

CYNGOR TREF RHUTHUN
RUTHIN TOWN COUNCIL



[DRAFT] Minutes of the **Amenities Committee** meeting held in a hybrid format on
Monday, 14 November 2022 at 8:00pm

PRESENT: Councillors Anne Roberts (Chairman), Stephen Beach, Oliver Bradley-Hughes, Peter Daniels, Christine Ellis, Menna Jones, Rachel Ryland, Lisa Thomas and Mike van der Eijk.

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

43. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Gavin Harris.

44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

45. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: *that the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 10 October 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.*

46. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 40: Town Benches – Members were advised that the Clerk had been in contact with Denbighshire County Council officers to identify the Town Council benches being stored at the Lon Parcwr depot; a response was awaited. Responding to a comment made by Members, the Clerk would action the removal of the two benches Trem y Foel and Corwen Road.

47. CUNNING GREEN UPDATE

The Clerk informed Members that the Cunning Green remained closed and would be until further notice as recently the boundary wall on Nant Clwyd y Dre side had been subject to a survey and determined that significant remedial works were necessary to ensure the safety of the public. Members expressed disappointment that the Cunning Green would be subject to further closure, but acknowledged that public safety was paramount; it was however commented that a survey could have been undertaken earlier and thus remedial works possibly undertaken earlier whilst the Cunning Green was initially closed. A public statement from Denbighshire County Council would be requested to be issued as there had, to date, been a lack of communication with the public as to the situation relation to the Cunning Green, an important amenity for residents and visitors to the town. It was also requested that an Officer attend the Town Council meeting on 28 November to provide an update to Town Councillors.

RESOLVED: *that (i) a public statement be requested to be issued by Denbighshire County Council; and (ii) An Officer from Denbighshire County Council be invited to attend the Town Council meeting on 28 November 2022 to provide an update on the Cunning Green.*

48. CAE DDOL

Cllr Jones advised the Committee that the three local County Council members had met with Officers at Cae Ddol the previous Friday to discuss and consider several matters within the site that needed to be addressed. It was stated that more comprehensive improvements to Cae Ddol was currently subject to the outcome of the Levelling Up Fund application.

RESOLVED: *to note the update on Cae Ddol.*

49. APPLICATION FOR FUNDING TO IMPROVE OPEN SPACES AND PLAY AREAS IN DENBIGHSHIRE

Members acknowledged the £3,714 commuted sum which was available to Ruthin for the enhancement of open spaces and play areas and noted the closing date for funding applications was 12:00 (midday) 31 January 2023. The Clerk stated that applications received by Denbighshire County Council would be circulated for comments to the Amenities Committee in due course. To assist with communicating the funding opportunity, Members requested that the Town Council website include relevant information.

RESOLVED: *to note the availability of the £3,714 commuted sums to Ruthin and include relevant information on the funding opportunity on the Town Council website.*

50. WARM WELCOME

The Clerk advised Members that, following the previous meeting, The Old Courthouse had been put forward to Denbighshire County Council as a host location for the Warm Welcome initiative. Following a visit to The Old Courthouse, Officers had confirmed that the location would be suitable to be included within the initiative as it could provide a safe and warm environment for people during the day. It was noted that other identified spaces included libraries and community spaces such as the local Resource Centres and Market Hall. It had been explained to the Warm Welcome lead Officer that public access to the Old Courthouse on a consistent basis could not be guaranteed due to prior booking commitments and the need for volunteers to be present, given the existing commitments of the Clerk and Deputy Clerk. Members again expressed their support to the initiative and would, as possible, assist and encourage volunteering to enable the success of the Warm Welcome initiative.

RESOLVED: *the update on the Warm Welcome initiative was noted.*

51. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY TASK GROUP

Councillor van der Eijk provided an update on Climate and Ecological Emergency matters including:

- That he and Councillor Heather Williams, had drafted a response to the 'Draft Strategy for Engaging the General Public in Action on Climate Change', a Welsh Government Consultation. They considered the Draft Strategy to be highly aspirational which would benefit from identifying tangible actions and deliverable plans. It was emphasised that the draft response did not commit Ruthin Town Council to anything, and would be circulated for consideration at the next Town Council meeting.
- A number of various ideas and proposals had been collated to help inform the development of a draft policies document which could help inform decision making by ensuring that climate and ecological matters were considered. Further work on the draft policies document would be undertaken and would be shared more widely in due course to encourage further ideas and contributions as well as consideration of the ability or otherwise to implement such proposals.
- COP 27 was taking place between 6 and 20 November 2022. An event, organised by Ruthin Friends of the Earth would be held at The Old Courthouse on 15 November 2022 in which a presentation by Prof Mike Berners-Lee would be shown and a live question and answer session facilitated.
- Big Green Wales week would be held from 21 November 2022.

RESOLVED: *that Members noted the update provided.*

52. CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS

Members considered the quotes received from businesses to supply the Christmas Tree and install and remove the Christmas Tree lights for 2022. Three companies had been approached for quotes to supply the Christmas Tree, and another three approached for the installation and removal of the lights on the Christmas Tree.

- A quotation was received from Dr. Peter Spencer, Cambrian Woodland Services in the sum of £550.00 plus VAT for a 25 foot Christmas tree on St Peter's Square. Two other

companies who had been contacted for a quote had not responded.

- A quotation was received from KMT Electrical in the sum of £965.00 plus VAT for the installation and removal of the lights on the Christmas Tree. This was the only quote received.

The Clerk advised Members that an offer of CCTV provision had been made by KMT Electrical for use over the Christmas/New Year period to focus on the Christmas tree, with the aim of deterring any antisocial behaviour directed at the tree; . The Local Policing Team had been contacted and were supportive of any CCTV provision if it was installed and agreed. Councillors were advised that pedestrian barriers would surround the base of the Christmas Tree as last year.

RESOLVED:

(i) to accept the price for provision, taking down and disposing of Christmas trees from Cambrian Woodland Services; and

(ii) to accept the price for the installation and removal of the lights on the Christmas Tree from KMT Electrical.

(iii) to agree to the use of CCTV, focussing on the Christmas Tree with the aim of deterring antisocial behaviour directed at the tree.

53. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: *that the date of the next meeting will be Monday 5 December 2022 at 7:30pm.*