

Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of meeting held on 14th December 2017.

PRESENT

Cllrs. Andy Smith (Mayor in the Chair), Jackie Burnham, Ann Davies, Reg Davies, Heather Ellis, Syd Gaskin, Mike Kermode, Arwel Roberts, Gareth Rowlands and Gareth Smith.

1. TEMPORARY TOWN CLERK

The Mayor reported that the Town Clerk could not be at the meeting because she was recovering from a minor operation. Cllr. Mike Kermode had volunteered to act as the Town Clerk for the meeting where he would also retain his role as a Town Councillor. It was agreed that Cllr. Mike Kermode be appointed as Temporary Town Clerk for the meeting, acting in an unpaid capacity.

2. APOLOGIES

None

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None at this stage of the meeting.

4. POLICE MATTERS

The Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) had apologised that they were not able to attend the meeting and had reported that there were no significant Police matters to report this month. Members raised a number of concerns, including anti-social behaviour, parking on pavements and vandalism in the Library car park. They felt that these caused concern by many local residents and needed to be addressed by the Police.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th November were approved, subject to the correction of a spelling mistake.

Matters arising:

4a (i) No Dogs on Marked Play Area Signs – It was agreed that there needed to be one of these signs clearly displayed at all entrances to Admiral's Playing Field. Cllr. Arwel Roberts stated that Denbighshire County Council (DCC) did not have sufficient signs to carry this out. It was agreed to ask DCC to provide and fix additional signs at Admiral's Playing Field at the Town Council's expense.

4a (ii) Castle Lights – An estimate had been received from the firm used by CADW and it was agreed that alternative estimates be obtained for the work.

4a (vi) iBeacon – A meeting has been organised for 10th January 2018.

4a (x) Admiral's Field's Gates – the painting work had been delayed because of the bad weather.

4a (xiv) – Best Business Windows and Residence Displays Competition – The Mayor announced that the winners were:

- 1st Business – Rosie’s Wool Shop
- 2nd Business – Mode Hair and Beauty
- 3rd Business – The Sweetest Shop in the Village
- Best Residence – Glan Llyn, Abbey Road.

5b (ii) – Meeting with Stone Mason – This will take place in February.

6j River Bridge Traffic Lights – Some members commented that the levels of traffic queues had been lower than expected following the opening of the new ALDI store. Others commented that queues were being caused when traffic turning right into the side road was delayed by oncoming traffic. A potential solution to this would be to add a Turn Right lane at the junction but this was not possible because of the width of the roadway and the adjacent verges.

9a Radar Gun – It was reported that the PCSO was still investigating the availability of a Radar Gun from the Police.

13d New Bench Near Rhuddlan Golf Course Roundabout – Some concerns were raised regarding the location of the bench and its proximity to local properties. The potential maintenance costs were also mentioned. It was agreed that the Town Clerk obtain information on the exact location proposed for the bench and about the potential future maintenance costs.

6. LIBRARY WORKING GROUP

The minutes of a Working Group meeting held on 14th November with representatives of DCC’s Library Service were considered and approved.

7. CORRESPONDENCE FROM:

7a The Mayor:

- *12th November - Remembrance Sunday Service*
- *17th November - Rhyl & District Musical Theatre Company - Production of Jekyll & Hyde*
- *18th November - Mayor of Ruthin Charity evening*
- *24th November - Winter Choral concert*
- *25th November- Fundraiser Rhyl RNLI*
- *29th November - Opening of Co-op Rhuddlan*
- *1st December - Christmas Carol concert Abergele*
- *2nd December - Penmaenmawr Christmas celebrations*
- *4th December - Chair of Denbighshire Carol concert*
- *7th December - Opening of Aldi*
- *7th December - Switch on of Christmas lights*

- 7TH December - Judging of Best Xmas Decorated Window – business and houses
- 7th December - Community Centre Christmas dinner
- 9th December - Acquire Christmas concert
- 13th December - Carols around the tree

“This month has seen a business reopen and a new business open in our town. We have judged the best decorated house and windows in the high street. The town of Rhuddlan grows from strength to strength, I wish them all well and feel we as a council cannot sit on our laurels. I would like to take the time to wish all of our town a happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.”

