

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of **RHUTHUN TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Rhuthun on Monday, 27 November 2017, at 7:00pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Jim Bryan (Mayor) and Ian Lewney (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors Keiran Allsopp-Robson, Stephen Beach, Ken Hawkins,
Rosie Hughes, Menna Jones, Robert Owen-Ellis, Anne Roberts, Dave Snape,
Ifan Wyn and Emrys Wynne.

130. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Gavin Harris.

131. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Declaration of personal interest were received as follows: Item 12 – Request for financial assistance from Ruthin Community Group – Councillor Dave Snape; Item 13 – Request for financial assistance from Ruthin CAB – Councillors Heather Williams and Emrys Wynne; Item 15 – Request for financial assistance from Ruthin Twinning Association – Councillors Menna Jones and Emrys Wynne and Item 17 – Consultation on the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Draft Annual Report – Councillor Emrys Wynne.

132. PRESENTATION FROM RUTHIN POLICE

The Mayor welcomed Sergeant Jonny Hill who provided members with crime statistics for the period 25 June 2017 to 25 November 2017 compared the same five month period in 2016. Members were invited to ask questions. Reference was made to the break in at the Co-op the previous evening, cannabis use in the town, with the police aware of the locations used and the parking problems in Haulfryn and anti-social driving at Park Road and Cae Ddôl car parks. Also a report that around 40 vehicles a day are ignoring the no right turn sign at the junction of Rhos Street with Llanfair Road. Sergeant Hill also referred to the custom of 'cuckooing' which is becoming more apparent, where individuals involved in criminal activity, usually concerning drugs, are taking over the property of vulnerable people and asked the members to inform him if they knew about any examples of this.

133. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor reported that he had attended the following events.

- 24.10 Ruthin Festival Committee meeting
- 29.10 Ruthin Festival Committee meeting
- 30.10 Opening of Ruthin Castle Conservation Trust awareness raising week activities
- 01.11 Initial discussion meeting regarding the Old Courthouse at the Manorhaus
- 02.11 Ruthin Twinning Association's AGM
- 04.11 Fireworks display at The Centre, Llanfwrog
- 05.11 Mayor of Caerwys' Civic Service
- 06.11 Canolfan Awelon Management Committee meeting
- 07.11 Ruthin Festival Committee meeting
- 08.11 Business Group meeting and Theatr John Ambrose Management Committee
- 12.11 Remembrance Sunday service
- 18.11 Opening the Inner Wheel Craft Fayre at Canolfan Awelon, presenting the prizes at the North Wales Annual Brass Bands Championship at Theatr John Ambrose and the Mayor's Charity Dinner
- 21.11 Business Group meeting
- 23.11 Ruthin Twinning Association Committee meeting
- 24.11 Mayor of Rhuddlan's Winter Choral Concert at St. Mary's Church, Rhuddlan

134. MEMBERS' REPORTS

- Cllr. Ian Lewney Remembrance Sunday Service and the Mayor's Charity Dinner
- Cllr. Keiran North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils quarterly meeting

