

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

**164. PRESENTATION FROM ELERI JONES, RUTHIN CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU
MANAGER**

The Mayor welcomed Eleri Jones, Manager of Ruthin Citizens Advice Bureau. She explained that she had been involved with CAB for 18 years, and took over as Manager of the Ruthin branch in September 2016. The branch has been operating for 52 years, currently with two paid members of staff and 17 volunteers and they are running a recruitment drive to attract new volunteers. She said that a great deal of the work arises from welfare reforms, with people being transferred from Disability Living Allowance to Personal Independence Payments, and not being assessed correctly and therefore losing their benefits. During the past year Ruthin CAB has assisted clients to claim £840,000 in benefits. She explained that it costs £7,321.00 per annum to run the Ruthin office, with the expenditure mainly on travelling expenses, specialist case law books and general office expenses. Any contribution from the Town Council would be ringfenced for use at the Ruthin branch. An outreach service is also offered in Llangollen, Corwen and Ruthin Farmers Livestock Market. The Mayor thanked her for her presentation and invited questions from members. A member asked for details of the number of clients from Ruthin who had been assisted. It was also suggested that Ruthin CAB approaches Llangollen Town Council and Corwen Community Council for a contribution. Following further debate after Eleri Jones had left the chamber, it was proposed and seconded that a contribution of £2,000.00 be made to Ruthin CAB and this was carried.

RESOLVED: to make a contribution of £2,000.00 to Ruthin CAB.

165. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bob Costain and Elisabeth Culshaw.

166. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Heather Williams declared a personal interest in item 1 as her husband is honorary treasurer of Denbighshire CAB and Councillor Emrys Wynne declared a personal and pecuniary interest in item 12 as he is Chair of Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych.

167. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor reported on the following visits since the previous meeting.

- 20.12 University of the Third Age Christmas party
- 22.12 Visited Mrs Enid Hughes in Ruthin Hospital on the occasion of her 90th birthday
- 09.01 Meeting with representatives from Blachere regarding Christmas lights
- 10.01 Town Clerk's Appointment Group meeting and Town Team meeting
- 13.01 Meeting with the Police
- 16.01 Meeting with Mr Mike German, North Wales CEO, NatWest Bank and Good Citizen Group meeting
- 18.01 Funeral of Councillor Raymond Bartley

168. MEMBERS' REPORTS

- Cllr. James Bryan Canolfan Awelon Management Committee meeting, Town Clerk's Appointment Group, meeting with Mr Mike German, North Wales CEO, NatWest Bank and Good Citizen Group meeting.
- Cllr. Stephen Beach Hubbub – over 50's Forum.
- Cllr. Robert Owen-Ellis Food Bank x 4 and Town Clerk's Appointment Group.

Cllr. Ken Hawkins	North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils quarterly meeting in Colwyn Bay, deputising for Cllr. Emrys Wynne.
Cllr. Menna Jones	Christingle Service at St. Peter's Church, Food Bank, Ysgol Borthyn visit and Good Citizen Group meeting.
Cllr. Rosie Hughes-Moseley	Ruthin Town Charities meeting, Good Citizen Group meeting and Councillor Raymond Bartley's funeral.
Cllr. Ian Lewney	Town Team meeting.
Cllr. Anne Roberts	Christmas festivities and Christmas lights switch on, visit to Tesco – Food Bank collection volunteers, meeting at Llys Erw regarding the May Day project, Over 50's Forum at Llys Erw, Tesco Community Christmas Lunch, Ruthin Steering Group meeting, visit to Trostant with Ysgol Borthyn, St. Peter's Church – hand bell ringing and exhibition of Nativity Scenes, Tesco OWL Watch team, Town Team meeting, Ruthin and District Civic Association meeting, Good Citizen Group meeting, Ruthin Forward meeting and Over 50's Forum at Llys Erw.
Cllr. Heather Williams	North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils quarterly meeting in Colwyn Bay, deputising for Cllr. Anne Roberts.
Cllr. Emrys Wynne	Town Clerk's Appointment Group meeting.

169. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING

RESOLVED: *that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2016 be confirmed as a correct record.*

170. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

171. AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2017.

RESOLVED: *that the minutes of the meeting be received.*

171. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Committee presented the minutes of the meetings held on 19 December 2016 and 9 January 2017.

RESOLVED: *that the minutes of the meetings be received.*

172. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Sub-committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2016.

RESOLVED: *to approve the payments recommended and that the minutes of the meeting be received.*

173. YSGOL BORTHYN

Councillor Ian Lewney had requested this item to be on the agenda following a break in into a storage shed on the school site and damage to the pupils' toys and play equipment. He acknowledged that a great deal had happened since the event, with donations of money and replacement equipment from local people, Rotary Club of Ruthin and others, which surpassed the reason for having the item on the agenda. A member suggested that the school could apply for financial assistance in the usual manner, if required.

RESOLVED: *to note the situation.*

174. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM MENTER IAITH SIR DDINBYCH

Councillor Emrys Wynne left the chamber during discussion of this item. Members were asked to consider a request for financial assistance of £945.00. The contents of the application form

and annual report and accounts were noted. Members were eager to receive a detailed breakdown of the costs of the events to be held in Ruthin, the number of individuals that would benefit and the benefit to Ruthin.

