

Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the meeting on the 11th January 2024

Hybrid Meeting

Present:

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

1. Apologies

Cllrs Ann Davies & Rob Williams
The meeting was recorded from this point (audio only)

Present were Cllr Emrys Wynne DCC portfolio holder for Welsh Language, Culture & Heritage, Tony Ward Corporate Director of Economy & Environment, Liz Grieve Head of Service for Community Services & Housing, and PC Rob Jones 72538.
The Mayor welcomed all those present to the meeting.

2. Declaration of Interest

Cllr Arwel Roberts as a DCC Planning Committee member

3. Rhuddlan Library

The Mayor reminded members on DCC's proposals to reduce library opening hours by 35%, that this council supports the library financially, the proposals for a potential museum partnership and how the library is considered a valued asset to Rhuddlan used by many community groups and external support organisations.

Tony Ward and Liz Grieves updated the council on the outcome of DCC's Scrutiny Committee meeting and that the library services team had been tasked with identifying

M&K
11/1/24

other funding opportunities before a final decision is taken on 23rd January. They also stated that Rhuddlan library was seen a model for best practice.

The Mayor informed Tony and Liz that the council had provisioned an additional £8,500 in its 2024/2025 budget that could be used to further financially support the library. Liz stated she will look at the options on how this could be used to best increase library provision in Rhuddlan.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands asked why the council was not informed much earlier on the proposals and why some external users could be asked to pay for usage. Liz apologised but explained that this was because of due process being applied and that all revenue opportunities were being explored.

Cllr Ivor Beech asked why there was a 35% cut when the council made a significant annual contribution. Liz explained that this was taken into account when looking at the cuts in opening hours.

It was agreed that the situation with the Library would be reviewed at a future meeting when more information was available from DCC about the best potential use of the Council's additional support for next year.

The Mayor thanked Cllr Emerys Wynne, Tony Ward and Liz Grieves for attending the meeting.

Cllr. Gareth Rowlands left the meeting at this point.

4. Urgent Matters

None

5. Police Matters

PC Rob Jones updated Members on the recent crime incidents which included anti-social behaviour at the play area in the new estate opposite the golf club and enquired if Town Council might assist in providing some nets to reduce its occurrence. The Mayor informed PC Jones that this area of land was not in the ownership of the Council and the enquiry should be made to DCC or the developers.

Members then highlighted speeding issues in town.

PC Jones was asked if the police would discuss with DCC the recent flooding seen near the golf club and its danger to road users. He will pass this on to his sergeant.

Cllr Mike Elgin passed on his thanks for the actions of the rural policing team in dealing with the dumping of dead geese on Abbey Rd on 30th December.

The Mayor then thanked PC Jones for his attendance. The Clerk asked that if no officer was available attend a future meeting, then a written crime report be provided for circulation.

6. a Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th December 2023 *Appendix 1*

Proposed as a true record by Cllr Arwel Roberts, seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.**

Progress Report from Minutes

- i) Prestatyn IACH response has been circulated to Members
- ii) The Catholic Church directional sign quote from DCC had been received and forwarded to the church informing them that neither DCC nor the Council have any funds for this.
- iii) The Youth Club budget will be changed in 2024/25 to separate out Hwb rental costs.

- iv) Town Plan printing tenders returned and a sample is arriving on Monday for confirmation. A news letter from the council is to be added and it is hoped to deliver the updated town plan and letter in late February.
- v) The Clerk had written to DCC Cllr Barry Mellor and officer Ben Wilcox-Jones regarding council discussions on speed limits.
- vi) Significant flooding on A5151 has been reported to DCC.
- vii) CADW have fixed the castle illumination lights.

b Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held on 12th December 2023 *Appendix 2*

Proposed as a true record by Cllr Arwel Roberts, seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved**
Progress report from Minutes

It was noted that the Community Christmas carol event had been successful and all those who assisted were thanked for their efforts. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 16th January when the potential DLL grant for community events would be discussed.

c Minutes of the Budget & Precept Meeting held on 4th January 2024. *Appendix 3*

Proposed as a true record by Cllr Val Simmons, seconded by Cllr Mike Elgin. **Resolved**
Progress report from Minutes

The Mayor referred Members to the circulated agreed spreadsheet and asked for any observations. A debate took place on the reclaiming of VAT and the timing of receiving that reclaim. It was agreed to make one annual claim for 2023/2024 with more regular claims in 2024/2025.