Allsopp-Robson	in Holywell, Remembrance Sunday Service and the Mayor's Charity Dinner
Cllr. Stephen Beach	NMWALC quarterly meeting in Holywell, consultation regarding the Memorial Playing Fields play area at Ruthin Football Club, Ruthin Castle Conservation Trust Awareness Week events, Remembrance Sunday Service and the Mayor's Charity Dinner
Cllr. Gavin Harris	Meeting to discuss the Old Courthouse
Cllr. Ken Hawkins	Adjusting the time on the Church clock with the assistance of Simeon Jones and David Smart, meeting to discuss the Old Courthouse, fireworks display, Remembrance Sunday Service and the Mayor's Charity Dinner
Cllr. Rosie Hughes	Remembrance Sunday Service
Cllr. Robert Owen-Ellis	4 Food Bank sessions, meeting with Denbighshire County Council's Education Department regarding the new school on the Glasdir site and Remembrance Sunday Service
Cllr. Menna Jones	Consultation regarding the Memorial Playing Fields play area at Ruthin Football Club, meeting to discuss the Old Courthouse, Remembrance Sunday Service and the Mayor's Charity Dinner
Cllr. Anne Roberts	Ruthin and District Civic Association AGM, Ruthin Forward meeting, Ruthin Castle Conservation Trust Awareness Week events, consultation regarding the Memorial Playing Fields play area at Ruthin Football Club, Halloween tea for Trosnant residents, meeting to discuss the Old Courthouse, fireworks display, RADCA meeting, Ruthin Forward meeting regarding Christmas activities, Remembrance Sunday Service, Ruthin Coach Friendly Status working group meeting and the Mayor's Charity Dinner
Cllr. Dave Snape	Fireworks display, Ruthin business group meeting, Theatr John Ambrose Management Committee meeting, Remembrance Sunday Service and the Mayor's Charity Dinner
Cllr. Heather Williams	Remembrance Sunday Service, meeting to discuss the Old Courthouse, Ruthin Coach Friendly Status working group meeting and the Mayor's Charity Dinner
Cllr. Ifan Wyn	Theatr John Ambrose Management Committee meeting, Remembrance Sunday Service and the Mayor's Charity Dinner
Cllr. Emrys Wynne	Meeting to discuss the Old Courthouse and Remembrance Sunday Service

135. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING

RESOLVED: *that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2017 be confirmed as a correct record.*

136. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

137. FINANCIAL SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

Members were requested to receive the minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2017.

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

138. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2017.

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

139. AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2017.

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

140. REQUEST FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT

Members considered a request for a letter of support for Ruthin Musical Theatre's application for Heritage Lottery Funding for a World War II project, 'Under the Radar', to be held in September 2018, further to the details received in a presentation by Julie Masters on 13 November. Members felt it was an excellent idea and emphasised that local groups, such as the History Society and Civic Association, should be involved. The Deputy Mayor suggested that his could be ensured by members of the Town Council sitting on the Steering Group to plan and organise the events in due course.

RESOLVED: *to provide a letter of support for the proposed project.*

141. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – RUTHIN COMMUNITY GROUP

Members considered the information contained in an e-mail from Mr Ron Bell, Chair of Ruthin Community Group, explaining that there would not be a fireworks display as part of the event this year, due to no suitable locations available to set up the fireworks safely. He submitted a revised request for £500. Members discussed this and it was proposed and seconded that the Town Council contribute by paying for the hire of the PA system, estimated at £300, on receipt of an invoice.

RESOLVED: *that the Town Council contribute by paying for the hire of the PA system, estimated at £300, on receipt of an invoice.*

142. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – RUTHIN CITIZEN ADVICE BUREAU

Members were asked to consider a request for financial assistance of £2,000 towards providing the advice and information service from the Ruthin CAB office. The Clerk confirmed that there was funding in the budget for this, and the letter confirmed that any funds granted would be ringfenced for the Ruthin Office.

RESOLVED: *to contribute £2,000 to Ruthin Citizen Advice Bureau.*

143. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – LLANFWROG COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Members were asked to consider a request for financial assistance of £300 towards improvements to downstairs lighting at The Centre. Members felt that this was an operational matter. They also asked for an update regarding the installation of the lift for disabled access which had received financial assistance previously. It was also mentioned that the Association had received funding towards the fireworks display but the advertising signs were in English only, contrary to the terms of providing financial assistance which states that bodies awarded funding should abide with Ruthin Town Council's Welsh Language Scheme by producing all advertising and marketing materials bilingually.

RESOLVED: *to decline the request for financial assistance, make enquiries about the progress with regards to installing the lift and remind the Association about the obligations to abide by the Town Council's Welsh Language Scheme.*

144. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – RUTHIN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Members were asked to consider a request for financial assistance of £1,500 towards 25th anniversary celebration arrangements for guests from Briec. It was explained that the Association had received £500 of financial assistance in July, and that if members were minded to grant the request, it could be budgeted for and awarded in the 2018/19 financial year.

