

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of **RHUTHUN TOWN COUNCIL**
held via Zoom video conferencing on Monday, 19 October 2020, at 7:00pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Gavin Harris (Mayor), Heather Williams (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors Stephen Beach, Jim Bryan, Ken Hawkins, John Wynne Hughes,
Menna Jones, Ian Lewney, Jabez Oakes, Robert Owen-Ellis, Anne Roberts,
Dave Snape, Mike Van Der Eijk and Ifan Wyn.
County Councillors Bobby Feeley and Emrys Wynne and three members of the
public.

317. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

318. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Jabez Oakes declared an interest in Item 17ii – Request for Financial Assistance from Denbighshire Citizen’s Advice as an employee of DCAB and the Mayor, Councillor Gavin Harris, declared an interest in the Part 2 item regarding the Old Courthouse License application as a licensee.

319. MAYOR’S REPORT

The Mayor reported that he had attended or been involved with the following events:

- 14.09 Staffing Sub-committee meeting
- 22.09 Filming musicians in the Old Courthouse, socially distanced
- 24.09 Live interview on Radio Cymru regarding the Velodrome
- 28.09 The Old Courthouse Working Group meeting.

320. MEMBERS’ REPORTS

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| Cllr. Heather Williams
(Deputy Mayor) | Meetings with Kate Harcus regarding activities at the Old Courthouse in the future
At the Old Courthouse for the Open Doors event, 26 September
Three Old Courthouse Working Group meetings via Zoom
Meeting with Ruthin Local History Society regarding possible assistance with the Old Courthouse activities |
| Cllr. Stephen Beach
Cllr. Jim Bryan | At the Old Courthouse for the Open Doors event, 26 September
The Old Courthouse working group meetings and Ruthin Festival Committee meetings. |
| Cllr. Ken Hawkins
Cllr. John Wynne
Hughes | Nothing to report.
Nothing to report. |
| Cllr. Menna Jones | Meeting with Cllr. Anne Roberts at the Garden Centre to discuss choice of plants. |
| Cllr. Ian Lewney
Cllr. Jabez Oakes
Cllr. Robert
Owen-Ellis | Nothing to report.
Nothing to report.
Four Food Bank sessions. |
| Cllr. Anne Roberts | Ruthin and District Civic Association meetings about Open Doors, Staffing Sub-committee meeting, the Old Courthouse Working Group meetings, meeting with Cllr. Menna Jones at the Garden Centre to discuss the choice of plants and RADCA AGM. |
| Cllr. Dave Snape | The Old Courthouse working group meetings via Zoom and |

Cllr. Mike Van Der Eik discussing the Communications Strategy with Cllr. Ifan Wyn.
Meetings regarding the Incredible Edible project and the proposed
Share and Repair Shed.

Cllr. Ifan Wyn Discussing the Communications Strategy with Cllr. Dave Snape.

321. RUTHIN COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Councillor Emrys Wynne had submitted a report.

322. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING

RESOLVED: *that, subject to a point of accuracy regarding members present, the minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2020 be received and confirmed as a correct record.*

323. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

324. MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2020.

RESOLVED: *that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.*

325. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2020.

RESOLVED: *that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.*

326. VACANT SEAT ON RUTHIN TOWN COUNCIL

Members were informed that Denbighshire County Council's Electoral Services had confirmed that no request had been received from 10 electors to hold an election to fill the vacancy.

RESOLVED: *to publish the notice to fill the vacancy via co-option and to consider applications at the next Town Council meeting.*

327. DATES OF RUTHIN TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS 2021

Members were asked to consider the proposed dates for meetings in 2021, a date for the 2020 Annual General Meeting and the handover of the role of Mayor and Deputy Mayor. In light of the continuing Covid-19 coronavirus restrictions on events and gatherings, it was proposed by Councillor Heather Williams that Councillor Gavin Harris continues as Mayor until the AGM in May 2021 and duly seconded. She also proposed that the Mayor's Charity Dinner be postponed to 2022. Councillor Jabez Oakes requested a recorded vote, in accordance with clause 12 in Ruthin Town Council's Standing Orders.

Recorded vote: Cllr. Gavin Harris (Mayor) - abstain, Cllr. Heather Williams (Deputy Mayor) – for, Cllr. Stephen Beach – unable to vote due to technical issues, Cllr. Jim Bryan – for, Cllr. Ken Hawkins – for, Cllr. John Wynne Hughes - against, Cllr. Menna Jones – for, Cllr. Ian Lewney - for, Cllr. Jabez Oakes – abstain, Cllr. Robert Owen-Ellis - for, Cllr. Anne Roberts - for, Cllr. Dave Snape - against, Cllr. Mike Van Der Eijk – for and Cllr. Ifan Wyn – against. Result: 8 for, 2 abstained and 3 against.

RESOLVED: *that Councillor Gavin Harris continues as Mayor until the AGM in May 2021 and the date of the Mayor's Charity Dinner be postponed to April 2022. The dates of the Council and Committee meetings were agreed and the Town Council's website to be updated accordingly.*

328. UPDATE REGARDING THE OLD COURTHOUSE

The Mayor reported that the Working Group was continuing to meet every two weeks, and progress was being made with the exhibit and interpretation display installation. Work was continuing to ensure everything would be in place for opening to the public in Spring 2021.