The Mayor reported that Pengwern College has organised a Treasure Hunt which involves clues being hidden in many of the shop window displays in the High Street. It was agreed that the Council make a grant of £100 to Pengwern College in support of their work.

7b The Town Clerk:

- *Press Releases:*
- *Choral Concert*
- *Xmas events and Mayoral message*
- *New Website*
- *Crocus Bulb Planting*
- *Window Displays*
- *Sent Choral Concert details to Rhyl Radio, Radio Tudno and Radio Glan Clwyd Hospital. Had interview with Radio Tudno with Roy Jenkins*
- *Sent condolence card to Lady Langford*
- *Attended Blodeuo Meeting on the 28th November*
- *Been contacted by Meira Jones, manager of the library asking if people are interested in learning new digital skills. e.g. getting online, ancestry, use of library online catalogue, Borrow box, ancestry, social media, shopping safely online etc. If so, please contact Rhuddlan Library 01745 590719, so we can arrange a course in the New Year.*
- *Rhuddlan Town Community Association kindly gave free use of the Community Centre for the recent Blodeuo meeting*
- *Forthcoming Event: Mayor’s Charity Ball - March 10th 2018*

The Temporary Town Clerk reported that the Town Clerk had now received estimates for the work of installing the defibrillators outside the Police Station and the King’s Head public house and was in discussions with the electrician regarding the work. It was agreed that once the defibrillators had been installed there should be a training session, open to public, on how the defibrillators are used.

7c Denbighshire County Council

Members discussed the information provided by DCC officers regarding the Pen y Ffordd culvert and Cllr. Gareth Rowlands said that he may be able to provide them with some local information which may help them to resolve the situation.

7d Natural Resources Wales

Members received and noted the updated version of the Rhuddlan Community Flood Plan.

7e Office of Police and Crime Commissioner

Members received and noted a letter from the Police and Crime Commissioner which covered a wide range of issues regarding the operation of the North Wales Police.

7f St. Mary's Church

The Council had received an e-mail which described the steps that the church is taking to seek grant aid towards a heritage project entitled "Our Past – Their Future". Cllr. Reg Davies declared an interest. A successful application will need to show support from interested and influential parties. It was agreed that the Council will support the church in making this bid and that a suitable letter should be sent.

8. COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORTS

Cllrs. Arwel Roberts and Ann Davies had circulated reports prior to the meeting (see Appendices A and B attached). Cllr. Roberts also reported that he had received complaints from local residents regarding the parking of cars in Vicarage Lane and about overhanging foliage on some pavements from properties' gardens. He also reported that a recurrent leak in Vicarage Lane had been examined by DCC and the Water Board; it is caused by a spring and is unlikely to be remedied. Cllr. Roberts also reported that he had received information that DCC officers were in the process of obtaining estimates for the cleaning of bus shelters and it was agreed that this should be followed up in case there were benefits in having the Council's bus shelters included in the process. Cllr. Ann Davies highlighted the role of Community Navigators who provide information, advice and assistance which enable citizens to engage with their local community and learn about support which might be available outside of social services and health organisations. It was agreed that the local Community Navigator, Alex Pendleton, be invited to a future meeting to explain their role in more detail.

