

Minutes of the **Annual Meeting** of **RHUTHUN TOWN COUNCIL** held online via Zoom on Monday, **10 May 2021** at **7.00p.m.**

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

1. OPENING PRAYER

Reverened Stuart Evans offered a prayer to open the meeting.

2. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Mayor welcomed civic dignitaries, Councillors and members of the public to the Annual Meeting. He explained that he, the Deputy Mayor and her consort, the Deputy Mayor elect and her consort and the Clerk were at the Old Courthouse, adhering to social distancing guidance, and welcomed all others joining the meeting via Zoom. There were no apologies for absence.

3. MAYOR'S ADDRESS

The Mayor, Councillor Gavin Harris, referred to his extended term as Mayor due to the Covid-19 pandemic and restrictions. He referred to projects in Ruthin and the community's response during lockdown. Then he thanked those who had attended his Mayor's Charity Dinner which had contributed towards raising £4,500. Donations of £500 each would be made to Parkinsons UK, RNIB, The Old Courthouse, Ruthin Future and the North Wales Velodrome project, with £250 each donated to the Market Hall, Ruthin Gaol, Ruthin Craft Centre, Nantclwyd y Dre, Ysgol Brynhyfryd, Ysgol Borthyn, Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School. He expressed best wishes to Councillor Heather Williams as the new Mayor and Councillor Menna Jones as the new Deputy Mayor.

4. THE RUTHIN GOOD CITIZEN, YOUNG PERSON AND COMMUNITY GROUP OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Mayor congratulated the recipients of the Awards in 2020 as follows - Mr Mahmut Aydin as Good Citizen of the Year for his contribution to the community following the tragic death of Olivia Alkir, Celi Griffiths and Ifan Gwyn as Young Persons of the Year for the community volunteering efforts and Ruthin Festival Committee as Community Group of the Year for organising Ruthin Festival events. They would be presented with their certificates and arrangements made for donations of £100 to their chosen good cause.

5. PRESENTATION OF QUAYLE AWARD

The Quayle Award 2019 plaque was displayed. It had been presented to the Mayor by the Chair of Ruthin and District Civic Association earlier during the day. The award was presented to Ruthin Town Council's Old Courthouse project as a project of public benefit following the refurbishment of the historic building which ensured its conservation and future use.

6. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE MAYOR

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Heather Williams, thanked the retiring Mayor, Councillor Gavin Williams, for his hard work and commitment to the town. He had contributed significantly to the Old Courthouse project and the North Wales Velodrome project with drive and enthusiasm and organised the use of digital technology for meetings to resume

during the period of restrictions on gatherings. She presented him with a Town Plaque on behalf of the Town Council.

7. MEMBERS ATTENDANCES

Details of members attendances during 2020-21 had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

8. WELSH LANGUAGE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee had not met since the previous Annual Meeting in December 2020, but it is intended to hold regular meetings in 2021.

9. ELECTION OF MAYOR FOR 2021/2022

On the proposal of Councillor Anne Roberts, seconded by Councillor Robert Owen-Ellis, it was resolved unanimously that Councillor Heather Williams be elected Town Mayor of Rhuthun for the municipal year 2021/2022. Councillor Roberts stated that Councillor Williams had been active in the town since moving to Ruthin in 1998. As a member and Chair of Ruthin and District Civic Association she initiated the Open Doors weekends and worked with other to establish Nantclwyd y Dre as a visitor attraction. More recently she achieved Coach Friendly Status for Ruthin. There were no further nominations and it was resolved unanimously that Councillor Heather Williams be elected Town Mayor of Rhuthun for the municipal year 2021/22 and she was invested with the robes and Chain of Office and her consort, Mr Robert Williams, received the Consort's chain.

10. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Having duly made and signed the necessary declaration, Councillor Williams thanked her proposer and seconder. She announced that the charities she would be supporting during the year were Vale of Clwyd Food Bank, Vale of Clwyd MIND and Cancer Research UK.

11. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2021/2022

On the proposal of Councillor Stephen Beach and seconded by Councillor Ifan Wyn, it was resolved that Councillor Menna Jones be elected Deputy Mayor for the municipal year 2021/2022. She was invested with the Deputy Mayor's Jewel of Office.

12. CLOSING PRAYER

The Mayor's Chaplain, Reverend Stuart Evans, offered a prayer to close the meeting.