CYNGOR TREF RHUTHUN
RUTHIN TOWN COUNCIL

RUTHIN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
22 NOVEMBER 2021

ITEM 7

(DRAFT) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of **RUTHIN TOWN COUNCIL**
held via Zoom video conferencing on Monday, 18 October 2021 at 7:00pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Heather Williams (Mayor), Menna Jones (Deputy Mayor) Councillors Stephen Beach, Christine Ellis, Gavin Harris, Ken Hawkins, Ian Lewney, Robert Owen-Ellis, Anne Roberts, Mike van der Eijk, Ifan Wyn, Rachel Lewington, Ethan Jones and Jabez Oakes.
County Councillors Bobby Feeley, Huw Hilditch-Roberts and Emrys Wynne.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mair Davies (Friends of the Earth) – item 4 on the agenda only (minute 110)
Siân Clark – Ruthin Town Clerk
Kate Harcus – Deputy Town Clerk and Manager of The Old Courthouse
Marian Rees – Translator

Prior to the start of the meeting, a minute's silence was held in memory of Sir David Amess MP.

107. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES
Apologies: Cllr Jim Bryan

108. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
- Councillor Robert Owen-Ellis declared a personal interest in item 23 on the agenda (minute 129) as a former Captain and current Patron of Ruthin Rugby Club.
- Councillor Ifan Wyn declared a personal interest in item 3 on the agenda (minute 111).

109. ReSOURCE
On the request of Janine Cusworth, the Founder/Director of ReSource CIC Social Enterprise, this item was deferred and would be considered at a later date.

110. COP26: PRESENTATION FROM FRIENDS OF THE EARTH RUTHIN
On behalf of the Friends of the Earth Ruthin, Mair Davies provided an overview of planned activities to take place in and around the town to coincide with COP26. These would include:
- social enterprises and community group discussions around the environment and COP26 in St Peter's Church;
- information sessions at The Old Courthouse;
- involvement by schools to create posters for display locally;
- shop window displays to raise awareness of COP26 and environmental concerns;

- a tree planting event on 13 November 2021 at Llanfwrog.

Information on the various activities would be shared in local news publications, social media and by posters in and around the town.

Members noted the information shared and requested a copy of the poster, once finalised, in order to assist with publicising the range of activities taking place around COP26.

111. 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 September, was noted.

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

112. MEMBERS' REPORTS

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

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

113. RUTHIN COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

In addition to the report circulated with the agenda, Town Council members were advised of the following points:

County Councillor Huw Hilditch-Roberts reported that works would be undertaken by Denbighshire County Council at the back of the raised flowerbed area at the corner of Borthyn to mitigate any adverse issues to the neighbouring property. The area was currently owned by Denbighshire County Council. The work and commitment of past and current volunteers in tending to the flower beds was acknowledged and appreciated. The Town Council Members highlighted the need for any works to be undertaken in a sensitive way.

County Councillors Emrys Wynne and Bobby Feeley stated that the Denbighshire County Council's Scrutiny Committee had, through a Task and Finish Group, considered the future of Meifod Wood Products and recommended its reopening. The matter had yet to be considered by Cabinet.

RESOLVED: *to accept the Report of the Ruthin County Councillors.*

114. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING

Subject to the following amendment outlined in bold, the minutes were agreed:

- Minute 101 'It was stated that ***Ruthin Town Council*** was a business'.

RESOLVED*: that, subject to the amendment outlined above, the minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2021 be received and confirmed as a correct record.*

115. MATTERS ARISING

None

116. MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE

In addition to requesting that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2021 be considered, Cllr Menna Jones advised Members that the town's floral displays, which had provided a stunning and vibrant show over the summer months, had now been removed. Many visitors and residents had commented positively on the displays.

RESOLVED*: to receive the minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 4 October 2021.*

117. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2021.

***RESOLVED**: to receive the minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on 4 October 2021.*

118. MINUTES OF THE OLD COURTHOUSE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2021.

***RESOLVED**: to receive the minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2021.*

119. WAR MEMORIAL WORKING GROUP

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2021. A meeting would be held with John Pugh, the Conservation Architect with representatives of the Working Group the following day. Possible funding streams to support the financing of the works required on the War Memorial would be explored.

