



Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the meeting held on the 13th February 2019

Present:

CLlr Gareth Rowlands (Mayor in the Chair)
CLlr Arwel Roberts
CLlr Andy Smith
CLlr Gareth Smith
CLlr Jackie Burnham
CLlr Mike Elgin
CLlr Mike Kermode
CLlr Syd Gaskin
Town Clerk.

1. Apologies.

CLlr Ann Davies
CLlr Heather Ellis
CLlr Reg Davies

One member of the public was present

2. To receive a presentation from Chris Southern: MIND - Vale of Clwyd.

Chris Southern thanked the Town Council for giving her the opportunity to speak to Members about mental health issues.

One in four individuals suffer with mental health problems and it is a particular problem in Denbighshire which has the highest rate of suicide amongst men in Wales. Conwy has the highest rate of suicide amongst women in Wales. These counties have huge rural areas and people are at risk of getting isolated. Essential services such as libraries and banks have been closed; bus services have ceased in certain areas which exacerbates the problem.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of MIND.

MIND – Vale of Clwyd is based in Marsh Road, Rhyl which is high on the multiple deprivation scale. Services provided are:

- Drop in centre
- Accommodation for people who need 24 hours care
- Flats
- Counselling services

- Allotments - in Rhyl, St Asaph, Rhuthun, Denbigh.

MIND – Vale of Clwyd are involved with two of the most forward-thinking projects:

1. Active Monitoring

The GP Active Monitoring project have specially trained practitioners (not counsellors) who are based in GP surgeries. They provide the ‘talk time’ and techniques to help people with mild to moderate mental health problems to get back on track and avoid the ‘revolving door’ of return visits to the GP. This new mental health service is being offered in Rhyl and GP’s and Local Health Boards are looking to roll out the scheme as it has an 80% success rate.

2. Social prescribing project

This is a project to help individuals to deal with the things in life that can make them unhappy or anxious. Rather than giving a prescription for a medicine, social prescribing can help individuals access a wide range of activities and support in the local community.

This is a pilot project that MIND Vale of Clwyd is part of. A GP or another health professional can signpost an individual to a local MIND social prescribing service which help the individual access a range of support and advice services to suit their needs, from housing and benefits support or advice to a local walking group.

The Mayor thanked Chris Southern for an excellent presentation which was welcomed by all members. **It was resolved** that the Town Clerk write to Chris Southern to thank her for taking the time to come to the Town Council and deliver a very informative presentation.

3. Declaration of Interest.

Cllr Arwel Roberts: Item 7f – Member of Menter Iaith Board – Sir Ddinbych.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands: Item 7h – Vice Chairman of the Allotments Society.

Cllr Gareth Smith: Item 7g – Secretary of the Rhuddlan Community Group.

4. Police matters

PCSO Phil Roberts introduced himself and gave some background. He has worked for North Wales Police for 11 years and has been transferred over to Rhuddlan, where he is also a resident.

There have been 86 phone calls to Rhuddlan Police Station over the last month. These calls are not generally about crime. There have been the following incidents:

Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents:

- Noisy Party. Parents came home. No further action taken.
- Children throwing snowballs on property just off Parliament Street. No damage.
- Altercation in KFC car park. Police issued a personal ASB.

Criminal Damage.

- 2 silhouettes on high Street damaged. This was reported to the police.
- Window at The End hairdressers is damaged. The individual has been arrested.

Further to receiving complaints about dog fouling, PCSO Phil Roberts and PCSO Aled Hughes have been patrolling in Admirals Playing Fields. They have powers to issue tickets and fines. Cllr Gareth Rowland said that “No dogs on Marked Sports Area” signs had been put up at the four entrances to Admirals. The Town Clerk has been in contact with Denbighshire County Council to scorch lines around the Fresh Air Gym which will mark the area that dogs should not access.

Further to receiving complaints about the parking issues in Hylas Lane, PCSO Phil Roberts said that he had not seen any cars parked on the yellow zigzags. The number of cars parked around this area actually acts as traffic calming measures.

PCSO Phil Roberts is hoping to purchase a bike to be able to patrol Rhuddlan. Cllr Gareth Rowlands said that the Town Council purchased two bikes about 10 years ago and that they may still be stored in the garage of the Police Station.

2 CCTV cameras on the High Street have not been working and these have been reported to Cheshire West & Chester Police.

One member asked if the police have the power to fine people parked on yellow double lines. PCSO Phil Roberts said that this is Denbighshire County Council’s responsibility.

