

Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

Rhuddlan Town Council

Full Council Hybrid Meeting Thursday 9th October 2025

Present:

Cllr Jackie Burnham (Mayor)
Cllr Ivor Beech (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr Sophie Baker (Joined remotely)
Cllr Ann Davies
Cllr Reg Davies
Cllr Mike Elgin
Cllr Mike Kermode
Cllr Gloria Lambert
Cllr Arwel Roberts
Cllr Val Simmons
Steve Wilson - Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Elaine Hughes and Ruth Salisbury from DCC Play Rangers Service
Community Police Sergeant Iwan Hughes and a PCSO.
There was 10 members of the public present.

The meeting commenced with the Mayor Cllr Jackie Burnham presenting the Aelwyn Morgan Award for 2025 to Des Hayes for 50 years' service to Scouting in Rhuddlan. She also presented bouquets to runners up Georgine Grey for her great volunteering work in Rhuddlan and Mai Soloman for 30 years' service to the Treasure Chest Breast Cancer Support Group. The Mayor had earlier presented a bouquet to Ellen Beer for her volunteering work at Rhuddlan Community Centre.

The meeting was recorded from this point (audio only)

1. Apologies

Cllr Bleddyn Williams.

2. Declaration of Interest

Cllr Ivor Beech item 12, Cllr Mike Kermode item 14 and Cllr Ann Davies item 13.

3. Urgent Matters as Agreed by the Chairperson

No matters arisen.

4. Denbighshire Play Rangers

Elaine Hughes and Ruth Salisbury presented what the team do and asked the council if they would fund term time weekly play sessions in Rhuddlan on Admiral's Field. 39 sessions would cost £5,142.54 which included 2 rangers and 1 supervisor. It would also guarantee 11 school holiday sessions. This was discussed by Councillors. Cllr Ann Davies proposed the council proceed, seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. **Resolved.**

5. Police Matters *Appendix 1*

The Clerk shared the latest crime data off the police website.

Sergeant Iwan Hughes shared with councillors; anti-social behaviour issues at Rhuddlan Castle, an update on e-bikes/scooters initiative, clarification of who is responsible for parking issues, the Cuppa with a Copper initiative, and a pub watch scheme that is being set up.

Cllr Mike Elgin shared the issues highlighted from the Road Safety meeting held on 8/10 especially speeding on Highlands Road. The Clerk will share data with the Police, and the police will act on any specific detailed information and see if they can get Go Safe to monitor Meliden Road. Cllr Elgin made the police aware of recent accidents on the Rhuddlan Golf Club roundabout.

Councillors also highlighted issues with motorists chasing the lights on the bridge, large heavy vehicles blatantly breaking the weight limits on the bridge and asked about the use of CCTV and participation in the ride along with the police scheme.

6. Minutes:

a. Town Council Meeting held on 11th September 2025

After minor typo corrections identified by Mayor Jackie Burnham the minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr Mike Kermode, seconded Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.**

The Mayor duly signed the minutes.

b. Committee and Working Group meetings held since last meeting

Cllr Jackie Burnham ran Councillors through the minutes from the Biodiversity meeting held on 2/10. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed the council do the biodiversity training as a whole council, seconded by Cllr Ann Davies. **Resolved.** Cllr Val Simmons proposed that they were a true record, seconded by Cllr Ivor Beech. **Resolved.** Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed the council start the November meeting early to celebrate Rhuddlan's successes in the Your Neighbourhood Wales in Bloom awards, seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.** Cllr Mike Elgin proposed that the council enter Admiral Field in the awards in 2026, seconded by Cllr Arwel Roberts. **Resolved.**

Cllr Mike Egin ran Councillors through the minutes of the Road Safety Working Group meeting held on 8/10. Councillors discussed existing SIDS and additional SID's for Rhyl Road and Highlands Road, speed reduction opportunities for Highlands Road. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that the two vandalised SIDs are repaired and that the Clerk reports on the cost and feasibility of two new SID's, seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.**



