

**Minutes of the meeting of Rhuddlan Town Council held at the Community Centre,
Parliament Street on the 9th of November 2017**

PRESENT

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

Two members of the public were present

A photograph was taken of Town Council Members present.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Heather Ellis

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Gareth Rowlands – Management Group for Rhuddlan Nature Reserve grant application.
Cllr Ann Davies – Member of County Council Planning Committee

3. POLICE MATTERS

Incident report 12th October – 8th November

- 17/10/17 Theft of number plates Berllan Avenue – All enquiries completed but no suspects identified*
- 21/10/17 Storage container entered at Aldi Site – Enquiries ongoing*
- 27/10/17 Theft of Wheels from Yard on Gwindy Street – All enquiries completed but no suspects identified*
- 01/11/17 Common Assault – Person spat on whilst walking on Vicarage Lane – Enquiries ongoing*
- 03/11/17 Criminal damage to vehicle parked on Vicarage Lane. All enquiries completed but no suspect identified*

The Police are aware that there have been concerns in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour which is occurring in Rhuddlan such as damage to benches, plants being pulled up. Please be assured that the police are investigating these incidents and have been able to identify some persons responsible however at this moment in time, the police are unable to say much more and will endeavour to provide an update.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of 12th October 2017 were approved subject to spelling mistakes.

Matters arising:

4a (i) No Dogs Sign

This will be erected in Vicarage Lane play area soon
Denbighshire County Council are to erect the new dog laws sign very soon

4a (ii) Castle Lights

A meeting was held with the Conservation Works and Property Manager from CADW who is going to forward a quote to install new lights at the Castle.

4a (iii) Library

A meeting has been arranged with County Council Officers for the 14th of November with a view to set up a Joint Working Party.

4a (iv) Xmas Lights

It was resolved to go ahead with additional lighting near Harvey's at an approximate cost of £ 1,350. This will include a one-off installation of power supply and hire of festive lights.

4a (v) Winter Choral Concert

Ticket are going slowly. Everybody asked to promote in the Community

4a (vi) iBeacon

No update has been received with regards to the iBeacon project. Town Clerk to follow up with the consultant.

4a (vii) Eisteddfod

A representative from the Eisteddfod to attend a Town Council meeting in January.

4a (viii) Grenville Avenue junction with Princes Road

Denbighshire County Council have confirmed that there is nothing they can do about the overgrown bushes as it is on private matter. The sighting is at it should be.

4a (ix) Remembrance Day 2018

There may be a problem securing a marching band for Rhuddlan next year as the Air Training Centre in Prestatyn is being closed down for refurbishment. Rhyl Marching Band have said that they might be interested.

4a(x) Admirals gates

A local painter to carry out painting work at the end of November

4a (xi) Benches at Parliament Street

A local painter to carry out painting work at the end of November

4a (xii) Carols Around the Tree

This will take place December 13th at 6.30 p.m. A brass Band will be present this year.

4a (xiii) Best Window Display Competition

This will take place on the 7th December, straight after the Xmas lights "Switch On". The judges to be Cllrs: Ann Davies, Arwel Roberts, Andy Smith and Gareth Smith. There will be a £50 prize for winners for the best decorated house. The best decorated shop will be presented with the Town Council plaque and receive a bouquet of flowers bought personally by the Mayor. The Town Clerk to arrange photos of the winners in local papers.

4a (xiv) Rhuddlan Town Community Association – Grant Application

The Town Clerk has now received a completed application form. It was resolved to contribute £1000 towards the purchase of a new boiler.

5. CORRESPONDENCE FROM:

5a. The Mayor

<i>23rd of September</i>	<i>Macmillan Big Coffee Morning</i>
<i>24th of September</i>	<i>Chair of Denbighshire Civic Sunday</i>
<i>24th of September</i>	<i>Towyn and Kinmel Bay Civic Sunday</i>
<i>26th of September</i>	<i>Blodeuo Celebration Evening</i>
<i>29th of September</i>	<i>Cor Conwy Youth Choir Fundraiser</i>
<i>15TH of October</i>	<i>Mayor of Prestatyn Civic Sunday</i>
<i>3rd of November</i>	<i>Citizen Advice Bureau choral fundraising concert, St Mary's church</i>

There have been two site meetings of the council.

