



**Minutes of the meeting of Rhuddlan Town Council held at Community Centre, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at 7.00pm.**

Present: Councillors Andy Smith, Deputy Mayor (in the Chair), Reg Davies, Arwel Roberts, Mike Kermode, Jackie Burnham, Syd Gaskin, Gareth Rowlands, Rhian Clarke (Town Clerk.), Sian Mai Jones (newly appointed Town Clerk)

Three members of the public were present

**85 APOLOGIES:** Councillors: Sara King (Mayor), Ann Davies, Gwilym Williams, Ian Phillips

**86 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:** Councillors: Mike Kermode, Arwel Roberts & Andy Smith in relation to Gwledd Rhuddlan Festival

**87 POLICE MATTERS**

October 2016 Police Report - pre-circulated:

*“10/10/16 – Criminal Damage. 2 vehicles – One on Clwyd Avenue and one on Clos Y Berllan had their tyres slashed. Enquiries ongoing*

*03/10/16 – Theft Fairlands Crescent – theft of items sometime between March 2016 and October 2016. All enquiries completed. No suspects identified*

*28/09/16 – Assault Kings Head – Disagreement. No evidence*

*25/09/16 – Common Assault Castle Inn – Community resolution issued to include apology issued to the victim*

*23/09/16 – Shoplifting Spar – Awaiting shoplifting pack to progress*

*17/09/16 – Theft of property. Enquiries ongoing*

*11/09/16 – Criminal Damage. Damage to farming crops. Suspects identified and issued with yellow cards. Referrals made to Youth Justice Service*

*08/09/16 – Anti Social Behaviour. Neighbourhood dispute. All parties spoken to by North Wales Police and Denbighshire County Council Housing Department”*

PCSO Rebecca Evans reported on a campaign – Be a Nice Guy - which is targeted at engaging with youths in the community and encourage them to take part in activities. A venue is required to be able to put on activities on a Thursday night between 6pm & 8pm. A few venues were proposed for consideration – Rhuddlan Community Centre, Ebenezer Chapel, Studio Rejuva, Ysgol y Castell.

The Triangle is an area that has potential as an area to be developed for the benefit of young people. It was agreed that the Town Clerk to write a letter to the Chief Executive of

Denbighshire County Council to ascertain what plans the County Council has for this area. Town Clerk to liaise with Cllr Arwel Roberts on this matter.

On-going concern was expressed about cars jumping red lights over the Bridge. PCSO Rebecca Evans to bring this matter to the attention of North Wales Police.

#### **88 PRESENTATION BY B.T. / SUPERFAST BUSINESS WALES:**

The Mayor welcomed Geraint Strello who outlined the Superfast Cymru Broadband which is being rolled out in Wales over the next 14 months which will provide 98% National coverage of speeds of up to 300Mbps (and upload speeds of up to 30Mbps). 88% of Wales is already covered with access to 30Mbps whilst Denbighshire has 79.6% coverage to date.

Some premises will be enabled for superfast broadband via Fibre to the Premises where a fibre optic cable runs all the way directly to homes or businesses. However, not all service providers currently offer this. Anyone interested in finding out more to visit the Welsh Government – Superfast broadband website, put in a postcode and this should give an estimate what speeds there currently are in the area / when the roll out will happen in their area.

Felicity Roberts, Partnership Manager for Superfast Business Wales added that businesses were being provided with digital business support over a 5-year programme funded by Welsh Government. There are 6600 business that have been identified to work with and 1400 businesses have already registered.

Workshops are being delivered in the community to help businesses exploit digital technology to grow their business. To date 98 Workshops have been delivered with another 51 planned between now and the end of December.

Retail and agricultural businesses are not eligible through Welsh Government to access these workshops. However, Denbighshire County Council have been pro-active in running their own Workshop in which retail and agricultural businesses can access.

