

**CYNGOR TREF RHUTHUN
RUTHIN TOWN COUNCIL**



[DRAFT] Minutes of the **Amenities Committee** meeting held in a hybrid format on
Tuesday, 20 September 2022 at 7:30pm

(the meeting had been rescheduled from the original date of 12 September 2022 due to the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II)

PRESENT: Councillors Anne Roberts (Chairman), Stephen Beach, Oliver Bradley-Hughes, Christine Ellis, Menna Jones, Rachel Ryland and Lisa Williams

Also in attendance: Siân Clark – Town Clerk and Marian Rees - Translator

20. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Gavin Harris and Jabez Redfern Oakes

21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

22. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: *that the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 4 July 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.*

23. MATTERS ARISING

None.

24. COACH DROP OFF AND PICK UP BAY – OUTSIDE THE OLD COURTHOUSE

The Clerk notified Members that contact had been made with Denbighshire County Council, at an officer and local member level, to start the process of submitting a traffic variation order to create a formal coach drop off and pick up point outside The Old Courthouse. A progress report would be provided at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: *that the Clerk progress actions in respect of submitting a traffic variation order to create a formal coach drop off and pick up point outside The Old Courthouse.*

25. FLORAL DISPLAYS COMPETITION 2022 AND LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023

Judging of the floral displays of business and licensed premises in the town had been undertaken by Councillors Anne Roberts and Rachel Ryland. The Salon on Clwyd Street and the Castle Hotel, Wetherspoons had been declared worthy winners; the trophies had been presented at the Ruthin Show on 20 August 2022. Photographs of the winners with the Mayor had been published on social media and in The Bedol

In advance of the 2023 summer season, it was suggested and agreed that business and licensed premises of the town be reminded of the floral display competition to encourage additional participants. It was proposed and seconded that a further competition (with similar trophy) be added from 2023 to encompass the communal gardens of care establishments, sheltered accommodation and assisted living sites. The Ruthin Show to be informed in order that the additional competition be added to the presentation schedule from 2023.

RESOLVED: *to note that The Salon on Clwyd Street and the Castle Hotel, Wetherspoons had been declared winners of the best floral displays for business and licensed premises respectively; that a reminder be published of the floral display competitions in advance of the 2023 season; and*

that an additional competition be added from 2023 to encompass the communal gardens of care establishments, sheltered accommodation and assisted living sites. .

26. TOWN FLORAL DISPLAY PLANTERS

Members commented favourably on the Town Council's vibrant floral displays and expressed their thanks to Derwen College for the quality and variety of plants and for J & C Brimble for their care and attention in watering the planters over the season, especially given the extreme hot weather during the summer. Given that the flowering season was nearing its end, the Clerk would be making arrangements for the planter liners to be removed within the next fortnight.

In advance of spring 2023, the Clerk provided Members with information regarding replacement costs for planter liners, some of which had broken or been lost over the years. Based on a cost of no more than £24.15 + vat per liner (as advised by the supplier), Members agreed to the replacement of the missing liners to ensure a full complement of floral displays for the 2023 season.

A map of the current locations of the flower planters had been created and that this was available to view. Any suggestions of additional or alternative locations for the planters to be notified to the Clerk, though members were reminded that certain weight restrictions existed on lampposts etc which would need to be discussed with the street lighting team at Denbighshire County Council.

RESOLVED: *that Members agreed to the purchase of replacement floral display liners to ensure a full complement for the 2023 season; and any suggestions for additional or alternative locations of the planters be notified to the Clerk.*

27. CUNNING GREEN UPDATE

The Chairman notified Members that works to the damaged Cunning Green wall was progressing and would be completed by the end of October 2022.

RESOLVED: *Members noted the progress report provided.*

28. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY TASK GROUP

Cllr van der Eijk provided an update on activities that had taken place over the summer by environmental and ecological groups. ReSource Ruthin was due to open later in the week. Friends of the Earth had access to a thermal imaging camera which would help highlight energy inefficient premises. Action had been taken in respect to the lake in Cae Ddol, with Natural Resources Wales, given the concerning reduction in water level and the presence of algae; further assessment would be undertaken in respect of soft flood resistance. Climate Cymru would be launching a 'Warm this Winter' campaign on Sunday, 25 September, during the Great Big Green Week (24/09/2022 – 2/10/2022) at the Naylor Leyland Centre. COP 27, the Climate Partnership Conference would be held between 7-18/11/2022 and consideration was currently being given to activities that would be held in Ruthin to coincide with the event. The Ruthin Repair Café was proving very popular with 80% of the items brought in repaired.

The Clerk advised Members that free energy and carbon audits were being made available for eligible community buildings in Denbighshire through a Cadwyn Clwyd and DEG initiative, and contact had been made seeking an energy and carbon audit for The Old Courthouse. Given the recent works on The Old Courthouse and instillation of a new efficient boiler etc, initial feedback, prior to any audit, was that the building was currently fairly energy efficient.

RESOLVED: *Members noted the update report provided.*

29. CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS

It was proposed and seconded that the Christmas lights switch on in Ruthin would take place on Saturday, 3 December 2022. This date had already been determined as a free parking day.

The Clerk advised Members that over the summer recess, agreement was sought and given by the Christmas Festivities Members Working Group to a one year continuation of the Christmas motif

light contract with Blachere at a cost of £3,157.71 + VAT of £631.54 (same price as for 2021). The Amenities Committee confirmed their approval to the one year continuation of the Christmas motif lights for the 2022 Christmas season. Given the increase in energy prices, Members would give consideration in due course to the duration of time that the lights were on.

RESOLVED: that the Christmas lights switch on in Ruthin take place on Saturday, 3 December 2022; and *that approval be given to the one-year continuation for the Christmas motif lights for the 2022 Christmas season at a cost of £3,157.71 + VAT of £631.54 (same price as for 2021).*

30. TOWN BENCH AUDIT AND NEW BENCHES

The Clerk confirmed that the licence for the new benches had been approved by Denbighshire County Council and that arrangements were in place for them to be sited. An audit of the town benches would be concluded soon.

Members highlighted the poor state of repair of some of the benches in town, notably the bench on Corwen Road, and requested that action be taken swiftly to repair, replace or remove as appropriate. Information was provided that two benches, previously sited on the Cuning Green, were currently stored at Lon Parcwr.

RESOLVED: note that the licence for the new benches had been approved and that arrangements were in place for them to be sited; that action be taken swiftly to repair, replace or remove benches in a poor state of repair.

31. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: *that the date of the next meeting will be Monday 10 October 2022 at 7:30pm.*