7. Progress Report from Minutes

Clerk updated councillors regarding the following:

- DCC team thanked for their work on the Heritage Centre Project and next meeting scheduled for 22/10.
- A Carlow Councillor has been formally invited to the Mayor's civic service.
- OVW AGM and conference was cancelled.
- Leaving bin bags by public waste bins is classed as fly tipping.
- Nerys Rowlands has agreed to the closure of the Rhuddlan and Rhyl in Need Charity.
- DCC contacted regarding lorries using cemetery layby as an overnight stop.
- Go-safe acknowledged request to set up Community Speeding Team.
- Lack of junction line on Parc Edith reported to DCC

8. Reports from:

a. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor *Appendix 2*

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor had submitted a written report which was accepted by members. The Mayor added she had chaired the Biodiversity Committee meeting and attended the Personnel Committee Meeting on 2/10, attended Dementia Group dance and called in to the Treasure Chest coffee afternoon on 4/10, attended the Road Safety Committee meeting on 8/10 and presented Ellen Beer with bouquet because she couldn't attend the meeting with the other nominees for Aelwyn Morgan Award on the 9/10.

Cllr Ivor Beech added he had attended the opening of Maggie's Cancer Centre at YGC and attended the Llangollen Civic Sunday.

Both written reports were accepted.

b. The Town Clerk - Correspondence and Project report *Appendix 3*

The Clerk had submitted a written report. He added that:

- The MS grouped had thanked council for the loan of its speaker and offered the council use of their newly purchased unit.
- Received congratulation from Bay of Colwyn Council to all the Rhuddlan winners in the Wales in Bloom awards 2025.
- HSBC have informed council that interest rates are being reduced.
- Notice that all CCTV cameras in Rhuddlan are in service.

The report was accepted

9. County Councillor Reports *Appendix 4*

Cllr Arwel Roberts had submitted a written report. He added that he had attended a Rhyl Prom site visit as Chair of DCC, informed the council that the dropped kerb project is now out to tender and unlikely to be in place by Remembrance Sunday and the new sign for Highlands Close will be installed soon.

The written report was accepted.

Cllr Ann Davies verbally reported the following:

- Update on the trees at Parc Y Llog.
- Lack of play equipment at the Vicarage Lane Play area that could be used by children with a disability and the steep ramp.



- Concerns over the number of accidents at the Rhuddlan Golf Club Roundabout and is pursuing a meeting with DCC Highway Officers.

Cllr Ann Davies stated she has a declaration of prejudicial interest in item 13c.

10. Planning

- 1) 44/2025/0345/PS - variation of condition no. 2 of planning permission code no. 44/2023/0783/PF to allow alterations to the design of the dwelling at Land Adjacent to Church Yard Entrance Church Street, Rhuddlan. No issues providing there is no impact to biodiversity in the area, proposed by Cllr Mike Elgin, seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved.**
- 2) 44/2025/0413/PF - change of use from Class A1 (retail) to Class D2 (assembly and leisure) with ancillary D1 (health centre/training) as a wellbeing centre at Clwyd House High Street, Rhuddlan. No issues or comments providing there is no impact to biodiversity in the area, proposed by Cllr Jackie Burnham, seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.**
- 3) 44/2025/0403/PF - demolition of existing buildings and erection of a replacement indoor storage facility including access and parking at Bodrhyddan Home Farmhouse, Rhuddlan. No issues or comments providing there is no impact to biodiversity in the area, proposed by Cllr Jackie Burnham, seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.**

11. Budget & Finance Matters

a. Grant Requests

i) Theatre Bara Caws

Discussed by councillors. Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed a £50 donation, seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.**

ii) Urdd Gobaith Cymru

Discussed by councillors. Cllr Arwel Roberts proposed a £100 donation, seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.**

iii) Glan Clwyd Kilimanjaro Trek and ICU Garden.

