

*Cyngor Tref* **RHUDDLAN** *Town Council*



**Minutes of the meeting of Rhuddlan Town Council held at Community Centre, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 7.00pm.**

Present: Cllr A Roberts (Mayor in the Chair), Cllr W R Davies, Cllr G Rowlands, Cllr G Williams, Cllr M Kermode, Cllr S King, Cllr A Smith, Cllr J Burnham, Town Clerk.

Four members of the public were present.

**89 APOLOGIES:** Cllr I Phillips, Cllr J T Jones, Cllr A Davies.

**90 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:** None

**91 UPDATE ON LIBRARY PROPOSALS – Jackie Walley and Jamie Groves DCC**

Jackie Walley reiterated her commitment that it was the intention to retain the Library in Rhuddlan but in looking to the future it is an opportunity to introduce some digital services and to use technology as a gateway to closer engagement with the County Council for the service users, where appropriate. A face to face service will still be provided and all current access points will remain open. ‘One stop shops’ will be provided but in consultation with the Town as to the services required/most valuable.

The hours of opening will be reduced from 26 to 23 and the proposed change in opening hours are subject to further negotiation but have currently been based on footflow. However a discussion was undertaken with the view that the library should be open at times to suit all members of the community including children and the possibility was raised of the need to encourage schools to make more use of the facilities provided. There have been some staff who will leave/plan to leave but all of this has been managed on a voluntary basis.

Funds have been secured for refurbishing the library by DCC. A few years ago, a feasibility study was commissioned and some of the suggestions were that the Library needed to be more of a community hub and that more youth activity would be welcome. It was confirmed that the current lack of provision of newspapers is being addressed and a new supplier is being sought.

Jackie Walley confirmed that Ffion Angharad from DCC would be in touch with the Town clerk to arrange a meeting to discuss the refurbishment plans and it was agreed that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and the Town Clerk would attend although the invitation was extended to all Councillors.

**92 POLICE MATTERS:** PC Jim Jones and PCSO Rebecca Evans attended.

PCSO Rebecca Evans introduced PC Jim Jones and reported as follows:-

*These are the incidents from 8<sup>th</sup> October – 12 November*

*15<sup>th</sup> October – Making off without payment – Enquiries ongoing*

*18<sup>th</sup> October – Theft of number plate. All lines of enquiry completed and no suspect identified*

*21<sup>st</sup> October – Making off without payment – Enquiries ongoing*

*23<sup>rd</sup> October – Attempted Burglary Dwelling – No entry gained. All lines of enquiry completed and no suspect identified*

*23<sup>rd</sup> October – Anti social behaviour – Advice given to both parties*

*2<sup>nd</sup> November – Criminal Damage – Suspect identified and dealt with by police caution*

The Mayor thanked the Police with their help regarding issues of trespass at 1 Vicarage Lane.

The Police welcomed the idea of holding surgeries in the Library when refurbished to help them to engage even closer with the community.

A question was raised regarding lighting fireworks at any other occasion other than Bonfire night in particular relating to the effect they have on some pets and if owners are not aware, they cannot protect them. It was made clear that if it became repetitive then it would be considered as Anti Social behaviour. Again, the Police asked to be informed of specific instances.

A question was also raised as one of the Councillors believed that someone had been caught in Rhuddlan under the Anti Drug and Drink offence, but this was not reflected in the Police statistics. The Police took an action to look into this further and report back.

It was also confirmed that the direction on the CCTV (which can rotate to 360 degrees) can be moved to focus on a specific location at the request of the Police.

**93 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING 8 OCTOBER 2015**

Cllr R Davies requested permission from the Mayor and left the room, returning after a couple of minutes.

The minutes were approved and a comments made that circulating the minutes ahead of the meeting and amendments made directly to the Clerk was welcomed and was a time saver.

Under matters arising the following points were noted:-

- A majority of Councillors agreed to fund the overmarking of the lines on the football pitch but not until Spring 2016 due to the effect it has on the grass. 3 Councillors voted against this.
- There had been no further communication to the Mayor regarding Castlefields.
- The Council wished to commend the work undertaken on Rhuddlan Bridge and especially as it had been completed ahead of schedule. The Town Clerk was asked to contact DCC in regard to the cast iron railings which are set on both sides, requesting that they should be repainted or refurbished in some way.
- It was decided that the decision that the Town Council should pay for the roses on the roundabout should remain unchanged.

## **94 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

It was with great sadness that the Mayor read out a letter sent on behalf of Cllr J T Jones advising that he was stepping down from the role. Numerous Councillors reflected on his passion and care for the town, his valuable contribution to Rhuddlan and all the work that he undertook on a volunteer basis with the football club. It was with great reluctance and regret that his resignation was accepted.

The Mayor requested Urgent items for debate and these were as follows:

- Cllr Rowlands queried whether the names on the War Memorial were a complete reflection of the list of Rhuddlan soldiers who lost their lives in any battle and he took an action to check this out with the Rhuddlan History Society.
- The Town Clerk confirmed that the contact names for the Town Council had been removed from the Noticeboard in order for them to be updated.
- The Mayor thanked Cllr Kermode for attending the recent Mid and North Wales Association and following the resignation of Cllr Jones, Cllr Rowlands agreed to join Cllr Kermode as the representatives from Rhuddlan.
- Cllr R Davies and Cllr Rowlands will visit the land by the Library to ascertain whether the area where the trees need to be pruned is owned by the Town Council.

