

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of **RHUTHUN TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Old Courthouse, St. Peter's Square, Rhuthun, on Monday, 25 November 2019, at 7:00pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Gavin Harris (Mayor), Heather Williams (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors Keiran Allsopp-Robson, Stephen Beach, Jim Bryan, Ken Hawkins,
John Wynne Hughes, Menna Jones, Ian Lewney, Robert Owen-Ellis, Anne
Roberts, Dave Snape, Ifan Wyn and Emrys Wynne.
County Councillor Bobby Feeley and four members of the public.

130. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the first Council meeting to be held at the Town Council's Old Courthouse premises. There were no apologies for absence.

131. PRESENTATION FROM CLWYD ALYN HOUSING REGARDING PLANNING APPLICATION FOR 77 AFFORDABLE DWELLINGS AT LAND OFF GLASDIR

The Mayor welcomed Clwyd Alyn representatives Mrs Penelope Storr, Mr Arwyn Evans and Mr Anthony Hughes to give a presentation regarding the planning application for 77 affordable homes. They stated that the site was designated for housing in Denbighshire's Local Development Plan and would have a flexible mix of properties and tenures to meet the need in the local area. In response to comments at the pre-planning consultation, they had checked the capacity of the nearby schools and they had capacity. It was forecast that this development would take 18 to 24 months to complete, if granted planning permission. Members were invited to ask questions and asked how many were on the housing waiting list in Ruthin, what was the meaning of an 'affordable' home and expressed concerns about the access road and traffic and the risk of flooding. The representatives explained that the homes would be affordable to rent or buy based on average income in the area and would be affordable to run also, with running costs around £100 per year. There are 465 on the housing waiting list currently, and they would use a local letting policy to allocate the properties. They had undertaken flood modelling work with Natural Resources Wales to alleviate the flood risk and would introduce a left turn only from the road junction leading from the schools and the proposed new development with Ffordd Glasdir. The Mayor thanked them for their time.

RESOLVED: *to note the presentation and for it to be discussed and representations agreed at the next Planning and Development Committee meeting.*

132. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Emrys Wynne declared an interest in Item 2 – Presentation from Clwyd Alyn Housing as a member of Denbighshire County Council's Planning Committee. Councillor Jabez Oakes declared an interest in Item 11 – Request for financial assistance from Denbighshire Citizen's Advice as he is employed by DCAB. Councillor Gavin Harris declared an interest in Item 17 – Formal Complaint.

133. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor reported that he had attended the following events.

- 18.09 Planning Consultation at the Farmers Mart, Ruthin Glasdir
- 23.09 Old Courthouse working group meeting
- 25.09 Denbighshire Destination Management Partnership meeting
- 30.09 Old Courthouse working group meeting
- 03.10 Meeting with Roger Edwards and Kate Harcus, Old Courthouse Manager, regarding Talk of the Town video
- 05.10 Urdd National Eisteddfod Denbighshire 2020 Proclamation ceremony in Prestatyn

- 17.10 Meeting with Denbighshire County Council's Biodiversity Officer at the Town Hall Ysgol Pen Barras – sandwich judging
- 19.10 Old Courthouse – programming the lights with Councillor Dave Snape
Ruthin Craft Centre exhibition opening
- 21.10 Old Courthouse working group meeting
- 24.10 Meeting with Kate Marcus, Old Courthouse Manager
- 27.10 Mains gas installation at the Old Courthouse
- 29.10 Meeting with Castle Street residents and Denbighshire County Councillors representing Ruthin ward
Old Courthouse working group meeting
- 31.10 Halloween prize giving at the Market Hall, Ruthin
- 01.11 Meeting with Linda Gregory, manager of Ruthin Castle
- 02.11 Tidy Town Group session
- 04.11 Old Courthouse working group meeting
- 05.11 Skip filling with items from the Old Courthouse
Visit with Jim Jones, North Wales Tourism
- 06.11 Velodrome assessment visit at the Old Courthouse with Matt Cosgrove, Welsh Cycling
- 07.11 Tour of Old Courthouse for Welsh School of Architecture students
Old Courthouse test event – Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Forum meeting
- 10.11 Remembrance Sunday Service
- 11.11 Old Courthouse working group meeting
- 14.11 Go North Wales Tourism Awards, Llandudno
- 16.11 Inner Wheel Craft Fayre at Canolfan Awelon

134. MEMBERS' REPORTS

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| Cllr. Heather Williams
(Deputy Mayor) | Old Courthouse working group meetings and Remembrance Sunday service. |
| Cllr. Keiran Allsopp-Robson | North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils quarterly meeting in Holywell and Remembrance Sunday service. |
| Cllr. Stephen Beach | Meeting regarding Memorial Playing Fields play area, North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils quarterly meeting in Holywell and Remembrance Sunday service. |
| Cllr. Jim Bryan | Ruthin Festival Committee meeting and Remembrance Sunday service. |
| Cllr. Ken Hawkins | Remembrance Sunday service. |
| Cllr. John Wynne Hughes | Remembrance Sunday service. |
| Cllr. Menna Jones | Urdd National Eisteddfod Denbighshire 2020 Proclamation event in Prestatyn, Urdd Appeal Committee meeting, helping at the Food Bank, Y Bedol coffee morning, Clwyd Young Farmers Clubs Eisteddfod, Ruthin Show coffee morning, Tidy Town Group session, Remembrance Sunday service, Ruthin Urdd Appeal Committee Auction of Promises and helping with food collection for the Food Bank in Tesco. |
| Cllr. Ian Lewney | Remembrance Sunday service. |
| Cllr. Jabez Oakes | |
| Cllr. Robert Owen-Ellis | Four Food Bank sessions, 'Hawl i Holi' broadcast by BBC Radio Cymru from Rhuthun Rugby Club, Remembrance Sunday service, memorial service for the late Olivia Alkir at Ysgol Brynhyfryd, food collection in Tesco for Vale of Clwyd Food Bank (Ruthin and Denbigh). |

