

**Minutes of a meeting of Denbigh Town Council held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 6.30pm at the Town Hall, Denbigh.**

**Present:** Councillors Roy Tickle (Chairman), Catherine Jones (Deputy Chairman), Colin L Hughes, Gwawr Cordiner, Rob Parkes, Lara Pritchard, Marilyn Jones, Alyn Ashworth, Glenn Swingler, Gaynor Morgan Rees, Gaynor Wood-Tickle, Rhys Thomas, Dyfrig Berry & Guto Lloyd-Davies; and Jenny Barlow (Town Clerk).

(Cllr Colin Hughes arrived at 6.35pm & Cllr Catherine Jones arrived at 6.50pm)

**Apologies:** Cllr Philip Stevens

The chairman welcomed all the town councillors to the September full council meeting.

**79. Neil Stringfellow & Glenn Brumby - NWP.**

Neil advised that a full report had been received regarding issues in Denbigh at the July meeting. A few changes had occurred since then, operation Palemo. This involves drug supply & violent crime. More foot patrols are in operation and recently 2 search warrants have been issued which resulted in arrests. Since 2014, 32 search warrants have been issued in Denbigh & St Asaph areas with 80 – 90% positive outcomes. The aims are to cause as much disruption to the perpetrators and this is working well. The trend is to befriend vulnerable adults and this is county wide. They identify areas currently untouched and exploit their victim – cocooning.

Cllr Colin Hughes arrived.

Cllr Gwawr Cordiner asked what is in place to monitor the cocooning? Is there intervention in place as the issue is happening on the High Street?

Neil – A lot of information is passed to the Police from the general public. Low level drug users are concerned therefore they pass on information either directly or via crime stoppers. Intelligence is monitored daily, it's a continued process to include stop & check warrants.

There is a proactive team in St Asaph which supports local officers. Collaboration work is also ongoing between NWP and other organisations to include Housing associations, housing schemes and Social Services. These multiagency visits pool valuable resources. It can be educational rather than enforcement to assist with the victims who are cocooned.

Cllr Gwawr Cordiner – This is very positive, thank you. One of the problems at Denbigh relates to younger people, what is in place in looking after our youths?

Neil – These are low level dealers dealing with children directly. Some suppliers are brazen and keep on supplying. NWP liaise with the schools on this issue.

Neil – PCSO Matt Williams has been working closely with schools in improving parking, obstructions and speeding issues. Details have also been circulated on Facebook. There have been improvements, again education is key.

Cllr Glenn Swingler – it is very difficult dealing with dealers and criminals as they change all the time. It is very important to make sure that everyone involved is aware of what is going on and sharing the intelligence.

Cllr Roy Tickle – Regarding the murder investigation. Incorrect details were published in the press. Specific questions regarding the case cannot be discussed this evening.

Cllr Gwawr Cordiner – will there be an officer in attendance at the next Denbigh Safety Group?

Neil – yes.

Cllr Colin Hughes – apologised for being late and asked if there was a specific time that the suppliers come into town?

Neil – no specific time.

Cllr Glenn Swingler – the success rate seems very good and I am fully supportive. What can Denbigh Town Council & Denbighshire County Council do to improve the situation?

Neil – Making residents aware of how to inform and feedback as well as manage expectations.  
Cllr Glenn Swingler – There is good liaison between partners. This has worked well in the past.  
Neil - An individual was released from prison and as there was a robust process in place managed to protect residents as they were not allowed into certain locations in town. This caused minimum impact.

Cllr Catherine Jones arrived.

Cllr Glenn Swingler – Crime figures went down last year. is drug crime increasing or remaining the same? Or is it perception?

Neil – it has increased. This is possibly due to more crimes being reported. There are more violent crimes with people going out wearing stab vests. This is concerning. It used to be alcohol crime but not anymore.

Cllr Rhys Thomas – When looking at the website for the wards in Denbigh it shows for July:

Upper Denbigh & Henllan 42

Middle 39

Lower 18

Also nil for all on drugs.

Has the data been updated?

Glen Brumby – All data will have been registered. Drug offences are showing as nil as none were reported.

Cllr Gaynor Wood-Tickle – There is good community work with the partners and liaison with senior school. Are teachers trained to look for signs of drug use?

Glen Brumby – Guidance is given to teachers.

Cllr Rob Parkes – The Headteacher from Ysgol Frongoch Mr Dylan Thomas is grateful to the police for the parking improvements.

3 people entered the chamber to sit in the public area at 7.10pm.

Cllr Rob Parkes – there are men sleeping in a doorway on top of town as well as drinking alcohol on the bench at Crown Square.

Neil – A search warrant has been previously issued on the owner of the shop on top of town. They are using low level drugs. A caution was received. The police have spoken with the landlord with issues of loitering & intimidation however there are no grounds to stop and search. They need to be in possession of specifics, Can't arrest for no actual offence. It is difficult to resolve.

Cllr Glenn Swingler – there are lots of intelligence which makes the police' job much easier.

Cllr Rob Parkes – Had a lot of respect for Chris Davies – Community Beat Manager. There is no longer a CBO at Denbigh, however there is one at Rhyl.

