

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of **RHUTHUN TOWN COUNCIL** held via Zoom
on Monday, 21 September 2020, 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, Mike van der Eijk and Ifan Wyn.
County Councillors Bobby Feeley and Emrys Wynne and one member of the
public. The meeting was live streamed on Facebook.

295. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Stephen Beach and Jabez Oakes.

296. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

297. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor had attended the following meetings and events.

- 10.08 Emergency Powers Committee meeting
- The Old Courthouse working group meetings
- Numerous Velodrome meetings via Zoom and meetings regarding the proposed one-way traffic system in Ruthin

298. MEMBERS' REPORTS

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| Cllr. Heather Williams
(Deputy Mayor) | The Old Courthouse working group meetings via Zoom, meeting about the Velodrome, Emergency Powers Committee meeting, Ruthin Gaol working group meeting and Clwyd Alyn pre-planning consultation event. |
| Cllr. Keiran Allsopp-Robson | Nothing to report. |
| Cllr. Stephen Beach | Rhos Street School Governors Building and Finance Committee meeting. |
| Cllr. Jim Bryan | The Old Courthouse working group meetings and the Emergency Powers Committee meeting. |
| Cllr. Ken Hawkins | Nothing to report. |
| Cllr. John Wynne Hughes | Nothing to report. |
| Cllr. Menna Jones | Emergency Powers Committee meeting and helping at the Food Bank. |
| Cllr. Ian Lewney | Nothing to report. |
| Cllr. Jabez Oakes | Nothing to report. |
| Cllr. Robert Owen-Ellis | Assisting with relocating the Food Bank to its new location and the usual sessions. |
| Cllr. Anne Roberts | The Old Courthouse working group meetings via Zoom, Ruthin Forward meetings, Ruthin and District Civic Association meetings about Open Doors and the Emergency Powers Committee meeting. |
| Cllr. Dave Snape | The Old Courthouse working group meetings via Zoom. |
| Cllr. Mike van der Eijk | Meetings with Wendy Nulty regarding the Incredible Edible project and Councillor Robyn Lovelock regarding the proposed Share and Repair Shed. |
| Cllr. Ifan Wyn | Theatr John Ambrose Management Committee meeting. |

298. RUTHIN COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillors Bobby Feeley and Emrys Wynne had submitted written reports.

299. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING

RESOLVED: *that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.*

300. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

301. MINUTES OF THE EMERGENCY POWERS COMMITTEE

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 12 August 2020.

RESOLVED: *to receive the minutes of the meeting held on 12 August 2020.*

302. MINUTES OF THE STAFFING SUB-COMMITTEE

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2020.

RESOLVED: *to receive the minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2020.*

303. MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES MEETING

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2020.

RESOLVED: *to receive the minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2020.*

304. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2020.

RESOLVED: *to receive the minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2020.*

305. PRESENTATION REGARDING PROPOSED SHARE AND REPAIR SHED SCHEME

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Robyn Lovelock from Llangollen Town Council to the meeting. Details regarding the scheme had been shared with members prior to the meeting and Councillor Lovelock provided a brief overview. Members were invited to ask questions. Members asked how the items would be booked, testing of the items, insurance and liability for the items and level of revenue funding required and voiced concerns that the venture would disadvantage local businesses. Councillor Lovelock was thanked for her time and input.

RESOLVED: *to set up a small working party comprising of Councillors John Wynne Hughes, Anne Roberts and Mike van der Eijk to look at the proposals in detail and to report back to the next meeting of the Amenities Committee on 5 October 2020.*

306. UPDATE ON THE OLD COURTHOUSE

The Mayor reported that the Working Group had met and agreed, in light of continuing Covid-19 restrictions, that the venue could not be hired at present. The final items of refurbishment work had been completed. The Old Courthouse Manager had requested a reduction in hours from 22.5 hours a week to 15 hours a week from 1 October to 31 January initially and there were no objections from working group members.

RESOLVED: *to note the update and to agree to the recommendation to approve the Old Courthouse Manager's request for a reduction in hours, to be reviewed at the end of January 2021.*

307. UPDATE REGARDING THE NORTH WALES VELODROME

The Mayor stated that a meeting had been held with Jones Bros. Ltd civil engineering company, who had agreed to provide costings for construction of a velodrome on the preferred

site at Glasdir on an 'in kind' basis. A letter had been received from Welsh Cycling confirming Ruthin as the preferred site for the North Wales Velodrome and a press release would be issued later in the week.

