

**CYNGOR TREF RHUTHUN  
RUTHIN TOWN COUNCIL**



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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of **RUTHIN TOWN COUNCIL**  
held in a hybrid format on Monday, 11 July 2022 at 7:00pm.

- PRESENT:** Councillors Menna Jones (Mayor),  
Councillors Stephen Beach, Oliver Bradley-Hughes, Mike van der Eijk,  
Christine Ellis, Gavin Harris, Dafydd Hughes, Ian Lewney, Jabez Redfern  
Oakes, Lisa Thomas, Anne Roberts and Rachel Ryland  
County Councillors Huw Hilditch-Roberts and Emrys Wynne.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Siân Clark – Ruthin Town Clerk  
Kate Harcus – Ruthin Deputy Town Clerk  
Marian Rees – Translator

**WELCOME**

All attendees were warmly welcomed by the Mayor especially the newly co-opted Members. It was reported that £550 was raised for the Mayor's charities at the recent Cheese and Wine event and those who had attended or contributed were warmly thanked. The Civic Sunday service had been held in Tabernacle Chapel the previous day with guests invited for a buffet lunch at The Old Courthouse; thanks were expressed to those who attended. Additionally on Civic Sunday, in recognition of the Mayor, St Peter's Bells Ringers successfully completed a full peel, over three hours, which was the first attempt since the restoration of the bells in 2019, with previous full peels undertaken in 1951 and 1879. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor attended recently the Year 6 service in St Peter's and hosted staff and students from Derwen College. On a sadder note, on behalf of the Town Council, the Mayor attended the funeral of Mari Hughes, who with her late husband Gwyn, oversaw the watering of the flower planters within the town for many years.

**59. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Heather Williams and County Councillor Bobby Feeley. PS Rich Evans had tendered his apologies due to prior work commitments.

**60. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Anne Roberts declared an interest in item 14 (*minute 72*) as Chairman of the Ruthin and District Civic Association.

**61. LOCAL COMMUNITY POLICING**

Members considered a report from Sergeant Rich Evans, circulated prior to the meeting, which outlined current policing district priorities and local priorities. Town Councillors welcomed the content of the report and commended the work of the local policing team. Whilst acknowledging that anti-social driving remained a problem, it was heartening to receive a generally positive report.

**RESOLVED:** *to note the written report from Sgt Rich Evans on local community policing.*

**62. MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor's report had been circulated in advance.

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

### **63. MEMBERS' REPORT**

The Members' Report had been circulated in advance and all were thanked for their activities since the last meeting.

**RESOLVED:** *to note the Members' Reports.*

### **64. RUTHIN COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

The County Councillors report, as submitted by Councillor Emrys Wynne, had been circulated in advance.

**RESOLVED:** *to note the report of the local County Councillors.*

### **65. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED:** *(i) that the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 20 June 2022 be confirmed as a correct record; (ii) that the minutes of the special meeting held on 4 July 2022 be confirmed as a correct record, subject to the following correction: to include Cllr Heather Williams as attending.*

### **66. MATTERS ARISING**

None

### **67. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2022. Cllr Jabez Redfern Oakes, Chairman of the Planning and Development Committee provided further details relating to the following application: '02/2022/0561 Former Rhos Street School, Rhos Street, Ruthin' and it was proposed, seconded and agreed that the Town Council object to the application, and that reasons for the objection be submitted to the County Council by the Planning and Development Committee.

**RESOLVED:** *(i) to receive the minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on 4 July 2022; and (ii) to object to planning application '02/2022/0561 Former Rhos Street School, Rhos Street, Ruthin' and that reasons for the objection be submitted to the County Council via by the Planning and Development Committee.*

### **68. MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2022.

**RESOLVED:** *to receive the minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 4 July 2022.*

### **69. RESIGNATION OF A TOWN COUNCILLOR**

The Mayor announced receipt of a letter of resignation, with effect from 7 July 2022, from former Councillor Ethan Jones to both her as Mayor and to the Town Clerk. On behalf of the Town Council, the Mayor expressed thanks to Ethan Jones for his service since his election last year. The Town Clerk advised Members that following the resignation, the Town Council now carried a casual vacancy and that the appropriate process would be undertaken to fill the casual vacancy.

**RESOLVED:** *to note the resignation of former town Councillors Ethan Jones, with effect from 7 July 2022, and that the appropriate process would be undertaken to fill the casual vacancy.*

### **70. CUNNING GREEN - UPDATE**

The Clerk reported that following a request from the Town Council for an update from

Denbighshire County Council on the Cuning Green closure situation following a collapse of certain sections of the wall, an email had been received advising that discussions with the property owner were still ongoing. Town Council members expressed great concern that the Cuning Green remained closed and urged for greater clarity from the County Council as to the progress and timescales in order that residents and visitors could be advised. A previous incident saw the Cuning Green closed for three years and the Town Council sought action to ensure the current situation was urgently rectified to avoid another protracted period of closure. County Councillors acknowledged the frustration on resolving the issues to re-open the Cuning Green and suggested it may be due to legal factors.

