

# CYNGOR TREF RHUTHUN RUTHIN TOWN COUNCIL



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Minutes of the **Annual Meeting** of **RHUTHUN TOWN COUNCIL** held at The Old Courthouse on Monday, **16 May 2022** at **7.00p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Heather Williams (**Mayor**), Cllr. Menna Jones (**Deputy Mayor**) and Councillors Stephen Beach, Oliver Bradley-Hughes, Christine Ellis, Gavin Harris, Ethan Jones, Ian Lewney, Jabez Redfern Oakes, Anne Roberts, and Rachel Ryland.  
Also County Councillor Emrys Wynne.

## **1. OPENING PRAYER**

Reverend Morris P Morris offered a prayer to open the meeting.

## **2. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Mayor welcomed civic dignitaries, Councillors and members of the public to the Annual Meeting. Apologies for absence were received from the Mayor and Clerk of Denbigh Town Council.

## **3. MAYOR'S ADDRESS**

The Mayor, Councillor Heather Williams referred to the ongoing challenges during most of her Mayoral given the uncertainty and restrictions caused by the pandemic. This had also affected the way in which the Council had been able to operate and the introduction of hybrid meetings, which continued to be trialled and tested.

Thanks were expressed to Sandra Williams, the former Clerk who left the post following last year's AGM after a period of 5½ years, and whose duties were undertaken in the interim by Deputy Clerk Kate Harcus prior to the appointment of Siân Clark as the new Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, at the end of July 2022.

The Old Courthouse had hosted a number of exhibitions, meetings and events. By volunteering at The Old Courthouse, the Mayor stated that she had enjoyed welcoming and speaking with both local residents well as visitors from further afield, and encouraged others to volunteer. A monthly coffee morning for groups was held in the Old Courthouse and Tidy Town activates had restarted.

Whilst many of the usual local annual events attended by the Mayor did not take place, there were plenty of activities to undertake such as judging the Town Council's floral display competition, and Christmas and St David's day window dressing competitions. She was privileged to celebrate 100<sup>th</sup> birthdays with three Ruthin residents. Restrictions meant that a limit of 30 people was placed on the Mayor's Civic Service and no refreshments were allowed.

Upon taking up the office, the Mayor expressed the hope to encourage the planting of trees and during the year was involved with the planting of over 420 trees from the Woodland Trust on land at the Llanfwrog Community Centre, took part in the planting of trees in Cae Ddol and on the former Rhos Street School site. More recently she had supported the planting of Denbigh Plum trees by the U3A group at the Vale of Clwyd Mind site at

Llanfwrog.

Updates on the Mayor's activities had been shared with local newspaper and publications to keep people informed and raising the profile of Ruthin.

The Mayor provided an overview of her fundraising activities for her three chosen charities- the Vale of Clwyd: Food Bank, Mind and Cancer Research UK, which was challenging given the various restrictions. The activities included: Ruthin charity calendar (with the help of Ruthin Camera Club), a sponsored daily walking challenge, a raffle and, a charity dinner with a silent auction. Local businesses and those who had contributed were thanked for their support and £4,800 had been collectively raised for the Mayor's charities.

Warm wishes were given to the incoming Mayor, Councillor Menna Jones and also to Councillor Anne Roberts, MBE, as new Deputy Mayor. The Mayor thanked her Consort, Robert Williams and the Town Council staff for their support during the year.

#### **4. PRESENTATION OF DONATIONS FROM THE MAYOR'S CHARITY FUND**

The Mayor presented her chosen charities, Vale of Clwyd Food Bank, Vale of Clwyd Mind and Vale of Clwyd Cancer Research UK, with a donation of £1,600 each and the recipients expressed their thanks for the contributions given.

#### **5. THE RUTHIN GOOD CITIZEN, YOUNG PERSON AND COMMUNITY GROUP OF THE YEAR AWARD**

The Mayor announced that:

- The Good Citizen of the Year award was being presented to Mrs Fiona Gale, who was involved in supporting and leading many historic and restoration initiatives within the town. A former Denbighshire County Council Archaeologist, she had applied her extensive skills, knowledge and experience to take forward many projects in Ruthin, all of which were a benefit to the town and its residents. She nominated Ruthin Food Bank as her chosen cause.
- The Young Person of the Year Award was being presented to James Johnson, a pupil at Ysgol Brynhyfryd. As well as being a talented musician and an outstanding pupil, James was involved with a wide variety of activities including the local Scouts, providing arts and crafts to a local mental health support group, and took a lead role in arranging and delivering food packages to elderly local people. He nominated Ruthin Scout Group as his chosen cause.
- The Community Group of the Year Award was being presented to the Ruthin Bell Ringers who, after the return of the eight bells of St Peter's Church following refurbishment, re-tuning and repair, now regularly rang the bells and performed wonderful peals. The Ruthin Bell Ringers also performed on the handbells. Ruthin residents took much delight in the peals being rung. The nomination to the local good cause was yet to be determined.

