Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

Annual General Meeting - Thursday 9th May 2024

The Mayor welcomed all friends, family, and members of the public to the AGM noting that the Zoom/recording facilities were unavailable due to a technical issue.

1. **Appointment of Mayor 2024/5**
   Cllr Mike Kermode nominated Cllr Val Simmons for the position of Mayor, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts and there being no other nominations, Members voted unanimously for Cllr Simmons at Full Council on 11th April 2024. **Resolved**.
   Cllr Simmons thanked her fellow Councillors for the honour bestowed on her and that she would do her utmost to fulfil the responsibilities of Mayor to the best of her ability.

2. **Signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office (Mayor)**
   Cllr Simmons read out the declaration, and signed it for all to see. A hard copy was passed to the Clerk, and the Chain of Office was bestowed on Cllr Simmons by Cllr Kermode.

3. **To Record attendance and apologies for the AGM**
   a) **Present** Cllr Mike Kermode (Retiring Mayor)
   Cllr Val Simmons (Retiring Deputy Mayor)
   Cllr Ivor Beech
   Cllr Jackie Burnham
   Cllr Reg Davies
   Cllr Mike Elgin
   Cllr Arwel Roberts
   Cllr Gareth Rowlands
   Town Clerk
   Clerical Assistant/Minute Clerk
   b) **Apologies** Cllrs Ann Davies, & Bleddyn Williams.

4. **Appointment of Deputy Mayor**
   Cllr Jackie Burnham had been nominated and balloted as Deputy Mayor at the Full Council meeting on 11th April 2024. Proposed by Cllr Gareth Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.**
   Cllr Burnham thanked the Members for the honour of being appointed Deputy Mayor and pledged her support for the Mayor, and the decisions of the Town Council.
   The Deputy Mayor Chain of Office was presented to Cllr Burnham.

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5. 2024/5 Mayor's Welcome Speech

The Mayor commented that she was honoured and humbled to be Rhuddlan's new Mayor, promising to do her best to fulfil the role and was looking forward to working with her fellow Councillors and the Town Clerk.

Cllr Simmons paid tribute to Cllr Kermode as the outgoing Mayor and the support given by his consort Sue Kermode - his wife. Then thanked the Town Clerk for his sterling efforts during the past year.

The incoming Mayor named her charities for the next year as Conwy & Denbighshire MS Group, and St Kentigern.

The Mayor's Consort for 2024/5 is her husband Dave Simmons who was presented with his Chain of Office.

6. 2023/4 Mayor's Farewell Speech

Cllr Mike Kermode stated how much his wife and he had enjoyed the honour of being Rhuddlan's Mayor and Consort. Noting that he saw the role having two main dimensions, the Council's business and Civic duties. Both of which he drew examples of. Explaining that the power in the Council lies with its Members and not just the Mayor. To be a good Mayor you need a good Council, and to his mind Rhuddlan Town Council is a great proactive council who get things done for the benefit of our community.

Cllr Kermode enjoyed representing the Council as several events and meeting with other Mayors in the area at their civic events which proved enlightening. He had hoped to preside over a Rhuddlan volunteer fayre but this has now moved to August, but recalled the support for local charities in his year with £1,000 being donated to both the Alzheimer's Society, and St Kentigern along with £1,150 to Ty Gobaith, with smaller donations to St Mary's church and Friends of Ysgol y Castell.

In concluding Cllr Kermode thanked his fellow councillors for their support, the Clerk for his professionalism and practicality of getting things done, and his wife Sue Kermode for her support during the last year.

7. Refreshment Break

8. Formal Approval of the 2023 AGM Minutes

Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed the Minutes as true record, seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved**.

9. Appointments to Internal Committees & Working Groups

a) Information/website Committee – Cllrs Gareth Rowlands, Mike Kermode, Jackie Burnham, Val Simmons, and Bleddyn Williams.

b) **Personnel Committee** – Cllrs Mike Kermode as past Mayor, Val Simmons as Mayor, Jackie Burnham and Deputy Mayor. Cllr Mike Kermode is also an advisor to the group given his past experience on personnel matters.

c) **Biodiversity Committee –** Cllrs Jackie Burnham, Arwel Roberts, Val Simmons. Ivor Beech and Rob Williams.

d) **Events Committee** – Cllrs Ivor Beech, Mike Elgin, Mike Kermode, Arwel Roberts, and Val Simmons.

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The Mayor asked Members to consider taking the above appointments as a continued decision for 2024/5. Cllr Mike Kermode so proposed, seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.**

e) **Library Working Group** This group had already been set at an earlier meeting this year and Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed Cllr Mike Elgin as an extra member for this group, which was seconded by Cllr Ivor Beech. **Resolved.**

10. Appointments to External Bodies

a) **Denbighshire CCTV Partnership** –Cllr Bleddyn Williams had let it be known that he could no longer represent the Council on this partnership and so is removed as from today. The meeting received a proposal by Cllr Arwel Roberts that Cllr Gareth Rowlands be the replacement, seconded by Cllr Mike Elgin. **Resolved**
Cllrs Ivor Beech, and Arwel Roberts to remain as the Council's other representatives. **Resolved**.

b) **Rhuddlan Community Association** – The Association's constitution states that the current Mayor be the Town Council representative. Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved**.

c) **Ysgol y Castell, Governor** – Cllr Jackie Burnham to remain. **Resolved**.

d) **Rhuddlan Local Nature Reserve** – Cllrs Ivor Beech, and Gareth Rowlands to remain. **Resolved**.

e) Denbighshire Tourism Forum – Cllrs Val Simmons, and Rob Williams to remain. **Resolved**.

11. Cheque Signatories.

Although only one cheque was used last year it is important to state that all councillors are eligible to become signatories, it was proposed that the signatories remain as last year. That being Cllrs Ann Davies, Reg Davies, Mike Elgin, Mike Kermode, Arwel Roberts, and Gareth Rowlands, along with the Clerk. **Resolved.**

12. Review & Approve all Council Policies

Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that all the policies be approved. In seconding the proposal Cllr Mike Kermode reminded Members that the policies had been reviewed by the Clerk to the satisfaction of the Members. **Resolved.**

13. Adoption of the Council's Annual Report

Members had received a draft copy of the report previous to the meeting and were happy to propose its adoption. Proposed by Cllr Mike Kermode, seconded by Cllr Mike Elgin. **Resolved.**

14. Review of Council's Land and assets listed in the inventory.

Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed the list of assets & land as circulated be approved by Members. Seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

15. To confirm insurance cover arrangements

The Clerk went through the arrangements for Members information and in response to a question on it covering the Council's various events answered that it does.

16. Review of Councils subscriptions to other bodies

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Members did have a short discussion on the Council various subscriptions and their value for money. In particular the One Voice Wales membership had proved value for money on several occasions. They offer great support for the Clerk and one Member noted their useful website and training. Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed the various subscriptions be paid for 2024/5. Seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved**

17. Council's expenditure under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972

The Clerk explained to Members what expenditure is eligible under Section 137 and informed them of the various spends undertaken 2023/4. There followed a short discussion on the difference between a grant and a gift which will lead to Members understanding their actions better.

Signed: ……Cllr Val Simmons (Mayor)

Date: ……..

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