7. Correspondence from:

a. The Mayor *Appendix 4*

The Mayor had circulated his report prior to the meeting.

The report was accepted

b. The Town Clerk & Town Plan update. *Appendix 5*

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.

Several elements of the report were discussed - in particular:-

- The British Heart Foundation "Go red in Feb 2024" initiative was noted.
- Hwb neighbour complaint about rain water from the Hwb storage container flooding his garden. Members agreed to install a gutter on the container, proposed by Cllr Jackie Burnham, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**
- An email from DCC regarding consultation on a fairer council tax system for Wales has been circulated and the Clerk asked for Members comments. It was agreed to place this on the agenda for the February Council meeting. **Resolved.**
- Complaint about speeding in Ffordd Ganol and a broken SID. Members agreed that this should be discussed at the next Road Safety meeting on 7th February.
- The Mayor asked Members to help out and support the running of future community markets, the next one being held on February 10th.

8. County Councillor Reports *Appendix 6*

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

In particular Members discussed the two items on flooding:

Gwindy Street & Kerfoot Avenue - DCC have responded that there has been no recent flooding since the ditch was cleaned out.

A5151 New Rd - being investigated by DCC. No cause yet identified but warning signs and a clearing of several gullies have been actioned. Further work is promised to determine what can be done as this remains a priority.

The report was accepted

The Mayor noted his disappointment that Cllr Ann Davies had not provided a written report. This is especially important if a County Councillor is unable to attend the meeting.

9. DBS Checks for Councillors *Appendix 7*

The Clerk took councillors through a paper on DBS checks. Unless councillors are directly involved in the delivery of services for children relating to education or social services and to adults relating to social services then a DBS check is not required. The Clerk explained he had checked with 5 other local councils and none had had their councillors DBS checked. It was agreed not to pursue DBS checks for councillors.

Resolved.

10. Planning

The Clerk took Members through the applications.

Cllr Arwel Roberts declared an interest as he sits on the DCC planning committee.

44/2023/0825 – Felling of a tree at Ty Mawr, Cástlê St, Rhuddlan. No objections

44/2023/0741 – Pruning works along with crown raising & reduction at 15 Tirionfa, Rhuddlan. No objections.

44/2023/0708 – A glamping site with associated ground works and treatment plants at the old Rhyl Rugby Club sports ground, Waen Rd, Rhuddlan. Cllrs Ivor Beech declared an interest.

Members had concerns that this site was not in Rhuddlan's jurisdiction but resides within Tremeirchion Waen and Cwm Community Council and as such cannot directly object or support the development on the site. However, after discussion, Members acknowledged the potential benefits such a development could bring to the businesses and tourism aspects of Rhuddlan. Proposed by Cllr Mike Elgin, seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.**

44/2023/0909 – Installation of replacement flat roof & associated works at 2 Fairlands Crescent, Rhuddlan. No objections.

11. Budget & Finance

a) Grant Requests

None received

b. Payments list *Appendix 8*

Cllr Mike Kermode proposed the list approval, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts.
Resolved

12. Community Matters

a) Cllr Mike Kermode was aware that Malcolm & Carol Boyton have retired from Rhuddlan scout group after 25 years' service and asked Members if Town Council would like to mark this service by presenting them with an award. It was proposed by Cllr Mike Kermode that a suitable award be made, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts.
Resolved.

b) Cllr Ivor Beech reported a loose paving slab on the High St and the lack of gritting last weekend on the pedestrian path across the river, Cllr Arwel Roberts noted these issues. The Mayor reminded Members that they are able to report DCC problems directly to the county council using the customer contact facility.

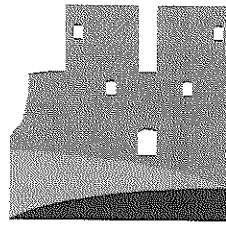
The audio recording was switched off.

13. Date of next meeting – 16/1/2024 Events Committee at 7pm at the Hwb
7/2/2024 Personnel & Road Safety Committee at 6pm and
7pm at the Hwb
8/2/2024 Full Council Meeting 7pm

All the above to be hybrid meetings.