9. BLODEUO

Cllr. Gareth Rowlands gave a short verbal update which included information on the planting of crocus and daffodils bulbs in the Library area and at Admiral's Playing Field. He also reported on the meeting which the Blodeuo Group had had with Peter Barton-Price from Wales in Bloom which had focussed on next year's bid for Wales in Bloom and the potential for a Britain in Bloom bid if Rhuddlan was nominated. He suggested that moving from Wales in Bloom to Britain in Bloom was like a football team moving from the Championship League to the Premier League in terms of the

award's status. Cllr. Mike Kermode said that while he greatly applauded the excellent work by all of the groups that had helped Rhuddlan to win two Gold Awards from Wales in Bloom; he was not convinced about the benefits of pursuing a Britain in Bloom bid. One of his concerns was the likely time that this would need from the Town Clerk in pulling together and packaging the bid which would need to go beyond the work needed for a Wales in Bloom bid. It was agreed to consider this matter at a later stage if Rhuddlan was nominated for a Britain in Bloom bid.

10. INFORMATION AND WEBSITE

All members agreed that the new website was providing an excellent platform for information about the Council and its activities. Some members said that there was the potential for the website to be extended so as to provide a wider range of information about events in Rhuddlan. Cllr. Gareth Rowlands said that there would be benefits in setting up an Instagram account for the Council which would then provide a mobile, desktop, and Internet-based photo-sharing application and service that allows users to share pictures and videos. This could be a great benefit in compiling information for a Blodeu portfolio. It was agreed that these matters will be considered further at a meeting of the Information and Website Committee in the New Year.

11. TRAFFIC AND CAR PARK ISSUES

Members discussed an e-mail from DCC regarding the process to enable charges to be made at the Vicarage Lane car park. This would require the Town Council and Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board to lease their parts of the car park to DCC. It was agreed that the Town Council enter into a lease with DCC for their parts of the Vicarage Lane car park and that DCC be urged to obtain a similar lease with the Health Board without delay.

12. TOURIST DIRECTION SIGNS FOR THE VALE OF CLWYD

Members discussed a copy of a report made to DCC Communities Scrutiny Committee on 30th November 2017 on this matter. Ann Jones AM had set up a working group in late 2014 to try to progress a tourist direction signing scheme for the Vale of Clwyd and this comprised representatives from DCC, Denbigh Town Council, Rhuddlan Town Council, Ruthin Town Council, St. Asaph City Council CADW and the Diocese of St. Asaph. The working group had decided that three attractions would be displayed on any new tourist signs; these being Denbigh Castle, Rhuddlan Castle and St. Asaph Cathedral.

The working group's proposals had been developed by DCC's Highway's Team and their latest estimate of the costs of the signs was £153,000. This comprised £23,000 of DCC costs to develop, design and administer the project; plus £130,000 for the physical works of sign manufacture, installation and associated traffic management works. The report stated that proposal was that the £130,000 will be met wholly by contributions by the affected Town/City Councils and operators of the tourist attractions. The Temporary Town Clerk reported that DCC's Highways Team has asked Ann Jones AM to reconvene the working group to discuss the proposals in the report.

Members discussed the report and were concerned about the proposals for meeting the £130,000 costs of the signs. It was agreed that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor be the Town Council's representatives on any future meetings of the working group and that they make it clear that the Town Council opposes the idea that the £130,000 costs should be met by the local councils and the tourist operators and that it is vital for Welsh Government or other external funds to be obtained for this project.

13. BUDGET/FINANCE MATTERS

11a – Accounts Due

Members approved the list of accounts due for December 2017 (see Appendix C attached)

11b – Grants for Green Gym

Members received an update regarding the funding of the Green Gym mainly relating to the bid to DCC for the use of Committed Sums of monies from a development in Rhuddlan. Members expressed concern at the length of time that this process was taking and the County Council members were asked to endeavour to expedite the process within DCC.

11c – Welsh Church Acts Fund 2017-18

Members received a report regarding the availability of grant-aid from the Denbighshire Welsh Church Acts Fund in 2017-18.