5. Minutes

Minutes of meeting, 10th January 2019 were accepted.

Matters arising:

a. Complaint

Cllr Ann Davies who had given her apologies for the meeting had sent an e-mail to the Town Clerk stating that the minutes of January 10th 2019 (Item 4) were not accurate. The minutes do not contain a statement made by Cllr Mike Elgin about a resident who made a complaint about the Mayor a few months ago in which the complaint was resolved at a local level. Cllr Mike Elgin asked a question to Cllr Mike Kermode “Why then are you saying this complaint cannot be dealt with the same way? “. No explanation was given by Cllr Mike Kermode.

Cllr Mike Kermode responded to this by saying that he did not realise that it was a question specifically directed to him.

After a brief discussion members agreed that the minutes be altered to:

Cllr Mike Kermode responded by saying that if Cllr Ann Davies believes that a breach of the Code of Conduct has occurred, this needs to be reported to the Monitoring Officer of the County Council. This is clearly stipulated in the Ombudsman Code of Conduct.

Cllr Mike Elgin stated that a Local Resolution Policy is one of the gaps in the Town Council and this needs to be looked at.

Cllr Andy Smith stated that he hoped that this matter was now resolved and that the Town Council can now move on and work together as a team for the benefit of the community.

b. Woodland Bench

The Mayor and the Town Clerk had met with the Custodian of the Castle and agreed on a location and type of bench to be installed near Twtil. The Town Clerk has had confirmation from Mr McKormick (who originally requested the bench) that he is happy with the proposed style of bench and location. The Town Clerk needs to check with Lord Langford that he is also happy with these proposals.

c. Memorial Bench

The Town Clerk has submitted an application form to Denbighshire County Council with regards to locating the memorial bench outside the Odyn.

d. CCTV

The Manager of the Denbighshire CCTV Partnership project, Dave Lennon is happy to attend a future meeting of the Town Council. Members also need to consider the invitation to visit the CCTV base in Chester.

e. Precept Meeting

This item which was scheduled under Item 12b was brought forward for discussion. **It was resolved** to accept this report and that the Town Clerk forward a press release to the Rhyl Journal highlighting the new community projects for a slight increase per household in the precept.

6. Personnel Matters

The minutes of the Personnel Committee of 11th February were considered. Cllr Arwel Roberts chaired this meeting in the absence of Cllr Andy Smith. He thanked Cllr Syd Gaskin for attending the meeting as an observer.

Cllr Mike Kermode to give an overview of the Clerical Assistant / Minute Clerk post along with Terms and Conditions, Job Description, person specification and Job advert. **It was resolved** to accept the proposals subject to a minor correction with regards to the qualifications.

Cllr Gareth Smith proposed that members of the Town Council should be part of the interviewing process for the Clerical Assistant/Minute Clerk. Cllr Mike Kermode explained

that this was a junior post; if this job was in County Council then the people interviewing would be limited to the manager and Personnel representative. Cllr Mike Kermode put forward an amendment that the interview and appointment should be should be delegated the Town Clerk and Cllr Mike Kermode (Adviser to the Personnel Committee) and the shortlisting to be carried out by the personnel Committee.

Voting took place on the amendment – 5 votes.

Vote against the amendment – 3 votes

The amendment was carried.

7. Correspondence from:

7a. The Mayor.

This report was accepted.

The Mayor added that Neighbourhood Watch stickers are now available. Cllr Gareth Rowlands gave the Town Clerk a plan of location of the lamp posts. **It was resolved** that the Town Clerk to make enquires with Denbighshire County Council / local contractors to place the stickers on existing signs.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands was commended on his efforts of producing this map as it was quite a task.

7b. Deputy Mayor.

This report was accepted.

The Deputy Mayor added that the Rhuddlan Dementia Friendly Steering Group had received an excellent presentation from Lorna Kernahan and Sarah Pevely from Keystone Heritage (keystoneheritage.org.uk) on how artefacts can help people with dementia by bringing history to life through hands on, interactive sessions.

7c. The Town Clerk.

This report was accepted.

The Town Clerk added that both Town Council defibrillators have been checked by Cllr Syd Gaskin and are in working order. A training course on how to use a Defibrillator has been arranged for the 22nd October at 7 p.m. This will be the third course since the installation of the defibrillators.