Signed  Cllr Mike Kermode (Mayor)

11/1/24



Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the meeting on the 14th December 2023

Hybrid Meeting

Present:

Cllr Mike Kermode (Mayor)
Cllr Val Simmons (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr Ivor Beech
Cllr Jackie Burnham
Cllr Reg Davies
Cllr Mike Elgin
Cllr Arwel Roberts
Cllr Gareth Rowlands
Cllr Robert Williams
Town Clerk – Steve Wilson

The meeting was recorded from this point (audio only)

1. Apologies

Cllr Ann Davies
Cllr Bleddyn Williams
Paul Smith – Assistant Clerk

There was one member of the public present.

2. Declaration of Interest

Cllr. Arwel Roberts – planning applications.

3. Urgent Matters - None

4. Police Matters

No police officers in attendance or report provided. Clerk requested to obtain a report for the previous month's crime in Rhuddlan. A member praised the police for the way they dealt with one incident and another member asked for an update regarding a previous incident on Highlands Road.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th November 2023

Cllr Jackie Burnham proposed that minutes be approved as a true record, seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.**

The minutes will be duly signed by the Mayor.

6. Progress Report from Minutes

- i) Clerk stated no response received from Tim Towers at DCC regarding footpaths.
- ii) No response from Community Centre regarding taking on the market.
- iii) Toilet directional signage will be installed this week.
- iv) No response from Prestatyn IACH. Members requested the Clerk write to the Chief Executive of Betsi Cadwaller and copy in our MS's and MP.
- v) SLCC membership renewed.
- vi) Raw rainfall data received to review in relation to concerns of flooding of a garden adjacent to the Hwb.
- vii) No response of Cadw regarding delaying removing the benches from the town ditch until the spring.
- viii) Still waiting quotes off 2 electrical firms regarding Hwb electrics and Youth club cooker installation.
- ix) Awaiting feedback from neighbouring councils regarding support for local cemetery group. DCC stated have less than a years' capacity remaining at Rhuddlan.

7. Correspondence from:

a. The Mayor and Deputy

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor had circulated a joint report prior to the meeting.

The Mayor added that DCC had complained that the Christmas tree and barrier was blocking access to the traffic light's "black cabinet". The Mayor has rectified the issue. The issue of the Christmas tree leaning over was discussed and Cllr. Reg Davies will rectify with the help of Cllr. Rob Williams.

The report was accepted

b. The Town Clerk

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

Several elements of the report were discussed, in particular:-

- Section 137 maximum allowance for 2024/2025 budget will be £32,000.
- Email from member of the public asking for financial information regarding the Admiral's Field path and Hwb which they had asked for on Social Media. The Mayor reminded councillors that the council had previously agreed not to use social media to respond and that any appropriate responses be posted by the Clerk. The Clerk will provide the resident with the information by email.
- The Clerk informed members that he is keen to attend the Practitioners Conference on 31/1 and 1/2. Members agreed to support this as part of the Town Clerk's ongoing professional development and networking.
- Estimated cost off DCC to install directional signage for Catholic Church location is £4,000. Discussion on funding took place. Agreed to write to the Church to advise of them of the cost of the signage and because DCC will not

fund the sign; the church would have to pay. Proposed by Cllr. Mike Kermode and Seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.**

- Discussed showing Youth Club Hwb booking as Hwb income and paying Youth Club in their grant and they pay for Hwb booking. Proposed by Cllr Gareth Rowlands and seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

- Suggestion by member to see if Bespoke Events would want to run the market. **The report and project update were accepted**

8. County Councillor Reports

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

He stated that the reason the report was in great detail was to allow fellow councillors and other residents see the number of hours that the work of a County Councillor involved. He added the issues of the large tree falling in the nature reserve and lying water on New Road.

The reports were accepted

The Mayor highlighted the importance of written reports being received from our County Councillors. This is very useful, especially when a County Councillor is unable to attend the meeting.

9. Admiral's Field Path Gritting

Councillors discussed whether the path needs to be gritted in cold and icy conditions. Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed not to grit and the situation should be monitored. Seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

10. Health and Safety Policy

The Clerk took members through this new policy. Councillors agreed to adopt the policy subject to an asbestos register be added. Proposed by Cllr Gareth Rowlands and seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.**

Discussion took place on whether the councillor playing Santa at the Community Carol event needs a DBS check. It was noted that Santa is accompanied at all times therefore one should not be required. The Clerk was asked to clarify. It was noted that the council has its own Safeguarding policy and the Clerk to check whether he should be DBS checked as Rhuddlan Council's designated Safeguarding Officer. A member suggested that all councillors should be DBS checked and it was agreed to add to the January agenda. Proposed by Cllr Gareth Rowlands and seconded by Cllr. Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.**

