

Minutes of a meeting of Denbigh Town Council held on Monday 24th July 2017 at 6.30pm at the Town Hall, Denbigh.

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

Apologies: Cllrs Dyfrig Berry & Guto Lloyd-Davies

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

53. Neil Stringfellow – Update from North Wales Police.

Neil referred to the details given to the councillors for their June meeting. (Attached). The town councillors were given the opportunity to ask question regarding the information provided.

Cllr Gaynor Wood-Tickle – regarding terrorism.

Neil Stringfellow – The Denbigh Safety Group were given information recently. The public need to report any suspicious activity. Operation Highlight covers all the strands of terrorism. The general public need to be more aware.

Cllr Gaynor Morgan Rees – Thanks Neil for attending. Cllr had the same question regarding terrorism as above.

Cllr Glenn Swingler – advised had recently attended a meeting on terrorism and safety. Cllr Swingler wanted to know if the figures given had increased or decreased. There have been a number of reduction in police officers has this made a difference?

Neil Stringfellow – the figures in Denbigh have not changed much. One of the main issues for the police is the Community safety at 83. This is dealing with vulnerable adults. Other agencies need to be more supportive however the Police is available 24/7 with social services available in daytime hours.

Cllr Glenn Swingler – Smithfield/Lenten pool – the foot patrols are working well in the area.

Cllr Rhys Thomas – thanked Neil for attending and advised that he had 2 questions to ask.

Regarding the CCTV in Denbighshire, have they proven to be useful?

Neil Stringfellow – No convictions. The main issue is that the cameras are not supervised and they 'sweep' therefore there are many 'blind' areas. NWP have acquired 25 wildlife cameras locally which are good for recording anti-social behaviour.

Cllr Rhys Thomas will keep the second question until later in case one of the other councillors brings the question up.

Cllr Gwawr Cordiner – concern for drug related issues in the High Street. This changes the dynamics of the High Street.

Neil Stringfellow – The police are working on improvements. There are operations ongoing in the location working with local residents. There is proactive work but also lack of staffing and PCSO's have limited powers.

Cllr Colin L Hughes – speeding issues and vehicles stopped at the bus stop at Lenten Pool.

Neil Stringfellow – no reports of issues with parking at **Lenten Pool**.

Cllr Philip Stevens – Drugs are a huge worry. Smaller communities are being targeted. CCTV is very costly to manage.

Neil Stringfellow – Groups are coming from further afield to Denbigh. They stay at one location for a few weeks then move on. Crack Cocaine is on the increase – this brings with it additional issues of violent crime. There have been 20 warrants issued in the last year. Loss of Police staff does have an impact on crime.

Cllr Rob Parkes – Parking by schools is causing issues. There is a lot on this on social media.

Neil Stringfellow – They are publicising Police action. The PCSO's are issuing warning letters for obstruction offences.

Cllr Rob Parkes – commented that hate crime is very low.

Cllr Catherine Jones – Youngsters are playing ‘chicken’ by the HWB which is giving cause for concern.

Neil Stringfellow - PCSO's are monitoring the area.

Cllr Catherine Jones – good to have Police presence in the town.

Cllr Roy Tickle – regarding the school parking, residents have suggested putting wheelie bins out to stop the parking. Also advised that there is a camera outside Caledfryn that could be viewed if required.

Cllr Glenn Swinger – incidents outside school – who reports these issues. Should it be the school?

Neil Stringfellow – it is normally the parents that report incidents to the Police.

Cllr Roy Tickle thanked Neil Stringfellow for attending the meeting and for answering the councillor's questions.

Neil Stringfellow left the meeting at 7.03pm.

54. Urgent Matters: The Chairman, Cllr Roy Tickle addressed the councillors regarding the inappropriate behaviour at the last full council meeting.

Having been in touch with the monitoring officer, Mr Gary Williams at Denbighshire County Council in relation to the full council meeting held on Monday 26th June 2017. I have been advised to monitor the situation as the meetings go on. As we all know at the last full council pressure appeared to be put on the Town Clerk to agree to an item that was not on the agenda and questions came randomly from members. Several were trying to speak at the same time. I do accept that I should have controlled the meeting and not allowed the subject to be discussed as it was not on the agenda. Can we all be aware in future that all items to be discussed are placed on the agenda at the appropriate time by notification to the town clerk.

55. Declaration of Personal Interest: None

56. The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 26th June 2017 were agreed and noted in English following amending pg 11 , item 45 Cllr Glenn Swinger (a).

Cllr Rhys Thomas advised that as the Welsh version had only just been received time was needed to read through the document. Cllr Rhys Thomas also requested that the both minutes should be received at the same time. The Town Clerk advised that there was insufficient time to prepare the Welsh version of the minutes and that the Agenda which is the only legal requirement for the meeting had been presented bilingually within the given timeframe.

57. Matters arising – None

58. Suspend Denbigh Town Council Standing Orders – allowing for a special meeting to be held on Wednesday 16th August with the agenda being circulated on Monday 14th August. This was agreed by the councillors. A special meeting will be held on the 16th August to ensure that all payments are up to date, any planning applications and any urgent business. Cllrs Roy Tickle, Catherine Jones, Rob Parkes & Lara Pritchard will be attending.

59. Mayor's Report: A copy of the Mayors appointments were circulated and noted. Cllr Roy Tickle thanked everyone that attended his Civic Sunday on 9th July. It was very well attended with many other visiting Mayors in attendance. Cllr Roy Tickle also advised that the Twinning visitors had have a lovely week at Denbigh with many events held for them.