Cllr. Anne Roberts	Ruthin and District Civic Association AGM, meeting with Mark Roberts, Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council, Old Courthouse working group meetings, Ruthin Forward meeting, volunteering with Ruthin Forward at the fireworks display, Open Doors 2019 debrief meeting, Remembrance Sunday service and RADCA meeting.
Cllr. Dave Snape	Old Courthouse working group meetings, programming the lights at the Old Courthouse, undertaking an audit of the Clerk's office IT requirements and Remembrance Sunday service.
Cllr. Ifan Wyn	Ruthin Twinning Committee meeting and Remembrance Sunday service.
Cllr. Emrys Wynne	Remembrance Sunday service.

135. RUTHIN COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Members received a written report from Councillors Emrys Wynne and Bobby Feeley.

136. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING

RESOLVED: *that the minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2019 be confirmed as a correct record.*

137. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk stated that a thank you letter had been received from Llanfwrog Community Association, enclosing a copy of the invoice for the fireworks at a cost of £1,500.00.

138. MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2019. Councillor Emrys Wynne explained that he had been to meet Dr Peter Spencer, Cambrian Woodland Services, at the edge of the forest where six trees were laid out on the field, and he had selected a 24 foot tree for St. Peter's Square.

RESOLVED: *to receive the minutes of the meeting held on 11 Tachwedd 2019.*

139. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2019.

RESOLVED: *to receive the minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2019.*

140. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Members were requested to consider a request for financial assistance of £2,000 towards Denbighshire Citizen's Advice Ruthin Office. This was proposed and seconded and unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED: *to provide financial assistance of £2,000.00 to Denbighshire Citizen's Advice towards the Ruthin CAB office.*

141. UPDATE ON THE OLD COURTHOUSE

The Mayor reported that the refurbishment work was nearly complete, subject to snagging works. Telephone and broadband connection was scheduled for the end of the week. The Town Council has resolved to seek to avoid single use plastic items, and crockery that can be washed and reused had been purchased. The Mayor reminded members that they were invited to the donors 'sneak peek' event on 29 November.

RESOLVED: *to note the update.*

142. UPDATE ON NORTH WALES VELODROME

It was proposed and seconded that this item be discussed in Part Two in order not to disclose

embargoed information.

RESOLVED: to discuss the item in Part Two.

143. THE PENSIONS REGULATOR – RE-ENROLMENT AND RE-DECLARATION REQUIREMENT

The Clerk informed the members regarding the requirement to re-enrol by 31 December 2019 and to re-declare Rhuthun Town Council's pension provision arrangements by 2 March 2020.

RESOLVED: to receive the information and request that the Clerk complies with the requirements by the stated dates.

144. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Members were requested to receive and approve the financial statement for the period ending 31 October 2019.

RESOLVED: to receive and approve the financial statement for the period ending 31 October 2019.

145. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED: that payment of the following items be approved.

From Ruthin Town Council current account:

100244	Royal British Legion	Ruthin Town Council donation towards poppy wreath		£50.00
100245	Llanfwrog Community Association	Financial assistance towards Ruthin community fireworks display 2019		£1,500.00
100246	Denbighshire County Council	Remove hanging baskets from Ruthin Town Centre	*	£804.62
100247	Llanfwrog CIC	Grass cutting – November 2019		£176.13
100248	Hill & Roberts	Accountancy and payroll services Nov 2019	*	£84.00
100249	Wales Audit Office	External audit fee – audit of accounts 2018-19		£323.10
100250	HMRC	Income tax and National Insurance		£688.42
100251	Sandra Williams	Refreshments following Remembrance Sunday service		£19.39

From Ruthin Town Council Old Courthouse account:

100018	Cllr. Gavin Harris	Repayment for purchase of bulbs, hand dryer, projector and tiles for the Old Courthouse	*	£1,377.18
100019	Office Furniture Online	Chairs and tables for the Old Courthouse	*	£4,466.40
100020	Oakwood Property	Stage payment for Old Courthouse refurbishment	*	£10,551.30

146. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Members were requested to consider a request for financial assistance of £500 from Ruthin Cricket Club towards purchase of a bowling machine.

RESOLVED: to provide financial assistance of £500 to Ruthin Cricket Club towards purchase of a bowling machine.

PART TWO

It was proposed and seconded that the following items be considered in private.

147. NORTH WALES VELODROME

The Mayor shared the result of the recent assessment visit, and emphasised that the information was under embargo.

RESOLVED: *to note the information.*

148. FORMAL COMPLAINT

The Clerk stated that a formal complaint had been made to the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales and that the protocol was not to discuss the matter until his investigation was completed.

RESOLVED: *to note the information.*

149. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: *to confirm the date of the next ordinary meeting as Monday, 16 December 2019 at 7.00pm at the Old Courthouse, St. Peter's Square.*