11. Message from DCC's Standards Committee.

The Mayor highlighted the main points from the message. Most of the points were being addressed in a positive way by the Town Council. In terms of a local disputes process, the Mayor asked if the council wished to involve another neighbouring council. Proposed not to pursue by Cllr Gareth Rowlands and seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

12. Town Plan

The Town Plan was discussed and agreed. Proposed by Cllr Gareth Rowlands to publish and deliver to all residents in January. Seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

13. 20mph Speed Limit

Cllr Mike Elgin explained that DCC are reviewing 20mph roads with a view to changing some of them that meet specific criteria back to 30mph and that RTC should pass on its opinion to DCC. He took members through his paper on which 20mph speed limits in Rhuddlan should be changed back to 30mph. This was discussed by members. Three lengths of road were considered. Cllr Jackie Burnham proposed that the A5151 New Road, A547 Meliden Road and the A547 towards Sainsburys be considered to change back to 30mph, seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. Cllr Mike Kermode put an amendment to only consider the A5151 to move back to 30mph, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Not Resolved.**

Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed an amendment that the 40mph on the A5151 into Rhuddlan leading to the 20mph was changed to 30mph. Seconded by Cllr Reg Davies. **Not Resolved.**

Cllr Mike Kermode proposed an amendment that the A5151 New Road and the A457 Meliden Road be requested to go back to 30mph; whilst the A547 towards Sainsburys remains 20mph. This was seconded by Cllr Mike Elgin. **Resolved.**

The Clerk will write to DCC with this proposal and also inform neighbouring councils.

14. Planning

Planning application 44/2023/0644 (resubmitted) for the erection of a flat dormer roof extension to facilitate a loft conversion at 11 Links Avenue, Rhuddlan, Rhyl. No comments or objections. **Resolved.**

15. Budget & Finance

a) Grant Requests

i - Stroke Club – agreed to move the item to part 2 of the meeting.

ii – Urdd Fund for All. This was discussed by members. Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed a donation of £180 which was seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.**

b) The Clerk stated that apart from the Town Plan's projects, the only submitted project was for Admiral's Field path lighting. These will be costed up and included in the Precept meeting on 4/1.

c) The Clerk took the council through the quarterly accounts which was **accepted** by members.

d) The payments listing was reviewed and proposed by Cllr Gareth Rowlands to pay and seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved**

16. Community Matters

- a) Cllr Ivor Beech highlighted serious issues with drainage problems on the A5151 New Road that was causing significant flooding issues. Clerk and County Councillor Arwel Roberts will raise with DCC.
- b) Cllr Jackie Burnham stated that there are some new shops/existing shops with new owners in the town and that the Mayor may like to visit them to welcome them.
- c) Cllr Arwel Roberts stated that the castle was no longer being lit. Clerk to contact CADW to resolve the situation.
- d) The Mayor asked councillors to support the Council's Community Carols on 16/12.

Part 2 Exclusion of the Press & 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. Proposed by Cllr Gareth Rowlands and seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham to move to part 2. **Resolved.**

The recording of the meeting was switched off.

17.1 Potential 2024/25 Budget Issues

Cllr Arwel Roberts informed members about potential cuts that DCC may make. There was the potential for RTC to consider making some financial provision to maintain some services. Agreed to consider as part of the budget/precept setting meeting on 4/1.

17.2 Stroke Club Grant Application

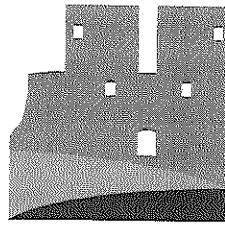
This was discussed by members and it was proposed that, as there was insufficient information, no recent audited accounts or a recent AGM; the decision be postponed until a future meeting and that further information be requested by the Clerk. Proposed by Cllr Gareth Rowlands and seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

12. Dates of next meeting

4th January 2024 – Budget and Precept Hybrid Meeting

11th January 2024 - Full Council Hybrid Meeting 7pm

SignedCllr Mike Kermode (Mayor)



Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

**Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the Hybrid Events Committee Meeting 12th
December 2023**

Held at Hwb Rhuddlan

Cllr Mike Kermode Mayor
Cllr Val Simmons Deputy Mayor
Cllr Mike Elgin
Cllr Arwel Roberts
Town Clerk
Clerical Assistant/Minute Clerk

Roy Price, Gill Price and Seren Evans were in attendance.
The Chair welcomed all those present & thanked them for their attendance

1. Apologies

Cllr Ivor Beech

2. Declaration of Interest

None given

3. Minutes

The previous meeting Minutes of 3/10/23 had been reviewed & approved by the Full Council meeting on 12/10/2023.