60. Letters, E-mails and Notices: 1. It was agreed that the following items of correspondence to be noted and actioned accordingly:

- a) Amended Service Level agreement – Denbigh Town Hall Management Committee received, signed and returned.
- b) List of one Voice Wales Training dates, details circulated with the councillors. Anyone wishing to attend any of the courses need to contact the town clerk as soon as possible.
- c) Email update regarding the Denbigh Post Office.
- d) Council's Standards Committee – DTC Website. The town clerk confirmed that Denbigh Town Council had done very well with the committee findings in relation to the website.

61. Planning: None received.

62. Council Committee Minutes.

- (1) Environment and Finance Committee – 17.07.17 were noted
- (2) Planning Committee – 18.07.17 were noted.

63. Minutes / Reports of council sub committees.

Cllr Gaynor Wood-Tickle advised that she attended together with Cllr Marilyn Jones & Roy Tickle the Elite Marshall Arts group last Friday following the deferment of their grant aid application on the 17.07.17. There is a huge damp issue in the building which causes many issues. The grant aid application will be looked at on the 16th August.

64. Minutes /Reports of other groups:

- a) Denbigh Town Guide – the town clerk confirmed that a meeting had taken place with the working group. All the details needed to be returned to the clerk by the end of the month. The updated details will then be sent to the publisher for them to create a draft of the booklet. The booklet should be published in October.
- b) N & MW Assoc of TC – Cllr Roy Tickle advised that he attended the meeting at Connahs Quay. There was an interesting statement from the Senedd regarding consolidation in Sept/Oct.
- c) Cllr Roy Tickle advised that he attended with the town clerk the cluster group meeting at St Asaph – very informative.

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

Cllr Glenn Swingler - a) Blue badges – during the recent scrutiny committee meeting blue badges were discussed with the possibility of free parking for blue badge holders. This would have resulted in an influx of additional applications and the management would prove very costly. Cllr Swingler proposed extra time allocation for blue badge holders. This will be looked at a later date. b) Upper Denbigh – Head of Service, Jamie Groves, discussed the Council garages at various locations. They need to be upgraded and tidied.

Cllr Rhys Thomas – congratulated Cllr Glenn Swingler on his idea on having extended time allocation for blue badge holders. a) The Brookhouse meeting date has been changed to the 20/21 September due to Denbighshire county Council employing a Solicitor. There is an opportunity for a representative from Denbigh Town Council to attend with the meeting to give details relating to their planning response. Cllr Roy ~Tickle will attend as Chairman. b) Corporate plan. Cllr Rhys Thomas went through the suggested details for Denbigh and asked if anyone had anything else they would like to add.

Putting Denbigh First.

- 1. All of Denbigh schools to have priority in the 21 Century schools programme.
- 2. Ysgol Pendre to have priority in the above scheme in order to help improve the quality of life in this neglected area.
- 3. Develop an integrated plan for the Infirmary, Dolwen, Cysgodfa and Llys y Faner as the 'Denbigh Health Hub'. Keep Dolwen in Local Authority control and develop the services offered.

4. Improve highway infrastructure within Denbigh as a result of the new retail park and give attention to its impact on the town centre including parking.
5. To connect Denbigh with the National Cycle network initially towards Llanellwyr and then to Rhuthun. Increased tourism would benefit the economy as well as the benefits to health and a reduction of traffic.
6. Provide dog exercising areas on parts of County Council owned land. This will contribute to a reduction in dog fouling.

66. Accounts:

(1) The following accounts were approved for payment:

a) Denbighshire County Council – Election Costs (Chq no 006232)	-	£2,585.53
b) Catrin Gilkes – translation 17.07.17 (Chq no 006233)	-	£114.00

Total payments £2,699.53

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

67. Denbigh Town Council Website – following discussion, Cllr Alyn Ashworth confirmed that he was happy to manage the updates on the Denbigh Town Council website following Tom Williams's retirement from the post. The councillors wished to thank Tom Williams for the many years of support he has given in updating the Town's website.

68. Denbigh Town council Heritage Lectures – the town clerk advised that next year will be the 10th anniversary of the lectures. With this in mind 10 lectures have been booked at the Town Hall. Cllr Rob Parkes commented that the lectures were more suitable to the older generation and that we should consider lectures suitable for school pupils. The town clerk will look into this.

69. Cllrs to use electronic methods of communication/cloud based access to data. Following discussion it was decided to add this to the next meeting in September where by a separate working group can be created to look at the different options available.

70. Graffiti – Dr Evan Pierce Gardens. The town clerk advised that there has been an incident at the memorial garden where by graffiti has been put on the monument. The clerk has contacted both CADW and the Denbighshire County Council Listed building officer for advice. A specialised company is going to visit the site to assess the damage and give a quotation. The Police are involved and the Town Clerk has given a statement regarding the damage.

71. Governor at Ysgol Frongoch. Cllr Alyn Ashworth is the town council representative however has been advised that all the meetings are to be held on Thursday Evenings. Cllr Ashworth is unable to attend on Thursdays' new representative is required. This item has been deferred until the September meeting to allow for some lower Denbigh Councillors to be given the opportunity to be nominated.

72. Walled Towns representatives.

Cllr Colin L Hughes kindly volunteered for the tourism group with Cllr Catherine Jones volunteering for the Edwardian Castle group. This was agreed by the councillors.

73. NW Fire & Rescue – Consultation.

Cllr Rhys Thomas had taken the time to look at the consultation in detail and feedback his findings to the councillors.

It was agreed that the town clerk reply to the consultation with the following details.

Q1 – Less accidents in rented properties & HMO's. Assisting future generations including the elderly.

Q2 – Money from the county and reserves.

Q3 – Less fires – Educating all.

The chairman closed the meeting at 8.18 pm.

Signed:.....(chairman)

Date:.....