11d – Dementia Awareness and Support Initiative

A proposal had been made for the provision of £5,000 in the 2018-19 budget for the first year of an initiative aimed at promoting an awareness of dementia and its wider impact; supporting the development of a Dementia/Alzheimer Group and providing some matching funds for projects that address the key aspects of dementia. Members discussed the proposal and noted that support was being provided for other people that were affected by medical problems; such as the Stroke Club. It was agreed that £5,000 be included in the draft budget for 2018-19 for a Dementia Awareness and Support Initiative

11e – Urdd National Eisteddfod 2020

A proposal had been made for the provision of £1,000 support to the Urdd National Eisteddfod 2020 which was being held in Denbigh; this would be £500 in the 2018-19 budget and £500 in 2019-20. It was proposed and seconded that this proposal be approved. However, an amendment was subsequently proposed, seconded and approved that the whole £1,000 be included in the draft budget for 2018-19.

14. PLANNING MATTERS

Cllr. Mike Kermode abstained from this item and Cllr. Ann Davies declared an interest. Members considered planning application 44/2017/1079 regarding the reduction of the height of a eucalyptus tree at 7 Tan yr Eglwys. There were no objections to this application.

15. URGENT COMMUNITY MATTERS

None were raised.

16. PART 2 – EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was proposed and agreed that in accordance with the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be 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 being transacted.

16a – Grant Application – Rhuddlan Library

Members considered an application for a grant of £200 towards the costs of an open evening in the Library to celebrate the life and work of Phillip Jones Griffiths. It was proposed and seconded that this grant be approved subject to it being made clear that the event was being sponsored by the Council. However, an amendment was proposed, seconded and agreed that the grant be approved subject to it being made clear that the event was being sponsored by the Council and that it was a bilingual event.

16b – Council Vacancy – Co-option

Members considered five applications from people who wished to be selected to fill the vacant post through co-option. The five candidates being Maurice Beer, Krystina Cross, James Elgin, Dave Farrall and Beverley Parry. It was agreed that it was important that the successful candidate received a clear majority of the votes from those members present at the meeting. Members voted using a multi-stage process and at the conclusion there was an equal tie of votes between James Elgin and Dave Farrall. It was agreed that these two candidates be invited to the next normal business meeting of the Council and be asked to give a short presentation in support of their application to be a co-opted member.

17. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

It was agreed that the dates of the next meetings will be:

- Tuesday 9th January 2018 – covering Code of Conduct – Provision of Public Information and Budget/Precept for 2018-19.
- Thursday 11th January 2018 – normal business meeting.

Signed

Date

CLlr Andy Smith – Mayor of Rhuddlan

Appendix A

COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORT – Cllr Arwel Roberts

Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda.

1) Our clerk has already e-mailed you the details of the Tourism Signs for Vale of Clwyd, I was present in a Scrutiny Committee Meeting which discussed this issue. Denbighshire have agreed that they will pay the costs of designing, develop and administer the project -

£23,000. Town Councils - Rhuddlan and Dinbych + the City of Llanelwly would be expected to contribute in the region of £5000 to £7,000 each towards the project.

2) i-beacon project - our clerk, Jo Danson and myself have nominated the 10th of January 2018 - Wednesday 10 a.m. in the library for the next meeting.

3) Pen y Ffordd Road Culvert - this culvert is to be repaired. Please note the message I will send to you from James Hall.

4) One of the lights on the Rhuddlan Community Centre Car Park is nearly defunct. A works order has been by the Parking Section Services - please note an e-mail from Joanne Ellis.

5) The book regarding the world renowned photographic-journalist Philip Jones Griffiths could be launched in the library on the 19th of March 2018, but there could be problems who knows.

6) It was a pleasure for my wife and I to be asked to represent the town in Colwyn Bay. An occasion organised by the Mayor of Colwyn Bay during the 30th of November. We were also present in Rhyl's Lifeboat Station, an occasion organised by Denbighshire Chairman Cllr Peter Prendergast, the 2nd of December.

7) As one of the governors of Ysgol y Castell I'm proud of the work done by the staff within the school's classrooms. Part of the school's outer fencing has been replaced. Also, the school has had a very strong case for a new roof, the County places this very high on its agenda.