4. Progress from the Minutes

The Clerk reported on the success of the Remembrance Sunday and thanked the Community Centre representatives for their great support.
Although there was a slight issue with the Christmas lights switching on/off for a short while it had not diminished the success of the event.
The Red Carpet event was successful.

5. Community Christmas Carols around the tree 16/12/23

The Clerk requested that those Members who are volunteering to assist on the day gather at 2pm to begin the event set up, which will open at 5pm for the public. The singing will begin at 5.30pm (a cappella) allowing time for people to arrive and socialise. Santa to arrive at around 5.50pm and the grotto will open at 6pm.

The event to finish at 6.45-7.00pm.

There then followed a detailed discussion around the arrangements.

Any items remaining at the end will be donated to Love North Wales for distribution around the local community. The Community Centre offered their assistance in warming the mince pies & mulled wine, and providing the tea & coffees.

Seren offered to help with backdrops for the grotto and its decoration.

The event marketing so far was discussed and Members suggests contacting Castle Day Nursery announcing at St Mary's Church forthcoming dementia event.

The Mayor asked if anyone had any potential concerns they had noted, which highlighted the need for Santa to have a "chaperone", two doors in grotto for easy in/out access, and Hi-Viz waistcoats for volunteers.

All the above were Resolved.

6. Recent Community Market

Cllr Arwel Roberts informed the committee that the raffles had made £83 for the bowling club and £127 for the Dementia Group. The committee asked for their thanks to the Community Centre for their continued support with these markets, to be recorded.

Resolved.

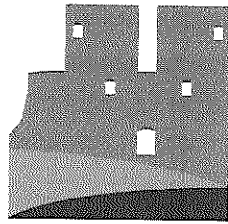
7. Applications for support

No applications received.

8. DCC Leisure Grant Scheme for Community Events

Cllr Mike Elgin had noted the potential opportunity for The Council to apply for up to £20,000 for any future events Council is considering. The Clerk will inform all Members of the scheme, and ask for any ideas they may like to make for the next Events Committee meeting. There was a suggestion that both the Gwledd Fest and the potential summer event being considered by the committee could be part of any such application.

The next meeting is to be held on Tuesday January 16th 2024, 7pm at the Hwb.



Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the Budget & Precept meeting on the 4th January 2024

Hybrid Meeting

Present:

Cllr Mike Kermode (Mayor),
 Cllr Val Simmons (Deputy Mayor)
 Cllr Ivor Beech
 Cllr Jackie Burnham
 Cllr Ann Davies
 Cllr Mike Elgin
 Cllr Arwel Roberts
 Cllr Gareth Rowlands
 Steve Wilson - Town Clerk
 Paul Smith - Clerical Assistant/Minute Clerk
 Two members of the public

1. Apologies

Cllr Bleddyn Williams

The meeting was recorded from this point (audio only)

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting offering his good wishes to all for the New Year. He was attending virtually due to feeling unwell and reported that this would cause him difficulty in chairing the meeting and asked if Members would support the Deputy Mayor chairing the meeting as a consequence. **Resolved.**

The Mayor then offered the council's congratulations to Cllr Ann Davies who had received a BEM in the New Year honours list. Cllr Ann Davies thanked the Council for their kind sentiments.

2. Declaration of Interest

None offered

3. Urgent Matters

None

4. Setting of Precept Budget 2024/25

The Deputy Mayor reminded Members that the Clerk had circulated a draft document for discussion which highlighted all budget lines, the allocated budget for 2023/4, a projected outturn, a proposal budget for 2024/5, and the change of budget proposed if approved by the Council. The document

included options for the precept based on the number of properties in Rhuddlan, the potential use of financial reserves, and an indication of the cost per household for each option.

The resulting debate considered each proposed budget line Members noting its impact in terms of any increase, decrease, no change, not required in the next financial year, or it being a new proposal for consideration.