An invitation from the Air Cadets has been extended to the Mayor to attend their annual dinner. Unfortunately, the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor are unable to attend. The Town Clerk suggested that the invitation be passed onto Cllr Andy Smith as immediate past Mayor and of his close links to the Air Cadets. It was **resolved** to agree to this

7d. North Wales Police- Revision to Police & Crime Plan Priorities.

The Police and Crime Plan has been updated to reflect the challenges that North Wales Police need to tackle. The revised policies and area of priorities are as follows:

- Reducing Criminal Exploitation of Vulnerable People
- Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- Modern Slavery
- Organised Crime
- Safer Neighbourhoods

7e. Rhuddlan Town Community Association

Correspondence received from the above requesting the Town Council to consider promoting the town as a place to visit through tourist boards. **It was resolved** to invite a representative from North Wales Tourism to a meeting when the initiative to set up a business/shops group gets under way.

7f. Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych

Correspondence received from the above with regards to working with Rhuddlan Town Council and arranging a window decoration competition as part of St David's Day celebrations. Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych requested a donation of £100 and to ask the Mayor to be available to judge the windows.

Members wanted clarification on the £100 donation. If it's for prizes then this will be refused. However, if it is a donation towards running the events then members **resolved** to agree to this on the proviso that future requests to be submitted via an application form.

Cllr Arwel Roberts to contact Menter Iaith to clarify.

7g. Rhuddlan Community Group

Correspondence received from the above expressing sadness and disappointment at the resignation of the Chairman of Blodeuo, Cllr Gareth Rowlands. The letter commended Cllr Gareth Rowlands and that he had chaired Blodeuo excellently and united the community to work together to win 3 Golds in Wales in Bloom and 1 Gold in Britain in Bloom which is a remarkable achievement.

7h. Allotments society

Correspondence received from the above stating that the Society want to improve the infrastructure of the allotments which will make the allotments accessible to everyone. The Society are looking for a letter of support from the Town Council so that it can apply for grants. **It was resolved** that the Town Clerk send a letter of support.

8. County Council Members Report.

Cllr Arwel Roberts:

- a. *The County is initiating the campaign warning motorists not to overload their vehicles. Working closely with North Wales Police and the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency.*
- b. *You have received a report from Tim Evans - Prif Swyddog Gwarchod y Cyhoedd - Principal Public Protection Officer. With regard to the Public Fines in the carpark and on the street. Car Park 89 issued Street 60 issued. These were given during 2017 and 2018 and the first part of this year. The changes to the road structure i.e. yellow lines are now in place in Vicarage Lane and the High Street. Marsh Road next.*
- c. *Tomorrow (12/02/2019) I will be in a meeting with Jeni Andrews the County's Commissioning and Planning Officer for Community Support Services to discuss a joint statement regarding a Learning Disabilities Forum. By mutual agreement the grant funding to DVSC for the LD forum will end 31/03/2019. The county is looking to develop an alternative service.*
- d. *It was a pleasure to be one of the scrutineers in the Performance Scrutiny where an excellent report was presented by the Library service which included a glowing report with regard to Rhuddlan Library. I pressed the officers with regard to the fact that the library hasn't as yet placed a tourist information panel in the building. I also distributed the Rhuddlan/ North East Wales Beacon Leaflet.*
- e. *During Wednesday (13/02/2019) I'll be in a meeting on site - Pont Robin with Andrew Basford - Natural Resources Wales - the contractor Forkers are there this week to make further improvements to the structure to make it even easier and safer for NRW staff to access and maintain. I will send a picture of the structure to the clerk.
I'm still in contact with NRW with regard to the Bund in Station Road. You are aware that there was a promise that NRW would replace the trees. This is the answer I had from the officer. The contract for planting trees and shrubs was given to Lawson's, this company promised that the work would be done before Christmas. I am assured that the work will be done in February. She also noted that the wildflower and bulb planting will be carried out in August/September 2019. SHE APOLOGIES FOR THE DELAY.*

9. Blodeuo

9a. Resignation of Blodeuo Chair.

A letter of resignation had been received from the Chairman of Blodeuo, Cllr Gareth Rowlands who felt that after securing 3 Wales in Bloom Gold and 1 Britain in Bloom Awards it was time to stand down and let someone else take Blodeuo to another level.

Members congratulated Cllr Gareth Rowlands and Mrs Nerys Rowlands on the remarkable success. **It was unanimously resolved** that Blodeuo be put on hold. Blodeuo will still exist but will not be driven. The Town Council will support local organisation and groups who will submit applications to work towards Blodeuo aims.