Discussed by councillors. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed they be asked to formally apply for a grant, seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.**

b. Approve the October payments listing due *Appendix 5*

Councillors reviewed the payment listing. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed, Cllr Ann Davies seconded. **Resolved.**

12. Rhuddlan Nature Reserve

Appendix 6

Cllr Mike Kermode took Councillors through his proposal. This was discussed by Councillors and Cllr Mike Kermode proposed the Council sign up to a partnership with the Nature Reserve MAG and DCC Countryside Services and the Rhuddlan Dementia Group and allocate £2,000 for match funding grant applications, seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.**

13. Public Toilets



The Council had Previously decided about the toilets at its July meeting which was to proceed with an asset transfer with DCC for the building and to have a 12-month service level agreement with them for the running of the toilets but there was now a need to revisit this. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that the Council suspends Standing Order 15 ("the six-month rule") so that the matter could be considered again – seconded by Cllr Mike Elgin – **Resolved**. This was discussed in detail by Councillors. Cllr Mike Elgin highlighted the high cost per estimated user and the other toilets available in the vicinity. Cllr Sophie Baker did not support charging for toilet usage, Cllr Ann Davies expressed concern that a decision was being rushed, and the council should wait until April to see what happens. Cllr Mike Kermode highlighted that RTC like St Asaph City Council were being proactive in relation to taking on the toilets and that the residents would not be happy if the council let the toilets close. Cllr Arwel Roberts suggested businesses could be asked to sponsor some aspects of the operating costs. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that the council continue with what was agreed in the July meeting and agree to a two-year SLA with DCC with no charging for usage being introduced. Seconded by Cllr Reg Davies. **Resolved**.

14. Trees on Vicarage Lane Playing Field

Cllr Ann Davies shared details of her meeting with Clwyd Alun Housing Association regarding trimming the trees on Vicarage Lane, the trees are on both Council owned and CAHA owned land, so CAHA proposed they pay 50% of the cost and RTC pays the other 50% and that CAHS would ensure and fund all future maintenance. The Clerk has gone out to tender and stated it would cost the council around £750. Proposed by Cllr Reg Davies to pay 50% of the costs providing CAHA agree to maintain in the future, seconded by Cllr Jackie Burnham. **Resolved**.

15. Community Matters

Cllr Reg Davies highlighted the poor state of the roses at the Knights.

Cllr Arwel Roberts shared details of his DCC chairman's charity concert on 21/11.

Cllr Bleddyn Williams informed the council of a resident who has recently raised a sum of money for charity and suggested a letter of congratulations is sent from the Mayor.

Cllr Val Simmons updated councillors on the Friends of Rhuddlan Library.

Cllr Ivor Beech informed Councillors of the sad passing of Nora Williams, a stalwart of St Mary's Church. Councillors agreed to send a condolence card to the church.

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.

Cllr Mike Kermode proposed, Cllr Arwel Roberts seconded. **Resolved**.

The members of the public left the meeting and the recording was stopped.

16. Review reasons for apologies

Bleddyn Williams, work engagements – accepted by councillors.

17. Personnel Minutes

Cllr Mike Kermode took Councillors through the minutes of the Personal Committee meeting held on 2/10. The committee recommended ceasing council running of the Community