***RESOLVED**: to receive the minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2021*

120. RUTHIN FUTURE AND LEVELLING UP FUND – PROGRESS REPORT

Councillor Gavin Harris provided a verbal update to the Town Council. Whilst the timescale for providing costings and professional input into a potential bid for the Levelling Up Fund was tight, much in kind support and local expertise was being harnessed to guide the bid application. It was highlighted that a detailed study, undertaken by Glyndwr District Council in the 1990's, had identified similar aims and ambitions as had been captured within Ruthin Future. The consultation exhibition, which would engage with and seek the views of the community on Ruthin Futures' ambitions, would be held in The Old Courthouse from 23 October.

***RESOLVED**: the verbal update was noted.*

121. PROPOSED RUTHIN VELODROME

Members were provided a verbal update by Councillor Gavin Harris. A business case on the North Wales Velodrome had been submitted to Sports Wales seeking in principle agreement for funding. Following consideration of the business case by Sports Wales and subject to the confirmation of funding, the next stage would be the detailed design process which would lead to public consultation. It was explained that regulatory approval would be required prior to receipt of the funding meaning that the initial outlay for the detailed design process would need to be indemnified and be refunded on confirmation of required approvals. A formal report would be submitted for consideration by the Town Council about any indemnity proposal in due course.

In discussion by Members it was requested that the Governors of Brynhyfryd School and local residents be kept informed of progress. Councillor Harris stated that the current focus was on securing funding, and if achieved, a more detailed design process would lead to wider public engagement and consultation.

Additionally, confirmation was sought on whether or not the business case had been refused. In response, Councillor Harris stated that he had no knowledge of any refusal and that information from Sports Wales was awaited on the business case; he was in regular contact with Sport Wales. County Councillor Bobby Feeley also confirmed that she had not received any indication as to whether or not the business case had been accepted or refused by Sport Wales but would advise the Town Council should she be in receipt of any news.

***RESOLVED**: the verbal update was noted.*

122. MANAGING FLOOD RISK IN RUTHIN

The Natural Resources Wales' newsletter, as circulated with the agenda, was noted. Members commented that the works on the Cae Ddol embankment had not yet commenced and requested that NRW be contacted to confirm the definitive start date. Following the recent agreement of the Town Council to support the establishment of a community-led Flood Partnership, initial actions would be undertaken to progress the formation of the Partnership.

***RESOLVED**: (i) to receive the NRW newsletter on Managing Flood Risk in Ruthin; and*
(ii) to seek confirmation of the start date for the embankment works in Cae Ddol.

123. 2023 PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW – INITIAL PROPOSALS

Members considered the Draft Proposals of the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission. General concerns were raised about the proposal to reduce the number of Members of Parliament in Wales as well as the proposal to include Ruthin within the constituency of Delyn. Specific points and views raised by Members in respect of the proposals included:

- The reduction in the number of MPs in Wales would be detrimental to the nation, and specific constituency proposals could have damaging consequences for Ruthin, Denbighshire and North Wales.
- The Delyn constituency, in which Ruthin had been earmarked, side-lined the town from its neighbouring and natural communities. Additionally Delyn had a different economic and language profile to Ruthin.
- Whilst acknowledging the numerical basis upon which, in part, the constituencies had been proposed, there were however inherent issues within rural areas which required additional consideration, awareness and sensitivity. Geographical areas for proposed constituencies were increasing and concerns expressed that the voice of residents could be diminished whilst increasing the workload of and expectations placed on MPs. The view was expressed that more consideration needed to be given to the constituency numbers in rural areas.

Members agreed that the Town Council submitted comments on the 2023 Parliamentary Review Draft Proposals expressing its disagreement with the proposed changes. The Mayor and Town Clerk were tasked with drafting a response which would be circulated to Town Council Members, by email, for observations and agreement.

***RESOLVED**:*

(i) to submit comments on the 2023 Parliamentary Review Draft Proposals expressing the Town Council's significant concerns with the proposed changes.
(ii) The Mayor and Town Clerk were tasked with drafting a response which would be circulated to Town Council Members, by email, for observations and agreement.

124. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Members were advised of arrangements in place for Remembrance Sunday which would be on Sunday, 14 November 2021.

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

125. RHUTHUN TOWN COUNCIL DONATION TO THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Members considered the donation to the Royal British Legion towards the poppy wreaths at the Remembrance Sunday Service. It was proposed and agreed that the donation in 2021 be raised from £50 to £100.

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

126. FREE PARKING DAYS

Consideration was given by the Town Councillors to determining the five free parking days in Ruthin for 2021. Confirmation was given that the parking days were for the 2021 calendar year. The following days were proposed and agreed:

- Saturday 27 November 2021
- Saturday 4,11 and 18 December 2021
- Friday 3 December 2021

RESOLVED*: that the free parking days be confirmed as: 27 November, 3, 4, 11 and 18 December 2021.*

127. CHRISTMAS TREE AND LIGHTS

The Town Clerk informed Members that confirmation of the offer by Clogau to sponsor the Christmas Tree and its lights had been received. Members welcomed the confirmation of the sponsorship subject to the sponsorship requirements by Clogau (including any visual concepts) being in line with the Town Council's vision and approach.

RESOLVED*: that the Town Clerk further progress the sponsorship details of the Christmas Tree and lights with Clogau.*

128. REQUEST FROM DARREN MILLAR MS TO ADDRESS RHUTHUN TOWN COUNCIL

Members considered a request from Darren Millar MS to address a future meeting of Rhuthun Town Council. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Town Council invite all appropriate Westminster and Senedd representatives to address the Town Council.

RESOLVED:

(i) to accept Darren Millar MS's request to address a future meeting of Ruthin Town Council and;

(ii) to write to all appropriate Westminster and Senedd representatives inviting them to address the Town Council.

129. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: CLWB RYGBI RHUTHUN RUGBY CLUB

Consideration was given by Members to a request from Rhuthun Rugby Club for financial assistance of £1,500 for rugby balls.

It was proposed and agreed that financial assistance be given to Rhuthun Rugby Club for the amount requested but that it be provided as sponsorship from the Town Council, with appropriate acknowledgement.

RESOLVED: *that Clwb Rygbi Rhuthun Rugby Club receive financial assistance of £1,500 on the basis of sponsorship from the Town Council, with appropriate acknowledgement.*

130. RENEWAL OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION TO NORTH AND MID WALES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

RESOLVED: *to renew the annual subscription to the North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils at cost of £65.*

131. FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND VAT UPDATE

Members received the financial statement for the period ending 30 September 2021 and were advised of the arrangements in place for claiming back Value Added Tax.

RESOLVED: *to accept the financial statement of the period ending 30 September 2021 and*

noted the arrangements in place for claiming back Value Added Tax.

132. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

From Ruthin Town Council's current account:

OB	J & C Brimble	Watering RTC Planters between 08/09/2021 and 29/09/2021		£614.10
OB	Arial Electrics Limited	Electrical maintenance work on the Spire floodlighting at St Peter's Church	*	£147.26
OB	Canada Copying	Rental of copier 1/10/2021 – 31/12/2021	*	£41.90
		Copying charges 30/06/2021 – 30/09/2021		£30.79
OB	Marian Rees	Translation Service in meetings held on 13 and 27 of September; and Translation of minutes for meetings held on 13 and 27 of September	*	£424.75
OB	Hill & Roberts	Accountancy and Payroll Services for October 2021	*	£240.00
OB	Ruthin Town Football Club	Pitchside sponsorship board 2021/22		£250.00
OB	Llanfwrog CIC	Grass cutting Services for October 2021		

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

From Ruthin Town Council Old Courthouse account:

OB	Scottish Power	Electricity charges for period 17/06/2021 to 17/09/2021	*	£224.57
OB	Total Energies	Gas charges for the period 05/08/2019 – 06/09/2021	*	£3,826.52

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

133. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

***RESOLVED**: to confirm the date of the next ordinary meeting will be Monday, 22 November 2021 at 7pm.*