In order to limit the length of these Minutes not every budget line is hereby recorded in detail but below is a short synopsis of the approved budget for 2024/25. A detailed budget and precept spreadsheet is attached.

- The inclusion of a reduced provision for SID maintenance and any additional road safety measures. Members noting the potential provision of another SID on New Road which is awaiting a decision on a DCC survey on the impact of the 20mph limit recently imposed.
- An increased budget for the staff salary and on costs in accordance with national guidelines.
- A reduction in the bank charges budget due to implementing internet banking.
- An increase in subscriptions to the One Voice Wales and the Society of Local Council Clerks,
- Increase in travel budget to cover Clerks travel and Town Council representation at any potential conferences.
- The budget for revenue sundries was exceeded in 2023/4 due to unforeseen regalia costs but will revert to base budget level along with other budget lines e.g. translation, Remembrance Day costs, grants, events, car parking costs to DCC for free parking to support local business, and litter collection.
- Provision for additional Christmas lights was removed because of installation problems.
- Members resolved to increase the CCTV budget line by 100% in anticipation of the new contract being negotiated. Other new budget lines agreed include additional financial support for the library in response to the 40% cut by Denbighshire County Council, a £40k contingency fund which can be used to respond to any other cuts in Denbighshire County Council services in Rhuddlan and funding for the group looking for a site for a new cemetery.

The Town Clerk informed Members that the proposed budget as discussed and now approved would total £223,099 and illustrated three options of how the budget could be achieved via the precept as previously mentioned above.

Members recognised the current economic crisis being experienced by local households and the need for Council to use some reserves to help keep the precept as low as possible, whilst meeting the Council's financial commitments. The Mayor highlighted the importance of having a contingency to use to mitigate any unknown cuts that DCC may make; he said that Town Councils were not usually seen as being there to provide safety nets for cuts in County services but it was important that we had the capacity to respond positively to maintain important services for the community. Cllr Mike Kermode therefore proposed that Option three be approved. This option is for a £116.70 per annum precept; which is an increase of £0.85 per month per household and would leave the Council with £55,000 in reserve. This was seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.**

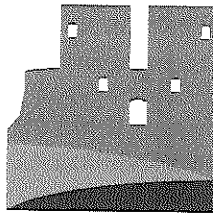
It was also noted that SLCC and One Voice Wales recommend that Council reserves should be between 25% and 50% of annual spend.

The Deputy Mayor thanked the Clerk for his excellent work on the budget and precept documentation and this was echoed by all the Members.

The Mayor thanked Cllr Val Simmons for chairing the meeting.

The next Full Council meeting on Thursday 11th January will start as 6.30pm to accommodate representatives of the library service to discuss the future of Rhuddlan library.

Draft



Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

Rhuddlan Town Council
11th January 2024

Mayor's and Deputy Mayor's Report

Events/Attendances

- 15th December – The Mayoress and I attended the Lunch Club's Christmas meal. It was well attended, including Deputy Mayor Cllr Val Simmons, Cllr. Arwel Roberts and our Town Clerk. As ever, it was an excellent occasion and many, many thanks to all of the volunteers that run the Lunch Club and provide a social get-together with a meal every fortnight.
- 19th December – We appeared as elves at the Community Carols event, together with other Town Council elves and Santa (thanks Cllr Ivor Beech). The event was a great success with those residents that attended. Many thanks to Cllr. Arwel Roberts for taking a leading role with the carol singing. Our Town Clerk also deserves thanks for the way in which the event was run and the excellent Christmas tree centrepiece. The Community Centre's team provided their usual good support to community events, with the provision of the refreshments the overall facilities in the centre.
- 21st December – The Deputy Mayor and I, together with Cllrs Arwel Roberts and Mike Elgin toured the town to judge the High Street shop decorations and the Christmas lights at the houses/bungalows. It was so good to see the massive efforts that the shops and many of the houses had done to brighten up the town at Christmas time and it did make the judging a very difficult task. The winners were:

Best Decorated High Street Shop

- 1st place – Wish
- 2nd place – Hazel Court
- 3rd place – Baileys

The window displays at Ruby Roo's and the Model Shop were highly commended.