8) Very proud of Aldi's and Coop's stores, the reason is because they have given the Welsh Language such a degree of prominence in Aldi's new store and the modernised Coop store. This will eventually lead to the normalisation of bilingualism in Rhuddlan, Denbighshire and Wales.

County Councillor Arwel Roberts

Appendix B

COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORT – Cllr Ann Davies

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the residents of Rhuddlan a Healthy and Happy New Year.

COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR - SUPPORTING INDEPENDENCE AND WELL- BEING.

Community navigators work across Denbighshire to provide an information, advice and assistance services which enables citizens to engage with their local community and learn more about support available outside of social services and health. The team comprises of both British Red Cross and Age Connects employees working in close partnership with Denbighshire Community Support Services. Alex Pendleton is the Community Navigator for Rhuddlan and last week I met up with him to hear all about his work in our community. I was very impressed by his dedication to this role.

If you or someone you know needs help with daily life or would like support to access local social groups, come along and meet Alex at TALKING POINT in Rhuddlan library on alternate Wednesdays: 9:30am until 12.30 pm. Or Phone 03004561000.

CLWYD AVENUE

Following inspections from DCC officers it has been identified that Clwyd Avenue was constructed with very few gullies on it. To rectify this will require significant investment which, unfortunately is not currently available.

Officers will therefore look more closely at what is needed and cost it out more fully in order to build up a business case.

DRAINS - HIGH STREET

Intensive work to assess the problems with the drains in the high street / Rhyl road has been carried out. Report to follow.

OUTPATIENTS DEPARTMENT AT ROYAL ALEXANDER HOSPITAL, RHYL.

On the 19th December the outpatient's department are moving. Services will be temporarily relocated across the road to the Glan Traeth building. The current accommodation is a 1960s extension and the aim is to relocate to more modern, fit-for-purpose facilities this winter.

County Councillor Ann Davies.

Appendix C

Accounts due for December 2017 Meeting

Process	Payee	Reason	Amount	VAT	Total
102000	A Smith Royal British Legion	Mayoral Allowance	£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,000.00
102101	Legion	Poppy Appeal	£91.50	£0.00	£91.50
102102	ZOLL	Defibrillators x 2 Defibrillators Locking	£1,619.90	£323.98	£1,943.88
102103	Pawle & Co Ltd	Cabinets Xmas Lunch - Mayor & Mayoress	£998.00	£199.60	£1,197.60
102104	Rhuddlan T.C.A. Festive Lighting		£20.00	£0.00	£20.00
102105	Co	Extra Xmas Lights Replace lock on green container	£380.20	£76.04	£456.24
102106	D C Locksmith		£99.49	£0.00	£99.49
102107	Goodsigns & Print	Update Honours Board	£46.00	£9.20	£55.20
102107	Goodsigns & Print	Compliment slips	£74.50	£14.90	£89.40
102107	Goodsigns & Print	Xmas Carols Banner	£19.00	£3.80	£22.80
102108	Proarb	Install Steel Xmas Stand	£250.00	£0.00	£250.00
DD	Vodafone	Phone bill - November	£19.58	£3.91	£23.49
102109	N Rowlands	Washers, bolt and nuts Contribution towards Library	£4.00	£0.80	£4.80
102110	Denbighshire CC	Costs	£12,000.00	£0.00	£12,000.00
DD	Town Clerk	Salary	£960.00	£0.00	£960.00
102111	Town Clerk	Expenses	£197.96	£0.00	£197.96
102112	HMRC	Tax & NI	£105.42	£0.00	£105.42
DD	NEST	Pension	£78.39	£0.00	£78.39
DD	Scottish Power	Electricity	£74.54	£0.00	£74.54
TOTAL			£18,038.48	£632.23	£18,670.71

Balance - Deposit Account 30/11/17	£62,324.04
Balance - Community Account 30/11/17	£32,482.57
	£94,806.61