## **95 FINANCIAL STANDING ORDERS**

The draft Financial Standing Orders were accepted by the Council and the Town Clerk specifically thanked Cllr Kermode for his help with the draft.

## **96 CORRESPONDENCE**

From the Mayor: (This report had been precirculated as per the revised Standing orders)

Gweithgareddau y Maer. The Mayor's activities.

5/ 10/ 15 - invited to the official opening of a fitness suite in the town

12/10/15 - invited to the annual meeting of the Benefits Advice Shop in Rhyl.

19/10/15 - invited to the opening of a new shop ( estate agents) in the town.

31/10/15 - invited by the Rhuddlan Environment Group to a rubbish collecting day in the town.

Enjoyed the company of the Brownies, Cubs, Scouts. The High Sheriff of Clwyd Mrs Janet Evans my wife and I presented certificates and awards.

1/11/15 - Caerwys Civic Service.

6/11/15 - helped to organise a concert in Ysgol Dewi Sant Rhyl to raise money for the Rhuddlan Cylch.

Future

21/11/ 15 - trip to Aberystwyth - bus organised to visit the exhibition in the National Library of Wales remembering Philip Jones Griffiths. Hope to be there with them on the day.

29/11/15 - civic sunday with the Mayor and Mayoress of Towyn and Kinmel Bay

29/11/15 - Cyngerdd y Maer - the Mayor's Concert - eglwys y plwy - parish church.

From the Town Clerk (This report had been precirculated as per the revised Standing orders)

- Invite to Prestatyn Air Cadets Annual Dinner (positive response already received by Cllr Williams and his wife). Details already circulated. Cllr Smith and his wife, Cllr King +1 and the Mayor and his wife will also attend.
- Bus shelters update. Details already circulated.
- Rhuddlan Best decorated Christmas Window and personal property – Judges agreed as the Mayor, Cllr Smith, Cllr Kermode and Cllr Rowlands. Date agreed as 12 December
- Small Business Saturday 5/12/15. Posters etc available from DCC.
- Mayor's Concert 29 Nov – Sponsors sought for programme.
- Tesco Community Scheme – Details already circulated.
- Cadwyn Clwyd funding – Details already circulated.
- DVSC advised that they have 24 x Beech coloured chairs and 6 x Beech Colour Solid Wood/Chrome tables – free to a good home
- Switching on of Christmas lights – It was agreed to provide refreshments in the Community Centre.
- Christmas Carol singing event – Town Clerk to liaise with the Chaplain and Canon Day for a suitable date.
- Muga lights changed to reflect change 1 hour – now will come on at 4pm and switch off at 9pm. Thank you Cllr Rowlands.
- Letter of complaint received from DCC regarding black bin bags being deposited outside the Community Centre, leaving them in an unacceptable state. They advise that Community Centre waste is classed as business waste and should be deposited in brown bags. Upon further research by the Town Clerk, it appears that this incident was reported in June, the Community Centre were contacted by DCC and made aware of the situation and there has not been a recurrence.
- Thank you letter received from Dial a Ride for the £500- contribution towards the purchase of replacement minibuses.
- Request for information received from North Wales Police to collate a contact database of key individuals who include current Council members. Details requested are:- Name, Address, E mail address, Contact number. Councillors agreed to this.
- Letter received on behalf of Aldi stores who are looking to build a store in Morfa Rhuddlan. They wish to set up a consultation meeting with the residents of Rhuddlan very shortly.

## 97 COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORT

The Mayor had circulated the following report prior to the meeting:-

13/10/15 - met with highways officers regarding the A525 by the roundabout near Cwybr Bach and Lorna private home. Both County Councillors present and resident who saw a vehicle going out of control, Marc Musgrave has informed us of the proposed new speed limits on the A5151, A 547 and A525 . I have transferred the details to you previously.

Many thanks to the County for providing hand rails between the Rejuva car park and the public car park.

15/10/15 - flood wardens meeting - all wardens have hopefully contacted households and businesses who have been affected or could be affected.

3/11/15 invited by the Rhuddlan Community Group to explain the situation with the C.C.T.V Cameras.

5/11/15 invited to meet Ken Skates( under minister for tourism in the Welsh Government) and the local A.M Ann Jones as Town Champion for Rhuddlan to see the new information boards in Denbigh as we have three here in Rhuddlan.

Bus shelters still waiting for the County officer to come back to us. We could at least start on the shelters on Dyserth Road and Prince's Road.

The bridge - have had good responses from residents with regard to the changes made.

Library - I will not enlarge on this since Jackie Walley and Jamie Groves are explaining the future and changes to the facility in our next meeting. Soon the Town Clerk will send an invite to you all to meet the library staff .As Mayor I intend to thank two of them for their contributions to the running of the library.

