

CYNGOR TREF RHUTHUN RUTHIN TOWN COUNCIL



(DRAFT) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of **RUTHIN TOWN COUNCIL**
held via Zoom video conferencing on Monday, 13 December 2021 at 7:00pm.

- PRESENT:** Councillors Heather Williams (Mayor),
Councillors Stephen Beach, Jim Bryan, Christine Ellis, Gavin Harris, Ken
Hawkins, Rachel Lewington, Robert Owen-Ellis, Ethan Jones, Anne
Roberts, Ifan Wyn and Mike van der Eijk.
County Councillors Bobby Feeley and Emrys Wynne.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Siân Clark – Ruthin Town Clerk
Kate Harcus – Deputy Town Clerk and Manager of The Old Courthouse
Marian Rees – Translator

152. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Menna Jones, Jabez Oakes, Ian Lewney and
County Councillor Huw Hilditch-Roberts

153. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- County Councillor Bobby Feely declared an interest in item 13 on the agenda (minute 163) as a Member of Denbighshire Leisure Ltd
- County Councillor Emrys Wynne declared an interest in item 14 on the agenda (minute 164) as a Member of the Urdd Rhuthun Appeal Committee.

154. MAYOR'S REPORT

The report as circulated with the agenda, which outlined the Mayor's activities and events since the previous Town Council meeting in November was noted. Additionally the Mayor advised Town Councillors that an initial exploratory meeting of the Ruthin Flood Partnership Group would be held with potential partners in January.

RESOLVED: *to note the content of the Mayor's Report.*

155. MEMBERS' REPORTS

Members considered the Members' Reports as circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED: *to note the content of the Member's Reports.*

156. RUTHIN COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

A verbal report was provided by County Councillors Bobby Feeley and Emrys Wynne. Key points shared with Town Councillors included:

- The reopening of the Market Hall, with stalls and café
- A recognition of the hard work of all involved in the various activities and events that took place in the town during the lead up to Christmas
- Attendance at the Ruthin Hospital League of Friends AGM
- That there were plans to improve the Rhos Street site
- Visit to Ruthin Football Club re: installation of the synthetic 3G surface. Following storm damage, volunteers and local businesses were commended for helping with the

repairs.

- Storm damage to trees within Ruthin had been cleared by the Council and local landowners.
- Town Councillors requested that clarification be provided on the damage to the new Rhos Street School which was particularly concerning to local residents. Additionally, Rhos Street School was being affected by an unpleasant stench emanating from the business park, which was concerning. Feedback would be provided by County Councillors to Town Councillors on both the extent of damage to the school and actions to resolve the unpleasant stench.
- An initial meeting of the Flood Partnership Group would be held in January 2022.

RESOLVED: to accept the verbal report of the Ruthin County Councillors and to await feedback about (i) the extent of storm damage to Rhos Street School and (ii) the actions being taken to resolve the stench emanating from the business park affecting pupils at Rhos Street School.

157. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2021 be confirmed as a correct record. .

158. MATTERS ARISING

None.

159. MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2021.

RESOLVED: to receive the minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 6 December 2021.

160. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2021.

RESOLVED: to receive the minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on 6 December 2021.

161. MINUTES OF THE OLD COURTHOUSE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2021. Members noted the correction to the following typographical error: *Living Smarter Living Well to be held on 20 January not 2 January.*

RESOLVED: to receive the minutes of The Old Courthouse Management Committee held on 23 November 2021 noting the corrected date to the Living Smarter Living Well event.

162. RUTHIN FUTURE AND LEVELLING UP FUND – PROGRESS REPORT

On behalf of the Ruthin Future Working Group, Councillor Gavin Harris provided a verbal update on the two Levelling Up Fund projects, which had originated from Ruthin Future aspirations, and being facilitated by the Town Council, namely: 'Public Realm in St Peter's Square and adjoining streets' and 'Cae Ddol and Green Corridors'. Key points included:

- Comprehensive documents for both projects had been created (*currently draft*)
- The Amenities Committee had considered the 'Cae Ddol and Green Corridors' draft document at the December meeting.
- In order to comply with prescribed deadlines, the draft documents had been submitted to the County Council Regeneration Team to ensure that the project co-ordinating officers had all available information, data and costings to inform the Levelling Up Fund

bid. 13 projects were considered and approved by Denbighshire County Council's Cabinet on 23 November 2021 for inclusion in the Clwyd West constituency Levelling Up Fund bid, which would be formally submitted by Conwy County Council.

