

Minutes of a meeting of Denbigh Town Council held on Monday 23rd April 2018 at 6.30pm at the Town Hall, Denbigh.

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

Apologies: Cllr Gwawr Cordiner. (Cllr Lara Pritchard advised that she would be late attending the meeting.)

Observing: Mr S Cheshire & Mrs C Cheshire.

The chairman welcomed all to the April full council meeting and as a mark of respect for the fatalities in town during the last week requested a minute's silence.

206. Dafydd Evans – Chief Executive Grwp Llandrillo Menai.

Mr Lawrence Wood attended the Council meeting with Mr Dafydd Evans.

Mr Dafydd Evans and Mr Lawrence Wood gave a presentation regarding the decision on the closure of Coleg Llandrillo Denbigh. Data including income and student figures were given. The college was not performing and something had to be done to reduce costs. Class size ratio were below the required amount to be sustainable. Closing Denbigh will save £400,000.

A map of Denbigh students was shown. Denbigh students amounted to 43 out of the 90 full time equivalent. Many came from Rhyl.

The error in communication was addresses, Coleg Llandrillo had a duty of care to its staff. There was no option for consultation. Staff have been offered redeployment and voluntary redundancy. All the students will finish this year and have been given taster sessions regarding the transition to another site to complete their studies. There has been an internal fund created to assist students with transport costs and childcare costs. There are no barriers or conditions attached to this fund. There are discussions currently regarding the building with Grwp Cynefin, Cartrefi Conwy as well as a private individual who has expressed an interest. They are working with their stakeholders to find the best option for the building. A school link will be delivered and further adult retraining will be available at the HWB.

Cllr Roy Tickle thanked both Mr Dafydd Evans and Mr Lawrence Wood for the details received.

Question and Answer session.

Q – Cllr Alyn Ashworth. Shame there was no consultation. The board has a totally different view on this, blue sky thinking.

A – Dafydd Evans. Blue sky re building.

Q – Cllr Glenn Swingler. The HWB is still going to be used by the College. It was originally taken on with a 10 year lease, how many left? I appreciate there is support re transport for ongoing and new students – how long will this last for?

A – Dafydd Evans. There is 7 years left on the HWB lease. Also the financial support for students in the transition fund will be available for at least 3 years.

Q – Cllr Gaynor Wood-Tickle. Since 2012 the courses have not changes, became stagnant. It's a shame that the staff have not been given the opportunity to make changes. They have put their heart & sole into their work, it's a crying shame. Statistics and data do change. The town, college, staff and pupils have all been let down. There was representation recently at the open evening

event for 6th form pupils. This is having a he effect on the whole of Denbigh. The Eisteddfod that was held last Friday was fantastic, shame there was no senior representative at the event. Cllr Rhys Thomas. Cllr Thomas thanked both Dafydd & Lawrence for attending. Cllr Thomas advised that he has attended several meetings as County Councillor regarding the closure of the college. With this in mind he requested that the other town councillors be given the opportunity to ask their questions first and come back to him at the end.

Q – Cllr Gaynor Morgan Rees. No questions thank you.

Q – Cllr Dyfrig Berry. Cllr Berry has also spoken to many students. Some feel very unhappy and are suffering from anxiety. This is making it difficult for them to attend other sites. They feel let down.

A – Lawrence Wood. There were issues with some students but these have all been addressed. If you know of an individual that required assistance to let him know.

Cllr Berry will contact the individual.

Cllr Glenn Swinger. Requested that the other town councillors be given the opportunity to ask their questions first and come back to him later.

Q – Cllr Guto Lloyd-Davies. Thanked both for attending. Very disappointed with the consultation process, or lack of it. The Town Councillors and students should have been given the opportunity to discuss prior to the decision being made.

A – Lawrence Wood. They acknowledge that lessons have been learned following the announcement.

Q – Cllr Marilyn Jones. Thank you for the comprehensive update. It is very sad that cuts have to be made, the college here in Denbigh has been superb.

A – Dafydd Evans. The board accepts that it affects the community and has no pleasure in making the difficult decision.

Q – Cllr Marilyn Jones. Coleg Llandrillo were thinking power?

A – Dafydd Evans. No.

Q - Cllr Philip Stevens. We are a small college in a rural location. Small population. Only saving £400,000 but the college needs to save over 2 million to be sustainable. Could they not get in touch with Kirsty Williams, Assembly member for additional funding?

A – Dafydd Evans. No not contacting Kirsty Williams. The college received a block grant for post 16 education.

Q – Cllr Philip Stevens. Is there not a duty to provide education? Where are the students going to go? Have the college publicised all of this? What is their marketing strategy? What is the Welsh assembly doing about the closure? Andrew Lloyd Webber has a foundation for arts. Can the college not put a case forward?