Neil – There is a neighbourhood policing team at St Asaph which is best suited for the locality. They liaise with all in the group. Tasking via a sergeant is modern policing.

Cllr Alyn Ashworth – enquired if any complaints had been received following the road closure for yesterday's event.

Neil – none had been received.

Cllr Glenn Swingler - enquired on the amount of PCSO's currently available. Have numbers been reduced?

Glen Brumby – some PCSO's have gone on to become PC's. NWP are currently recruiting. There is currently 88% in roles.

Cllr Roy Tickle – has the upmost respect for the work done by NWP and thanked both Neil & Glen for attending the meeting and giving the update.

Cllr Gwawr Cordiner suggested to the chairman that item 18 be brought forward so that Neil & Glen could leave following the update.

Cllr Glen Swingler also asked the chairman if item 19 could be brought forward as 3 members of the public had come to listen to the update.

The chairman Cllr, Roy Tickle approved this.

## **80. Dr Evan Pierce Garden – update on graffiti & long term management.**

The town clerk updated the councillors on the current events affecting the gardens. NWP had been in touch and advised that there was no one charged for the crime and due to insufficient evidence the crime was not going to be perused any further. The graffiti has been removed at a cost of £330. The town clerk also advised that a grant was going to be sourced in the near future to update the gardens to its former glory similar to what took place over 10 years ago. There are several major issues that need addressing such as the large water leak to the fountains, cleaning of the actual monument, upgrade the chippings etc.

One of the ladies who came in at 7.10pm stood up (no name given) and advised that she was from the Welsh Historic Society. Permission was given by the chairman for the lady to speak. She was not happy that a grant from them was not been sought after by the town council in conjunction with Denbigh in Bloom. The grant would be used to enhance planting in the garden.

The town clerk advised that the current time was not right for the grant as it was for £500 and as there was so much work that needed doing, it would need to be looked at as a whole and not one small location.

Lyndsey Tasker from the Denbigh in Bloom group had been in touch with the town clerk to advise that the group were interested in managing and maintaining a small patch with planted flowers. However by the meeting this had been changed to planting as a one off and not maintain.

The town clerk advise that this was not manageable as there would be implications that would need to be looked into such as insurance cover and actually managing the location.

With this in mind the councillors agreed that the application would be sought by Cllr Gwawr Cordiner and Glenn Swingler with the town clerk looking into the insurance aspect for the application. The application would need to be completed and given for approval at the next Environment and Finance meeting. The town clerk requested the details to be received by the 6<sup>th</sup> October enabling the details to be circulated with the agenda. Lyndsey Tasker was also requested to produce an action plan from the Denbigh in Bloom group confirming their actual works for the garden.

Cllr Colin Hughes thanks the ladies for attending and advise that it was a good move to improve the garden.

Cllr Alyn Ashworth requested designs to support the grant from the Denbigh in Bloom group and figures from the Town Clerk.

## **81. CCTV – grants and upgrading.**

The town clerk advised that she had been liaising with NPW regarding the possibility of a grant of £2,500. An application was being completed with the support of a PCSO for the Town Council. A Quote had been received from ADT and a tiered works plan had been created. The initial stage would be upgrading one of the current cameras. Stage 2 would be to look into having the cameras feed directly to NWP at Chester, with further stages in the future. The town clerk advised that she had a meeting this coming Thursday with a representative from DCC to discuss joining the already formed CCTV partnership. NWP had also requested that the current cameras be made static, this would improve images and increase the possibility of a conviction. To make the cameras static would cost £120, the councillors agreed for this work to be carried out.

Cllr Rhys Thomas asked if the photos displayed from the cameras were Ok, the town clerk confirmed that they were.

Cllr Roy Tickle enquired about the actual cameras. The town clerk confirmed that the one currently needing to be replaced, the one on the Vaults.

Cllr Gwawr Cordiner asked if match funding was required? No match funding is required however money would need to be invested for the different stages of the project which the councillors were happy with.

Neil Stringfellow Glenn Brumby left the meeting at 7.25pm.

## **82. Urgent Matters: None**

**83. Declaration of Personal Interest:** None

**84. The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017 were agreed and Noted following Cllr Glenn Swingler amending pg 16 item 65.** This would have resulted in an influx of additional applications and the management would prove very costly. – This was stated by officers and not Cllr Glenn Swingler.

**85. Matters arising – None**

**86. Mayor's Report:** A copy of the Mayors appointments were circulated and noted. Cllr Roy Tickle advised that the centenary celebrations were fantastic. The Beer festival was also great as was the open doors event.  
Cllr Rhys Thomas thanks all who worked so very hard over the weekend.