It is important that the community is aware of the Superfast Business Wales programme to maximise connectivity. Further information available at [www.superfast@businesswales.org.uk](mailto:www.superfast@businesswales.org.uk)

#### **89 WALES IN BLOOM / BLODEUO RHUDDLAN**

Peter Barton Price, a judge for Wales in Bloom congratulated the Town Council, the Bloom Committee, the communities, the local businesses and all involved on gaining the Gold Award (Class 5 Small towns) which clearly championed the community spirit that prevails in Rhuddlan.

A Marking Sheet was presented the Council with an assessment mark and ideas on areas of improvement. Town Clerk to circulate this report to Councillors.

The Blodeuo Rhuddlan Bloom signs to be put on “Welcome to Rhuddlan” signs and the Wales in Bloom Gold Award to be displayed in the community hall.

A source of funding has been identified to celebrate community events. Cllr Mike Kermode and Cllr Gareth Rowlands to work together to shape a bid to celebrate this Award. The Blodeuo Rhuddlan Bloom Committee need to progress with this in due course.

Peter Barton Price stated that achieving a Gold Award for a first time entry was unheard of and if the committee were mindful of setting their sights on the National’s in the future then there is a need to plan a few years in advance.

A North Wales in Bloom launch event will be held in March 2017 which would take place on a Friday, morning or afternoon, which will host up to 40 people who would run active workshops in the town. Wales in Bloom would contribute financially towards this event.

It was agreed that the Council would be happy to host this event.

**90 MINUTES OF 8th, 15th, 29th SEPTEMBER:**

Minutes were approved subject to a few minor amendments which are listed below under Matters Arising.

**91 MATTERS ARISING:**

8<sup>th</sup> of September – approved subject to minor amendments and noting the approval of the minutes of the Personnel Committee.

15<sup>th</sup> of September were approved subject to including the list of shortlisted candidates for Town Clerks post.

29<sup>th</sup> of September were approved subject to the inclusion of naming Sian Mai Jones as the successful candidate for Town Clerk post.

Page 25 – Outdoor Gym (Air Fitness) plan has been sent to Denbighshire County Council.

Page 29 – Cars jumping red lights on Bridge. Cllr Arwel Roberts to follow up with Denbighshire County Council.

Page 29 – Graffiti on bypass pillar has now been removed.

It was agreed that the Personnel Committee be given the power to draw and agree a Contract of Employment for the newly appointed Town Clerk and to manage the probation process.

**92 CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE MAYOR - pre-circulated:**

*“16<sup>th</sup> of September – attended with Councillor Rowlands the Wales in Bloom presentation.*

*25<sup>th</sup> of September – Dawn and I attended Prestatyn Civic Sunday*

*Attended the community groups monthly meeting*

*Attended the trustees of the community centre monthly meeting 8<sup>th</sup> of October – went to the library to wave off the children of various organisations who were going on a day trip to the Welsh Mountain Zoo.  
Went to Ruthin to gather information from Denbighshire County Council regarding different types of funding available.”*

**93 TOWN CLERK’S REPORT (RHIAN CLARKE)**

- Noticeboard update – the height needs adjusting. Town Clerk to follow up.
- Remembrance Sunday – arrangements progressing satisfactorily.
- Elections 2017 – a pre-circulated note provided information about the 2017 elections.
- Use of Parliament St car park for Gwledd Rhuddlan Fest 2017 – to be discussed at next meeting.
- Security at Admirals Field and Vicarage Lane Car Park - concerns were expressed that the site is vulnerable to travellers. Erection of high level barriers were discussed although there were reservations as to how effective these would be in deterring someone accessing the site.

Price for a barrier for Admirals Fields is £1900 plus VAT. A price needs to be sought for a barrier at Vicarage Lane. The Town Clerk (Rhian Clarke) shared a list of prices of repairs that are needed to repair the gate. It was approved that these go ahead.

The matter of security of the playing fields to be deferred until the next meeting.

