

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of **RHUTHUN TOWN COUNCIL**
held via Zoom video conferencing on Monday, 17 May 2021 at 7:00pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Heather Williams (Mayor), Menna Jones (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors Stephen Beach, Jim Bryan, Christine Ellis, Gavin Harris,
Ken Hawkins, John Wynne Hughes, Ethan Jones, Ian Lewney, Jabez Oakes,
Robert Owen-Ellis, Anne Roberts, Mike van der Eijk and Ifan Wyn.
County Councillors Bobby Feeley, Huw Hilditch-Roberts and Emrys Wynne.

13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Gavin Harris declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the Part 2 item – Response to requests following fact finding meeting.

15. UPDATE FROM SERGEANT RICHARD EVANS

The Mayor welcomed Sergeant Richard Evans, who is now in charge of community policing in Ruthin, to his first meeting of Ruthin Town Council. He thanked members for the opportunity to introduce himself. He agreed that he would attend on a quarterly basis from now on, providing a brief report to members prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED: *to welcome Sergeant Evans contribution and to resume Community Policing as a quarterly standing item on the agenda from the September 2021 meeting onwards.*

16. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor had outlined the events that he had attended at the Annual General Meeting on 10 May 2021.

17. MEMBERS' REPORTS

Cllr. Heather Williams (Deputy Mayor)	Meeting with the Old Courthouse Manager/Deputy Town Clerk, Denbigh Town Council Annual General Meeting via Zoom and Flood Relief Group meeting.
Cllr. Stephen Beach	
Cllr. Jim Bryan	
Cllr. Christine Ellis	
Cllr. Ken Hawkins	Nothing to report.
Cllr. John Wynne Hughes	
Cllr. Ethan Jones	
Cllr. Menna Jones	Flood Relief Group meeting.
Cllr. Ian Lewney	
Cllr. Jabez Oakes	
Cllr. Robert Owen-Ellis	Three Food Bank sessions.
Cllr. Anne Roberts	Stori Rhuthun session via Zoom and Flood Relief Group meeting.
Cllr. Mike van der Eijk	Training module delivered by One Voice Wales via Zoom.
Cllr. Ifan Wyn	Nothing to report.

18. RUTHIN COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

County Councillor Emrys Wynne had provided a written report on behalf of the three Ruthin ward councillors. A further update was provided on the investigations into the emissions from industrial sites at Brickfield Lane. The proposed wildflower area at Bryn Rhydd was mentioned. Residents were not in favour and discussions were taking place with the elected members and Denbighshire County Council officials to resolve the situation.

19. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

RESOLVED: *that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 10 May 2021 be received and confirmed as a correct record.*

20. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING

RESOLVED: *that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 2021 be received and confirmed as a correct record.*

21. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

22. MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 4 May 2021.

RESOLVED: *to receive the minutes of the meeting held on 4 May 2021.*

23. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 4 May 2021.

RESOLVED: *to receive the minutes of the meeting held on 4 May 2021.*

24. MINUTES OF THE OLD COURTHOUSE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 4 May 2021.

RESOLVED: *to receive the minutes of the meeting held on 4 May 2021.*

25. MEMBERS OF RHUTHUN TOWN COUNCIL

Members were asked to confirm that their contact details were correct.

RESOLVED: *that the contact details of Rhuthun Town Council members were correct.*

26. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES 2021/22

Members were requested to discuss and confirm membership of committees for 2021/22.

Councillor Ethan Jones requested that he become a member of the Planning and Development Committee due to a recent promotion at work which would create a conflict of interest if he remained on the Amenities Committee. Councillor Stephen Beach offered to join the Amenities Committee. Councillor John Wynne Hughes asked to be a member of the Amenities Committee too. Councillor Beach also offered to be a member of the Good Citizen's Group. Councillor Ethan Jones agreed to become a member of the Welsh Language Committee, with a suggestion that it be renamed the Bilingualism Committee, and the Human Resources sub-committee. Councillor Christine Ellis offered to fill the vacant seat on the Financial Scrutiny sub-committee, with Councillor Gavin Harris becoming a member of the ICT/Communication sub-committee.