One for the lighting of the Castle

And one for the locating of the Fresh Air Gym. Thank you to all the Councillors who made their time available for these site visits. Both visits seem to have gone well and with working with CADW, hopefully a solution will finally be achieved.

Remembrance Sunday Service will be on the 12th of November

My Choral Concert will be on the 24th of November.

I would welcome the council at both of these events

The Town Clerk

5b (i) Press Releases

The following press releases had been sent to Rhyl Journal and Daily Post:

Blodeuo – Wales in Bloom Winners

Adoption of updated Code of Conduct

Winter Choral Concert

Remembrance Day

5b (ii) Meeting with Stone Mason

The Town Clerk met with a Stone Mason with regards to refurbishing the cenotaph. The Town Clerk had contacted eight different local business to carry out this work. Three businesses responded but were unable to carry out the work. One stone mason, quoted £2,200 to carry out the work which include the removal of the current cenotaph. The stone mason also quoted £3,200 for the work to be carried out in situ. **It was resolved** to go with the £2,200 quote and give notice to the people of Rhuddlan that the cenotaph will be removed for a short period of time.

5b (iii) Meeting with the I.T. Section

The Town Clerk had a final meeting with James Gillet with regards to the new website which has been up and running for six weeks. James Gillet from Denbighshire County Council has been instrumental in setting up the website and has put in many hours of work. **It was resolved** that the Town Clerk send a letter to thank James Gillet for his work and a copy to be sent to the appropriate Head of Service.

5b (iv) Emergency Shelter in the Community Centre in Adverse Weather

The Town Clerk reported how Gill Price from Rhuddlan Town Community Association had been very pro-active in being prepared to having the Community Centre opened should the need arise in adverse weather. Gill Price contacted the Town Clerks and the County Councillors on several occasions over the past month to say that the Rhuddlan Town Community Association were on stand-by if needed. **It was resolved** to send a letter of appreciation to Gill Price and the Rhuddlan Town Community Association.

5c RHUDDLAN RESIDENT – SEATING BENCHES IN VICARAGE LANE

It was resolved to put in two concrete platforms under the current seating benches near the play area. Also, a concrete platform needs to be put in place for the new seating bench that Rhuddlan History Society have kindly donated to be located on the library site.

5e BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES: REVISED PROPOSALS REPORT 2018 REVIEW

It was resolved to reply to the Boundary Commission for Wales that the Town Council stick by the original response sent in December 2016.

5f. WELSH GOVERNMENT – INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES.

It was resolved to reply to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales that while the proposals give a standardised cap for all councils, it is important that councils have the right to refuse. The Town Council agree with certain proposals such as reimbursement of travelling expenses and overnight accommodation but it does not agree with all proposals. Town and Community Councils must have the flexibility to set its own reimbursement policy.

5g. NORTH AND MID CHESHIRE RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION – REQUEST TO PARK IN RHUDDLAN.

It was resolved to agree in principle for the Ramblers Association to be able to park two coaches in Vicarage Lane Car park but stress that it is a public car park and there might not be room to accommodate two coaches.

5j. HOME INSTEAD - SENIOR CARE – BE A SANTA.

It was resolved to support this excellent initiative by promoting in the Community. A discussion took place of the possibility of setting a new budget in the precept to facilitate a group/organisation to provide a luncheon club and look towards making Rhuddlan a dementia/elderly friendly town.

6. COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORT

Councillor Ann Davies

6a. Abbey Road

New bin has been ordered for Abbey Road, this will be positioned as near as possible to the footpath leading from Twt Hill to Abbey Road.

Work to improve the drainage in this area has also been agreed.

6b. Overhanging Branches

Complaints were made regarding the overhanging branches on the approach to the bridge, these have now been cut.