Best decorated property:

- 1st place – 24 Harding Avenue
- 2nd place – 30 Hoel Hendre
- 3rd place – 16 Harding Avenue

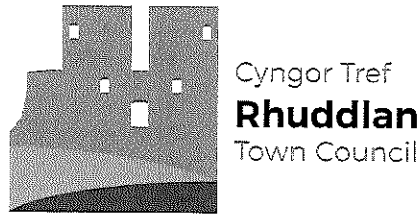
- 22nd and 23rd December – The Mayoress and I distributed the prizes to the various winners:
- 22nd December – I called in at the Library for the final coffee morning session of the year and also had time to talk to the manager and staff about the proposed changes to the opening hours. The audiology volunteer team were also at the Library, at one of their

monthly Drop-In Clinics – another excellent example of the good work that is being done by volunteers.

- 3rd January – The Town Clerk, the Deputy Mayor and I met to discuss the budget/precept report for the Town Council's meeting the next evening.
- 4th January – I chaired the start of the Town Council's budget/precept meeting on Zoom, I was not attending face to face because of a persistent cough. After wishing members a Happy New Year – Blwyddyn Newydd Dda and offering the Council's congratulations to Cllr. Ann Davies on her award of the British Empire Medal; I handed over the chairperson's role to Deputy Mayor Cllr. Val Simmons and continued to participate as a councillor. Many thanks to Cllr Val – excellent chairing of an important meeting and an example of good team work.

The meeting led to the Town Council agreeing a budget of £223,099, which includes contingency funding which will enable the Town Council to respond positively to address some of the cuts made by DCC, such as the 40% reduction in Library hours. The prudent use of balances means that the increase in the precept (the charge made to households by the Town Council) has been kept to an increase of just £0.86 per month. The increase could have been smaller but the Council wants the capacity and the funds to respond positively to any DCC service cuts in the town. Town Council's should not normally have to act as a safety net for County Council services but the main priority is for us to help to maintain vital community services in Rhuddlan.

MEK/RTC – 4th January 2024



Clerk's Project Report and Correspondence for January 2024 Meeting

Correspondence

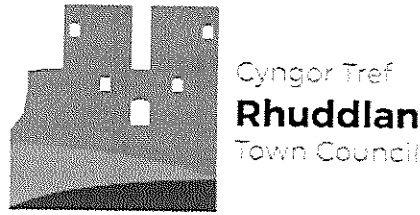
The following has been received:

1. Email from the British Heart Foundation (N Wales co-ordinator) regarding their 'Go Red in Feb 2024' initiative and asking to discuss with us further.
2. Email from DCC regarding consultation on a fairer council tax system for Wales. They are asking if our council wants to respond to the consultation. (already sent to members).
3. 2 emails from resident complaining about speeding in Ffordd Ganol blaming the focus on Highland Road. They also enquired about the broken SID.
4. Response off Joe Lunn Healthy Prestatyn lach (copied to councillors).
5. Verbal complaint from Hwb neighbour regarding water outflow off container contributing to flooding his garden.

Project Update

Community Market – the next market is scheduled on 10th February. No response yet by the Community Centre of the offer of taking on the market.

MUGA lights, lights delivered to DCC but no brackets, awaiting brackets and then installation.



County Councillor Report for January 2024 Meeting – Arwel Roberts

BLWYDDYN NEWYDD DDA.

I do not have much to report since the last meeting. Complaints have been coming to me regarding dog mess. We need to highlight that many dog owners are very conscientious whilst walking their dogs but there are others who fail to pick their dog's mess along pavements and outside people's properties. I have requested that the county prepare a report regarding how they patrol the streets here in Rhuddlan. The town council always make dog poo bags available to dog owners.

The Dementia Group is still working hard to support persons who are lonely and with memory problems. The school choir sang very well in the local church for them on the 14th of December. As Chair of the group, I'm very grateful to the treasurer (Kath Atkinson) and the secretary (Mayor of our Council), all voluntary and a pleasure to work with.

New Road Rhuddlan is a complete disaster – pools of water causing cars to avoid them and properties are really worried that water is seeping on to their gardens. Hopefully the County can find a solution.

I have asked DCC officers to meet with me to discuss the problem of flooding in Gwindy Street and Kerfoot Avenue – I am still waiting for Dwr Cymru to agree to attend the meeting.