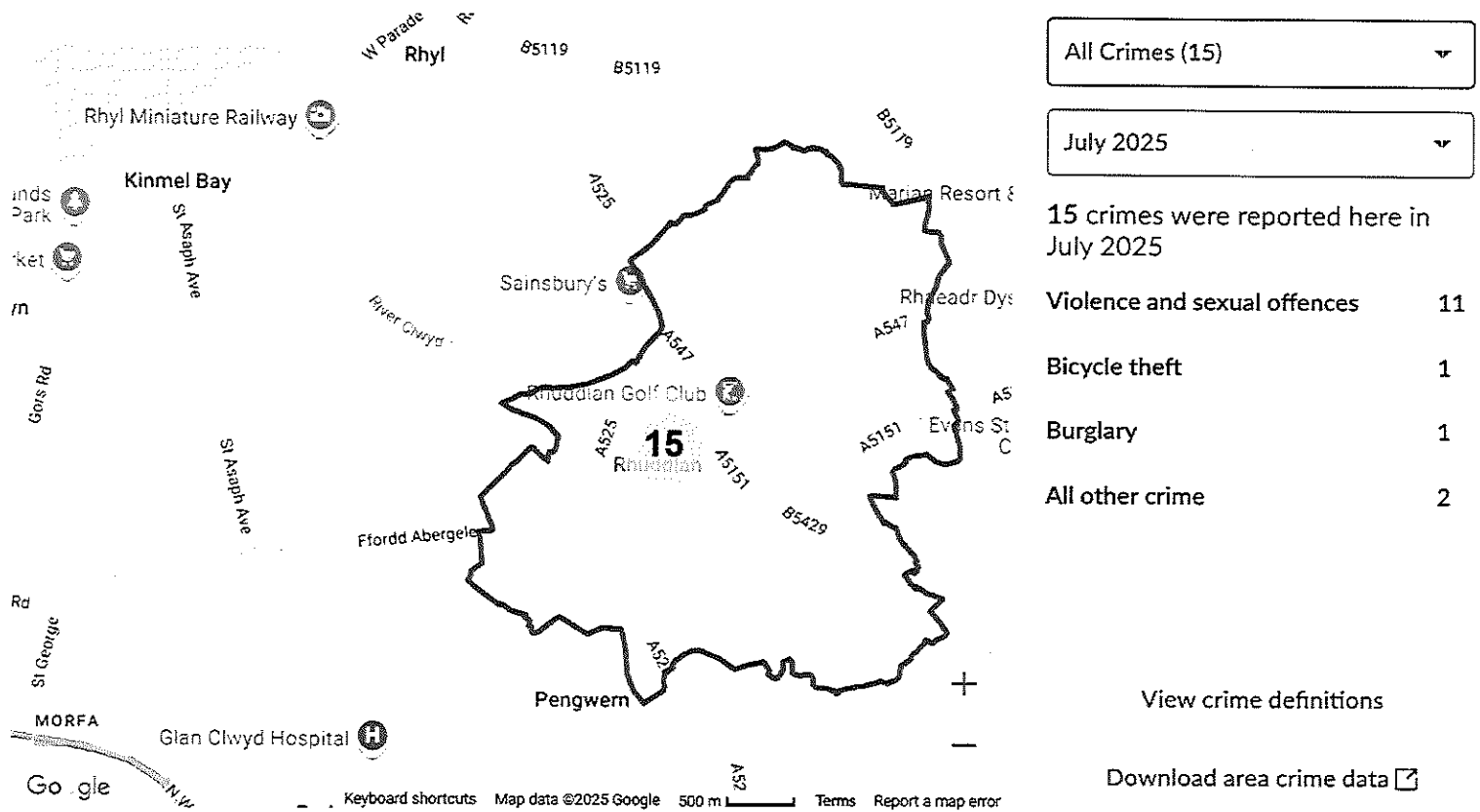
market from the end of 2025 and recruiting a replacement Assistant Clerk working 35hrs per month. The acceptance of the minutes and recommendations was proposed by Cllr Arwel Roberts, seconded by Cllr Val Simmons. **Resolved.**

16. Date of next meetings:

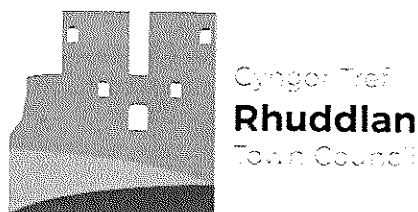
Thursday 13th November 2025.