6d. Nuisance Calls

Denbighshire trading standards are looking for residents who would benefit from a call blocker unit which aims to reduce the number of unknown callers that are received.

Further details contact the team via - tradingstandards@denbighshire.gov.uk or 01824 706446.

6e. Flooding Issues

I attended a meeting at the library to discuss flooding issues in Rhuddlan. Mr Chris Ruane MP, officers from Denbighshire County Council and residents were present.

Concerns raised by residents -

Preventing their homes being flooded in the future?

Could more have been done to prevent homes being flooded?

Sand bags?

Receiving more information from Denbighshire County Council.

I informed them of the County Newsletter that's available. Suggested they register for a flood warning call from Natural Resources Wales.

Officers informed residents that they were looking at possibly building a flood defence wall at the rear of Bro Berllan and improving the drainage of the soak-away.

I emphasised that the emergency services and Denbighshire County Council staff had worked extremely hard to assist the residents during and after the flooding.

Councillor Arwel Roberts

6f. 3-11-2017

Contact with Jon Chapman - Street Scene

Please note this dangerous wire fence behind the bus shelter by nature reserve (picture sent)

Response - not able to make safe today but will do early next week. I am not 100% sure who owns the fence but have asked Countryside Services whether it is theirs. If not, it may be private. The fence is safe at present.

6g.2-11-2017

Reported the smell in the drains on High Street - in front of Sbar shop to Jon Chapman and Dŵr Cymru.

Jon Chapman explained that water was being tipped into the drain from the shop this will now cease. He noted also that there is crack in the base of the gully pot. This is on Jon Chapman's list of things to do. Dŵr Cymru have also inspected the drains and cleared the blockage.

6h.3-11-2017

Liaised with Jon Chapman and Liz Grieve with regard to a donation of 2,000 crocus bulbs from St Asaph's Rotary Club, Cllr G Rowlands is keen to plant them in the library grounds. No problem between the two of them, Jon Chapman and Liz Grieve.

6i. Contact with Peter Lea - Highways Officer.

During the 2nd of November Cllr Ann Davies and I canvassed the views of the shops and businesses on Rhuddlan High Street. Peter Lea has noted the proposed change of the waiting time limit in the existing limited waiting time bays from 30 minutes to 1hr (95% of those canvassed waited 1hr). At present the waiting restriction on the High Street currently apply but to be changed from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the 3 sections I agree with this application proposal. (1 hr would be the time limit on the sections).

I also agree with the proposal of a time limit on Vicarage Lane should be from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. also.

Library - staff have requested my assistance with regard to Philip Jones Griffiths to enhance the room named after him. I have lent them some documents, contacts etc. and also some suggestions.

Traffic, Parking and other issues

County Councillors Arwel Roberts and Ann Davies's priorities for Rhuddlan.

Cllr Arwel Roberts and Cllr Ann Davies met this week with Mike Jones - Highways Department and Cabinet Member for Highways Cllr Brian Jones. The following were issues that were brought to the officers' attention. This could be part of a five-year plan depending on the thoughts and conclusions of the County Council. Working in partnership is vital to realise these plans.

The answers of the County Council are in red and were supplied by Mike Jones – Highways Department.

6j. Bridge Lights

New lights are being constructed where Marsh Road and Station Road meet which needs to be in sequence with the bridge lights system. Could these lights on the bridge be removed and the bridge be used by vehicles from both directions? At the same time?

The structural issues with the bridge remain. I understand it is likely to cost £6.0 million to repair so that it can take two-way traffic again.

6k. Vicarage Lane - Coetiau'r Apostolion.

Thanks to Peter Lea's patience and time we have now an agreement on the yellow lines scenario ready for consultation.

A. As a consensus on the detail of the proposals has now been reached, the scheme drawing will need updating and sending to yourself and Ann for you to confirm your agreement. Updated proposals will then need to be referred back to NWP for agreement before forwarding to Legal for processing.

