

CYNGOR TREF RHUTHUN RUTHIN TOWN COUNCIL



(DRAFT) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of **RUTHIN TOWN COUNCIL**
held via Zoom video conferencing on Monday, 21 February 2022 at 7:00pm.

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

195. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Mayor welcomed all to the meeting. Congratulations were extended to Councillor Jabez Redfern Oakes on his recent marriage and to Councillor Ifan Wyn following the birth of his son. Town Council Members had been trialling hybrid meetings through sub-committees and were thanked for their participation and feedback. The testing and trialling of hybrid meetings would continue.

Apologies were received from Councillors Christine Ellis, Rachel Lewington, Jabez Redfern Oakes and Ifan Wyn.

196. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

197. PRESENTATION FROM DARREN MILLAR MS

The Mayor welcomed Darren Millar, Senedd Member for Clwyd West, to the meeting. He thanked the Mayor for the welcome. In his presentation Mr Millar commented on: aspects of the NHS; environmental proposals and possible road pricing on trunk roads; a tourism tax; and his support to the proposal for National Park Status for the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley. The Town Council was encouraged to engage with the various proposals and respond, as appropriate. Members were invited to ask questions to which Mr Millar responded.

RESOLVED: *to note the presentation.*

198. LEVELLING UP - UPDATE

Gareth Roberts, James Evans and Sandra Sharp of the Economic Development Team in Denbighshire County Council provided an overview and update on the Clwyd West constituency Levelling Up Fund bid. Members were reminded that Conwy County Borough Council was the lead authority for the Clwyd West bid, which would be worth up to £20m (with £10m for both Councils). Denbighshire County Council's Cabinet had agreed to support the projects within its boundary which included the St Peter's Square Public Realm and the Cae Ddol and green corridors projects. Members were advised that the final bid documentation

was being firmed up and project costs updated. Denbighshire and Conwy County Council Officers were working closely to ensure that the bid was ready for submission once the bid window opened; a date for this was awaited. Whilst the aim was to deliver the complete projects, it was highlighted that aspirational aspects may require reconsideration, due to cost creep, but would be discussed with the project leads, as appropriate. The Levelling Up fund was a competitive process, and funding was not guaranteed.

In discussion Ruthin Town Councillors emphasised that the Ruthin Public Realm and Cae Ddol projects were broad and holistic and drew upon long held local ambitions. It was possible that some smaller elements could be completed incrementally through other funding pots. Information provided by all stakeholders in support of the various projects in Ruthin was being considered and collated as part of the wider bid.

RESOLVED: *to note the presentation.*

199. 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 January 2022, was noted. Additionally the Mayor advised Town Councillors that the tree planting event, due to take place later in the week, had been postponed due to flooding.

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

200. MEMBERS' REPORTS

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

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

201. RUTHIN COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

The report of the Ruthin County Councillors as circulated with the agenda was noted. In addition Councillor Emrys Wynne commended Natural Resources Wales for being vigilant of the rising level of the River Clwyd and at Pont Howcyn following a weekend of heavy rain, and thanked Denbighshire County Council staff and local residents for clearing debris and fallen trees following the extreme winds.

RESOLVED: *to note the content of the Ruthin County Councillors report.*

202. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING

RESOLVED: *that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2022 be confirmed as a correct record subject to the following typographical correction:*

- Minute 181 – **Resolved** that the waiting restrictions on the A525 (**not A545**)

203. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 164 and 176 – Request for Donations: Urdd. A meeting (via Zoom) had been held between the Urdd and the Town Clerk; further information was awaited by the Urdd.

Minute 182 – Ruthin Flood Partnership Group: A further meeting of the Group had been held on 14 February 2022. Natural Resources Wales delivered a presentation on Community Flood Plans; Glasdir was the only one of the three flood areas in Ruthin with such a Plan. Volunteer Flood Wardens were needed in River Clwyd: Ruthin Town and Afon Clwyd: Lôn Fawr areas. It was confirmed that correspondence would be distributed in the flood areas to encourage registration to NRW's flood alert systems.

204. MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2022.

RESOLVED: to receive the minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 7 February 2022.

205. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2022.

RESOLVED: to receive the minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on 7 February 2022.