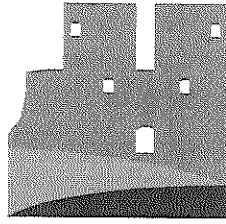
Latest update off Tim Towers is as follows:

In response to your specific points I have to say that I'm not sure when we will be able to meet at Kerfoot Avenue. As you know I have been in contact with Welsh Water and they have no record of any incidents there and now that I have had the vegetation cleared in the field I too feel that the problem has gone away. We last spoke about it after Storm Babet and you agreed that it hadn't flooded – despite significant problems being experienced in so many other locations. We are still following up on a lot of those and therefore I'm afraid that this particular problem cannot take precedence at this time even though I acknowledge that you have raised it for some time.

With regards to the flooding problem on the A5151 the team are striving hard to resolve this one. In all honesty we are not sure what the cause of the problem is and investigations are continuing. We have now erected signs and cleared a number of the gullies to try to alleviate the problem as much as possible but further work will take place to see what more can be done. Resources are extremely

limited at the present time but this location will remain as a priority for us and we'll therefore update you in the next couple of weeks as to our findings.

Once again I apologise for any inconvenience caused by these delays.



Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

Rhuddlan Town Council – DBS Checks for Staff and Councillors

1. Elected councillors are only eligible for an enhanced DBD check if they are appointed as a member of a committee or sub-committee involved in:
 - a. the delivery of services for children relating to education or social services;
 - b. the delivery of services to adults relating to social services¹
2. Committee and sub-committee members can be eligible to be asked to apply of an enhanced DBS check if the child workforce if:
 - a. the local authority carries out any education functions, or social service functions and the committee relates to any of the above matters¹
3. Committee and sub-committee members can be eligible to be asked to apply of an enhanced DBS check if the adult workforce if:
 - a. The committee relates to any social service functions that relate wholly or mainly to adults who receive health or social care¹
4. Regarding Standard DBS certificates there is no requirement for councillors or its employees to have DBS certificates²
5. Have checked with Denbigh, St Asaph, Dyserth, Caerwys and Halkyn councils and none have councillors DBS checked.

¹ The Disclosure and Barring Service – A Guide to School Governors and Elected Councillor Roles in Wales.

² Disclosure and Barring Service – A guide to eligibility for standard certificate for registered bodies and employees.

Date: 14/02/2024

Rhuddlan Town Council

Page 1

Time: 09:59

Current Bank A/c

List of Payments made between 01/01/2024 and 31/01/2024

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
11/01/2024	NEST Pension	DD	469.46		Pension
11/01/2024	British Gas	DD	162.38	Bill 6520090	Electricity MUGA
11/01/2024	Mari A Williams Translations	PABT0299	117.14	Invoice 1388	Translation Dec 2023
11/01/2024	Clear Insurance Management	PABT0300	45.10	529718990	Insurance Path
11/01/2024	Denbighshire County Council	PABT0301	7,257.60	802065654	Service toilets 1/2-31/12/23
11/01/2024	Web Studio North Wales	DD	240.00	Invoice 7439	Website and Social Media Mgmt
11/01/2024	British Gas	DD	47.03	Bill 6483245	Electricity Hwb
11/01/2024	Goodsigns & Print	PABT0302	269.82	Inv 111477	Car Park Sign Admirals
11/01/2024	SLCC Ltd.	PABT0303	411.00	Inv BK213903-1	Practitioners Conference
11/01/2024	HMRC	PABT0304	1,020.63	120PP01122176	PAYE and NI
11/01/2024	Steve Wilson	PABT0305	127.02		Salary Adjustment
11/01/2024	Steve Wilson	SO	1,780.11		Salary
11/01/2024	Paul Smith	PABT0306	16.00		Salary Adjustment
11/01/2024	Paul Smith	SO	227.87		Salary
11/01/2024	Steve Wilson	PABT0307	85.05	ME/VS/MK	Travel Expenses
11/01/2024	British Gas	DD	96.25	Bill 6521091	Gas Hwb Rhuddlan
11/01/2024	Angela Wilkins	PABT0308	36.00		Hwb Cleaning Jan (pt)
11/01/2024	Vodafone	DD	13.73	B2-611405804	Mobile Phone Clerk
11/01/2024	Urdd for all	PABT0309	180.00	Minutes Item15bii	Grant approved Dec 2023
11/01/2024	Play & Leisure Limited	PABT0310	1,300.03	Inv No 15728	Replacement Play Equipment
11/01/2024	Mayor of Denbigh Charity Fund	PABT0311	20.00		Tickets for charity event
11/01/2024	HSBC UK	DD	9.00		Bank Charges
Total Payments			13,931.22		