6l. Speeding vehicles on Highlands Road and Rhyl Road.

This is an issue which is causing residents, town and county councillors an enormous headache. Highlands Road is a long straight road and residents have complained for months that it is a problem for them, speed of vehicles.

I will be very disappointed if the county does not provide some assistance to curb the speed of vehicles. Similarly, on Rhyl Road which branches out from the golf club roundabout, one branch reaches out towards Rhyl and the other towards the centre of Rhuddlan. There are many scenarios which could be of assistance here, flashing lights 20 mph signs or even 30mph. Small ramps like they have in the Caledfryn car park. Painted 30 mph on the road - big, as they are on the way into Rhuthun.

We've received the petition which I understand you submitted to County Council recently. At present, the surveyed speeds do not justify intervention in the form of traffic calming on either road. The type of ramps in Caledfryn car park aren't suitable for the public highway. I know this is frustrating but we have to prioritise limited road safety engineering funding for those locations where there is a collision history or a significant speeding issue i.e. an 85th percentile speed of 36 mph or more in a 30mph limit.

Please note that we are proposing to develop a policy for how we deal with road safety concerns. We receive requests for traffic calming on almost a daily basis so I think it is important that we review our policies for dealing with safety concerns and take this to Communities Scrutiny Committee to give members an opportunity to comment.

6m. Speeding Vehicles

The speed of vehicles from the Morfa bypass towards Abergele is another problem. We advise, Ann and I that Abergele Road where there are households and businesses should be 30mph. Indeed, Ben agrees that the roundabout where four roads converge is an area which has caused accidents and could in the future. Speed is the common factor. Again, it needs to be controlled. How can pedestrians cross the road where the bypass meets the roundabout! They just about manage to do so now.

Ben and I have agreed to put this on our forward work programme.

6n. Car park by the library.

This is in dual ownership. Peter and the town clerk need to contact each other to develop this car park, controlled usage, payment for use etc.

We have now received the land ownership plan. I have tasked John Williams with doing some feasibility work over the coming months to consider alternative layout options and payment options for the car park.

6o. A drop off area for coaches in the town.

I apologise I didn't bring this to your notice but it is a priority that is part of the Denbighshire Tourist initiative - is there a place which could be placed in or by the library car park, just an idea. Coach parking has been on the agenda for years in Rhuddlan. Any bright idea would be welcomed. A drop off area is different to a coach park.

We're proposing to do a County wide coach parking study next financial year as I have had similar requests for the majority of the main Denbighshire towns. I intend to submit a bid to the Strategic Investment Group for this.

6p. Road surfaces

1) grids along Rhyl Road need to be replaced or raised. Surely this shouldn't be a problem. 2) Maes y Bryn road - again this has been mentioned on numerous occasions. 3) Clwyd Avenue - surface in bad condition same as Maes y Bryn.

Tim Towers has advised that they will inspect the grids and make arrangements for them to be adjusted should this prove necessary.

Both Clwyd avenue and Maes y Bryn will be placed on the Forward Works Programme for 2018 / 19 subject to the desired funding being available. The meantime they will be kept them in as safe a condition as possible.

6q. Flooding Matters

Though not mentioned I'm very impressed by the actions taken by the county with regard to the effects of the flash flood which happened lately. As Ann has mentioned gullies have been cleaned regularly not once but twice annually.

Noted. Thank you for your praise which has been passed onto the teams involved.

6x. Noise pollution on bypass

The vehicles along the bypass is causing noise pollution. The county has wasted money already by extending the height of the bund, is it possible to regulate the noise of vehicles along this road? A new surface possibly, but does it work?

Sound reducing surfaces are available but the cost would be very significant and finding the funding for such a project could prove challenging. Tim has advised that they are obviously aware that noise perception within the vicinity is an issue for residents so they are currently commissioning a proper acoustic survey so that the actual levels and full extent of the issue can be established. Tim will report back with these results as soon as he has them.