**RESOLVED:** *that the Town Council, through the Clerk, write to Denbighshire County Council Officers and to Cabinet Member Emrys Wynne to seek a comprehensive response on the current Cuning Green situation and clarity on the timescale for re-opening.*

#### **71. LEVELLING UP FUND APPLICATION PROCESS**

The Town Council was provided an update on the Levelling Up Fund Application Process. Following a decision by Conwy County Council, two separate bids would now be submitted by the County Councils in the Clwyd West Constituency, one from Conwy, the other from Denbighshire. It was understood that a compelling letter, supporting Denbighshire's bid, had been received from David Jones MP. The work undertaken by the team within Denbighshire County Council on the Levelling Up bid was acknowledged. Given the input by many local bodies and organisations in developing the bid, it was commented that timely feedback on the bid outcome would be needed together with strengthened communication. It was stated that the bid portal was currently in flux, but a response to the application process was anticipated to coincide with the Autumn statement.

**RESOLVED:** *to note the update provided on the Levelling Up Fund Application Process.*

#### **72. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Members considered a submission from Ruthin and District Civic Association for financial assistance of £1,500 as a contribution to support the printing of information leaflets for Open Doors weekend on 10 and 11 September 2022.

**RESOLVED:** *to provide financial assistance of £1,500 to Ruthin and District Civic Association in support of the printing of information leaflets for Open Doors weekend in September 2022.*

#### **73. ARRANGEMENTS FOR EMERGENCY POWERS COMMITTEE MEETING**

Members proposed that the meeting be held on Monday, 15 August 2022 at 7pm with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and any other available councillors in attendance.

**RESOLVED:** *to hold a meeting of the Emergency Powers Committee to deal with any planning matters and accounts for payment on 15 August 2022, with the agenda to be circulated to all members for information.*

#### **74. FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

The financial statement for the period ending 30 June 2022 was received and considered by Members.

**RESOLVED:** *that financial statement of the period ending 30 June 2022 be agreed.*

#### **75. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

**RESOLVED:** *that payment of the following items be approved.*

OB	Llanfwrog CIC	Grass cutting services – July 2022		£425.34
OB	Canda Copying	Copying costs 21/3/22 to 30/06/22	*	£74.21

OB	Canda Copying	Rental of Copier 01/07/22 to 30/09/22	*	£41.90
OB	One Voice Wales	Membership of One Voice Wales for 2022/2023		£990.00
OB	Sandra Williams	Simultaneous translation for AGM on 16/05/2022	*	£90.00
OB	Sandra Williams	Translation of three Stori Rhuthun projects	*	£253.08
OB	Marian Rees	Translation at meetings held on 3 & 23 May 2022	*	£180.00
OB	Marian Rees	Simultaneous translation at meetings held on 13 & 20 June 2022.	*	£180.00
OB	Birmingham City University	Support travel costs of co-lab project visit to Ruthin on 2/03/2022		£520.00
OB	J&C Brimble	Watering of flower planters – 26/5/22 to 25/06/22		£1,100.00
OB	Meals on Wheels	Provision of buffet for Falklands 40 Anniversary		£267.75
OB	Cllr Gavin Harris	Reimbursement of refreshment costs (Co-op)		£14.80
OB	Kate Harcus	Reimbursement of refreshment costs (Co-Op) Derwen College / Falklands Remembrance Event		£6.00
OB	Viking	Office stationery	*	£69.49
OB	Ann Jones	Provision of buffet lunch for Civic Sunday		£1,000.00
		From The Old Courthouse account		
OB	Denbighshire CC	Non Domestic Rates (5 <sup>th</sup> of 10 payments)		£524.00
OB	Kelletrics	Installation of 32A Sockets and double socket	*	£390.00
OB	Kate Harcus	Reimbursement – item from Ruthin Decor	*	£4.15
OB	Kate Harcus	Reimbursement – items from Elfair 2 books/map		£20.48
OB	Kate Harcus	Reimbursement – items for TOC (Co-Op)		£16.70
OB	Kate Harcus	Reimbursement – items for TOC (B&M)		£5.48

(The items marked with an \* above include recoverable V.A.T.)

#### **76. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** To confirm the date of the next meeting of the Town Council on Monday, 26 September 2022 at 7.00pm.

#### **77. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Chairman proposed, and it was seconded, that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion on the following item as it was likely that exempt information would be disclosed, as defined in Part 4, Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972 (as outlined in paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)).

#### **78. PROPOSED RUTHIN VELODROME**

Councillor Gavin Harris, the Town Council's representative on the proposed Ruthin Velodrome Strategic Project Management Board provided an update on the project.