RESOLVED: to note the update.

329. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES DRAFT REPORT

Members were requested to consider IRPW's draft report, specifically the section relating to allowances for Town and Community Councils. A member suggested that the Documents Scrutiny Group look at the content in detail and report back to the next full Council.

RESOLVED: to refer the report to the Document Scrutiny Group to consider in detail and to report back to the next Council meeting.

330. RUTHIN TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Members were provided with an update regarding the stage reached with the Communication Strategy. It was suggested that this required one further review prior to being finalised and adopted by the Council.

RESOLVED: that members review the document and send comments to the Clerk and/or Councillor Dave Snape by 26 October to enable the working group to update the strategy.

331. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Members were requested to receive and approve the financial statement for the period ending 30 September 2020.

RESOLVED: to receive and approve the financial statement for the period ending 30 September 2020.

332. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED: that payment of the following items be approved.

From Ruthin Town Council's current account:

OB	Canda Copying Ltd	Photocopier rental and minimum copies	*	£41.90
OB	Canda Copying Ltd	Additional black and white copies		£0.48
OB	Canda Copying Ltd	Additional colour copies	*	£10.97
OB	Llanfwrog CIC	Watering services – September 2020		£1,134.00
OB	Llanfwrog CIC	Grass cutting service – October 2020		£369.84
OB	Hill & Roberts	Accountancy and payroll services fee plus Sage subscription – October 2020	*	£92.40
OB	Cllr. Dave Snape	Microsoft Office 365 subscription – July, August, September 2020	*	£56.88
OB	Workplace Worksafe	ID badge for Town Councillor	*	£22.50
OB	Ruthin Swimming Club	Financial assistance towards purchase of wedge and lane equipment		£500.00
OB	Marian Rees	Translation at September and October Council meetings		

From Ruthin Town Council Old Courthouse account:

OB	Oakwood Property	Additional works to doors and flooring	*	£480.00
OB	Scottish Power	Electricity charges at the Old Courthouse, 18.03.20 – 19.06.20	*	£12.86
OB	Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water	Water services 20.09.19 – 29.09.20		£502.32
OB	BT Business	Broadband and Cloud phone	*	£67.19

333. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Members were requested to consider requests for financial assistance from:

- i. Llanfwrog Community Association for £1,000.00 to replace dilapidated boundary fence with stock proof fencing
- ii. Denbighshire Citizen's Advice for £2,000.00 to fund the costs of the Ruthin office/current home working arrangements.

With regards to the first request, members questioned the ownership of the fence and whether it was the responsibility of the Trunk Roads Agency, whether a health and safety risk assessment was in place and highlighted that the financial information had not been signed off. It was proposed and seconded that the financial assistance be declined.

With regards to the second request, members noted that Citizen's Advice was providing an excellent service and the demand for advice was likely to increase due to the impacts of the current Coronavirus pandemic. It was proposed and seconded that the financial assistance be provided.

RESOLVED: that Llanfwrog Community Association's request for £1,000.00 be declined and Denbighshire Citizen's Advice request for £2,000.00 to fund the costs of the Ruthin office and the current home working arrangements be accepted.

334. SHARE AND REPAIR SHED PROPOSAL

Members were requested to consider feedback from the working group relating to the Share and Repair proposal for Ruthin, Llangollen and Mold. Councillors Anne Roberts and John Wynne Hughes expressed concerns about the impact of the proposed scheme on Ruthin businesses. Councillor Mike van der Eijk said that he had requested further information about similar schemes in Cardiff, Llanelli and Devon in order to ensure that the scheme maintained a balance between the needs of businesses and residents. He proposed a period to pause and reflect on the proposal and engage with local businesses and residents to look at the potential advantages to businesses and communities, and this was seconded. Councillor Oakes requested a recorded vote.

Recorded vote: Cllr. Gavin Harris (Mayor) – for, Cllr. Heather Williams (Deputy Mayor) – abstain, Cllr. Stephen Beach – against, Cllr. Jim Bryan – against, Cllr. Ken Hawkins – for, Cllr. John Wynne Hughes - against, Cllr. Menna Jones – against, Cllr. Ian Lewney - for, Cllr. Jabez Oakes – for, Cllr. Robert Owen-Ellis - for, Cllr. Anne Roberts - against, Cllr. Dave Snape - for, Cllr. Mike Van Der Eijk – for and Cllr. Ifan Wyn – for. Result: 8 for, 2 abstained and 3 against.

RESOLVED: to gather further information and consult with local businesses and residents prior to deciding whether Ruthin Town Council wishes to support the proposed scheme.

PART TWO

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

335. THE OLD COURTHOUSE LICENSE APPLICATION

Members were informed about the reason for withdrawing the premises licence application and discussed a statement regarding this.

RESOLVED: to agree the proposed statement subject to a minor amendment.

336. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: to confirm the date of the next ordinary meeting will be Monday, 16 November 2020 at 7pm.