

PRESENT: Cllr. Anne Roberts (Mayor)
Councillors Stephen Beach, James Bryan, Elisabeth Culshaw, Ken Hawkins, Rosie Hughes-Moseley, Menna Jones, Simeon Jones, Ian Lewney, Robert Owen-Ellis, Geraint Woolford, Heather Williams and Emrys Wynne.
Also County Councillors Bobby Feeley and Huw Hilditch-Roberts.

162. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bob Costain and June Derry.

163. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Ken Hawkins declared a personal interest in agenda item number 16, Accounts for Payment – cheque number 848 for floodlighting of St. Peter’s Church.

164. MAYOR’S REPORT

The Mayor reported that she had attended the following since the last meeting:

- 22/12 Visit to Rhuthun Hospital – Carols with Derwen Choir
- 06/01 Hubbub Over 50’s Forum – Llys Erw
- 09/01 Official opening of studio at Rhuthun Leisure Centre
- 14/01 Handing in petition regarding Awelon care home at County Hall
- 15/01 Inner Wheel Club – afternoon tea at Llys Erw
- 18/01 Good Citizen Group meeting – Town Hall
- 21/01 Twinning Committee
- 22/01 North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils meeting – Rhos on Sea

165. MEMBERS’ REPORTS

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| Cllr. Stephen Beach | Hubbub Over 50’s Forum meeting, opening of Studio at Rhuthun Leisure Centre, Rhuthun Steering Group meeting, handing in petition to Denbighshire County Council regarding Awelon care home, Good Citizen Group meeting, North Wales Police Neighbourhood Watch meeting at Glan y Don Police Headquarters |
| Cllr. James Bryan | Opening of Studio at Rhuthun Leisure, meeting with Police regarding Rhuthun Festival arrangements, Good Citizen Group |
| Cllr. Elisabeth Culshaw | Rhuthun Hospital League of Friends Carol Service, opening of Studio at Rhuthun Leisure Centre, Good Citizen Group meeting |
| Cllr. Ken Hawkins | Opening of Studio at Rhuthun Leisure Centre and the Mayor’s father’s funeral |
| Cllr. Rosie Hughes-Moseley | Rhuthun Charities meeting |
| Cllr. Menna Jones | Hubbub Over 50’s Forum, Good Citizen Group and opening of Studio at Rhuthun Leisure Centre, |
| Cllr. Ian Lewney | Rhuthun Steering Group meeting, Rhuthun Chamber of Trade AGM |
| Cllr. Robert Owen-Ellis | Food Bank x 5, opening of Studio at Rhuthun Leisure Centre, Ysgol Pen Barras audit of Additional Learning Needs |
| Cllr. Geraint Woolford | Carols at Rhuthun Hospital, opening of Studio at Rhuthun Leisure Centre, Rhuthun Steering Group meeting, Good Citizen Group meeting, meeting with the Mayor regarding Ruthin’s Got Talent, Twinning Association meeting and North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils meeting in Rhos on Sea. |
| Cllr. Heather Williams | Opening of Studio at Rhuthun Leisure Centre |
| Cllr. Emrys Wynne | Opening of Studio at Rhuthun Leisure Centre |

166. MINUTES OF THE LAST ORDINARY MEETING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 21 December 2015 be confirmed as a correct record.

167. MATTERS ARISING

Two thank you letters for financial assistance from Monmouthshire National Eisteddfod 2016 and Ruthin and Denbigh Gymnastics Club were read out by the Mayor. The Clerk reported that a response had been received from Mrs Helen Burnham, Pensions Administration Manager, Clwyd Pension Fund, regarding using the fund as pension scheme provider for the Town Clerk. The new scheme employer contribution rate for a single employee would be £900 plus VAT. The e-mail requested confirmation by 31 January 2016.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk seeks advice from the Society for Local Council Clerks and other town and community councils, and that the Mayor and Clerk be authorised to deal with this.

168. AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2016. With reference to the item requesting a handrail by Barclays Bank on Clwyd Street, Councillor Emrys Wynne reported that he had been contacted by a resident because both he and his wife had fallen on the slippery surface near the Tom Pryce memorial. It was requested that the Clerk make enquiries regarding responsibility for the land, and whether an anti-slip coating could be applied.

RESOLVED: that the minutes be received.