206. MINUTES OF THE OLD COURTHOUSE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2022. Additionally it was reported that the Old Courthouse:

- was now an approved premises for marriages and civil partnership ceremonies
- external hanging sign was in place above The Old Courthouse front door. It was anticipated that costs (sign and placement) would be covered the fingerpost scheme.

RESOLVED: to receive the minutes of The Old Courthouse Management Committee held on 1 February 2022.

207. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

The following notices of motion were put to the Town Council for debate:

Councillor Mike van der Eijk

‘That Ruthin Town Council, in support of the pledge by Denbighshire County Council, declares a climate and ecological emergency, pledging to work towards making Ruthin carbon neutral by 2030 at the latest. In pursuant to this, the Town Council be requested to establish a Climate and Ecological Emergency Task Group to work with the local community, which will regularly report back to Full Council via the Amenities Committee, in order to deliver a climate and emergency policy and action plan’.

RESOLVED: that the notice of motion as outlined above be agreed.

Councillor Ethan Jones

‘That Rhuthun Town Council staff to be granted an additional day’s paid leave for St David’s Day, for the year 2023 onwards’

RESOLVED: that the notice of motion as outlined above be agreed in principle subject to receipt of professional advice (legal and financial) and which would be considered by the Town Council in due course.

208. RUTHIN FUTURE

Information was shared with Town Councillors on the programme of wide ranging events in support of the current Ruthin Future exhibition which would run to 17 March 2022. Events scheduled included presentations and question and answer sessions, business and community group focused sessions, schools sessions, workshops with Co-Lab students and other activities such as a Photo Marathon and coffee morning.

RESOLVED: the programme of events in support of current Ruthin Future exhibition was noted.

209. RUTHIN TOWN CLOCK RESTORATION PROJECT – PROGRESS REPORT

The Town Council welcomed Fiona Gale and Rob Price from the Town Clock Restoration Working Group to deliver a progress report and presentation on the restoration project which was a project included within the wider Levelling Up application bid. The Working Group was

thanked for their commitment and hard work in progressing the project and for the comprehensive update.

RESOLVED: *the progress report and information delivered in the presentation were noted.*

210. HAVE YOUR SAY: THE DENBIGHSHIRE WE WANT 2022-27

The Town Council noted the current consultation from Denbighshire County Council seeking views on its Corporate Plan 2022-2027 would run to Friday, 11 March 2022. The Corporate Plan was focussed on the themes of: Housing, Economy, Young People, Connected Communities, Environment and Climate, Addressing Deprivation, and A well-run, high performing Council.

RESOLVED: *that the Document Scrutiny Committee be convened to consider a response to 'The Denbighshire We Want 2022-2027 on behalf of Ruthin Town Council.*

211. THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021: DRAFT STATUTORY GUIDANCE FOR COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS

The Town Council noted the consultation was seeking views on draft statutory guidance for community and town councils. The deadline for responses was 17 March 2022.

RESOLVED: *that the Document Scrutiny Committee be convened to consider a response to 'The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021: Draft Statutory Guidance for Community and Town Councils' on behalf of Ruthin Town Council.*

212. ELECTIONS FOR ALL SEATS ON THE CITY, TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS IN DENBIGHSHIRE - THURSDAY, 5 MAY 2022

The Local Government Elections timetable for the local elections being held on 5 May 2022 as outlined by Denbighshire County Council's Electoral Services had been circulated.

RESOLVED: *that the Local Government Elections timetable for elections being held on 5 May 2022 be noted.*

213. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Members received the financial statement for the period ending 31 January 2022.

RESOLVED: *to accept the financial statement of the period ending 31 January 2022.*

214. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

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| OB | Marian Rees | Translation services – January 2022 | * | £180.00 |
| OB | Hill & Roberts | Accountancy and Payroll Services – February 2022 | * | £240.00 |
| OB | Hill & Roberts | Completion of VAT return for quarter up to 31 December 2021 | * | £180.00 |
| OB | Kellelectrics | Rewiring at the Clock Tower | * | £846.00 |
| OB | Smith of Derby | Checking the clock following rewiring at the clock tower | * | £180.00 |
| OB | Blanchere | Return of products at the end of the hire term | * | £2,160.00 |
| OB | BT | Phone, broadband and internet provision (March 2021 – February 2022 excluding September 2021) | * | £745.25 |

215. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: *to confirm the date of the next ordinary meeting will be Monday, 21 March 2022. 2022 at 7pm.*