

**CYNGOR TREF RHUTHUN
RUTHIN TOWN COUNCIL**



[DRAFT] Minutes of the **Amenities Committee** meeting held in a hybrid format on
Monday, 5 December 2022 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors Anne Roberts (Chairman), Stephen Beach, Peter Daniels, Christine Ellis, Gavin Harris, Menna Jones, Rachel Ryland, Lisa Thomas and Mike van der Eijk.
Also in attendance: Siân Clark – Town Clerk and Marian Rees - Translator

54. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Oliver Bradley-Hughes.

55. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

56. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: *that the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 14 November 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.*

57. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 46 and 40: Town Benches – Members were advised that the Clerk had contacted a local company to remove as a temporary measure the two benches at Trem y Foel and Corwen Road.

58. CUNNING GREEN UPDATE

A report on the recent topographical survey carried out by the County Council on the Nant Clwyd y Dre wall which bordered the Cunning Green was expected to be received prior to Christmas. The Town Council had requested Denbighshire County Council, via the local Councillors, to inform them of the report's content and outcome. A public statement from Denbighshire County Council to inform residents of the reasons behind the continued closure of the Cunning Green was also requested.

RESOLVED: *(i) to note that the outcome of the topographical survey report was awaited; (ii) to request a copy of the survey report; and (iii) to request that Denbighshire County Council issue a public statement to inform residents of the continued closure of the Cunning Green.*

59. CHRISTMAS

Members referred to the various Christmas activities and events that took place the previous Saturday in the town, including the switch on of the Christmas Tree lights by the Mayor. It was noted that to deter damage and vandalism to the Christmas Tree and lights, a temporary CCTV system had been sited on the Peer Memorial focussing on the tree, and that a CCTV Policy and Data Protection Impact Assessment was in place, in compliance with requirements of the Information Commissioner's Office. The temporary CCTV System had been supported and supplied by KMT Electrical. Due to supplier timescales, the sponsorship committed from Clogau would not this year focus on the Christmas Tree and lights, but discussions would take place to consider alternative sponsorship opportunities in the forthcoming months. The Town Council had positioned four new Happy Christmas / Nadolig Llawen banners on the security barriers surrounding the Christmas Tree.

RESOLVED: *to note the update on Christmas matters including the introduction of the CCTV policy.*

60. GRASS CUTTING

General consideration was given by Members to the Town Council's responsibility for grass cutting of certain public realm areas within the town. The rationale for the allocation of the grass cutting areas between specifically the Town Council and Denbighshire County Council was unclear, and was likely to be a long standing legacy issue. Members commented that a dialogue was needed with Denbighshire County Council to consider i) ownership/responsibility of the public realm grassed areas currently overseen by the Town Council; ii) potential efficiencies gained for collective grass cutting in the town; and iii) assessment of potential biodiversity areas. Members requested a meeting be held between Denbighshire County Council officers and representatives from the Town Council to inform and progress the above matters.

It was noted that St Peter's Church was responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of Church Walks.

RESOLVED: *agree that a meeting be held between Denbighshire County Council officers and representatives from the Town Council. to consider i) ownership/responsibility of the public realm grassed areas currently overseen by the Town Council; ii) potential efficiencies gained for collective grass cutting in the town; and iii) assessment of potential biodiversity areas.*

61. FINANCIAL ESTIMATES FOR 2023-24 FINANCIAL YEAR

Members give initial consideration to the Amenities Committee proposed expenditure for the 2023-24 Financial Year to help inform the budget setting process. The Clerk and Cllr Harris provided an overview of the current budget headings and allocations, including the reserves position and advised Members that work was being undertaken better define the budget lines for 2023-24. Further details would be provided for consideration at the January 2023 Committee meeting.

RESOLVED: *to note the overview provided and that further detail would be provided at the January 2023 Committee meeting.*

62. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: *that the date of the next meeting will be Monday 16 January 2022 at 7:30pm.*