RESOLVED: *that the Clerk contact Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych to request further detailed information.*

175. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM YSGOL BRYNHYFRYD

Members considered a request for financial assistance of £15,000.00 from Ysgol Brynhyfryd towards outdoor shelters for pupils. Members asked whether a new policy had been introduced at the school that meant that pupils were outdoors during break times and lunch time.

Members expressed concern about ensuring the structures were not damaged during the periods the school is closed, and whether the School Council were in favour of the shelters.

RESOLVED: *to contact the school for further background information and answers to the questions above.*

176. UPDATE REGARDING NATWEST BANK, RUTHIN

The Mayor reported back following a meeting with Mr Mike German, CEO North Wales, NatWest Bank. He said that Mr German stated that no bank closure decision had been reversed, and that they were considering bringing the mobile bank to Tesco car park for 1.5 hours on a Thursday morning and he had visited the Post Office and intended to meet with the manager to discuss whether the Post Office could offer banking services to NatWest customers, possibly with an additional counter space. He added that they would get a valuation of the building nearer to the closing date, and it would be offered for sale on the open market, and any proposals from the Town Council would be “in the mixing pot” with other proposals. The Deputy Mayor added that the ATM would also be decommissioned and removed.

Councillor Emrys Wynne said that there were some pages left to collect from businesses following circulation of a petition against closure, and it would be presented shortly.

RESOLVED: *to note the situation.*

177. RUTHIN TOWN COUNCIL BANNER AT RUTHIN TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB GROUND

The costs of the banner had been received from Ruthin Town Football Club. It would cost £100 for construction of the advertising board and banner, and £250 for advertising at the side of the pitch plus a website and Facebook pack, which would be an annual cost. Members voted in favour of proceeding with this, and asked for further contact with Ruthin Rugby Club for a similar advertising banner at their pitch.

RESOLVED: *to proceed with the advertising banner at Ruthin Town Football Club at a cost of £350.00.*

178. ZURICH INSURANCE

The Clerk stated that the Town Council is in a long term agreement with Zurich, and the insurance renewal premium for 2017-18 would be £4,438.44, compared to £4,380.02 last year with the difference mainly due to the increase in Insurance Premium Tax.

RESOLVED: *to pay the insurance renewal premium for 2017-18.*

179. CIVIC SUNDAY MEAL

Members were asked to consider payment of an invoice for £1,406.00 to Vale Country Club for the Civic Sunday lunches from the Civic Fund.

RESOLVED: *to pay the above invoice amount from the Civic Fund.*

180. CORRESPONDENCE

- i. Scope – house to house collection dates.
- ii. Cambrian Rally 11 February 2017 – letter from Peter Holland, Event Secretary.
- iii. Letter regarding signage on the A55 from Ann Jones AM, Vale of Clwyd.

iv. Thinking of becoming a councillor? – Denbighshire County Council roadshows for those interested in becoming a county councillor.

The Mayor referred to a further letter from Ann Jones AM, inviting representatives of Ruthin Town Council to a meeting in Denbigh regarding the A55 brown signs on 27 January.

RESOLVED: to note the correspondence, and that the Mayor, Town Clerk and Councillor Stephen Beach would represent the Town Council at the meeting with Ann Jones AM.

181. FINANCIAL ESTIMATES 2017-18

The Town Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, submitted draft estimates for the financial year ending 31 March 2018. The expenditure for 2017/18 has been estimated at £128,720.00. The Town Clerk went through each budget item, including a suggested £10,000.00 for financial assistance and to allocate £30,000 for Community Facilities such as potentially safeguarding the Nat West Bank building for the community. The Clerk also referred to a letter from Cambrian Credit Union stating that it would not be in a position to pay a dividend to savers. The necessary precept to cover the proposed expenditure is £128,720.00, equating to Band D Council Tax of £53.90, a slight increase compared to 2016/17, but only slightly more than £1 a week for Band D properties.

RESOLVED: to accept the estimates and the precept required.

182. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Members were asked to approve the Financial Statement for the period ending 31 December 2016.

RESOLVED: to receive and approve the Financial Statement for the period ending 31 December 2016.

183. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED: that payment of the following accounts be approved.

973	SLCC	Renewal of annual membership for the Clerk	£139.00
974	Flintshire County Council	Actuarial fee for joining Clwyd Pension Fund	£900.00
975	Radio Glan Clwyd	Christmas Toy Appeal 2016	£10.00
976	Cllr. G. Woolford	Mayor's Christmas Comforts	£40.00
D.D	BT Business	Phone services	* £107.06
S.O.	Canda Copying Ltd	Photocopier rental and minimum copies	* £129.14
977	Canda Copying Ltd	Additional black and white copies	* £27.44
978	Canda Copying Ltd	Additional colour copies	* £14.81
979	IT Williams Co Ltd	Transport barriers for Christmas market and return	* £180.00
980	Glascoed Timber	Servicing dog waste bins 24 Oct – 19 Dec	* £240.00
981	NWMALC	2 lunches following meeting on 20 January	£32.00
982	Fineline	Sellotape x 2	* £6.34
983	HMRC	Income tax and National Insurance	£252.83
984	Marian Rees	Simultaneous translation	* £90.00
985	St. Peter's Church, Ruthin	Cost of floodlighting, 01.01.2016 – 31.12.16	£704.75

184. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: to confirm the date of the next meeting of the Town Council as Monday, 27 February 2017 at 7:00pm.