

**CYNGOR TREF RHUTHUN
RUTHIN TOWN COUNCIL**



(DRAFT) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of **RUTHIN TOWN COUNCIL**
held in a hybrid format on Monday, 24 October 2022 at 7:00pm
at The Old Courthouse and online via Zoom.

PRESENT: Councillors Menna Jones (Mayor),
Councillors Stephen Beach, Oliver Bradley-Hughes, Peter Daniels, Mike
van der Eijk, Christine Ellis, Gavin Harris, Dafydd Hughes, Rosie Hughes-
Anderson, Ian Lewney, Lisa Thomas, Anne Roberts, Rachel Ryland and
Heather Williams
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

The Mayor warmly welcomed all attendees to the meeting, especially Cllr Peter Daniels who was attending his first Town Council since being co-opted last month.

104. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Jabez Redfern Oakes and County Councillor Bobby Feeley.

105. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Gavin Harris declared an interest in *'item 10 – Minutes of the Old Courthouse Committee' (minute 113)* with particular reference to membership of North Wales Tourism as his partner was a member of the North Wales Tourism Board.

Cllr Christine Ellis declared an interest in *'item 19 - Accounts for Payment' (minute 122)* as an employee of one of the payees.

106. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor's report had been circulated in advance. In addition, the Mayor had warmly congratulated residents of Trem y Foel who won the Community Group of the Year Award and Gwyndaf (Jock) Davies also of Trem y Foel on winning a Good Neighbour of the Year Award in this year's Denbighshire Housing Awards.

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

107. MEMBERS' REPORT

The Members' Report had been circulated in advance and a further updated copy was circulated at the meeting. All members were thanked for their activities since the last meeting.

RESOLVED: *to note the Members' Reports.*

108. RUTHIN COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Two reports had been received from Ruthin County Councillors and circulated in advance of the meeting. On behalf of Town Councillors, the Mayor expressed dismay that two separate

reports had been received this month and underlined the expectation of a single, locally focussed report for consideration.

During the meeting, County Councillors in attendance provided an update on the Cuning Green stating that works to the collapsed part of the wall had not yet been completed – investigations would take place to ascertain the reason for the delay. It was further stated that the Nant Clwyd y Dre boundary wall, the responsibility of Denbighshire County Council, was currently being assessed. It was therefore not anticipated that the Cuning Green would be opening soon given the need to prioritise pedestrians' safety. A commitment was given by the County Councillors to inform the Town Council of the outcome of the assessor's report and potential further works required.

RESOLVED: (i) to note the written reports of the local County Councillors and (ii) note that County Councillors communicate the outcome of the assessor's report and potential further works required Cuning Green.

109. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2022 for accuracy.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 26 September 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

110. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 92: Co-Work Local Initiative: Members were advised that the Co-Work Local initiative had been currently stopped for new entrants. Relocation of the Town Clerk and Old Courthouse Manager from the mezzanine area to the ground floor would continue.

Minute 95: Draft Conwy a Sir Ddinbych Well-Being Plan: A date for the Document Scrutiny Committee would be arranged to consider the draft plan for early November.

111. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2022.

RESOLVED: to receive the minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on 10 October 2022.

112. MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2022.

RESOLVED: to receive the minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 10 October 2022.

113. MINUTES OF THE OLD COURTHOUSE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2022. As recommended by the Old Courthouse Management Committee, Members considered a proposal for Ruthin Town Council to become a member of North Wales Tourism at an annual cost of £126 + VAT.

Membership would provide access to a range of benefits including discounted cost of distribution of literature (leaflets / booklets etc).

RESOLVED: (i) to receive the minutes of the Old Courthouse Management Committee held on 4 October 2022 and (ii) to agree for Ruthin Town Council to become a member of North Wales Tourism at an annual cost of £126 + VAT.

114. COP27: ACTIVITIES IN THE TOWN

Building on the last year's COP26 conference in Glasgow, COP 27 would be held between 6-18 November 2022 and would focus on continuing action towards achieving climate goals.