A – Dafydd Evans. Denbigh is a small site with the highest cost per unit. Money received is not sufficient to maintain the service. Can't go back to the assembly. Denbigh is not a special case. All centres are equally important. No mechanism for autonomous college. Individual sites will not be looked at. We have to manage the outlets that they already have.

Q – Cllr Colin L Hughes. Thank you. It's not all about money, it's about people. Consideration should be given for things that cannot be quantified. Factor these in. Is there any hope that the decision can be looked at again in 6 months' time?

A – Dafydd Evans. No. Currently working on managing the staff moves and student relocation. Need to manage the situation re planning. Keep vacancies at other sites for the Denbigh staff.

Q – Cllr Rob Parkes. Consideration should have been given to the figures before. Try to increase courses available to maximise class size thus avoiding closure.

A – Dafydd Evans. Finances have changed in the last 2 years.

Q – Cllr Rob Parkes. In the last 2 years the courses have been run down and moved to other locations.

A – Dafydd Evans. Greatest number of students was 110 and is now 90.

Q – Cllr Rob Parkes. One course moved to Abergele.

A – Dafydd Evans. Yes the access course did move but it was not deliberate.

Q – Cllr Rob Parkes. Closure saves £400,000. Could they not have taken small chunks from different locations and not close any? This is changing people's lives. Availability being taken away from them for little savings are being targeted.

A – Dafydd Evans. The Denbigh centre has high costs per unit. Need to make savings. There are other provisions available within a 10 miles. Denbigh is rural but Pwllheli covers a larger catchment and does not have alternative provision close by.

Cllr Rob Parkes. Thank you. My son attended Denbigh College and it was fantastic.

Q – Cllr Catherine Jones. Thank you. This is crippling Denbigh. You have taken their voice away. It is a small college for the community. Some students cannot catch a bus and have anxiety with noise issues.

A – Lawrence Wood. We are looking into part time courses, disability needs with having a different provision working with individuals, it is important to give individual support.

Q – Cllr Catherine Jones. As a community schools were not informed. Many students found out on social media.

A – Dafydd Evans. This happened as teachers were informed first. We were naive. Social media overtook the publicity/communication. This was a lesson learned by us.

Cllr Catherine Jones. Housing is increasing in Denbigh but the education provision is reducing.

Q – Cllr Roy Tickle. I agree with everything that has been said. There was no consultation but having spoken with the staff it would have been beneficial.

A – Dafydd Evans. Opportunities given to all students to attend other locations. Need to give opportunity to all.

Cllr Roy Tickle. Yes we have been given the statistics but no consultation. Terrible.

Q – Cllr Rhys Thomas. I agree with so many things discussed this evening. Consideration needs to be given for special needs as they may not take up alternative offers. On the map presented earlier, why did 50 come from outside Denbigh?

A – Lawrence Wood. Popular course. The music technology is popular and Rhyl students wanted to access this provision at a smaller location.

A – Dafydd Evans. Main campus is getting centralised investment. It's all about scale and cost effectiveness.

Cllr Rhys Thomas. Thank you.

Q - Cllr Glenn Swingler. Has a quality impact assessment been completed and given to Kirsty Williams?

A – Dafydd Evans. Yes.

Q – Cllr Glenn Swingler. Is the Welsh assembly going to intervene?

A – Dafydd Evans. No.

Q – Cllr Glenn Swingler. Have spoken to students. Some will need to leave at 6am to be able to get to an alternative site. This will also have an impact on their living costs.

A – Lawrence Wood. If you can let me know who this affects and we can look at their individual timetable.

Q – Cllr Glenn Swingler. New students from outlying villages such as Henllan can't get to Denbigh by 9am let alone another location. What provision will be for those students in 4 years' time? Also A level courses are over 2 years.

A – Dafydd Evans. Financial provision is being guaranteed for the next 3 years.

A – Lawrence Wood. Students will all finish their courses.

Q – Cllr Glenn Swingler. The music department offer a bilingual course at Denbigh, Rhos is English only.

A – Lawrence Wood. This provision will be made bilingually as tutors are being transferred from Denbigh to Rhos.

Cllr Roy Tickle thanked both Dafydd Evans and Lawrence Wood for attending. They both left at 7.25pm.

Cllr Lara Pritchard arrived at 7.25pm.

207. Urgent Matters: None.

208. Declaration of Personal Interest:

Cllr Rhys Thomas	Item 8a	Personal
Cllr Lara Pritchard	Item 8a	Personal
Cllr Gaynor Morgan Rees	Item 8a	Personal
Cllr Gaynor Wood-Tickle	Item 13	Prejudicial

209. The chairman, Cllr Roy Tickle asked the town councillors for permission to bring forward items 8 of the agenda as there were 2 members of the public observing the meeting who had an interest in item 8a. This was agreed by the town councillors.