- Invitation to form a working relationship with Pengwern College and Blodeuo - A request has come to form a partnership between Young Enterprise Team and Blodeuo Rhuddlan Bloom Committee to work together to provide hanging baskets (at cost price) and other resources for 2017 Wales in Bloom. It was agreed to accept in principal and for the request to be forwarded to the Blodeuo Rhuddlan Bloom Committee.
- In addition - met with Cllr Mike Kermode and the newly appointed Town Clerk (Sian Mai Jones) to assist handover.

**94 COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER’S REPORTS:**

Pre-circulated report from Cllr Ann Davies:

**RHUDDLAN SURGERY**

Following concerns from residents regarding the availability of doctors at the Rhuddlan Surgery, the Local Health Board was contacted and gave the following information- A Doctor is available Monday Wednesday Friday -all day.

Tuesday Thursday- mornings only.

Nurse Practitioners are also present.

If a patient is too ill to visit the surgery they can make a request for a home visit.

Patients can also access services at Prestatyn surgery.

**DENTAL SURGERY**

*“We look forward to having our very own dentist in Rhyl Road, Rhuddlan very soon.”*

## **LIBRARY**

*“A recent survey at the library gave the following information - Book Lending 38% Computer use 24% Local history events 20 % Welsh Classes 14% Language Courses 12% Making Payments 10% Reading Newspapers 7% Food bags 6% Advice 5% Residence Pass 4%( Access to Castle)”*

*We are very grateful to the staff and trustees of the community centre for making a room available during the work to modernise the library, this work should be completed by late December- with services then being back to normal at the library. The launch date will be February.”*

## **DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CHAIR’S CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

*“A Christmas Concert will be held at St Mary's Church, Rhuddlan on the 6th December 7-8 pm. As the current chair, Cllr Ann Davies looks forward to welcoming you all there. Free admission.”*

Pre-circulated report from Cllr Arwel Roberts:

### **RHUDDLAN LIBRARY AND ONE STOP SHOP – PRESS RELEASE**

*“A special chapter is due to start in the history of Rhuddlan Library and One Stop Shop with work set to begin on developing exciting new facilities for its customers.*

*In a recent survey, customers told Denbighshire County Council that they don’t want to go to several offices to make enquiries, and want to choose how they access council services and keep in touch.*

*For Rhuddlan customers, this will soon become a reality as building works will shortly begin to ‘reshape’ the inside of the Library and One Stop Shop building, so that in future, customers will be able to access many different services from one location, and the local community will be able to use, to host their own events and activities.*

*In order to keep our customers and visitors safe while the building work is underway, Rhuddlan Library and One Stop Shop will close to the public from Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October until December 2016.*

*Councillor Hugh Irving, Lead Member for Communities, Customer Care and Libraries, said: “We would like to thank customers in advance for their cooperation and understanding while the work is ongoing.*

*“This is a major development that will enhance the facilities for local people who use the wide range of services already on offer at Rhuddlan library.*

*“We understand the importance of this service to local people and users of the library and One Stop Shop will enjoy the much- improved facilities when the site re-opens in December.”*

*Library items due to be returned on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> October will be accepted by staff when the library opens again, Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October at the temporary location at the usual times: Rhuddlan Community Hall, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan, LL18 5PU*

<i>Monday</i>	<i>9:30 – 12:30</i>	<i>1:30 – 5pm</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>9:30 – 12:30</i>	<i>1:30 – 5pm</i>
<i>Thursday</i>		<i>1:30 – 5pm</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>1.30 – 12:30</i>	<i>1:30 – 5pm</i>

*We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and thank you for your cooperation and patience during this time.”*

#### **OFFICIAL OPENING DATE OF LIBRARY**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Denbighshire County Council will send out a holding invite electronically for the whole morning – exact times to be confirmed nearer the launch date.

#### **DOG FOULING**

This is an on-going concern. Dog owners need to take on responsibility for clearing up after their dogs. Denbighshire County Council are proposing a by law that all dogs must be on a lead. Conwy County Council was flagged up as an example of good practice where robust enforcement systems are in place where enforcement officers patrol areas known to be problem hotspots issuing fixed penalty fines to anyone caught breaking the law. The situation to be monitored.

