CYNGOR TREF RHUTHUN
RUTHIN TOWN COUNCIL

RUTHIN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
22 NOVEMBER 2021

ITEM 9

Minutes of the meeting of the **Amenities Committee** held
on Monday, 8 November 2021 at 7:30pm via Zoom.

PRESENT: Councillors Menna Jones (Chair), Anne Roberts, Stephen Beach, Jim Bryan, Rachel Lewington, Heather Williams, Christine Ellis, Gavin Harris and Mike van der Eijk

62. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
None

63. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Cllr Rachel Lewington declared a pecuniary interest in item 7 (minute 68) as a local business owner.

64. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
RESOLVED*: that the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 4 October 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.*

65. MATTERS ARISING
Minute 56. Tremendous Tree Planting Project: The tree planting in Llanfwrog had been rescheduled from 13 November to 27 November due to a delay in delivery.
Minute 57. Fingerposts: Feedback received was positive. A request had been made by a resident for the reconsideration of the fingerpost on Castle Street; this may be possible in due course.
Minute 58. Litter Awareness: Local primary school pupils had been busy creating posters for the litter awareness campaign – these would be displayed in the TOC and other locations in due course.
Minute 59. Parking in Haulfryn: This remained an issue and needed to be appropriately addressed for the sake of residents and emergency vehicles.

66. LEVELLING UP FUND – UPDATE
Members received an update on activities relating to Ruthin Future and the Levelling Up Fund bid which was being progressed by the Ruthin Future Working Group. A notional budget of £3m had been indicated as public realm improvements for St Peter's Square and surrounding streets, a project which had the support of local County Councillors. Councillor Gavin Harris and the Town Clerk had met with local companies who had provided in-kind professional input, specifically to assist with phasing and indicative costings. Such input contributed to ensuring the any funding bid demonstrated a viable town centre proposal, which also built upon previous reports and surveys undertaken in the 1970s and 1990s. Following a design and development phase, a full public consultation would be undertaken at the appropriate stage. Cae Ddol improvements and connecting areas would also form the basis of the application to the Levelling Up Fund. The application would focus on the heritage of Ruthin and seek to ensure connectivity between a vibrant town centre and its important historical core.

The Ruthin Future exhibition, due to be held at The Old Courthouse, would inform the public of options being considered and seek their views and comments.

The work undertaken by Cllr Gavin Harris to inform the Levelling Up Fund application was appreciated by the Members.

***RESOLVED**: to note the update on activities in relation to the Levelling Up Fund application and to fully support the proposals for public realm improvements for St Peter's Square and surrounding streets, together with improvements for Cae Ddol and connecting areas.*

67. WOODLAND CREATION PROJECT CONSULTATION

Consideration was given to Denbighshire County Council's public survey which sought views on the creation of four woodland sites in Denbighshire, which included Llanrhydd Street and Cae Ddol in Ruthin. Members commented that the proposed project in Llanrhydd Street could be more ambitious and reflect the history of the area which included the former workhouse site (the original gates of the workhouse were believed to have remained on site). Zones could be created to echo the cross and courtyards and form outside classrooms. It was essential that any proposals for Cae Ddol did not undermine any potential flood mitigation scheme; it was understood that Natural Resources Wales had been consulted and that the proposed woodland was sited at least 8 meters from the river. Councillors noted the short timeframe of the consultation period and expressed the view that engagement on such proposals needed to be undertaken appropriately.

It was commented that the Cae Ddol pond was increasingly becoming an eyesore and it was proposed that concerns about the pond be expressed to the Countryside Officer.
***RESOLVED**: that the comments be communicated as part of the consultation process and that a letter be sent to the Countryside Officer expressing concerns about the state of the pond in Cae Ddol.*

68. ROAD MAINTENANCE IN RUTHIN

Cllr Heather Williams reported that following the circulation of road closure notification for Clwyd Street, Denbighshire County Council had been made aware of events planned in the town for the end of November and early December. The proposed Clwyd Street road works had now been scheduled for January 2022. Remedial road works were to be carried out in St Peter's Square on an evening during the forthcoming week, which was welcomed. Denbighshire County Council was now providing a monthly schedule of works, however it was apparent that the current schedule had not included all potential activity e.g Castle Street. It was additionally highlighted that road closure signage for Market Street had been sited within the town – clarification of these works were currently being sought. The resurfacing of Lon Fawr by the Trunk Road Agency would divert traffic along Corwen Road, Castle Street and Market Street. Concerns were raised about this diversion given that the Hearshop's facia had recently been damaged.

Members were advised that Cllr Heather Williams was seeking clarification on specific road closures and diversions from Denbighshire County Council Members and Officers.
***RESOLVED:** to note the proposed road maintenance activity in Ruthin and to note that clarification from Denbighshire County Council on specific queries was awaited.*

69. CUNNING GREEN CLOSURE

Members noted that a section of the wall along Cunning Green had collapsed very close to the former location of a public bench. The area had been cordoned off by Denbighshire County Council and the pathway closed. It was understood that the liability lay with the landowner. Concerns were expressed as to the current condition of the wall and it was agreed, as had been discussed by the Planning and Development Committee, that contact be made with the County Council to request that a full survey and risk assessment was carried out of the Cunning Green boundary wall and a report issued. It was noted that CADW had been informed of the situation.

RESOLVED: *to contact Denbighshire County Council to request that at full survey and risk assessment was carried out of the cunning Green boundary wall and report issued.*

70. APPLICATION FOR FUNDING TO IMPROVE OPEN SPACES AND PLAY AREAS IN DENBIGHSHIRE

Members noted that a commuted sum of £71,765 was available to Ruthin for the enhancement of open spaces and play areas. Local residents had been made aware the potential funding and had been encouraged to consider applying. It was considered appropriate that Cae Ddol improvements focus on seeking funding through the wider Levelling Up Fund. The Town Council would support local groups and/or residents with applications, as appropriate.
RESOLVED: *to note the availability of a commuted sum of £71,765 for Ruthin and to support local groups and/or residents with applications, as appropriate.*

71. TIDY TOWN

Consideration was given to the planning of Tidy Town activities from Spring 2022.
RESOLVED: *to plan Tidy Town activities from spring 2022.*

72. CHRISTMAS TREE AND LIGHTS

Members considered the quotes received from businesses to supply the Christmas Tree and install and remove the Christmas Tree lights for 2021. The quotes had been circulated to the Committee Members prior to the meeting.

A price was received from Dr. Peter Spencer, Cambrian Woodland Services in the sum of £525.00 for a 25 foot Christmas tree on St Peter's Square. Two other companies who had been contacted for a quote had not responded.

Three companies had been approached for quotes for the installation and removal of the lights on the Christmas Tree. All three had responded; one was not in a position to quote this year. Members were requested to consider the following quotations for the installation and removal of the lights on the Christmas Tree:

- Kellectrics: £1400.00 ex VAT
- KMT Electrical: £ 965.00 + VAT

RESOLVED*:*
(i) to accept the price for provision, taking down and disposing of Christmas trees from Cambrian Woodland Services; and
(ii) to accept the price for the installation and removal of the lights on the Christmas Tree from KMT Electrical.

73. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED*: that the date of the next meeting will be Monday 6 December 2021 at 7:30pm.*