**87. Letters, E-mails and Notices:** It was agreed that the following items of correspondence to be noted and actioned accordingly:

- a) Email received from James Parson DCC – Multi-storey Car Park. The town councillors were pleased that improvements were being made. Cllr Colin Hughes advised that there are signs at the multistore carpark advising of no dogs. The town clerk will contact DCC regarding this.
- b) Denbigh museum – update received regarding the HLF grant application.
- c) Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – confirmation received regarding financial payments made to councillors 2016/2017.
- d) Consultation – Active Travel, Cllr Guto Lloyd-Davies advised that he had attended a site meeting with Ben Wilcox-Jones, Cllrs Rhyl Thomas and Glenn Swingler. There are various options available for the cycle track. Trefnant – Denbigh & Henllan – Denbigh. The highway team at DCC are also looking into the options available. Guto advised that it would be advantageous for Ben to attend a meeting to give an update. The town clerk will make arrangements for Ben to attend the October meeting.
- e) Email received from Cllr Mark Young regarding the play Area at the Rear of Denbigh High School.
- f) Email – Consultation on Local Development Plan Review Report.
- g) Electoral Reform in Local Government in Wales – circulated 27.07.17 – feedback requested by 10<sup>th</sup> October.
- h) Email from Cllr Mark Young – Walking Bus in our School. This was fully supported by the Town Councillors. Cllr Rhys Thomas advised that as school governors that they should highlight this with their designated school.
- i) Denbigh Post office update.
- j) Notification received from DCC – call for Potential Gypsy and Traveller Site.
- k) Keepafe Cymru card introduced.
- l) Letter received from A Parry regarding Dogs using Middle Park. Cllr Rhys Thomas confirmed that the enforcement started in April with DCC providing signage in September. Kindgom will be monitoring on behalf of the county council. The town clerk was requested to contact Mrs Parry with confirmation of the details discussed.
- m) Letter of thanks – Civic Society.

**88. Planning: None received.**

**89. Council Committee Minutes.**

- (1) Environment and Finance Committee – 17.07.17 were noted

(2) Planning Committee – 18.07.17 were noted.

The town clerk asked why a copy of these needed to be noted and not agreed at the next Finance and planning meeting. The councillors agreed that a copy would no longer be required for the full council meeting, however a copy of each needs to be circulated with the agendas for the respective meeting.

**90. Minutes / Reports of council sub committees.**

(1) Town Hall Management meeting. Cllr Roy Tickle confirmed that a meeting had recently taken place. No issues highlighted.

**91. Minutes /Reports of other groups:**

(1) Denbigh Town Guide – Working Group – A meeting took place recently and the guide will be postponed for publication until the New Year. This was agreed by the councillors.

(2) Cllr Roy Rickle & Cllr Rhys Thomas recently attended a site visit at the Middle Lane project. CADW were in attendance, it has now been passed that the whole building will be demolished. Works will take a lot of time and there will be a huge impact to residents by Ysgol Frongoch.

**92. Reports by County Councillors on Matters Appertaining only to Denbigh:**

**a) Cllr Glenn Swingler - None**

**b) Cllr Rhys Thomas –** a) Ramps by the new shops, Liberty properties saving money by not building a ramp. There will be no ramp access from Rhyl Road. A site visit was made and there is not enough land available. DCC says that a ramp should be available. After the next scheduled meeting there may be additional information provided.

b) There was a 2 day hearing at the Museum last week to discuss the Cae Topyn development. Objections were heard from local residents with a good inspectors report received. The inspector's report will be available in November.

**93. Accounts:**

**(1) Payments -None**

**(2) Any other financial matters –** The town clerk confirmed that everything had been sent to the external auditors, closing date was 24.07.17.

**94. Attendance at other meetings and protocol for accepting invitations.**

The town clerk advised that if Town Councillors are invited to external meeting of allocated groups that it is their responsibility to confirm acceptance or send an apology. There have been several meeting recently whereby no attendance was recorded or an apology.

The town clerk also advised that if a Councillor was representing the town council as an invited guest, then the town clerk should be notified. This is to ensure that the town councils insurance policy covers the councillors for the visit and to ensure that the correct attendee attends, there may be times when more than one councillor needs to attend.

**95. Attendance record update.** – a copy of the up to date attendance record was circulated.

**96. Working group – Town Council IT.** A working group was created to look at the IT requirements of the Council. Members are – Cllrs Dyfrig Berry, Alyn Ashworth, Gwawr Cordiner, Guto Lloyd-Davies & Colin Hughes.

**97. Representatives:**

**a) Governor at Ysgol Frongoch (deferred from July meeting)** – it was agreed that Cllr Rhys Thomas be nominated.

**b) Governor at Ysgol Pendref** – Cllr Glenn Swingler to feedback to the Council as to his position as governor.

**c) Governor at Brondyffryn School** – it was agreed that Cllr Roy Tickle be the representative.

**98. Denbigh Town Council website** – to include Denbigh Archive. This was added to item 91.

**99. Councillors - Pin Badges.** A councillor pin badge was given by the Chairman to the newly elected town councillors. Cllr Marilyn Jones advise that she had not received one when she became Cllr. The town clerk requested that Cllr Marilyn Jones call in at the office to receive a badge.

**100. Angel monument – railings.** The town clerk advised that there were 2 spindles missing from the railings and the work would be need to be completed prior to remembrance Sunday. The town clerk is to contact local craftsmen to request quotes for the works.

The chairman closed the meeting at 9.17 pm.

Signed:.....(chairman)

Date:.....