7. BLODEUO

St. Asaph Rotary have 10,000 crocuses to distribute. It was proposed to put 2,000 crocuses on the library site. Agreement has been secured from Jon Chapman and Liz Grieve. On November the 18th a team of Rotarians will plant these. Councillors are welcome to join in. The Town Clerk to circulate to Blodeuo Group. The Admirals Field and Vicarage Lane fields could be other sites for the crocuses.

It was resolved that the Town Clerk source daffodils to plant on sites owned by the Town Council.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands and the Town Clerk had met with Peter Barton Price from Wales in Bloom to discuss future plans to enter the Britain in Bloom. A Blodeuo meeting has been arranged for 28th November. Peter Barton Price to deliver a presentation and timetable of events leading to the judging in Summer 2018.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands is waiting for a design from Goodsigns & Print for supplementary sign to be put on existing "Welcome to Rhuddlan" signs and also waiting for consent from Denbighshire County Council. The banners will be e-mailed to Councillors in due course. The banners will be put on the 26 lamp-post in the High Street. There was a suggestion that these banners be alternated with the Welsh Dragon.

8. INFORMATION & WEBSITE MATTERS

It was resolved that the Town Clerk promote to the public that the website is now up and running.

9. TRAFFIC & CAR PARK ISSUES

9a. Radar Gun

A discussion took place on whether the Town Council should purchase a radar gun for the Town Council. **It was resolved** that the Town Clerk make enquiries about the community speed gun in the police station. If there is a problem with using this gun then Town Council need to go ahead and purchase a radar gun.

9b. Meeting with County Council Highways

Peter Lea had written to the Town Council with regards to the re-configuration of the car park in Vicarage Lane. Peter Lea stated that it would be useful to know from the Town Council of what they are trying to achieve in the car park. **It was resolved** to reply to Peter Lea that the priorities are to create more space and to look at parking restriction as previously discussed

It was resolved that the Town Clerk write to the Parking Manager, Denbighshire County Council to request more traffic monitoring presence in Rhuddlan.

10. BUDGET/FINANCE MATTERS.

10a. Accounts due

The invoices due (Appendix "A") were presented and approved.

10b. Grants for Fresh Air Gym Update

The grant of £5k from the National Lottery has now been paid into the Town Council's account. The Tesco grant of £1k has also been paid in. The Burbo Bank £3.5 to be paid into the account after the Fresh Air Gym has been installed. The Town Clerk has submitted a grant to the County Council Commuted sums for the shortfall. If successful, the Town Clerk to go ahead with necessary arrangement to put in the Fresh Air Gym as soon as possible. The public notice which will be displayed in the Fresh Air Gym will need to be bilingual.

Councillors need to consider ideas for the future. There will be a Precept Meeting in January and if Councillors have ideas they would like to propose, to send the Town Clerk a brief summary to include (i) what the idea is (ii) benefits (iii) costs.

There is a need to look at a rolling 5-year plan for the Town Council to ensure continuity when there is a change of Mayor.

11. PLANNING MATTERS FOR COMMENT

Cllr Mike Kermode abstained

11a. Planning Application 44/2017/0971

Variation of conditions no's 2 and 19 of planning permission code no. 44/2016/0200 relating to revisions to the service access to Marsh Road; and the Plant Area to the store. No objection.

11b. Planning Application 44/2016/0912

Development of 0.64 ha of land by the erection of 18 no. dwellings and 605m² of office accommodation – Former DCWW Depot Abergele Road. No objection.

12. REMEMBRANCE DAY

12a. Update on 12th of November Service

There may be no one to lay the wreath for the Royal Welsh Fusilier as they are deployed in Estonia. **It was resolved** that the Deputy Mayor lay the wreath if there is no representation from the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

Cllr Mike Kermode gave his apologies as he is unable to attend.

Something to consider for next year; Cor Clwyd can do a rendition of Flanders Fields and could be available to sing next year should the Town Council be interested. There will be no cost but there would be a small charge to cover expenses.

12b. Poppy on lamp-posts initiative.