169. PRICES FOR GRASS CUTTING, PLANTERS AND WATERING PLANTERS

Members received the proposed wording of an advert requesting prices for the above for the 2016/17 season and the cost of placing the advert in the Daily Post - £306.00 plus VAT.

RESOLVED: to proceed with placing the advert in the Daily Post.

170. GOOD CITIZEN AWARD

Members received an update following a meeting of the Good Citizen's Group held on 18 January 2016. Posters promoting the award to be placed in various premises around Ruthin, and the application form and criteria to be available on the Town Council's website. The winners this year to be invited to the Mayor's Civic Sunday, as well as receiving a certificate and £100 towards charity of their choice. Closing date for entries is 31 March 2016.

RESOLVED: to note the update.

171. INSURANCE - ZURICH

The Town Clerk informed members about the renewal premium notice from Zurich Municipal for the period 1 February 2016 to 31 January 2017 in the sum of £4,380.02.

RESOLVED: to accept the notice and pay the insurance premium.

172. FREE PARKING DAYS 2016

It was confirmed that Denbighshire County Council is offering five free parking days in Rhuthun car parks in 2016. Members asked which days were chosen last year, and the Clerk confirmed that free parking had been offered for Rhuthun Festival 'Top of Town' day, the Saturday of the Open Doors event, the Christmas market/lights switch at the end of November and the subsequent two Saturdays.

RESOLVED: to defer a decision in order to have confirmation of the dates for Open Doors and markets in 2016.

173. TOM PRYCE MEMORIAL FIBREGLASS MOULD

The Town Clerk provided details that John Dickson of Denbighshire County Council's Facilities Management Unit had agreed to transport the 8ft x 4ft fibreglass mould from the creator Neil Dalrymple's studio to be stored in Corporate Stores, Lôn Parcwr, Rhuthun, without charge. Members expressed concern about the vacant studio units and lack of café facilities at the Craft Centre at present, and were assured by County Councillors Bobby Feeley and Huw Hilditch-Roberts that there were interested parties eager to take over the café, and the tendering process would be completed by

Easter.

RESOLVED: to note the details regarding moving and storing the mould.

174. CORRESPONDENCE

Members received letters or e-mail messages regarding North Wales Cancer Appeal AGM, North Wales Credit Union AGM, blood donation sessions in Rhuthun, North Wales Armed Forces Day event, First World War Partnership Day and the Queen's 90th Birthday Beacons.

RESOLVED: to note the correspondence.

175. FINANCIAL ESTIMATES 2016/17

The Town Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, submitted draft estimates for the financial year ending 31 March 2017. The expenditure for 2016/17 has been estimated at £123,125, and the Town Clerk went through each budget item, including a suggested increase to £4,000 for donations next year and to allocate £30,000 for Ruthin Craft Centre/Leisure Facilities to cover any possible shortfall in funding by Denbighshire County Council. The necessary precept to cover the proposed expenditure is £122,506, equating to Band D Council Tax of £51.43, a slight reduction compared to 2015/16 due to the increase in the number of properties forming the Council Tax base.

RESOLVED: to accept the estimates and the precept required.

176. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Town Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, submitted the Financial Statement for the period ending 31st December 2015.

RESOLVED: that the Financial Statement be received and adopted.

177. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED: that payment of the following accounts be authorised.

841	Inland Revenue	Tax and National Insurance		259.43
842	HCI Data Limited	Renew cyngortrefrhuthun.gov.uk and ruthintowncouncil.gov.uk for two years	*	167.40
843	Marian Rees	Translation	*	90.00
844	Zurich	Insurance renewal		4,380.02
845	North Wales and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils	Lunch x 2 following meeting on 22 January		30.00
S.O.	Canda Copying Limited	Rental and minimum copies	*	129.14
846	Canda Copying Limited	Additional copies – black and white	*	11.27
847	Canda Copying Limited	Additional copies - colour	*	46.01
848	St. Peter's Church, Rhuthun	Floodlighting, 1 Jan 2015 to 31 Dec 2015		610.57
849	G J Teeson Ltd	Repairs to Memorial Playing Fields fence	*	252.00
850	Don Jackson-Wyatt	Copyright Christmas card image – replacement cheque made out to Don Jackson-Wyatt instead of The Don Photography		50.00

(The items marked with an * above include recoverable V.A.T. of £115.97)

178. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: to confirm the date of next meeting of the Town Council as Monday, 22 February 2016.