

**CYNGOR TREF RHUTHUN
RUTHIN TOWN COUNCIL**



[DRAFT] Minutes of the **Amenities Committee** meeting held in a hybrid format on
Monday, 10 October 2022 at 7:45pm

PRESENT: Councillors Anne Roberts (Chairman), Stephen Beach, Oliver Bradley-Hughes, Peter Daniels, Gavin Harris, Menna Jones, Rachel Ryland and Lisa Thomas.
Also in attendance: Siân Clark – Town Clerk and Marian Rees - Translator

32. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Christine Ellis and Mike van der Eijk.

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

34. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: *that the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 20 September 2022 be confirmed as a correct record subject to correcting Cllr Thomas' name in the attendance list.*

35. MATTERS ARISING

Item 24: Coach Drop Off and Pick Up Bay outside The Old Courthouse – Confirmation was provided by the Clerk that an application had been made to Denbighshire County Council for a traffic variation notice for the current three parking bays to be re-assigned as a coach bay between 10.00a.m – 4.00p.m daily throughout the year. The process normally took up to 6 months, however the County Council had advised that there was currently a backlog of applications and the processing was likely to take longer.

Item 26: Town Floral Display Planters – The Clerk confirmed that arrangements had been made for the flower displays to be removed and disposed of the following day.

36. CUNNING GREEN UPDATE

The Chairman notified Members that works to the damaged Cunning Green wall remained on target to be completed by the end of October 2022.

RESOLVED: *Members noted the progress report provided.*

37. WARM WELCOME

Members considered a briefing note issued by Denbighshire County Council in respect to the 'Warm Welcome' initiative. The initiative focused on identifying places in local communities providing a safe and warm environment for people during the day which would help reduce the cost of heating their own homes during this winter. The County Council had already identified spaces including libraries and community spaces. Support to the scheme was also being sought by Third Sector and Community Organisations and City, Town & Community Councils. As a minimum the space would need to provide a dry and warm place with access to tea and coffee and toilet facilities. Welsh Government was finalising its grant offer, with the expectation that County Councils would be instructed to passport the money to Third Sector and Community Groups hosts.

Members expressed the view that the Town Council, through The Old Courthouse as a host location, supported the Warm Welcome initiative as much as possible. It was noted that the activities of the Old Courthouse and the Town Council staff would need to continue without disruption. It was acknowledged that other locations would be identified by other organisations

in Ruthin and it key that the public were aware of which locations were open and where, including over the weekend.

RESOLVED: *That Ruthin Town Council formally put forward The Old Courthouse as a host location for the Warm Welcome.*

38. TIDY TOWN TEAM

Tidy Town continued to meet between 11.00a.m - 12.30p.m on the last Saturday each month, with a core group of volunteers, with refreshments shared at the end of the session. Additional volunteers would be welcomed. Tidy Town litter pickers and equipment had been used by other individuals and organisations as needed too. A request for the purchasing of additional litter pickers, hoops and other sundry items was agreed.

RESOLVED: *that Members agreed to the purchase of additional litter pickers, hoops and other sundry items for the Tidy Town Team.*

39. TREE PLANTING

Members received an overview of progress relating to tree planting activities and opportunities, especially in respect to the Queen's Jubilee Canopy, given that the timescale has been extended.

RESOLVED: *Members noted the progress report provided.*

40. TOWN BENCH AUDIT AND NEW BENCHES

Councillor Gavin Harris provided an illustrative map of benches in Ruthin which noted the bench types and provided an interactive condition picture of the bench. It was noted that the benches in Trem y Foel and Corwen Road were in particularly poor condition and needed to be replaced or repaired. It was suggested that the two benches currently in storage be used in the two locations. The memorial bench on the Ruthin North Link Road, donated by Jones Bros in memory of Mike Roberts, had been sited. The other new agreed benches would be sited in their locations soon.

RESOLVED: *Members noted the update report provided and sought the replacement of the benches at Trem y Foel and Corwen Road as a priority.*

41. CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS

Members considered matters in relation to Christmas preparations including:

- **Christmas Light Motifs:** To date, the lights had been illuminated between 4.00p.m – 12.00p.m daily (8 hours). In light of energy costs and consideration of carbon reduction, it was proposed that the length of time the motifs were lit was reduced from 8 hours to 6 hours (4.00p.m – 10.00p.m).
- **Christmas Tree Lights:** It was proposed that the timing of the lights on the Christmas Tree remain as in previous years, approximately eight hours daily.
- **Christmas Tree and Christmas Tree Lights Sponsorship:** The Clerk advised Members that Clogau had, that morning, made contact with an offer of direct sponsorship for the cost of the Christmas Tree and erection/dismantling of the Christmas Tree lights. It was proposed that the sponsorship offer be accepted and progressed
- **Santa's Grotto:** Illustrations were shared by Cllr Gavin Harris of the proposed Santa's Grotto, in The Old Courthouse complete with a seasonal vinyl wrap. Members thanked Cllr Harris for the research and proposal which was warmly welcome. Santa's grotto would be available for community groups to hire from the last weekend in November 2022.

RESOLVED: that the:

- (i) Christmas Light Motifs be lit for a six hour duration daily between 4.00p.m and 10.00p.m.
- (ii) Christmas Tree Lights be lit, as in previous year, for approximately eight hours daily.
- (iii) Sponsorship offer by Clogau of the Christmas Tree and Christmas Tree Lights (erection and dismantling) be accepted and progressed by the Clerk.
- (iv) That the proposals for Santa's Grotto in The Old Courthouse be accepted and the purchase of the seasonal vinyl wrap agreed.

42. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: *that the date of the next meeting will be Monday 14 November 2022 at 7:30pm.*