- Cllr Arwel Roberts asked that the plaque on the Hwb outside wall be translated to Welsh. Members agreed to purchase a new Welsh language plaque. **Resolved.**
- Cllr Mike Kermode informed Members that a large framed photo of King Charles III had been given to RTC. Members were asked if they wanted to place it in the Hwb or donate it to the community centre. By a show of hands Members voted to donate it to the community centre. **Resolved.**
- The Mayor had received a complaint about the Rise development which she suggested the complainant contact the Welsh Government who approved the planning application on appeal.
- The Clerk informed Members that DCC have received intelligence that a regular dog walker is allowing their dog to foul without picking it up. DCC say they will be monitoring the area closely.

18. Date of next meeting – 13/6/2024 Full Council Meeting 7pm

SignedCllr Val Simmons (Mayor)

Date 13th June 2024.