9b. Invitation to Wales in Bloom 2019

An invitation from “In Bloom with the RHS” had been received for the Wales in Bloom 2019 Launch Event in North Wales on 22nd March 2019. **It was resolved** to decline this invitation as the Town Council will not be entering. The Town Clerk to write to Peter Barton Price, Wales in Bloom Judge for his help with mentoring over the last few years while preparing for Wales in Bloom/Britain in Bloom.

9c. The corner, by the library.

Brenda Taylor has kindly offered lavender to plant on the corner, near the library. **It was resolved** to take up this offer.

10. Planning Applications for comment:

Cllr Mike Kermode abstained.

a. Application 44/2018/0855 – Land East of Tirionfa, Rhuddlan

The Town Council appreciate that substantial changes have been made to the plans, there are still concerns that the infrastructure is not there to support this development.

- The sewage works need major upgrading.
- The G.P. Surgery is already oversubscribed.
- The school is at full capacity and Denbighshire County Council have predicted that 24 pupils are likely to be generated which will create the need for additional space.
- There are continued concerns about the increased traffic.

The overall opinion is that this development will be detrimental to the town.

b. Application 44/2018/1198 – 1 Tirionfa, Rhuddlan. Felling of Tree. No objection

c. Application 44/2018/1035 – 12 Bryn Hafod, Rhuddlan. Erection of single storey extension and first floor roof extension to existing dwelling. No objection. However, one member had concerns about the roof being too high.

11. i beacon project

The Mayor gave a comprehensive presentation on the ibeacon project. Cllr Arwel Roberts thanked Cllr Gareth Rowlands and Cllr Syd Gaskin for their help on the ibeacon project.

12. Budget/Finance matters

Members approved the list due for February 2019.

The Town Clerk reported that £16 had been paid into the Town Council Account from Denbighshire County Council as payment for the Mayor's Winter Charity Concert in St Mary's Church on the 9th February. This £16 needs to be transferred to the Rhuddlan Charity account for which it was intended.

The Youth Service should have contacted the Town Clerk with a plan and costs for youth projects in Rhuddlan but this has not happened. Cllr Arwel Roberts to contact the appropriate Officer.

13. Local Resolution Procedure for Rhuddlan Town Council

The Town Clerk submitted a draft policy for the use of a local resolution for complaints. **It was resolved** to accept the report.

14. Urgent Community matters

a. Promoting Rhuddlan

The Town Clerk to send a letter to Denbighshire County Council complaining that the Tourism Section and the library are not working together to promote Rhuddlan.

b. Litter Problem

Cllr Arwel Roberts complained about litter around KFC and Aldi area. Cllr Arwel Roberts to organise a litter picking day with the Town Clerk and to contact Gareth Jones, Tidy Towns, to get the appropriate equipment.

c. Water Leak

Cllr Gareth Smith has received a complaint from a resident with regards to a water leak in Vicarage Lane. Denbighshire County Council and Welsh Water have investigated this a number of times and the matter cannot be resolved as it is a natural spring. Nothing further can be done about this matter.

d. Rhuddlan Food Festival

This to be held on the 18th May 4th. Denbighshire County Council have already given approval for the use of the car park. Cllr Mike Kermode is in the process of applying for grants. **It was resolved** that the Town Clerk to write a letter of support to accompany grant applications.

e. Disabled Parking Bays

Complaints had been received from residents with regards to the new disabled parking spaces in Vicarage Lane and High Street. The Mayor explained that a public consultation process was carried out and notices were put up informing the public of the proposed plans. Members asked if Denbighshire County Council stipulated the specific locations of the bays in the consultation. Cllr Arwel Roberts is meeting with Peter Lea from Highways in the County Council and will make enquiries.

The disabled bay which has been put on the High Street does not have a ramp to the pavement which may pose a problem for a disabled person to get on/off the pavement.

f. Castle lights

Members have noticed that the lights of the castle have not been on. The Town Clerk to contact Jane Colclough to see what has happened.

g. Civic Events

Dates for the diary:

7th April - Civic Sunday in Ebeneser at 10.30 a.m. This will be a dementia friendly service. Proceeds of the Civic Sunday will be donated to **the Dementia Friendly Rhuddlan Steering Group**.

26th April – Civic Event in the Community Centre. Fish, Chips & Quiz on Rhuddlan. Proceeds will be going towards the Raptors Wheelchair Basketball Club.

15. Date of next meeting – March 14th

Signed..... Cllr Gareth Rowlands (Mayor)

Date

