

**CYNGOR TREF RHUTHUN
RUTHIN TOWN COUNCIL**



[DRAFT] Minutes of the **Amenities Committee** meeting held in a hybrid approach on
Monday, 13 June 2022 at 7:20pm

PRESENT: Councillors Stephen Beach, Oliver Bradley-Hughes, Christine Ellis, Gavin Harris, Menna Jones, Jabez Redfern Oakes, Anne Roberts and Rachel Ryland

Also in attendance: Siân Clark – Town Clerk, Kate Harcus – Deputy Town Clerk and Marian Rees - Translator

The following two items were jointly considered with Members of the Planning and Development Committee from 7.20p.m

1. RUTHIN FUTURE

For the benefit of newly elected Members, Councillor Gavin Harris provided a brief background to Ruthin Future. The shared output from students of Birmingham City University Co-Lab project had been circulated and Members were encouraged to read and consider the body of work provided. Maintaining the positive momentum of Ruthin Future was key and it was suggested and agreed that the Ruthin Future Working Group be convened to reflect upon and maximise on the opportunities arising from the students' output.

Members were reminded that the Town Council had previously committed to the principle of 'Urban Rooms', which promoted the use of a physical space, such as The Old Courthouse, to foster opportunities and connections between people and place and encourage participation and community engagement. It was proposed and seconded that a formal invite be sent to the Ruthin and District Civic Association to work in partnership with Ruthin Town Council to develop the Urban Room model and a formal protocol to be established.

RESOLVED: *that a meeting of the Ruthin Future Working Group be convened, with an invitation extended to all Town Councillors by 4 July 2022; and that a formal invite be sent to the Ruthin and District Civic Association to work in partnership with Ruthin Town Council to develop the Urban Room model and establish a formal protocol.*

2. PROPOSED RUTHIN VELODROME

Councillor Gavin Harris provided a verbal update on progress in relation to the proposed Ruthin Velodrome. A brief summary to the project to date was provided for the benefit of newly elected Members. Denbighshire Leisure Ltd, was now the lead body and had received a grant from Sports Wales which secured funding for the Velodrome development. A Strategic Project Management Board, consisting of representatives from various stakeholders, had been established with its inaugural meeting held on 7 June 2022. Ruthin Town Council had been represented at the first Board meeting by Councillor Gavin Harris, at the request of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor; a formal Ruthin Town Council representative would be considered at the next Town Council meeting. The remit of the Board was to deliver the detailed business case and to take the project to RIBA stage 4 – cost certainty affordability/viability. Regular briefings would be issued by the Board as the project progressed.

RESOLVED: *Members acknowledged the update provided and noted that consideration of the Ruthin Town Council representative on the Strategic Project Management Board would be considered at the next Town Council meeting.*

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

4. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Anne Roberts was proposed and seconded as Chair of the Amenities Committee; there were no other nominations.

RESOLVED: *unanimously that Councillor Roberts be elected Chair of the Amenities Committee for the forthcoming civic year, Councillor Menna Jones was thanked for chairing the Committee for the previous year.*

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

6. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: *that the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 3 May 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.*

7. MATTERS ARISING

None.

8. STAR PARK

The Clerk advised Members that Star Park Residents Association Committee had been successful in being awarded a grant for the Star Park play area refurbishment through the Open Space Commuted Grant Scheme. Full costings for the proposed play equipment and works (including removal and disposal of existing equipment) had been sought and detailed as part of the commuted grant process. A request had been received from the Star Park Residents Association Committee that Ruthin Town Council continue to insure the park once refurbished. The Clerk confirmed that currently play equipment was insured within the Town Council's insurance policy to the value of circa £25,000. It was understood that confirmation on insurance for Star Park was required prior to submitting the order for the play equipment.

Members praised the work and efforts of the Star Park Residents Association Committee and welcomed the granting of the commuted sums to refurbish the play area. It was acknowledged that historically Star Park was included in the Ruthin Town Council insurance policy; it was also known that there had been complexities regarding the deeds and ownership of the land. The principle of Ruthin Town Council supporting the insuring of Star Park was generally agreed, however Members considered that more detailed consideration between representatives of the Star Park Residents Association Committee and Amenities Committee needed to be held regarding the type of support that could be provided to ensure appropriate insurance cover (e.g financial assistance application).

RESOLVED: *that a meeting between representatives of the Star Park Residents Association Committee and Amenities Committee be held to consider the type of support that could be provided to ensure appropriate cover.*

9. PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF 2 WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE PICNIC BENCHES ON GROUND NEAR PONT-Y-PLANT

Members considered a report which proposed the purchase and installation of two wheelchair accessible picnic benches on ground near Pont y Plant; the report has been circulated in advance. The proposal had been submitted by Councillor Ethan Jones in response to an approach by a Member of the Public. The report detailed a proposal to locate wheelchair accessible picnic benches on an underused grassed land between Park Road and the River Clwyd; photos of the proposed location and picnic benches had been included.

In discussion Members welcomed the report and fully supported the concept of ensuring access for all. The imminent application to the Levelling Up Fund, as informed by Ruthin Future, included a

comprehensive project on connecting green spaces, parks and paths, and would also encompass an accessibility audit which would help inform future decisions. It was understood that Denbighshire County Council was the landowner of the suggested location. Some concern was raised about the possibility of picnic benches attracting antisocial behaviour.

Given the imminence of the Levelling Up Fund application, Members considered that the proposal, whilst having much merit, should be considered within the wider connecting green spaces project to ensure a holistic and strategic approach to such amenities.

RESOLVED: *to consider the proposal within the wider connecting green spaces project to ensure a holistic and strategic approach to such amenities.*

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: *that the date of the next meeting will be Monday 4 July 2022 at 7:30pm.*