

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of **RHUTHUN TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Rhuthun on Monday, 26 March 2018, at 7:00pm.

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

214. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor John Wynne Hughes.

215. PRESENTATION REGARDING THE URDD NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD DENBIGHSHIRE 2020

The Mayor welcomed Mr Aled Siôn, Urdd Director, and Mr Iwan Vaughan Evans, Chair of the Ruthin Appeal Committee to the meeting. Mr Siôn outlined the background and the benefits of Europe's largest youth festival being held in the area, with 90,000 visitors attending the event. He urged members to support the fundraising appeal. He confirmed that any contribution made would count towards the total raised by the Ruthin Appeal Committee. Mr Vaughan Evans explained that the target set for Ruthin was £40,000.

RESOLVED: *to make enquiries regarding sponsoring the Arts & Crafts exhibition and to earmark £3,000 from the 2017-18 budget towards this, with further contributions over the next two financial years amounting to a total of £10,000.*

216. PRESENTATION FROM RUTHIN POLICE

The Mayor welcomed Sergeant Jonny Hill to the meeting. He shared the crime statistics for Ruthin with members, which showed a decrease compared to the same 4 months period in 2016-17 from 110 total crimes to a total of 100 crimes. Members were invited to ask questions. There were questions about issues at the Football Club, whether traffic and parking at the site of the new schools on Ffordd Glasdir would be monitored by the Police, especially on livestock auction days and whether the vacated buildings on Rhos Street would continue to be visited to officers. The Mayor thanked Sergeant Hill for his presentation and wished him all the best in his retirement at the end of April.

RESOLVED: *to note the information.*

217. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Declarations of person interest were received from Councillors Robert Owen-Ellis and Emrys Wynne regarding item 12 – Request for Financial Assistance from Ysgol Pen Barras PTA, Councillor Ken Hawkins regarding item 19 – Clocks servicing agreement and Councillors Menna Jones, Ifan Wyn and Emrys Wynne regarding item 2 – Urdd National Eisteddfod Denbighshire 2020.

218. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor reported that he had attended the following events.

- 27.02 Judging the shop window decorating competition for St. David's Day in Denbigh
- 02.03 Mayor of St. Asaph's Charity Dinner at the Oriel House Hotel, St. Asaph
- 07.03 Independent Review Panel Engagement Event in Wrexham
- 09.03 Ruthin Rotary Club Charter Evening at the Oriel House Hotel, St. Asaph
- 12.03 Flag raising ceremony for the Commonwealth Day at County Hall
Ruthin Festival Committee meeting
- 22.03 Meeting with Sergeant Jonathon Hill
- 23.03 Ruthin of the Future working group meeting at the Manorhaus
- 24.03 Town clean-up campaign
- 26.03 Good Citizen's Group meeting

219. MEMBERS' REPORTS

- Cllr. Keiran Allsopp-Robson Ruthin of the Future working group meeting.
- Cllr. Stephen Beach Planning training by Planning Aid Wales at Ruthin Castle and the Independent Review Panel Engagement Event in Wrexham.
- Cllr. Gavin Harris Ruthin of the Future working group meeting.
- Cllr. Ken Hawkins Changing the hour on St. Peter's Church clock to British summer time.
- Cllr. Menna Jones Helping at the primary and secondary county Denbighshire Eisteddfodau in Ysgol Brynhyfryd, Ruthin of the Future working group meeting and Good Citizen's Group meeting.
- Cllr. Anne Roberts Ruthin Forward meeting, Civic Association meeting regarding Open Doors, meeting to relaunch Bro Rhuthun group at the Manorhaus, Ruthin of the Future working group meeting and Good Citizen's Group meeting.
- Cllr. Heather Williams Planning training by Planning Aid Wales at Ruthin Castle and Ruthin of the Future working group meeting.

220. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING

RESOLVED: *that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2018 be confirmed as a correct record.*

221. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk confirmed that two representatives of Flintshire & Wrexham Online Watch Link Association would attend the next Town Council meeting to provide further details. With reference to the Town Clean-up Campaign, and her experiences as a magistrate, Councillor Heather Williams requested that a letter be sent to Denbighshire County Council regarding concerns that Kingdom, the contractors responsible for issuing penalty charges for littering, were focussing on people dropping cigarette ends rather than other items of litter. It was agreed to discuss setting up a Tidy Town group at the next Amenities Committee meeting.

222. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Chair of the meeting highlighted items from the minutes of the meetings held on 19 March 2018.

RESOLVED: *to receive the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2018.*

223. MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Committee highlighted items from the minutes of the meetings held on 19 March 2018.

RESOLVED: *to receive the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2018.*

224. NOMINATIONS FOR MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR

Members were requested to provide nomination for Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the civic year 2018-19. Councillor Stephen Beach proposed Councillor Ian Lewney as Mayor, seconded by Councillor Keiran Allsopp-Robson. There were no further nominations. Councillor Anne Roberts then proposed Councillor Gavin Harris as Deputy Mayor, seconded by Councillor Rosie Hughes. M

RESOLVED: *that Councillor Ian Lewney be nominated as Mayor and Councillor Gavin Harris as Deputy Mayor for the civic year 2018-19.*

225. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – YSGOL PEN BARRAS PARENTS AND TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Members were asked to consider a request from Ysgol Pen Barras PTA for £2,394 or a lesser contribution towards purchasing items for the Nursery and Reception class pupils. Members discussed the application, and were concerned that it would set a precedent and also felt that

Parent Teacher Associations should be able to raise their own funds. It was proposed that the request be declined. The proposal was carried, with two members abstaining.