Councillor Mike van der Eijk informed Members that Friends of the Earth Ruthin, in conjunction with U3A Sustainability Group and other associated groups had organised an event to be held at The Old Courthouse on Tuesday, 15 November 2022 at 7.00p.m. The event would feature a zoom filmed presentation by Prof Mike Berners-Lee, of the Institute of Social Futures at Lancaster University, an acknowledged expert on climate change and carbon footprinting. Following the film, Prof Berners-Lee would join for a live Q & A session on Zoom.

It was anticipated that other groups such as Terra Cycle/Plastic Free Ruthin, ReSource Ruthin/Bws Benthg, and Repair Café would be in present to showcase local activities as well as attendance by a representative from the Regulated Environment Group. Additionally 'Keep Warm This Winter' would detail the availability of a thermal imaging device to monitor heat loss from buildings.

It was noted that the Repair Café, held on the first Saturday of the month, was growing in success and had recently been filmed as case study in how to establish a Repair Café.

RESOLVED: *that the COP 27 activities in Ruthin be noted.*

115. LEVELLING UP FUND – PROGRESS REPORT

The Clerk provided an update on the Levelling Up Fund application process and relayed an email recently received from Denbighshire County Council. The email stated that whilst the outcome of the funding bids had been anticipated to be released in October 2022, around the time of the Autumn Statement, it was now understood, via a recently published article, that the announcement of the successful round 2 Levelling Up Fund bids would be delayed until the end of 2022. County Councillors present confirmed this information and emphasised that the delay was due to UK Government.

RESOLVED: *to note the Levelling Up Fund progress report.*

116. RUTHIN FUTURE

An overview of Ruthin Future, the town's Place Planning initiative since 2009, was provided by Cllr Gavin Harris. Preparations for the next consultation opportunity and programme of events would be planned for April 2023. It was suggested that (i) new town councillors be invited to an information session to introduce them to the Ruthin Future initiative and (ii) the Ruthin Future Working Group be re-established.

RESOLVED: *(i) new town councillors be invited to an information session to introduce them to the Ruthin Future initiative and (ii) the Ruthin Future Working Group be re-established.*

117. CORWEN ROAD AND A494 LON FAWR JUNCTION

The Mayor informed Members that a letter had been sent from Ruthin Town Council to Lee Waters MS, Deputy Minister for Climate Change for Welsh Government clearly stating local concerns and the need for action on the Corwen Road and A494 Lon Fawr Junction. Mr Waters was also invited to Ruthin to assess the situation for himself. A response from Mr Waters MS was awaited. The Clerk had been in contact with the local policing team requesting, if possible, they shared any known near misses with the Clerk.

It was commented that the A494 Lon Fawr, parallel to the Rugby, Football and Tennis Clubs, was particularly concerning given the high number of children, young people and supporters in the location when participating in or viewing sporting activities, together with increased vehicles. The three County Councillors had previously held discussions with both Trunk Road Agency Officers and Denbighshire County Council Officers to urge action along the Lon Fawr section. It was anticipated, with the introduction of the 20mph speed limit from September 2023 (from

30mph), that it may be possible to introduce a 30mph along the remainder of the Lon Fawr section. Further speed restriction opportunities along Corwen Road leading into Castle Street were also suggested.

Members acknowledged the need for action to be taken along the whole of the A494 Lon Fawr section together with the Lon Fawr/Corwen Road junction and the matter had been raised with Darren Millar MS recently during a meeting convened by Efenechtyd Community Council.

A webpage to collate information on near misses on the Lon Fawr / Corwen Road Junction would be established subject to the Clerk liaising with the Clerk of Efenechtyd Community Council.

RESOLVED: (i) to note that correspondence had been sent to Mr Lee Waters MS and response awaited (ii) that a webpage to collate information on near misses on the Lon Fawr / Corwen Road Junction be established.