Signed  Date: 13/11/2025
Cllr Jackie Burnham (Mayor)

October 2025 Meeting – Crime Report – Appendix 1



Location	January						February						March						April				May				June		July				Total											
	Anti-Social Behaviour Criminal Damage & Arson Public Order Burglary Other Crime Possession of Weapons Vehicle Crime Violence & Other Offences	Anti-Social Behaviour Criminal Damage & Arson Public Order Drugs Other Crime Shoplifting Other Theft Violence & Other Offences	Anti-Social Behaviour Criminal Damage & Arson Public Order Drugs Other Crime Shoplifting Other Theft Violence & Other Offences	Anti-Social Behaviour Criminal Damage & Arson Public Order Drugs Other Crime Shoplifting Other Theft Violence & Other Offences	Anti-Social Behaviour Criminal Damage & Arson Public order Shoplifting Violence & Other Offences	Anti-Social Behaviour Criminal Damage & Arson Public order Vehicle Crime Other Theft Violence & Other Offences	Anti-Social Behaviour Criminal Damage & Arson Violence & Other Offences	Anti-Social Behaviour Criminal Damage & Arson Violence & Other Offences	Bycicle Theft Criminal Damage & Arson Burglary Shoplifting Violence & Other Offences																																			
A525 ST Asaph Rd						1	1						1	1									2									7												
Abergele Road	1			1								1					1						4									8												
Admirals Walk																																0												
Asda										1	1							1												1	1	6												
B5249																																0												
Berllan Avenue			1				2			1									1														5											
Bryn Cres															1													1				1	3											
Bryn Hafod											1										1												3											
Church Street																	1													1			2											
Clos Y Berllan															1																		1											
Clos David Owen						1		1																									2											
Ciwyd Avenue																																	0											
Cross Street																	1				2	2			1				2	1		1	10											
Dyserth Road																								1								1	4											
Eton Park																										2							2											
Fford Aber																																1	1											
Ffordd Dewi																																	0											
Ffordd Morris																																	0											
Ffordd Porthdy												1				1					1						1					1	5											
Glyn Avenue								1																									1											
Gwindy Street	1				1	1																											3											
Harding Avenue				1		1	2					3														1		1					9											
High Street								1																									1											
Highlands Close																																	0											
Highlands Road																						1						1				2	5											
Hoel Hendre												1																					1											
Howell Avenue										1												1				1							3											
Hylas Lane		1								1																							2											
Kerfoot Ave																											1						1											
Llys Hendre												2	1			3																	6											
Llys Pen-y-Fordd																													1				1											
Maes Y Bryn																												2					2											
Maes-Y-Castell																					1	1											2											
Maes Fyddian																						1						1			1		4											
Maes Onnen																													1				1											
Maes Rhosyn																																	0											
Marsh Road		1					1														2	1					1					1	7											
Nant Close																								2									0											
Parliament Street	1														1		1						1		1								6											
Parliament Street Car Park																													2				2											
Park Edith	1	1					1			1				2												1							1	9										
Parc-y-Ulleng																																	2											
Pentre Lane							1				1						1		1	1						1							6											
Plas-Y-Brenin							1																										1											
Princes Road			1				5					1										1											8											
Princes Park																																	2											
Rhyl Road	1														1												2						3											
Seymour Drive																	1												1					1										
Tan-Yr-Eglwys												1					2			1	1												6											
Trevor Avenue																																	0											
Vicarage Lane																																	0											
Vicarage Lane Car Park							1																										1											
Total	5	3	2	1	1	1	17	3	1	4	1	1	1	1	12	1	3	1	2	3	1	1	11	2	2	1	1	2	12	4	1	1	2	2	1	16	1	3	11	1	1	1	11	155



Rhuddlan Town Council September 2025 Meeting - Mayor and Deputy Mayor's Report

The Mayor Cllr Jackie Burnham

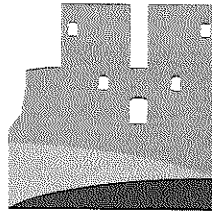
September was a quieter month for me and due to other commitments, some invitations were delegated to others. Thank you to Cllr. Beech and Cllr. Kermode for representing Rhuddlan Town Council on my behalf.

13th September (am) - I called in to the Community Market before work. The weather was awful and unfortunately impacted the number of stall holders and visitors.

