

**CYNGOR TREF RHUTHUN
RUTHIN TOWN COUNCIL**



Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of **RUTHIN TOWN COUNCIL**
held in a hybrid format on Monday, 26 September 2022 at 7:00pm
at The Old Courthouse and online via Zoom.

- PRESENT:** Councillors Menna Jones (Mayor),
Councillors Stephen Beach, Oliver Bradley-Hughes, Mike van der Eijk,
Christine Ellis, Gavin Harris, Dafydd Hughes, Rosie Hughes-Anderson,
Ian Lewney, Jabez Redfern Oakes, Lisa Thomas, Anne Roberts, Rachel
Ryland and Heather Williams
County Councillors Bobby Feeley and Emrys Wynne.
PS Rich Evans for item 3 'Local Community Policing' (*minute 81*).
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Siân Clark – Ruthin Town Clerk
Kate Harcus – Ruthin Deputy Town Clerk
Marian Rees – Translator

WELCOME

All attendees were warmly welcomed to the meeting by the Mayor. Cllr Jones stated that it had been a busy summer where many more activities and events had taken place; the town's planters had added colour and vibrancy and thanks were expressed to J & C Brimble on their work in watering the planters, especially in the hot weather. With the arrival of autumn, a number of societies and clubs were commencing or re-establishing their activities, members were asked to support these, where possible. The Mayor commented that new businesses were opening in town, whilst others were closing or changing hands; all were wished well.

79. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from County Councillor Huw Hilditch-Roberts.

80. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

81. 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. Sergeant Rich Evans highlighted pertinent points and reported: that there had not been any serious crime reported in the town over recent months; that antisocial driving had been a focus for the police with s59 warning notices issued and cars ceased; that there had not been any issues of juvenile antisocial behaviours over the summer; there had been a small spike in shoplifting and a suspect identified; the police would provide coverage for events (e.g Halloween and bonfire night) and work with others (pubwatch, licensing team) in the lead up to Christmas. Town Councillors welcomed the report and commended the work of the local policing team. Responding to specific questions about which schools and year groups had seen 'Olivia's Story', a road safety film aimed at teenagers, Sergeant Evans stated that he would confirm this information following the meeting.

RESOLVED: to note the written report from and updates provided by Sgt Rich Evans on local community policing.

82. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor's report had been circulated in advance.

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

83. MEMBERS' REPORT

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

- Cllr Mike van der Eijk reported on activities relating to climate and ecological matters including: the Repair Café; Bws Benthg; reSource Ruthin; COP 27 to be held between 8-18 November 2022; Climate Cymru's 'Warm this Winter' campaign.
- Cllr Dafydd Hughes raised the issue of the lack of wildflowers in some of the sites set aside for Denbighshire County Council's wildflower meadow project and instead an abundance of long grass. Members noted that whilst the summer had been exceptional in terms of heat and lack of rain, there had been comments about some of the town's verges and roundabouts being unsightly due to lack of grass cutting; other town's seemed to have benefited from more attention by the County Council. County Councillor Emrys Wynne stated that the number and variety of wildflowers would continue to develop over three years and that the wildflower meadow project was important to support bees, other pollinators and the ecology more widely.

RESOLVED: to note the Members' Reports.

84. RUTHIN COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

The County Councillors in attendance provided a verbal update on the following topics: resurfacing projects across the town; complaints about over-development around Bryn Goodman and possible adoption of the road; the development of the County Council's Corporate Plan; the imminent internal restructure; as Cabinet Member, Cllr Wynne had visited all libraries in the county, including Ruthin's; works would be completed on the Cuning Green next week; Cllrs Feeley and Wynne had recently attended Cae Ddol with the Head of Service and highlighted that the lake, given its low water level, was in need of attention. Members of the Town Council emphasised the urgent need for the lake in Cae Ddol and its surrounding area to be attended to and tidied up for the benefit of residents and visitors, not least given the significant funding provided by the Town Council.