118. 2023 PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW – REVISED PROPOSALS

Members considered the revised proposals of the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales for the new Parliamentary constituencies. The Clerk reminded Members of the response sent by the Town Council in October 2021 to the Commission's initial proposals and highlighted key points from the revised proposals in respect to Ruthin. Councillors commented that it was evident that the Commission had taken account of Ruthin Town Council's submission. The view was expressed that the new proposed Clwyd East constituency better reflected Ruthin and its relationships with neighbouring communities, however Efenechtyd was noticeable by its absence, with the area included in the proposed Bangor Aberconwy constituency. The Clerk was requested to contact Efenechtyd Community Council to ascertain its view as to the proposed constituency it had been allocated.

Whilst acknowledging that the review of constituencies had to be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the relevant legislation, Members expressed regret that the number of MPs in Wales would be reduced from 40 to 32 and reduce the representative voice for Wales within UK Parliament.

RESOLVED: that the Commission be advised that Ruthin Town Council's comments that the revised proposals were suitable and had taken account of the key points submitted by the Town Council in response to the initial proposals.

119. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

On behalf of the Town Council, the Mayor expressed sincere condolences to the family of Mr William (Bill) Fowlie following his recent death. Mr Fowlie had proudly served as a Parade Marshall at the Remembrance Sunday Services for many years and his commitment and dedication to this role, as well as to the town of Ruthin, was acknowledged fondly.

Members were advised of arrangements in place for Remembrance Sunday which would be on Sunday, 13 November 2022.

RESOLVED: to note the arrangements in place for Remembrance Sunday.

120. RHUTHUN TOWN COUNCIL DONATION TO THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Members considered a donation to the Royal British Legion towards the poppy wreaths at the Remembrance Sunday Service. It was proposed and agreed that the donation in 2022 be £100.

RESOLVED: agree a donation of £100 to the Royal British Legion towards the poppy wreaths.

121. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The financial statement for the period ending 30 September 2022 as received were considered by Members. The Clerk informed Councillors that a bequest had been received by the Town Council following its inclusion as a beneficiary of a will. Correspondence would be sent to the next of kin to acknowledge the bequest.

RESOLVED: that financial statement of the period ending September 2022 be agreed.

122. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED: that payment of the following items be approved.

OB	Hill & Roberts	Payroll and Accountancy Services – 10/2022	*	£240.00
OB	Marian Rees	Translation services for Meetings in August and September	*	£270.00
OB	Llanfwrog CIC	Grass cutting services – October 2022		£425.34
OB	Canda Copying Ltd	Rental of copier 1/10/22 – 21/12/2022	*	£41.90
OB	Canda Copying	Copying charges 30/06/2022 – 29/09/2022	*	£75.85
OB	Elevator	Renewal of Visit Rhuthun annual website hosting	*	£144.00
OB	BT	Phone and website – October 2022	*	£99.68
OB	Sian Clark	Reimbursement: Microsoft 365 October 2022	*	£18.96

From The Old Courthouse account

OB	Denbighshire CC			
OB	Castle Mews	Supply and fitting of replacement stairs carpet (to the mezzanine and kitchen areas)	*	£600.00
OB	Total Energy	Energy charges (gas)	*	£196.11
OB	Kate Harcus	Reimbursement – Keys for TOC (Kings)	*	£15.20
OB	Kate Harcus	Reimbursement – Sundry items TOC Maintenance	*	£6.77

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

123. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: To confirm the date of the next meeting of the Town Council on Monday, 28 November 2022 at 7.00pm.

124. 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 1: Information relating to any individual).

125. RHUTHUN TOWN COUNCIL STAFF SALARIES

Members noted the payments made between April 2022 and September 2022 in relation to salaries, income tax, National Insurance and pension contributions of the two staff members of Rhuthun Town Council.

RESOLVED: the payments made during the April – September 2022 period in respect of salaries, income tax, National Insurance and pension contributions of staff be noted.