Planning.

No objections were raised on the following applications however the town councillors would like the following details noted on application (a).

Details received from Mark Walters, Development Control Archaeologist at Clwyd-Powys Trust in relation to level 4 standard should be adhered to. Also the standard of the new works should be of a high standard in keeping with the locality.

a) 01/2018/0262

Ystrad Isa Cottage, Ystrad Road, Ystrad, Denbigh.

Demolition of existing dwelling, erection of replacement dwelling, erection of garage and change of use of land to extend domestic curtilage.

b) 01/2018/0299

61 Beacons Hill, Denbigh.

Installation of replacement windows.

c) 01/2018/0322

1 Meusydd Brwyn Cottage, Denbigh.

Erection of extension and alterations to dwelling (amended scheme).

Mr & Mrs Cheshire left at 7.35pm.

210. The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 26th March 2018 were agreed and noted.

211. Matters arising – Cllr Glenn Swinger referred to item 193. A meeting has taken place with Barclay Bank regarding the closure. No further information to feedback. Also Nathan Hughes has been arrested.

212. Mayor's Report: A copy of the Mayors appointments were circulated and noted. Cllr Roy Tickle advised that his mayoral year is rapidly coming to an end. He has thoroughly enjoyed all the events attended.

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

- a) Sergeant Neil Stringfellow – Police Report Feb – April 2018 (to be discussed at the May meeting).
- b) Town Council meeting dates 2018/19 – the town clerk advised that the scheduled May full council meeting falls on bank holiday Monday. The councillors agreed to suspend the current standing orders item number 3.3 for May with the meeting being held on Tuesday 29th May.
- c) Cleaning & Maintenance of Bus Stops – DCC. Cllr Rhys Thomas advised that at a recent County Council MAG meeting there was no evidence to confirm that all bus shelters had actually been transferred over to the town council. With this in mind the town councillors agreed that currently Denbigh Town Council own and manage only 2 bus stops currently and no cleaning plan is required. The town clerk was requested to contact Denbighshire County Council advising of this.

214. Minutes / Reports of council sub committees.

The following were noted.

- a) Cynnig – Participant's Committee meeting 06.03.18
- b) Wireless in Wales minutes 22.01.18
- c) Cllr Catherine Jones advised the town councillors of the 100th celebrations of WW1. There were many ideas being looked at as well as funding being sought. (Concert, banners, booklets, cleaning of the Angel monument.)

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

Cllr Rhys Thomas - a) Crud y Castell & Colomendy resurfacing will take place this year. b) Water by Brookhouse works will take place in the next few months. c) Barclays – met with them last week, not happy as there were nearly a 1000 signatures on the petition but only 3 customers had actually written in to complain about the closure. d) Infirmary – fire report not out yet. e) Dolwen – this provision will be going out to tender again in the next couple of years.

Cllr Glenn Swinger – pot holes is a major problem. They are being patched up only.

216. Accounts:

(1) Payments.

a)	PWLB repayment (Courthouse) (Chq no 006432)	-	£7,393.60
b)	Zen internet 04/05/18 – 03/06/18 (Chq no 006433)	-	£18.37
c)	Cllr Roy Tickle, allowance 17/18 (determination 47) (Chq no 006434)	-	£250.00
d)	Cllr Colin L Hughes, allowance 17/18 (Chq no 006435)	-	£150.00
e)	Cllr Catherine Jones, allowance 17/18 (Chq no 006436)	-	£150.00
f)	Cllr Rob Parkes, allowance 17/18 (Chq no 006437)	-	£150.00

(2) Any other financial matters – None.

- 217. AGM** – the town clerk confirmed that all was in order for the AGM on the 11th May. As there was no Welsh speeches being made at the AGM the town clerk asked the town councillors if a translator was required for the evening. The councillors agreed that a translator was not required.
- 218. Denbigh Town Hall – Futures Group.** The town clerk advised that a new group needed to be formed, Cllrs Catherine Jones, Alyn Ashworth & Gaynor Morgan-Rees wished to represent the town council on the group, this was agreed by the town councillors. The town clerk will contact Sion Goldsmith of Denbighshire county Council with an update.
- 219. Committees & Working group members 2018/19.** These were updated. The town clerk to contact the groups with the amendments and have the updated list on the website.
- 220. Appointment of members on various organisations 2018/19.** These were updated. The town clerk to contact the groups with the amendments and have the updated list on the website.

The chairman closed the meeting at 8.23pm.

Signed:.....(chairman)

Date:.....