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

85. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2022 for accuracy.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 11 July 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

86. MATTERS ARISING

None

87. EMERGENCY POWERS MEETING

Members considered the minutes of the Emergency Powers Meeting held on 15 August 2022.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Emergency Powers meeting held on 15 August 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

88. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2022.

RESOLVED: *to receive the minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on 20 September 2022.*

89. MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2022.

RESOLVED: *to receive the minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 20 September 2022.*

90. MINUTES OF THE OLD COURTHOUSE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2022

RESOLVED: *to receive the minutes of the Old Courthouse Management Committee held on 6 September 2022.*

91. RUTHIN TOWN COUNCIL CO-OPTION

Two expressions of interest had been received for the vacant Town Council seat following the public notice of co-option; both submissions had been circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. The Town Clerk advised Members of the voting process, which would be undertaken by ballot, with votes counted by the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk. The outcome of the ballot was notified to Members by the Mayor.

RESOLVED: *that Peter Daniels be co-opted as a member of Ruthin Town Council.*

92. CO-WORK LOCAL INITIATIVE

The Town Council considered two proposals as recommended by the Old Courthouse Management Committee (TOCMC). A report had been circulated in advance which provided context and illustrations about the proposals.

- (i) To work in partnership with Co-Work Local, not for profit initiative, to provide collaborative working space in the Old Courthouse for an initial six month trial with a £5,000 sign up grant payable to Ruthin Town Council; and
- (ii) That the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk/TOC Manager be relocated from the mezzanine area to the ground floor showcase space to enable privacy when needed.

Members generally supported the proposal to work in partnership with Co-Work Local for an initial six month trial, though it was emphasised that careful management of the initiative was needed so as not to detrimentally impact or disrupt the work of the Town Council and its staff. It was suggested that, if approved, that the TOCMC should receive a monthly report providing usage, finance and other data to inform the Committee of the initiative's progress.

Assurance was provided that the introduction of Co-Work Local would work around the Town Council and hirers' normal activities. A draft agreement had not yet been forthcoming for review. It was proposed and seconded that subject to discussions on the draft agreement by representatives of the Town Council, and any legal input required that it be agreed that a six month trial be entered into with Co-Work Local for the provision of collaborative working space in The Old Courthouse. TOCMC to receive monthly progress reports.

It was also proposed and seconded that the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk/TOC Manager be relocated from the mezzanine area to the ground floor showcase space.

RESOLVED:

(i) that subject to discussions on the draft agreement by representatives of the Town Council,

and any legal input required, that it be agreed that a six month trial be entered into with Co-Work Local for the provision of collaborative working space in The Old Courthouse. TOCMC to receive monthly progress reports.

- (ii) *that the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk/TOC Manager be relocated from the mezzanine area to the ground floor showcase space.*

93. NORTH WALES OUTDOOR VELODROME

A stakeholder update on the North Wales Outdoor Velodrome, as released by the Project Board, led by Denbighshire Leisure Ltd (DLL), had been circulated to Members in advance. Cllr Harris, the Town Council's representative on the Project Board outlined that the current focus of DLL and the Development Team was on understanding the requirements around design and cost of the project; more detailed design and planning phases would lead to public consultation in due course. Cllr Harris shared his recent experience of visiting Herne Hill Velodrome in South London and the various activities and groups supported at the venue.

RESOLVED: *to note the update provided on the North Wales Outdoor Velodrome.*

94. 'THE DENBIGHSHIRE WE WANT 2022 - 2027'

Town Councillors considered Denbighshire County Council's nine draft objectives for 'The Denbighshire We Want 2022 to 2027' developed in response to the requirement for Councils in Wales to have in place Well-being Objectives that support the long-term sustainability of their communities, for the benefit of future generations. The Town Council had responded to a previous draft circulated in the spring of 2022. The nine draft objectives under consideration were:

1. A Denbighshire of quality housing that meets people's needs.
2. A prosperous Denbighshire.
3. A healthier and happier, caring Denbighshire.
4. A learning and growing Denbighshire.
5. A better connected Denbighshire.
6. A greener Denbighshire.
7. A fairer, more equal Denbighshire.
8. A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.
9. A well-run, high performing Council.