13th September (pm)- I was honoured to be invited to the 100th Birthday Party of Basil Pierce and make a short speech to mark this very special occasion. It was lovely to meet different members of his family, see his card for the King and write in his book of memories.

15th September - attended Finance & Staffing meeting at Ysgol Y Castell

22nd September - School Governors Meeting YGC - at this AGM I stood down as Chair due to increased work commitments. I nominated Nick Crabtree to step up to the roll and thanked the head teacher and the members of the board. I have learned a lot during my 4 years as Chair and am grateful to have had the opportunity.



Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

Clerk's Project Report and Correspondence for October 2025 Meeting

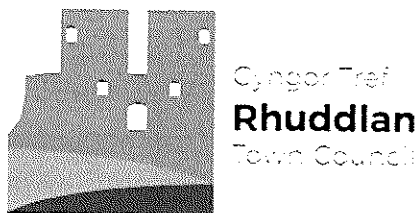
Correspondence

The following has been received:

1. Complaint from resident living on Rhyl Road regarding rubbish left on Admiral's Field after Dragon's football matches.
2. Resignation letter from Morgan Ditchburn the assistant clerk.
3. Email from Wrexham University regarding the Independent Review of CCTV in North Wales, commissioned by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).
4. Thank you letter for grant from 1st Rhuddlan Scout Group.
5. Update from DCC on SIDS: **DECISION REQUIRED**
 - a. The replacement of a solar panel cost is £475 + VAT (this was for the unit near Pentre Lane). They would recommend re-siting this SID, as it has been damaged on numerous occasions.
 - b. For the SID near the Golf Course, there is some damage to the back of the unit. They are unsure how anyone could have reached this sign, as it is positioned quite high up. The cost for this repair is £153 + VAT.
6. Payment remittance from Denbighshire Leisure for grant of £8,332 for Admiral's Path lights and trim trail.

Dates for the diary

- Future Community Markets Saturdays 11/10, 8/11 & 13/12
- Remembrance Sunday parade and service Sunday 9th November from 10.15am
- Switch on of Christmas Lights Monday 1st December at 4pm
- Mayor Cllr Jackie Burnhams Civic Sunday 7th December at 2pm
- Community Carols around the Tree Saturday 20th December 5pm



County Councillor Arwel Roberts Adroddiad – Report for Hydref/October 2025 Meeting

Cadeirydd y Sir - events Chair of Denbighshire.

Sadwrn 13/9/2025 – Civic Service in Llangollen

Sul 14/9/2025 – Civic Service in Fflint.

Mercher 1/10/2025 – Chaired a Member Budget Briefing.

Ysgol Y Castell

15th of September – I chaired the Finance Committee

I was on holiday whilst the full Governors meeting met.

Other Activities

I was on holiday when management committee of the Nature Reserve met. I am looking forward to the event in Wrexham organised by Cymru yn ei Blodau on the 3rd of October. Four areas within Rhuddlan will be expecting praise. The Community Centre, the Allotments, the Bowling Club and the Nature Reserve.

30th of September- Committee of the Cylch Meithrin- hope to be present. The same for the Biodiversity Committee Meeting on the 2nd of October.

I am dealing with an issue regarding a bungalow in Tan yr Eglwys which is having trouble with mice – growing concern for the tenant.

A resident wants the DCC Street Scene to cut bramble in Marsh Road.

Paul Jackson who has overall responsibility for the toilets met me, our Clerk and a representative from the business next door to the public toilets to discuss the options, we can really move forward to keep them open.

The Clerk and discussed the way forward for the heritage committee and scheduled the next meeting on 22nd October at 7pm.

Awen and I have agreed to pay for a bilingual plaque to explain who Philip Jones Griffiths was in the library.

I am looking forward to the 4th of October as Chair of Denbighshire – 2 events within Rhuddlan – a dance in the Community Centre organised by the Dementia Group and an afternoon tea in the HWB organised by Treasure Chest.

On the 9th of October I will be present in the official opening of the new Rhyl Sea Defences.

