



Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the meeting on the 12th January 2023

Hybrid Meeting

Present:

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

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

The Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) Andrew Dunbobbin, PCSOs Barry Williams and James Jones, along with several members of the public including Royston Williams were present.

1. Apologies

Cllr Ann Davies, PCSO Roberts

2. Declaration of Interest

None offered

3. Presentation of Award to Royston Williams

The Mayor introduced Mr Williams to the Council as the Rhuddlan scout leader for the last 40 years. He paid tribute to Mr Williams for his dedication and long service, and presented him with an award as a sign of the Council's appreciation for his commitment to the local community.

Mr Williams along with other members of the public then left the meeting.

4. Urgent Matters

None

5. Police Matters

The December crime report was presented and a short discussion took place on the effect of the current economic crisis on the number of incidents. There was also reference to an incident at a static caravan situated in Tan Yr Eglwys.

The mayor welcomed the North Wales PCC Andrew Dunbobbin and thanked him for attending the meeting. Mr Dunbobbin introduced himself, providing information on his career, interests, and family. His presentation on his role and work as PCC was well received by Members and proved very interesting and informative. Questions were invited and a discussion ensued noting in particular the importance of partnership working with the Council and many other public and community organisations. A copy of his Police & Crime Plan is to be circulated via the Clerk along with a copy of PCSO Williams award winning booklet "Faith".

6. Minutes

Town Council Meeting 8th December 2022

Subject to some minor typo amendments the Minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr Gareth Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

The minutes were duly signed

7. Matters Arising

- a. **Code of Conduct Training** – There are 3 Councillors left to book on this mandatory course. Dates available up to April 2023. Members noting that the New Councillor course was excellent and that DCC had a lot of useful information available for Councillors.
- b. **Rhuddlan Castle** – It was reported that Lord Langford had contacted CADW regarding the flagpole repairs which resulted in a quick and positive response. The flagpoles will be repaired in existing position and if this is not possible then a location behind the visitor centre has been identified.
- c. **Dog Fouling Signs** – The Clerk had received a quote for the plan of Admiral's Field to be corrected. Cllr Jackie Burnham proposed that this be actioned, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**
- d. **Tree Debris in River** – Written response off NRW still awaited.
- e. **First Aid Course** – Was cancelled and will be rearranged.
- f. **Vulnerable people** – The Clerk had tried to follow up the Council's concerns about one vulnerable individual with DCC but needed the name of that person, which was not forthcoming, so this item has not been actioned to date.
- g. **World Cup Sporting Competitions** – Complete
- h. **MUGA Flood Lights** – Waiting second quote off DCC to move to LED. Electricity costs increasing 100%.
- i. **Cemetery** – A Councillor raised concerns about the continuing flooding of the site and had known some residents to be reduced to tears about the issue. Although not the responsibility of Rhuddlan Town Council, Members discussed sending a letter highlighting the problems to DCC and asking that a representative attends Council to discuss further. **Resolved.**

A Councillor reported a similar flooding issue in an area of Admiral's Field and there was a short discussion on the provision of land drains on this site and where they drain into.

- j. **Tarmac Surface near MUGA/Hwb Area** – No viable draining solution identified so will just be tidied up and the commuted sums used to contract the new path.
- k. **Commuted Sums** – Members were given a short explanation of what Commuted Sums is defined as, where it is derived from, how it can be applied for, and the consequences of not applying for all sums available for Rhuddlan.

8. Correspondence from:

a. The Mayor

The report was accepted.

b. The Town Clerk & Town Plan update.

The Clerk had circulated his report in advance of the meeting and read through the various items of correspondence and project updates from the Town Plan.

Elements of the report were discussed - in particular:-

- Concerns over rising electric costs brought about a discussion on alternative suppliers. A councillor reminded the Clerk of the NFU service of finding electric suppliers which the Clerk will investigate.
- Letter inviting Council to become members of the Parish Council UK Network. Members agreed to join but link to existing council website. **Resolved.**
- Information regarding Hwb Rhuddlan's business rate credit and potential saving due to this now being zero rated.
- Hwb broadband connection not completed so Members agreed to wait before organising a formal opening at the Council's next meeting in February. **Resolved.**

The Mayor offered his painting of the castle by a local artist which he wants to display in the Hwb for all to appreciate.