RESOLVED: *to update the membership of committees as above, and to circulate the updated details by the next meeting.*

27. TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATION OF OUTSIDE BODIES 2021/22

Members were requested to consider the list of representation on external bodies. Councillor Ethan Jones offered to become the Rhuthun Town Council representative on the Ruthin Twinning Committee, and Councillors Mike van der Eijk and John Wynne Hughes offered to be members of the Theatr John Ambrose Management Committee. There was a request to include Ruthin Hospital League of Friends on the list, with Councillor Anne Roberts representing the Town Council and also the War Memorial Working Group. It was agreed that the Town Council representatives would be Councillor Heather Williams, Menna Jones, Jim Bryan and Christine Ellis.

RESOLVED: *to make the above updates, to remove Ruthin Steering Group from the list and to make enquiries whether Ruthin Chamber of Trade was currently active and meeting. An updated list to be circulated to members by the next meeting.*

28. UPDATE REGARDING RECRUITMENT TO TOWN CLERK POST

The proposed recruitment timescale and draft advert had been circulated to all members for consideration.

RESOLVED: *that members send any suggested amendments to the Old Courthouse Manager/Deputy Town Clerk so that they could be considered by the Human Resources sub-committee meeting on 18 May 2021.*

29. GLASDIR RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Glasdir Residents Association had contacted the Clerk to inform that they were happy for a contribution of £2,300 (two thousand three hundred pounds) to be contributed from the Glasdir Flood Relief Fund to the current flood relief appeal for residents affected by the recent flooding in Mill Street and Clwyd Street. It was requested that a letter of thanks be sent to them for their generosity. Other members requested that the transfer of funds be checked with One Voice Wales.

RESOLVED: *that members were grateful to Glasdir Residents Association for this gesture, and approved it in principle, subject to confirmation from One Voice Wales that such a virement was acceptable.*

30. BANK MANDATE HSBC

The Clerk requested confirmation from members that they were happy for the three current signatories to continue, namely the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillor Gavin Harris, with any two of the three required to sign cheques and forms etc.

RESOLVED: *to continue with the current signatories.*

31. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

RESOLVED: *to receive and approve the financial statement for the period ending 30 April 2021.*

32. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

From Ruthin Town Council's current account:

OB	Ruthin Town Football Club	Financial assistance towards pitch drainage works	£2,500.00
OB	Information Commissioner's Office	Renewal of Ruthin Town Council data controller registration	£40.00
OB	HMRC	Income tax and National Insurance - May	£678.71
OB	Hill & Roberts	Accountancy and payroll services and	* £240.00

		Sage subscription – May 2021		
OB	Denbighshire County Council	Cost of contested Town Council by-election	*	£7,088.16
OB	Kate Marcus	Expenses – TOC keys, Accident/First Aid book and First Aid kit and trade waste sacks		£53.40
OB	Sandra Williams	Salary owing – April & May 2021		£93.81
OB	Sandra Williams	Repayment of Microsoft Office subscription	*	£18.96
OB	Llanfwrog CIC	Grass cutting services – May 2021		£554.76
OB	Cllr. Heather Williams	Mayor’s allowance – first instalment		£600.00
OB	Cllr. Menna Jones	Deputy Mayor’s allowance – first instalment		£150.00
OB	Marian Rees	Simultaneous translation – May AGM	*	£24.00
OB	St. Peter’s Church	Electricity used for floodlighting St. Peter’s Church spire		£1,113.18
From Ruthin Town Council Old Courthouse account:				
OB	BT Business	Cloud phone and broadband service	*	£67.19

33. TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS – FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS

Members were asked to consider how Council and committee meetings will be held in future. Some members wanted the meetings to be livestreamed on Facebook again, rather than offering members of the public access via Zoom link only.

RESOLVED: *to continue to broadcast meetings via Facebook livestreaming and for the ICT Working Group to consider the requirements for enabling public access to hybrid meetings in the future.*

PART TWO

It was proposed and seconded that the discussion of the following item be held in private, due to the likely disclosure of sensitive information. This was resolved. Members of the public and Councillor Harris left the meeting at this juncture.

34. RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FOLLOWING FACT FINDING MEETING

Members considered the requests and the advice received from One Voice Wales.

RESOLVED: *to draft a letter of response, to be circulated to members and One Voice Wales, prior to being sent to representatives of Three Feathers Ltd.*

35. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: *to confirm the date of the next ordinary meeting will be Monday, 21 June 2021 at 7pm.*