#### **95 BUDGET /FINANCE ISSUES**

##### **Accounts due**

Rhuddlan Community Centre	Additional room hire	£24.00
Signscape	Magnetic pins	£45.00
Town Clerk	Mileage - Abergele to Rhuddlan x 14	£75.60
Town Clerk	Stamps	£29.89
Festive Lighting	Christmas lights	£6,370.49
Town Clerk	Stationery	£7.00
Town Clerk	Audit postage	£15.70
HM Revenue and Customs	HRMC and NI	£79.40
NWN Media	Job advert	£448.80
Town Clerk	Home working allowance	£52.00
Town Clerk	revision of pay for July August and Sept	£29.64
Clr Rowlands mileage	To Mold - One Voice Wales training course	£19.80

**£7,197.32**

**96 PLANNING:**

Cllr Mike Kermode and Cllr Arwel Roberts abstained.

44/2016/0513 - Conversion of outbuilding to form ancillary accommodation to main building. Roann Parliament Street, Rhuddlan. No objection.

44/2016/0913 - Development of 0.1 hectares of land by the erection of a dwelling – Land rear of Trewen Cottage Princes Road, Rhuddlan. No objection.

**97 URGENT MATTERS:**

Town Council website is not up to date. A Website Committee to be formed to be able to progress with this matter.

A meeting to be arranged 19<sup>th</sup> of October 7 p.m. at Rhuddlan Community Centre. Councillors to be invited: Cllr Sara King, Cllr Mike Kermode, Cllr Jackie Burnham, Cllr Arwel Roberts, Cllr Gareth Rowlands and Town Clerk (SMJ)

Town Clerk (SMJ) to inform the Mayor of current situation.

**98 COMMUNITY MATTERS**

The following were brought to the Council's notice:

- Questions over the footpath bridge towards Marsh Road. The footpath has not been used for years and there are containers blocking the way. Town Clerk to invite a representative responsible for footpaths for Denbighshire County Council to the next meeting
- Cllr Reg Davies to acquire a Xmas Trees before December 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Concern was expressed about deep ruts in Council's land at bottom end of Clos David Owen need filling. Cllr Gareth Rowlands and Cllr Arwel Roberts declared an Interest. Town Clerk to get quotes to remedy the problem.
- Risk Assessment – a risk assessment has been carried out on the Admiral play area but not the play area on Vicarage Lane. A full risk assessment needs to be carried out. Town Clerk to liaise with Mayor
- Xmas Lights will be switched on 5<sup>th</sup> of December.
- Carol Service around the tree. Town Clerk to liaise with Church.
- Concrete Blocks around Knights Statue are unsightly – Gareth Rowlands has been in touch with Countryside Service who will put a wicker fence in to disguise. This matter is in hand.
- Knights sculpture – slat in roof is missing which needs repairing. Town Clerk to arrange.
- Raw sewage was spotted by Clwyd View Caravan Park. Officers from Natural Resources have visited the site and the blockage has been cleared.
- Concern raised with regards to drones. Members of the public need to phone Police (101) to report.
- There is a delay with regards to publishing minutes of meetings which cannot be put on the website until they have been ratified by full Council in the following meeting. There is a need to look at the possibility of publishing draft minutes on the website along with a stipulation that they may be subject to change. This item to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.
- CCTV meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> November to be held at Russel House between 1 – 3 pm but Cllr Gareth Rowlands not able to attend.

- 99 Part 2 Business** - It is recommended in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business because it is likely that exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Act would be disclosed
- Cllr Ian Phillips has tendered his resignation. As this has been done 6 months before the elections, this vacancy needs to be published. It was agreed to publish the vacancy on the notice board. If no election is needed then a co-opted vacancy will be advertised, as per proper timetables.

**100 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** November 10 at 7pm

Signed.....Cllr Andy Smith - Deputy Mayor  
Date 10/11/2016