The report and project update were accepted

9. County Councillor Reports

- a. Cllr Arwel Roberts had circulated a written report

The report was accepted

10. Vicarage Lane Hedge Work

The Clerk had circulated details of the three quotes received for the work. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that the lowest quote be accepted. Seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. **Resolved.**

11. To approve the Budget & Precept Minutes from 10th January 2023 and formally approve the precept submission.

The circulated minutes were proposed for approval by Cllr Gareth Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.**

Members noting that as the minutes had now been approved the precept attached to them is now confirmed.

12. Commuted Sums.

The Rhuddlan Allotments Society have applied for £2310.00 for their new paths. Cllr Gareth Rowlands declared an interest.

Members noted that this is the only bid to date and had concerns that the remaining sum could be lost to the town.

Following a discussion, it was decided to investigate the eligible criteria for schools and for the Clerk to submit an application on behalf of the Council towards the Admiral's Field path. **Resolved.**

13. Budget & Finance

a. Grant Applications

i) Denbighshire Urdd Eisteddfod reply had been received and circulated. Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed the £300 applied for be approved, seconded by Cllr Reg Davies. Cllr Arwel Roberts made an amendment that Council approves £500 with a condition that the Urdd organise an event in Rhuddlan. Seconded by Bleddyn Williams. **Resolved.**

b. Payments List – This had been previously circulated and Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed the list be approved, seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. **Resolved.**

c. The Clerk had circulated the last quarterly statement for information.

d. Members were asked to approve the update to the Standing Orders to accommodate the Clerk and Assistant Clerk's salaries. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed approval, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

14. Community Matters

a. Cllr Arwel Roberts reminded Members that he still had some tickets left for the Hen Fagin concert on 20/1.

b. Cllr Val Simmons reported that incidents speeding in Highlands Road had reduced since the eviction of some residents who were known to be regular offenders.

c. Cllr Gareth Rowlands the MUGA lights be added as an agenda item in February due to a significant increase in energy costs, LED lights, and agreeing a light switch on/off policy.

d. Cllr Reg Davies raised the issue of 37 cemetery headstones being pushed over and enquired who is responsible for repair. He stated in some cases no remaining family exist who can be consulted. It was agreed that Cllr Arwel Roberts as a County Councillor investigate the matter on the Council's behalf. **Resolved.**

e. Cllr Jackie Burnham identified potholes on New Road that need repairing. Other Members added other potholes around the town to be included. Agreed that Cllr Arwel Roberts as County Councillor will pass on to DCC. **Resolved.**

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.

The recording of the meeting was switched off.

15. Update from Community Centre Trustees Meeting 11th January 2023

Cllr Reg Davies declared an interest.

The mayor reminded Members what was decided in the November meeting under minute 7A. in respect of offering financial support to The Community Centre on the proviso that the Town Council had more representation on the board of Trustees. The mayor informed the Council that on 11th January he, the Deputy Mayor and Clerk had met with the board of Trustees from the Community Centre and outlined to them what the Council was offering and explained why we believed further representation was necessary. Following a rather heated discussion The Trustees stated that they did not need any Town Council support at this time and reported being in a sound financial situation.

Cllr Mike Kermode confirmed the Trustees position and noted that the discussion had been somewhat uncomfortable and personal at times and did not lend itself to an objective discussion. On behalf of the Town Council the Mayor and Cllr Kermode accepted the decision but did invite the Trustees to return to the Council if support is needed in the future.

A discussion unconnected to the meeting of the 11th of January then took place in respect of the decision made at a previous meeting to relocate Town Council meetings to Hwb Rhuddlan. It was proposed by Cllr Jackie Burnham that Council formally but amiably write to the Community Centre to inform them about the Council relocating to the Hwb once officially opened, and about the removal of Council assets at Council's expense. Including making good any damage caused. **Resolved.**

As a gesture of goodwill, it was agreed to offer the centre the drop-down projector screen for no charge. **Resolved.**

16. Date of next meeting – 09/02/2023 Full Council Hybrid Meeting 7pm

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