Date: 09/10/2025

Rhuddlan Town Council

Page 1

Time: 09:32

Current Bank A/c

List of Payments made between 01/10/2025 and 31/10/2025

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
08/10/2025	Zoom Video Communications	PABT0808	15.59	INV321142736	Zoom 11/9 to 10/10/25
09/10/2025	Steve Wilson	PABT0791	107.55	Personnel Committee	Travel Expenses Sept
09/10/2025	British Gas	DD	46.81	Bill 12535705	Hwb Electricity
09/10/2025	Denbighshire County Council	PABT0792	7,103.04	802462105/1030	Free parking subsidy 1/9-31/8
09/10/2025	Inscribe Print and Design	PABT0793	145.00	invoice 00004733	Remembrance Sunday Brochures
09/10/2025	Mari A Williams Translations	PABT0794	189.99	Anfoneb 1600	Translations September
09/10/2025	Web Studio North Wales	PABT0795	300.00	Invoice 9501	Visit Rhuddlan Website
09/10/2025	Web Studio North Wales	DD	240.00	Invoice 9500	Social media and website mgmt
09/10/2025	UK Debt Management	DD	3,438.40	261665	Loan repayment - Hwb Rhuddlan
09/10/2025	HMRC	PABT0796	981.44	120PP01122176	PAYE & NI
09/10/2025	NEST Pension	DD	306.91		Pension
09/10/2025	Steve Wilson	SO	1,705.52		Salary September
09/10/2025	Steve Wilson	PABT0797	89.78		Salary Sept Adjustment
09/10/2025	Morgan Ditchburn	SO	601.33		Salary September
09/10/2025	Morgan Ditchburn	PABT0798	9.08		Salary Sept Adj
09/10/2025	HSBC UK	DD	2.50		Bank Charges 21/8-20/9
09/10/2025	Denbighshire County Council	PABT0799	12,000.00	103034/8024608	Library contribution basic
09/10/2025	Denbighshire County Council	PABT0800	17,600.00	103034/8024608	Library contribution addition
09/10/2025	Abergele Town Council	PABT0801	15.00	ME/DP	Charity Event 1 ticket Cllr IB
09/10/2025	Friends of Rhuddlan Library	PABT0802	1,500.00	Sept mins item 11ai	Grant
09/10/2025	RHUDDLAN TOWN COMMUNITY	PABT0803	150.00	Inv 302	Hire of CC for market October
09/10/2025	One Voice Wales	PABT0804	42.00	Invoice 10015	Training Cllr MK
09/10/2025	DCC County Fund Account	PABT0805	24.00		Charity Event 2 tickets Cllr JB
09/10/2025	Brian Jackson	PABT0806	45.00		Hwb maintenance
09/10/2025	One Voice Wales	PABT0807	42.00	Invoice 9757	Training Cllr GL
09/10/2025	Tesco Mobile	DD	4.99	134260261554	Clerk's Phone
09/10/2025	Amazon EU	PABT0809	18.55	GB-2025-493356143	Measuring Wheel
09/10/2025	Amazon EU	PABT0810	24.66	GB56Z24YYAEUI	Cleaning Equipment Hwb
09/10/2025	BT	DD	79.00		Wifi Hwb
09/10/2025	British Gas	DD	48.85	12561479	MUGA electricity
09/10/2025	Angela Wilkins	PABT0811	102.00		Hwb Cleaning 16/9 to 17/10
09/10/2025	Welsh Water	PABT0812	147.54	5238824501	Hwb and PC's water 26/3-30/9
09/10/2025	British Gas	DD	19.88	12570380	Gas Hwb Rhuddlan
09/10/2025	UK Debt Management	DD	2,326.10	670864	PWLB repayment path
09/10/2025	Royal British Legion Poppy App	PABT0813	58.00		2 Wreaths
09/10/2025	Lumena	PABT0814	5,292.00	Admiral's Field WG	Lumena
Total Payments			54,822.51		

Rhuddlan Town Council

9th October 2025 - Agenda item 14

Rhuddlan Nature Reserve – Project Proposal

Background

The Nature Reserve is one of the town's environmental gems. It gives residents and visitors the opportunity to enjoy a peaceful and very rewarding contact with an area that contains a wide range of native plant-life and creatures.