- The draft project documents continued to evolve and would be circulated to all Town Councillors prior to Christmas, to enable Members to read, digest and provide initial comments on the contents to the Town Clerk. It was proposed that a meeting of the Ruthin Future Working Group be held for all Town Councillors to consider comments and views on the documents circulated. It was further proposed that, subject to these comments and views, the revised documents would form the basis of an eight week long public consultation and engagement event from the end of January; a key and integral element of the process.
- The public consultation and engagement event would be further supported by the Birmingham School of Architecture and Design, Birmingham City University Co-Lab project, under the leadership of Dr Matt Jones. This would equate to 800 hours of dedicated support from students and professional teaching team.
- No formal timescales for submission of the Levelling Up Fund bid had yet been published by UK Government, but it was expected that, if successful, projects would need to be delivered by the end of March 2024.

County Councillor Bobby Feeley confirmed that that Cabinet agreed, in principle, to the 13 projects which collectively formed the LUF bid for Denbighshire's part of the Clwyd West bid.

RESOLVED: *the verbal update was noted and it was agreed that :*

- (i) the draft documents be circulated to all Town Councillors and initial comments be sent to the Town Clerk;*
- (ii) all Town Councillors be invited to attend a Ruthin Future Working Group; and*
- (iii) a public consultation and engagement event be held from the end of January 2022.*

163. PROPOSED RUTHIN VELODROME

Members received a verbal update on the proposed Ruthin Velodrome from Cllr Gavin Harris. It was anticipated that a more detailed written report would be available for the Council meeting in January 2022. A business case had been submitted to Sports Wales seeking in principle agreement.

RESOLVED: *to note the verbal update on the proposed Ruthin Velodrome.*

164. REQUEST FOR DONATIONS: URDD

The Town Councillors considered a general request from Yr Urdd for a donation to support of the Urdd Eisteddfod 2022. A contribution of £10,000 had been provided by the Town Council to formally sponsor the Arts and Crafts pavilion, which was considered to be a positive way of both supporting Yr Urdd and promoting Ruthin.

Following discussion, it was proposed and seconded that a decision on a further specific donation to Yr Urdd be deferred to enable contact be made between the Town Clerk and Yr Urdd to confirm the agreed sponsorship arrangements and to ascertain the financial position of Yr Urdd Eisteddfod 2022. This information would help inform the Town Council's consideration of a further donation in support of Yr Urdd Eisteddfod 2022. A vote was taken and the proposal agreed.

RESOLVED: *(i) the Town Clerk to contact Yr Urdd to seek clarification on the agreed sponsorship agreement with the Town Council and to ascertain the financial position of the Urdd Eisteddfod 2022; and (ii) that, following receipt of the information in (i), an item on 'Donation to Yr Urdd Eisteddfod 2022' be included on a future Town Council future agenda.*

165. RENEWAL OF SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS (SLCC) MEMBERSHIP

Members considered the renewal of the Clerk's membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks for 2022.

RESOLVED: to renewal of the Clerk's membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks for 2022.

166. COMMUNITY POLICING

Members considered a written report on local community policing issues submitted by Sergeant Rich Evans of North Wales Police, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Town Councillors acknowledged and thanked the local policing team for their work. It was proposed and agreed that The Old Courthouse be offered as a venue in which local residents could attend face to face surgery opportunities with the local PCSOs.

RESOLVED: to note the written report on local community policing as circulated and offer The Old Courthouse as a venue for face to face surgeries with local PCSOs.

167. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Members received the financial statement for the period ending 30 November 2021.

RESOLVED: to accept the financial statement of the period ending 30 November 2021.

168. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED: that payment of the following items be approved.

From Ruthin Town Council's current account:

Fineline	Printing and Stationery Sundries	*	£100.24
Marian Rees	Translation services – November 2021	*	£180.00
Hill & Roberts	Specialist professional support for VAT work	*	£3,000.00
Hill & Roberts	Accountancy and payroll services	*	£240.00
Public Works Loan Board	Old Courthouse loan repayment instalment		£3,515.42
Angle Surveys	Topographical Survey, St Peter's Square	*	£1,254.00
The Print Room	Mayor's Annual Christmas Cards (50)		£72.50
Cllr Heather Williams	Reimbursement of Christmas Comforts		£25.00
Viking	Stationery and various necessities including for The Old Courthouse	*	£329.18
Denbighshire County Council	Brown Trade Sacks		£220.00

From Ruthin Town Council Old Courthouse account:

Scottish Power	Energy supply (17/09/2021 – 15/11/2021)	*	£146.61
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(The items marked with an * above include recoverable V.A.T.)

169. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: to confirm the date of the next ordinary meeting will be Monday, 24 January 2022 at 7pm.