

Minutes of the meeting of the **Amenities Committee** held
on **Monday, 13 September 2021 at 7:00pm via Zoom.**

PRESENT: Councillors Menna Jones (Chair), Anne Roberts, Stephen Beach, Gavin Harris, Rachel Lewington, Heather Williams, Christine Ellis and Mike van der Eijk

38. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Jim Bryan

39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Gavin Harris declared an interest as a proprietor of a hospitality business.

40. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: *that the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 5 July 2021 and the Extraordinary meeting held on 26 July 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.*

41. MATTERS ARISING

Matters arising from the minutes of the Amenities Committee of 5 July 2021.

Cllr Menna Jones updated members that:

- That details of the litter awareness campaign involving the local primary schools, led by Cllrs Jones and Roberts, would be confirmed soon.
- Judging of the floral displays of business and licensed premises in the town had been undertaken by Cllrs Jones, Williams and Ellis. A Touch of Class on Mwrog Street and Castle Hotel, Wetherspoon were worthy winners.

Cllr Anne Roberts stated that contact would be made with the ATC regarding public use of the peace garden.

Cllr Gavin Harris reported that the fold down bollard to the rear of The Old Courthouse had been put in place.

Matters arising from the minutes of the Extraordinary Amenities Committee held on 26 July 2021.

Cllr Menna Jones reported that a joint letter had been sent to Graham Boase, Chief Executive of Denbighshire County Council, following the meeting outlining concerns about the condition of pavements on the A525 between Ruthin and Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd. As a result, a site visit had been arranged for Friday, 24 September between representatives of the County Council, Ruthin Town Council and Llanfair DC Community Council.

42. MAIN ROAD ENTRANCES TO RUTHIN

Following the Extraordinary meeting on 26 July 2021, which was attended by local County Councillors, at which the poor state of the main entrances to Ruthin was discussed, it was evident that some level of action had taken place. Verges and overgrowth along parts of Corwen Road and Mold Road had been tidied, though the state of Denbigh Road remained of concern. Members expressed the view that more improvements were still needed to the main entrances of the town to enhance the welcome to residents and visitors and support a good first impression for the town. Whilst some restrictions due to the nesting season were acknowledged, brambles and nettles along the main entrances should be better controlled. Positive comments from visitors on the town's floral displays were shared. It was suggested, given the significant increase in 'staycations' which extended beyond the typical holiday period, that consideration be given to extending the floral displays for the benefit of both residents and visitors to the town.

RESOLVED: *A letter be sent to Graham Boase expressing the need for improving the main road entrances to Ruthin.*

43. THE WAR MEMORIAL

The Committee considered an update report on the Ruthin War Memorial Project and proposed

next steps from the War Memorial Working Group. It was confirmed that Ruthin Town Council had now insured the War Memorial. It was reported that the grant application to the Clocaenog Windfarm Fund to support Phase 1 of the project (to commission architect plans and drawings of the War Memorial, a schedule of works and preparation of tender documents for part 1 of the project) was unsuccessful as the War Memorial was not registered to RTC with the Land Registry.

It was proposed that the Amenities Committee recommend that the Town Council ringfence funds from the existing budget to support the Phase 1 of the War Memorial project including securing land registration of the site. Once the land registry position had been confirmed, the likelihood of securing grant funding was more likely.

RESOLVED: *to recommend that the Town Council ringfence funds from existing budget to support Phase 1 of the War memorial project including securing land registration of the site.*

44. WELSH GOVERNMENT TOWN COUNCIL COVID-19 RESPONSE GRANT FUNDING

Cllr Gavin Harris provided an update on items which had been supported by the grant funding which included:

- 3 benches had been purchased and installed
- 2 further benches had been purchased and were awaiting installation once the appropriate permits had been issued by the County Council
- Fingerposts would be installed during 27-29 September 2021
- A waterfountain had been delivered. This would be positioned at the back of The Old Courthouse and would be installed during 2022.

RESOLVED: *Members noted the update and thanked Cllr Gavin Harris for his work.*

45. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY EVENTS INFRASTRUCTURE

The Committee considered the draft application to the Community Events Infrastructure Grant. The application was to support a more powerful and reliable electrical supply for two locations in the town square for community events namely the Old Courthouse and Ruthin Clock Tower.

RESOLVED: *That the draft application be recommended to the Town Council for approval and onward submission to Denbighshire County Council.*

46. COACH DROP OFF POINT AND THE REAR OF THE OLD COURTHOUSE

Following agreement at the June 2021 Town Council meeting, Cllr Gavin Harris had undertaken initial layout investigations relating to a possible coach drop off point outside The Old Courthouse and opportunities to enhance the Public Realm to the rear of the building. Members considered a detailed report which outlined the current issues relating to the area to the rear of The Old Courthouse including street parking, pinch points and turning, rat run routes and satnav suggested routes, together with possible initial options for layout alternatives and general enhancement to the area. It was acknowledged that any options would need to be further development by qualified professionals. Whilst the plans could possibly be adopted within a larger Levelling Up Fund application and scheme, action could be progressed irrespective of the Levelling Up Fund scheme.

RESOLVED: *That the report be welcomed and considered at the next Town Council meeting.*

47. OUTSIDE DINING SPACES IN ST PETER'S SQUARE

Members shared diverse views on the recent placement of outside dining spaces in St Peter's Square; a matter which had generated much public comment.

RESOLVED: *that a letter be sent to the local County Councillors.*

48. PARKING IN HAULFRYN ESTATE

This item was deferred to the next meeting due to time constraints.

RESOLVED: that the item be considered at the next Amenities Committee.

49. RUTHIN CHRISTMAS TREE AND LIGHTS

The Town Clerk notified Members that the Town Council had been approached by a PR and marketing company, acting on behalf of a business within the town, with a potential offer of sponsorship of the Christmas Tree and lights on the tree. More information was awaited. In the meantime the Town Clerk would continue to action tasks relating to securing quotes for the Christmas tree, lights and supporting activities.

RESOLVED: the potential sponsorship of the Christmas tree and its lights were noted and agreement given to the Town Clerk to pursue this opportunity whilst also progressing necessary quotes and actions relating to Christmas.

50. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: that the date of the next meeting will be Monday 4 October 2021 at 7:00pm.

Members of the Planning and Development Committee joined the meeting to consider the next item.

51. CAE DDOL - PROPOSED EMBANKMENT WORKS

Both the Amenities and Planning and Development Committees jointly considered the NRW proposed embankment works at Cae Ddol. A number of drawings of the proposed works had been provided by NRW and circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr Heather Williams outlined that the proposal was for the bund to be made higher and wider. Whilst Members acknowledged the details of the drawings received, the visual impact of the proposed works had not been presented. Queries were also raised by Members about drainage and the fencing. In recognising the need to resolve the matter, Members requested an urgent meeting with NRW officers to discuss the details of the proposal.

RESOLVED: that a meeting be arranged between RTC and NRW officers to consider the detail of the Proposed Embankment Works at Cae Ddol.