RESOLVED: *to welcome the confirmation letter and the work on the costings to be undertaken by Jones Bros. Ltd.*

308. UPDATE REGARDING RUTHIN GAOL

The Deputy Mayor outlined the discussions by the Ruthin Gaol Working Group, who wanted to develop the Gaol as a visitor attraction and make more use of 46 Clwyd Street as a free entry museum/exhibition area, to encourage more visitors in the paid for gaol area. Councillor Emrys Wynne added that the three Ruthin ward members on Denbighshire County Council were opposed to the Archives moving from Ruthin, and had insisted that a family history research facility be retained at 46 Clwyd Street, should the bid for funding to move the Archives to a new purpose built premises in Mold be successful.

RESOLVED: *to note the update.*

309. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Members were requested to consider requests for financial assistance from Ruthin Swimming Club and the Share and Repair Shed scheme.

RESOLVED: *to provide the requested financial assistance of £500 to Ruthin Swimming Club and to defer a decision on the Share and Repair Shed scheme until the working party had looked at the proposals in detail and reported back to the Amenities Committee.*

310. REQUEST FROM ROTARY CLUB OF RUTHIN

Members considered a request from the Rotary Club of Ruthin to illuminate the Old Courthouse in purple to highlight the Purple for Polio campaign, from 26 – 31 October.

RESOLVED: *to approve illuminating the Old Courthouse in purple to highlight the above cause.*

311. RESIGNATION OF A TOWN COUNCILLOR

The Mayor read a letter from Councillor Keiran Allsopp-Robson tendering his resignation due to family commitments making him unable to focus on town council matters. Members thanked Councillor Allsopp-Robson for his contribution during his membership of the Council and requested that a formal letter of thanks be sent. Councillor Allsopp-Robson thanked his fellow members and the Clerk for their support and friendship during his period as a Councillor.

RESOLVED: *to accept the resignation, notify Denbighshire County Council's Electoral Services officer, publish the casual vacancy notice and send a thank you letter to Councillor Allsopp-Robson for his contribution to Ruthin Town Council.*

312. INTERNAL AUDIT

Members were informed that both the Internal and External Audit processes had been delayed due to the Covid-19 lockdown, but were now progressing. A member requested that a meeting of the Financial Scrutiny Sub-committee be convened and it was agreed that this could be undertaken remotely.

RESOLVED: *to receive the update.*

313. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Members were requested to receive and approve the financial statements for the periods ending 31 July and 31 August 2020. A request was made for the reserve funds transferred to be updated in the next financial statement.

RESOLVED: *to receive and approve the financial statements for the period ending*

31 July and 31 August 2020.

314. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED: that payment of the following items be approved.

From Ruthin Town Council current account:

OB	Planhigion Glyndwr Plants	Plant and supply 80 planters	*	£3,214.80
OB	Planhigion Glyndwr Plants	Rewicking hanging baskets	*	£108.00
OB	Llanfwrog CIC	Watering services – August 2020	*	£1,134.00
OB	Llanfwrog CIC	Grass cutting service – September 2020	*	£369.84
OB	HMRC	Income tax and National Insurance		£939.51
OB	Hill & Roberts	Accountancy and payroll services fee – September 2020	*	£84.00
OB	Ruthin Town Football Club	Pitch side advertising board 2020/21		£250.00

From Ruthin Town Council Old Courthouse account:

OB	BT Business	Broadband and Cloud phone service	*	£65.20
OB	Newsquest Media Group Ltd	Advert regarding licensing application for the Old Courthouse in the Denbighshire Free Press	*	£174.00

PART TWO

It was proposed and seconded that this item be considered in private without the press and public in attendance.

RESOLVED: to discuss the following item in private.

315. STAFF SALARIES

Details of the Town Clerk and the Old Courthouse Manager's salaries and expenses claimed during the past six months had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED: to receive the information and approve payment of expenses to the Old Courthouse Manager and salary owing to the Town Clerk.

316. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: to confirm the date of the next ordinary meeting as Monday, 19 October 2020 at 7.00pm via Zoom.