RESOLVED: *that members were happy to support the request and that it be awarded in the 2018/19 financial year.*

145. FEEDBACK FROM THE OLD COURTHOUSE INITIAL DISCUSSION EVENT

Members received feedback from the initial discussion event held at the Manorhaus on

Wednesday, 1 November 2017. The response of those present was positive and supportive of the Town Council's proposals. Members were eager to take this to a wider audience and to put pressure on NatWest to release the keys and to invite a representative to a meeting to address Councillors.

RESOLVED: *to receive the feedback and to contact NatWest to invite a representative to a Town Council meeting.*

146. CONSULTATION ON THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES' DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

Members were asked to consider Ruthin Town Council's response to IRPW's Draft Annual Report, particularly Section 13 relating Payments to Members of Town and Community Councils. Members were concerned about the implications if payments had to be made, and were of the opinion that Welsh Government should fund the costs.

RESOLVED: *to send a letter from Ruthin Town Council to IRPW expressing the members' view regarding payments to Town and Community Councillors.*

147. BIN ON PRIOR STREET

Members were asked to consider placing a waste bin/dog waste bin on Prior Street as there is no provision currently. The Clerk reported that she had made enquiries and plans were in hand to place a bin by the old surgery on Prior Street and by the bus shelter near Castle Park as soon as they have been delivered. A member asked to look into the possibility of placing dog poo bag dispensers around the town.

RESOLVED: *to make further enquiries regarding the dispensers.*

148. LETTER FROM RUTHIN BRANCH OF THE LABOUR PARTY

Members were asked to consider Ruthin Town Council's response to the above letter regarding addressing the issue of loneliness amongst residents of the town. They were of the opinion that the query regarding an education trust for the Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras site once it became vacant was a matter for Denbighshire County Council. A member proposed sending a letter to Denbighshire County Council suggesting that the site would be ideal for the development of a health centre next to Ruthin Hospital.

RESOLVED: *to send a letter to Denbighshire County Council regarding the proposed plans for the Rhos Street and Ysgol Pen Barras site once it becomes vacant.*

149. RENEWAL OF DOMAIN NAMES

Members were asked to consider renewal of the domain names ruthintowncouncil.gov.uk and cyingortrefrhuthun.gov.uk at a cost of £69.00 + VAT each for two years or to register for .gov.wales and .llyw.cymru new domain names, at a cost of £109 + VAT for each domain name. Councillor Dave Snape queried whether these were phishing e-mails and offered to undertake further checks.

RESOLVED: *to defer the matter in order to make further enquiries.*

150. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Members were asked to approve the Financial Statement for the period ending 31 October 2017.

RESOLVED: *to receive and approve the Financial Statement for the period ending 31 October 2017.*

151. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

5105	NMWALC	2 lunches following quarterly meeting		£32.00
5106	Royal British Legion	Annual donation		£50.00
D.D.	BT Business	Broadband services	*	£85.64
5107	Fineline	Mayor's Charity calendars	*	£638.78

5108	Fineline	Office supplies	*	£5.35
5109	Clwb Rygbi Rhuthun	Donation for 2017/18 season		£350.00
5110	HMRC	Income tax and National Insurance		£274.90
5111	Sandra Williams	Refreshments – Remembrance Sunday		£17.18
5112	Marian Rees	Simultaneous translation service	*	£180.00
5113	Llanfwrog CIC	Grass cutting - November		£171.00
5114	IT Williams Co. Ltd.	Transport and empty soil/plants from planters	*	£502.08
5115	Fineline	Additional copies of Mayor’s charity calendars	*	£572.64

PART TWO – CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

It was moved and agreed that the next item be considered in Part Two, in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, and that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business because it was likely that exempt information would be disclosed.

156. BANKING ARRANGEMENTS

Members were requested to consider updating the Town Council’s signatories for its bank accounts, following the resignation of Councillor Geraint Woolford.

RESOLVED: *to remove Councillor Geraint Woolford’s name from the list of signatories, and to add Councillor Menna Jones’ name as Chair of the Amenities Committee.*

157. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: *to confirm the date of the next ordinary meeting as Monday, 18 December 2017 at 7.00pm.*