RESOLVED: *not to provide financial assistance for this application.*

226. RUTHIN COACH FRIENDLY STATUS

Councillor Heather Williams provided an update on the work undertaken by the Working Group. She explained that the last stages of preparation were being undertaken, and requested that members agreed in principle to the Town Council submitting an application for Coach Friendly Status in June.

RESOLVED: *that members agreed in principle for Ruthin Town Council to submit the application for Coach Friendly Status for Ruthin.*

226. UPDATING THE RUTHIN MARKET TOWN OF THE FUTURE PLAN

Councillor Gavin Harris provided an update, outlining that the Working Group had met and members were undertaking tasks for the Ruthin of the Future week, to be held between 22 and 30 April. All details on www.rhuthun.com

RESOLVED: *to note the update information.*

227. FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

Members were asked to consider a letter from Reverend Gareth Roberts, Chairman of Ruthin CYTUN, suggesting rotating the clergy who lead the Remembrance Sunday Service. Members wanted the service to be open to all religions and to all people, and enquired about the Quakers viewpoint and whether it would be possible to include a Humanist representative.

RESOLVED: *to contact Reverend Gareth Roberts to express the view above.*

228. COMMEMORATING THE CENTENARY OF THE END OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Members considered the information regarding the Silent Soldier campaign in support of the Royal British Legion in Shropshire. Members agreed it warranted further consideration and Councillor Rosie Hughes offered to seek further details.

RESOLVED: *that Councillor Rosie Hughes seeks further information and provides an update at the next meeting.*

229. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES ANNUAL REPORT

Members were asked to receive the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales' Annual Report, outlining the determination that allowances of £150 must be made available to each Councillor. The Clerk distributed a form to each Councillor so that they could confirm in writing whether they wished to accept or decline the allowance. She also referred to the invitation by IRPW for Clerks to attend a regional event at Conwy Business Centre on 9 May, and expressed an interest in attending.

RESOLVED: *to receive the Report and to permit the Clerk to attend the IRPW regional event on 9 May.*

230. NORTH AND MID WALES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS QUARTERLY MEETING

Due to Councillor Keiran Allsopp-Robson being unable to attend the next quarterly meeting at Welshpool on 20 April, Councillors were requested to nominate another member to attend. Councillor Jim Bryan said that he was available to attend the meeting.

RESOLVED: *that Councillors Jim Bryan and Stephen Beach attend the next meeting, and lunches be booked for them.*

231. SMITH'S OF DERBY CLOCK SERVICING AGREEMENT

Members were asked to consider renewing the three year clock servicing agreement, covering St. Peter's Church clock, the Peers Memorial clock and the clock in the Town Hall, at a cost of £517 plus VAT or to revert to an annual servicing agreement.

RESOLVED: to enter into a further three year servicing contract at £517 plus VAT.

232. CAMBRIAN CREDIT UNION REQUEST

Members were asked to consider a letter from Cambrian Credit Union explaining that a cap of £30,000 was to be introduced on savings accounts, following changes to financial regulations, and asking the Town Council to consider arrangements to reduce its balances accordingly. The Clerk informed members that HSBC's savings account was currently offering an interest rate of 0.05%.

RESOLVED: to request further guidance from the Society of Local Council Clerks.

233. INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2017/18

Members were asked to note the information about the Internal Audit Plan 2017-18 from JDH Business Services Ltd.

RESOLVED: to note the information.

234. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Members were asked to approve the Financial Statement for the period ending 28 February 2018.

RESOLVED: to receive and approve the Financial Statement for the period ending 28 February 2018.

235. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED: that payment of the following items be approved.

5148	Denbighshire County Council	Cae Ddôl Lake maintenance works loan repayment number 7	£7,880.00
5149	Denbighshire County Council	RTC contribution towards concrete blocks at Park Road car park	£1,000.00
5150	HMRC	Income tax and National Insurance	£274.90
5151	Marian Rees	Simultaneous translation service	* £180.00
5152	Dafydd Williams	Norton Antivirus subscription renewal	£39.99
D.D.	BT Business	Phone and broadband services	* £169.02

236. URGENT ITEM – DENBIGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Mayor permitted the urgent item to be considered. Councillor Emrys Wynne expressed grave concerns regarding the announcement that Denbigh Community College, part of the Llandrillo Menai Group, was to close. This would leave many students, several from Ruthin, having to travel to other sites in Rhos-on-Sea, Anglesey or Dolgellau to complete the second year of their two year course.

RESOLVED: to write a letter to the Chief Executive of Coleg Llandrillo Menai expressing Ruthin Town Council's grave concerns regarding the proposed closure of Denbigh Community College.

PART TWO

It was proposed and seconded that the meeting be held in private for the following item. Members of the public and the Clerk left the Chamber at this juncture.

237. TOWN CLERK'S SALARY

Members received details of the Town Clerk's salary payments for the previous five months.

RESOLVED: to note the details and pay the salary amount owing.

238. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: to confirm the date of the next ordinary meeting as Monday, 23 April 2018 at 7.00pm.