Transport problems have occurred with regard to pupils who are and will be attending Ysgol Dewi Sant from Rhuddlan after Christmas - the headteacher has agreed that a meeting will be held in the school with officers and parents on the 17th of November.

On the 5th of November it was a pleasure to see some of the pupils from Ysgol y Castell in County Hall. Well behaved indeed.

Additionally, this report by Cllr A Davies had been previously circulated:-

Bridge

Work has now been completed on the bridge, the work has been carried out sensitively and in keeping with the conservation area, the bridge has maintained it's Scheduled Monument Status.

Library

Library staff across Denbighshire have been offered voluntary redundancies, this has been accepted by two staff members at Rhuddlan Library, with another member being transferred to Llangollen library.

New opening hours from 14th November will be -

Monday 9:30- 12:30 (closed for lunch) 1:30-5:00

Tuesday Closed

Wednesday 9:30-12:30(closed for lunch) 1:30-5:00

Thursday 1:30-5:00

Friday 9:30- 12:30 closed for lunch) 1:30-5:00

Saturday Closed.

I would like to thank the staff for the invaluable service they have provided to Rhuddlan residents ,they have encouraged children to read books, supported the teenagers with IT, welcomed the elderly - always with a smile that will be greatly missed.

### Community Group

The group have completed the planting of winter flowers in the high street and the library, the plants are provided by Hurst nurseries, Marsh Road, Rhuddlan. As always we can expect a wonderful display of flowers. Many thanks to this hard working group.

## 98 BUDGET/FINANCE ISSUES

Thomas Fattorini	Box for Mayor's chain	£318.12
One Voice Wales	Training for Clerk 30/9	£35.00
Abergele Town Council	Christmas Concert	£12.00
HSBC	Access to deeds	£10.30
Ruddlan Town Comm Assoc	Hire of room 15/10	£12.00
Hacker Young	External Audit	£450.00
Town Clerk	Chocolates and Stamps	£16.96
Town Clerk	4x Abergele to Rhuddlan	£21.60
British Legion	Wreath for Remembrance Day	£41.50
North Wales Music Charity	Mayorial invite	£12.00
Mike Kermode	Mileage claim	£12.80
Town Clerk	Stationery	£9.00
		<b>£951.28</b>
For discussion		
Invoice from Benefits Advice Shop	payment to 31/12/15	£446.25
Quote for tree work - Kerfoot Ave	from DCC	£470

It was agreed to pay all invoices due plus the payment to the Benefits Advice Shop. As detailed earlier, further investigation is to take place in relation to the ownership of the land at Kerfoot Ave and therefore this quote will not be acted upon until clarification is received.

## 99 PLANNING

The Mayor and Councillor M Kermode abstained from the discussion.

Planning Application 44/2015/1022 Conversion and erection of extension of outbuilding to create ancillary accommodation – Roann, Parliament St, Rhuddlan. No objection.

Planning Application 44/2015/1090 Erection of extension to side of dwelling (retrospective application) Mount Clear, Pentre Lane, Rhuddlan. No objection.

Planning Application 44/2015/1075 Development of 3.39 hectares of land for residential development Land east of Tirionfa, Rhuddlan. The Councillors had serious concerns as to how the local infrastructure could support this development from any angle. Town Clerk to feed this back to the Planning Dept at DCC.

It was advised that the Appeal again Unit 4 Coed Park, Abergele Road had been withdrawn.

**100 URGENT MATTERS**

Already covered under Mayor's Announcements

**101 COMMUNITY MATTERS**

Concern was raised regarding the signage at Glanllyn and that this was not consistent with an issue where a similar sign had to be removed elsewhere in the Town. It was agreed that the Mayor would contact Jon Chapman at DCC for clarification.

**102 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 10 December 2015

**The Mayor advised that the meeting would then move to Part 2. There was a debate amongst the Councillors at this point as some felt that the confidential nature of Part 2 was being compromised and challenged the reason for its existence. The issue was put to the vote. 5 Councillors were in favour of moving to Part 2, Two Councillors against and one abstention. The majority vote was carried and all members of the public were politely requested to leave.**

**103 PART 2 – ALLOCATION OF FUNDING FROM THE COMMUNITY EVENTS FUND**

It was agreed that the applications both from Rhuddlan Events Committee and Gwledd Fest Rhuddlan qualified in this category and the Councillors agreed that they both should be supported. However, this is on the basis that, wherever the opportunity arises in communication (posters, tickets etc), that it is acknowledged that the event has been supported by Rhuddlan Town Council. Gwledd Rhuddlan were allocated £700 and Rhuddlan Events Committee £500-.

**104 ORCHARD LANE (omitted in error from the Mayor's report earlier)**

Cllr Rowlands, Cllr Williams and Cllr Smith reported that they had looked over the revised plans and that they believed they were a true reflection of the current layout. A proposal was made that the Mayor should be given authority to sign the legal documents as requested by the Solicitors. All Cllrs were in agreement apart from Cllr King who specifically requested that it was minuted that she was voting against and that she was not at all happy.

Meeting closed 9.55 pm

Signed.....

Mayor 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015