

PRESENT: Councillor Geraint Woolford (Mayor), Councillor James Bryan (Deputy Mayor).
Councillors Stephen Beach, Elisabeth Culshaw, June Derry, Ken Hawkins,
Rosie Hughes-Moseley, Menna Jones, Ian Lewney, Robert Owen-Ellis,
Anne Roberts, Heather Williams and Emrys Wynne.

147. MR DARREN MILLAR, AM

The Mayor welcomed Darren Millar, Assembly Member for Clwyd West. He thanked the members for the opportunity to meet with the Town Council on an annual basis and said that he had three main topics of discussion. The first was notification on 30 November of the intention to close the Ruthin branch of the NatWest Bank in June 2017 which would have a devastating impact on the community, uncertainty for the staff and concerns about the future of the key historic building. He said that he would be attending a meeting with bank representatives on 13 January, and asked to be kept informed about Ruthin Town Council's discussions with NatWest. The second was to inform about the £18 million investment in a new sub-regional neonatal care facility at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd with consultants and staff appointed, and plans to create a car park with 167 additional spaces. The Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board has been in special measures for 18 months and mental health service are still no good enough and there is no strategy in place. Thirdly he referred to local schools, with work on the Glasdir site underway but the future of the current site of Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras was undecided. He suggested that the original Victorian school building should be preserved. He also referred to the attack on Councillor Elisabeth Culshaw in her own home, and praised the excellent police response. Members were invited to ask questions or make comments. Reference was made to the future of Awelon Residential Care Home and Canolfan Awelon, with a paper outlining five options to be considered at Scrutiny Committee on 6 January. A member suggested that a care home could be located on the old Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street site, which would be in an ideal location next to Ruthin Hospital to provide residential care and respite care.

RESOLVED: *to note the presentation.*

148. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bob Costain.

149. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

150. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor read out a thank you letter from the Royal British Legion for Ruthin Town Council's donation to the Poppy Appeal and reported on the following visits since the previous meeting.

- 29.11 Concert for Awelon residents with Côr y Porthmyn
- 03.12 The Mill Childcare Centre Christmas Fayre
Christmas lights switch on
- 04.12 Christmas Extravaganza at the Cross Keys
- 05.12 Children's concert for Awelon residents
RABI Carol Concert at Ruthin Auction
- 06.12 Chair of Denbighshire County Council's Christmas Carol Service at St. Mary's Church,
Rhuddlan
- 08.12 Ruthin Steering Group meeting
- 09.12 Late night shopping at Garment Spa
Rhos Street School Christmas Fayre
St. Kentigern's Hospice Service at St. Peter's Church
- 13.12 Visited the OWL team in Tesco

- Rhos Street School Christmas Carol concert
- 15.12 Christmas Carols in Ruthin Hospital and Christmas Comforts delivered
- 16.12 Opening of The Corporation.
Christmas Comforts delivered to Awelon, Llys Awelon, Abbeyfield, Tan y Castell, Trosnant, Trem y Foel, Llys Erw and Llys Marchan.
Pensioners' Christmas Party at Awelon
- 19.12 Santa at Candy Shack

151. MEMBERS' REPORTS

- Cllr. James Bryan Christmas lights switch on, Ruthin Steering Group meeting and Rotary Club of Ruthin Carol Service.
- Cllr. Stephen Beach North Wales Neighbourhood Watch, Rotary Club of Ruthin Carol Service and OWL at Tesco
- Cllr. Robert Owen-Ellis Ysgol Pen Barras Governors meeting, Food Bank and Food Bank collection at Tesco, Ruthin Steering Group meeting, Côt Cytgan Clwyd concert, Rotary Club of Ruthin Carol Service, Ysgol Pen Barras Nursery and Reception Christmas concert and Key Stage 2 Christmas concert and Ysgol Brynhyfryd Christmas service.
- Cllr. Menna Jones Food Bank, Christmas lights switch on, Côt Rhuthun annual concert, Ysgol Borthyn carol service, welcoming the Christian Aid and Cytun sponsored walkers to Ruthin and Llys Marchan Advisory Committee meeting.
- Cllr. Rosie Hughes-Moseley Remembrance Sunday Service and Christmas market and Christmas lights switch on.
- Cllr. Ian Lewney Christmas market – setting up and removing the stalls and Christmas lights switch on and Ruthin Steering Group meeting.
- Cllr. Anne Roberts List to be presented at the next meeting.
- Cllr. Emrys Wynne Christmas lights switch on, Côt Rhuthun annual concert at Capel Tabernacl with Côt Godre'r Garth, Rotary Club of Ruthin carol service and service at Llanfwrog.

152. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2016 be confirmed as a correct record, subject to the addition of Councillor Ian Lewney and Councillor Rosie Hughes-Moseley's member reports.

153. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk provided a further update regarding naming the Northern Link Road as Ffordd Glasdir, which is now being consulted on with the three County Councillors representing the Ruthin ward. The Mayor reported that the cost of a banner to be displayed at Ruthin Town Football Club would be £100, plus a £250 annual charge and that this would be discussed at the next council meeting.

154. AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2016.
RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting be received.

155. FINANCIAL SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Sub-committee presented the minutes of the meetings held on 28 November, 25 July and 18 April 2016.
RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meetings be received.

156. RESPONSE TO RUTHIN NAT WEST BANK CLOSURE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Mayor introduced the item and read out an e-mail message from the Right Honourable

David Jones MP following his meeting with Mr Michael German, Chief Executive Officer NatWest North Wales, which raised the possibility of the building being available for community use. Members expressed their objection to the bank closure, and referred to the petition circulating around the area's shops and businesses, and their concerns that closing one bank could lead to further bank closures. Establishing a working group to look at the community use possibilities of using the building as a museum / tourist information centre, was suggested.

RESOLVED: *to oppose the closure of the NatWest Bank in Ruthin and the Mayor to draft a letter to that effect to be circulated to all members for comments before being posted.*

157. iBEACONS PROJECT

Members were asked to consider whether to participate in the project for a contribution of £750.00, following the presentation at the previous meeting. Members expressed concerns regarding previous projects which had not been evaluated and the continuation of this project following the initial setting up. A member proposed that Ruthin Town Council does not proceed with participation in the project.

RESOLVED: *not to participate in the iBeacons project.*

158. RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP OF SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS

Members considered renewal of the Clerk's membership of the above Society for 2017, due on 1 January 2017, at a cost of £139.00.

RESOLVED: *to renew the Clerk's membership of SLCC at a cost of £139.00.*

159. CLWYD PENSION FUND

Members considered payment of the revised actuarial fee for membership of the Clwyd Pension Fund for £900.00.

RESOLVED: *to approve the payment.*

160. CORRESPONDENCE

Members were asked to note the following item of correspondence:

Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure about the consultation on Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance.

RESOLVED: *to note the correspondence.*

161. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Members were asked to approve the Financial Statement for the period ending 30 November 2016.

RESOLVED: *to receive and approve the Financial Statement for the period ending 30 November 2016.*

162. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED: *that payment of the following accounts be approved.*

966	Royal British Legion	Annual donation	£50.00
967	One Voice Wales	Use of IT, websites and social media training	£45.00
968	Cllr. Geraint Woolford	Second instalment of Mayor's Allowance	£600.00
969	Fineline	Office stationery	* £28.66
970	HMRC	Income tax and National Insurance	£252.83
971	Marian Rees	Simultaneous translation	* £90.00
972	NWMALC	Renewal of annual subscription	£55.00

163. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: *to confirm the date of the next meeting of the Town Council as Monday, 23 January 2016 at 7:00pm.*