Sixteen Poppies have been placed on lamppost in Rhuddlan which was well received by members. This has cost £50 which the Mayor was prepared to cover the cost. **It was resolved** that Rhuddlan Town Council cover this cost.

13. URGENT COMMUNITY MATTERS

13a. Leak at 37 Vicarage Lane

This has been reported to Denbighshire County Council Customer Services twice (6 October & 23rd October) but no response. **It was resolved** that the Town Clerk follow up again with Customer Services and copy to the appropriate Head of Service along with a photo. Cllr Arwel Roberts to follow up with Welsh Water.

13b. Use of Football Field at Admirals

A request has come from Rhuddlan Football Club for the use of Admirals Fields on the 18th of November as the Pengwern fields are currently flooded and there are problems with drainage. As the Admirals fields are also very wet it was **it was resolved** to make a decision mid-week.

13c. Luncheon Club

There was a discussion about the possibility of setting up a luncheon club in Rhuddlan. There is a sum of money available in Rhuddlan & Rhyl – Relief in Need Charity. **It was resolved** to further discuss this matter when setting the 2018/19 Precept.

13d. New Bench Near Rhuddlan Golf Club Roundabout

An e-mail has been received from The Rhuddlan Environment Group to locate a seating bench near the roundabout by the Golf Course. **It was resolved** that Cllr Arwel Roberts to follow up with Denbighshire County Council and report back to the Town Council.

14. PART 2. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND 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.

14a. RHUDDLAN EVENTS COMMITTEE GRANT APPLICATION

An application had been received requesting a grant towards a trip to Alton Towers. **It was resolved** to decline this application as the event is not taking place in Rhuddlan. Questions were also asked as to how many of Rhuddlan resident actually benefit from this trip as it is open to other people from other communities.

14b. MANAGEMENT GROUP FOR RHUDDLAN NATURE RESERVE

An application had been received requesting a grant to purchase photo frames for photos from the Nature Reserve to be hung on the walls of the Community Centre. **It was resolved** to contribute £95 towards purchase of photograph frames to display on the wall of Rhuddlan Community Centre

14c. CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING.

An Officer from Denbighshire County Council to deliver a code of Conduct Training to Councillor. This to include public access to information. This will be arranged in January and will precede the 2018/19 Precept meeting

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

December 14th. To start 6 pm.

Signed **Date**.....

Cllr Andy Smith – Mayor of Rhuddlan

Accounts due for November 2017 meeting

**APPENDIX
"A"**

Process	Payee	Reason	Amount	VAT	Total
101991	Ruthin Town Council	Charity Event	£70.00	£0.00	£70.00
101992	Wales Audit Office	External Audit	186.3	0	186.3
101993	HMRC	Tax & NI period ending 5th Nov	£105.62	£0.00	£105.62
101994	Sage & Company	Payroll Charges & Pension July - Sept	£65.00	£13.00	£78.00
101995	Morral Play Services	Quarterly inspection of play areas	£195.00	£39.00	£234.00
DD	Vodafone	Monthly Bill - October	£19.58	£3.91	£23.49
DD	Staples	Cartridges	£69.99	£14.00	£83.99
101996	Goodsigns & Print	Stickers & Circle Foamex - Blodeuo	£42.91	£7.28	£50.19
101996	Goodsigns & Print	Blodeuo Posters to businesses	£18.00	£3.60	£21.60
101996	Goodsigns & Print	Flyers for Choral Concert	£39.00	£0.00	£39.00
101996	Goodsigns & Print	Numbered Tickets	£38.00	£7.60	£45.60
101996	Goodsigns & Print	Dogs Not Allowed Sign	£150.00	£30.00	£180.00
101997	SLCC	Annual Membership	£121.00	£0.00	£121.00
101998	Colwyn Bay T.C.	Charity Event	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00
DD	Town Clerk	Salary	£960.00	£0.00	£960.00
101999	Town Clerk	Expenses	£183.07	£0.00	£183.07
		TOTAL	£2,223.47	£118.39	£2,341.86