The Nature Reserve's roots are the disused railway station that was closed in 1955. The area lay dormant until the late 1980s until Denbighshire County Council (DCC) came forward with proposals for the site to be a recycling centre. However, these plans were ditched after massive local protests from residents and local groups and the purchase of a key part of the site by Raymond Fagan, the son of a prominent ex-Town Councillor, Tom Fagan who was the first Mayor of Rhuddlan Town Council. This means that one part of the area is now owned by the Fagan family and the other part by DCC. A common focus on environmental and wildlife matters led to the development of the area into a local nature reserve.

The area is now classed one of DCC's conservation areas, with the County Council's Countryside Services Team being responsible for day-to-day operations and maintenance. There is a joint Management Advisory Group (MAG), chaired by Anita Fagan on behalf of her late husband and this includes a DCC member (Cllr. Arwel Roberts), the Town Council (Cllrs Ivor Beech and Jackie Burnham) the Dementia Group (Cllr Mike Kermode) and officers from DCC's Countryside Team, plus other volunteers.

Nature Reserve's Successes

The past 20 years have seen many positive developments at the nature reserve. These include the planting and cultivation of many natural plant types and the creation of new wildlife areas such as the Dragonfly Pond, established a couple of years ago.

Another development was the setting up of a dementia friendly Sensory Area. This came about through a partnership between the MAG and Rhuddlan Dementia Group. The Dementia Group was able to attract external funding for the project and the MAG/Countryside Team provided the on-site development expertise.

There are also plans to build a wheelchair accessible viewing platform at the big pond and the DCC team have obtained funds from a Nature for Health project.

Many community-based activities are run at the Nature Reserve, such bat walks, plant foraging and bug hunts, many of these attract the younger generation to the reserve.

The reserve's successes can be measured in the glowing awards that it has received as part of the annual Wales in Bloom assessments where it has obtained a top 100% score. Also, last year it was given national recognition, receiving the John Wood Environmental Award from the Royal Horticultural Society.

Future Developments

The MAG continually looks for ways to improve the nature reserve, especially in terms of community accessibility.

One major project is the provision of a circular path at the reserve, using parts of the old railway track. This will also require the use of part of Lord Langford's land and approval for this was gained from his Lordship some years ago. The main challenge is obtaining sufficient funding for this project, so this remains a long-term aim at the moment.

A number of shorter-term projects have been identified which have the potential to attract external funding from the Burbo Bank Community Fund. These include – improvements to the Sensory Area – providing dog exercise space so as to divert dog walkers from the Sensory Area – development of wildflower area in the hard-standing area at the far exit to the reserve. These improvements will improve wild flower space, extend community accessibility and enhance the dementia friendliness of the reserve.

As mentioned, there is potential to obtain funding for these improvements from the Burbo Bank Windfarm's community support fund, where bids for up to £20,000 can be made. However, there are some challenges. DCC cannot bid for these funds but the Town Council can, also the MAG is not fully formalised and does not have a bank account and this is a key need for external funding.

One option to resolve the bank account issue, would be for the Town Council to act as the main funding agent, as part of a partnership comprising the MAG, DCC and Rhuddlan Dementia Group. This is similar to the approach used in gaining external funding for the dementia-friendly sensory area. Some element of local match-funding is also required; this would be 5% which could amount to £4,000 for a bid of £20,000. DCC's team has the capacity to find 50% of any match funding.

The Town Council is asked to consider:

- Entering into a partnership with the Nature Reserve's MAG, DCC's Countryside Services Team and Rhuddlan Dementia Group to obtain external funding for developments at the Nature reserve.
- To act as the funding agent for any external grants.
- To reserve a sum of £2,000 for match funding support for the initial project bid.

Cllr Mike Kermode

6th Oct. 2025