All recipients were warmly congratulated on their Awards and sincerely thanks for their contributions to the town of Ruthin.

#### **6. LONG SERVICE RECOGNITION**

The long service to Ruthin Town Council of former Councillor Ken Hawkins was acknowledged. A Town Councillors for 29 years, and a thrice Mayor, Mr Hawkins had contributed much to the town. The Mayor presented Mr Hawkins with a gift from the Town

Council to acknowledge his long service and achievements. In response, Mr Hawkins thanked all the Town Councillors who he had served with and the Town Clerks who he had worked with and stated that it had been his privilege to serve as a Ruthin Town Councillor and Mayor.

## **7. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE MAYOR**

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Menna Jones, thanked the retiring Mayor, Councillor Heather Williams, for her commitment and hard work over her Mayoral year. Whilst restrictions had limited local activities and meant that Town Council meetings had been held online, Councillor Williams still had a busy year. She had contributed significantly to tree planting initiatives in the town and had overseen the appointment of a new Town Clerk. Councillor Williams had arranged many fundraising opportunities for the Mayor's charities which has raised a commendable amount for her chosen charities. Cllr Jones referred to the good working relationship between her and the Mayor and thanked the Consort, Robert Williams, for his unstinting support of the Mayor.

The Deputy Mayor presented the Mayor with a Town Plaque on behalf of the Town Council together with a photographic portrait of her in her Mayoral robes.

## **8. MEMBERS ATTENDANCES**

Details of members' attendances during 2021-22 had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

## **9. ELECTION OF MAYOR FOR 2022/2023**

On the proposal of Councillor Stephen Beach, seconded by Councillor Gavin Harris, it was resolved unanimously that Councillor Menna Jones be elected Town Mayor of Rhuthun for the municipal year 2022/2023. Councillor Beach stated that Councillor Menna Jones had been a Member of Ruthin Town Council since 2008 and was proactive in the town and wider community. A member of numerous Town Council Committees and Groups, she was also greatly involved with the Urdd Local Committee, Cymorth Rhuthun / Ruthin Support, and numerous other associations and groups.

There were no further nominations and it was resolved unanimously that Councillor Menna Jones be elected Town Mayor of Rhuthun for the municipal year 2022/23.

## **10. INVESTING THE MAYOR WITH THE CHAIN OF OFFICE**

Councillor Menna Jones was invested with the robes and Chain of Office and her Mayoress, Morfudd Jones, received the Mayoress' chain.

## **11. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Having duly made and signed the necessary declaration, Councillor Menna Jones thanked her proposer and seconder.

## **12. INCOMING MAYOR'S ADDRESS**

The Mayor, Councillor Menna Jones, stated that she was honoured to be the Mayor of Ruthin and looked forward to all Town Councillors working together for the benefit of the town's residents. She asked Councillors to inform her of any events, activities and notable occasions that were taking place in the town and stated that she and the Deputy Mayor would work effectively together. The Mayor shared some of the events taking place during her year and expressed best wishes to those young people involved in the Urdd Eisteddfod together with those marking HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee; an exhibition marking the Urdd 100 and Jubilee would be held at The Old Courthouse. She encouraged individuals

to consider volunteering with activities such as at the Old Courthouse and Tidy Town.

The local charities supported by the Mayor during the year were Cymorth Rhuthun / Ruthin Support and The Vale of Clwyd Responders – Ruthin Division. The Mayor also stated that she would also support smaller local groups during her Mayoral Year. The Mayor thanked the Rev Morris P Morris for agreeing to serve as the Mayor's Chaplain for the year.

### **13. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2021/2022**

On the proposal of Councillor Christine Ellis and seconded by Councillor Jabez Redfern Oakes, it was resolved that Councillor Anne Roberts be elected Deputy Mayor for the municipal year 2022/2023. She was invested with the Deputy Mayor's Jewel of Office.

### **14. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Having duly made and signed the necessary declaration, Councillor Anne Roberts thanked her proposer and seconder.

### **15. CIVIC SUNDAY 2022**

Members noted that the Mayor's Civic Sunday would be held at 11a.m on 10 July at Tabernacle Church with a reception following at The Old Courthouse.

### **16. CLOSING PRAYER**

The Mayor's Chaplain, Reverend Morris P Morris, offered a prayer to close the meeting.