Members were supportive of the objectives as outlined and noted the interdependence of many of the objectives on each other in support long term sustainability of communities and in benefitting future generations.

RESOLVED: *to support the nine draft objectives for 'The Denbighshire We Want 2022-2027'.*

95. DRAFT CONWY A SIR DDINBYCH WELL-BEING PLAN

Consideration was given to the Conwy & Denbighshire Public Services Board (PSB) draft Well-being Plan 2023-2028, which focussed on making Conwy and Denbighshire a more equal place with less deprivation. It was proposed and seconded that the Document Scrutiny Committee be convened to consider the draft Well-Being plan in more detail and provide comments.

RESOLVED: *to convene a meeting of the Document Scrutiny Committee to consider the draft Well-being plan and provide comments.*

96. TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2022-2023

Members were requested to review and update the list of Town Council representation on outside bodies. An updated representation list on outside bodies for 2022-23 is appended to the minutes.

RESOLVED: to note the representation on outside bodies and to circulate the updated details at the next meeting and for the Clerk to notify the relevant organisations/bodies.

97. DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2023

The proposed dates for Town Council and Committee meetings for 2023 had been circulated in advance.

RESOLVED: to agree the dates for Town Council and Committee meetings for 2023.

98. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Members considered a submission from Llanfwrog Community Association CIO for £1,500 for the purchase of 6 benches. Given the imminent announcement of the Levelling Up fund bid application, which included green spaces, it was suggested that the submission be deferred until an announcement had been made.

RESOLVED: to defer consideration of the submission from Llanfwrog Community Association CIO until an announcement had been made on the Levelling Up Fund bid application.

99. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The financial statements for the periods ending 31 July and 31 August 2022 as received were considered by Members.

RESOLVED: that financial statements of the periods ending 31 July and 31 August 2022 be agreed.

100. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED: that payment of the following items be approved.

OB	Hill & Roberts	Payroll and Accountancy Services – 08/2022	*	£240.00
		and 09/2022	*	£240.00
OB	Marian Rees	Translation services for Meetings in July	*	£180.00
OB	Llanfwrog CIC	Grass cutting services – September 2022		£425.34
OB	J&C Brimble	Watering of Planters – August 2022	*	£990.00
OB	Blachere	Extension of one year on hire of Christmas Motifs	*	£3,789.25
OB	Fineline	Certificate Printing		£14.39
OB	Cllr. Menna Jones	Mayor’s allowance – first instalment		£600.00
OB	Cllr Anne Roberts	Deputy Mayor’s allowance – first instalment		£150.00
OB	BT	Phone and website – August 2022 and	*	£99.68
		September 2022	*	£99.68
OB	Sian Clark	Reimbursement: Microsoft 365 August 2022 and	*	£18.96
		September 2022		£18.96
		From The Old Courthouse account		
OB	Denbighshire CC	Non Domestic Rates (8 th of 10 payments)		£524.00
OB	Kate Harcus	Reimbursement – Metal collection box for TOC	*	£40.78
OB	Kate Harcus	Reimbursement – Sanitary Bags and dispensers for TOC	*	£73.19

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

101. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: To confirm the date of the next meeting of the Town Council on Monday, 24

October 2022 at 7.00pm.

102. 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)).

103. NORTH WALES OUTDOOR VELODROME

Councillor Gavin Harris, the Town Council's representative on the proposed Ruthin Velodrome Strategic Project Management Board informed the Town Council of progress to establish a bespoke partnership agreement between Ruthin Town Council and the Project Board.