

Cyngor Tref Rhydaman Ammanford Town Council

Minutes of the Emergency Extraordinary Meeting of Ammanford Town Council held on 5th June 2025 in Ammanford Town Hall and via MS Teams

Meeting commenced at 6pm

The Mayor, Cllr. Heulwen Howells presided over the meeting.

Present:

- Cllr Heulwen Howells (Mayor)
- Cllr Calum Higgins (Deputy Mayor)
- Cllr Colin Evans
- Cllr Nigel Morgan
- Cllr Clare Hope
- Cllr Deian Harries
- Cllr Emyr John
- Cllr Wayne Erasmus
- Cllr Lyn Brodrick
- Cllr Anthony Jones

Also Present:

• Mrs Sara Murray – Interim Clerk

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Marie Griffiths - Work commitments

2. Declarations of Interest

No new declarations given

Cllr. Clare Hope joined the meeting online at 18:05

3. To discuss Ammanford Town Council's premises & storage

Due to the nature of the information to be discussed being commercially sensitive ClIr D Harries proposed that the meeting be moved into camera, seconded by ClIr N Norgan. ClIr W Erasmus voted against the motion but all other members present voted in favour.

Resolved that the meeting be held in camera. No members of the public or press present.

Interim Clerk confirmed that draft letters had been sent to Mayor Heulwen Howells & deputy Mayor Calum Higgins for checking & approval.

The Mayor asked Cllr. Hope to update all members present on the current situation. Cllr. Hope informed council that a suitable building in Ammanford Town Centre had become available on Monday. The Mayor and Cllr. Hope visited the property.

Cllr. Brodrick joined the meeting online at 1810 hours

Information was provided to the Council regarding a building available to rent in Ammanford Town Centre that was suitable office space for the ATC. A long discussion ensued.

The Council resolved to inform the Landlord that we wished to proceed and to present our Solicitors with a draft lease. It was also agreed that the lease would come back to the Council for a final decision and a valuation report be carried out by a suitable company.

All Councillors present voted in favour other than Cllr. Wayne Erasmus

Cllr. Brodrick left the meeting at 1835 hours

4. To agree the Council's Annual Return for 2024-25.

Cllr. Hope requested that a thank you to staff for getting the Council to a stage where they can meet the deadline of the Annual Return submission was minuted. It was resolved that the Annual Return be accepted.

4. To agree one councillor, other than the Mayor, to sign the underlease required for Ammanford Rugby Football Club relating to part of Ammanford Recreation ground.

The Council discussed the lease for the Ammanford Rugby Football Club and that how the original lease had been signed off by previous members of the council. The Council's Solicitor had informed the Council that signatories were incorrect. The signatories needed to be two Councillors in the presence of the Clerk. It was resolved that the Mayor, Cllr. Howells and Cllr. Hope would sign the underlease.

The Interim Clerk stated at this stage that during the meeting Cllr. Wayne Erasmus had emailed the Interim Clerk to notify her he was trying to join the meeting, and he was not being allowed in. The Interim Clerk notified the Council and tried to assist but could not see any notification of him waiting in the lobby. The Interim Clerk sent another email with meeting details.

5. To receive information regarding future operations and storage.

Due to the delegated powers of the Mayor Cllr Heulwen Howells, and Deputy Mayor Calum Higgins a decision was made as to where the Council should store their property due to leaving the Town Hall on the 30th June 2025.

No vote was required but Councillors agreed they would take a vote. All Members voted in favour other than Cllr. Johnny Owen who abstained.

Cllr Anthony Jones voiced strong disappointment and disbelief over the ongoing situation surrounding Ammanford Town Council's forced departure from the historic Town Hall building.

"This building belongs to the people of Ammanford and the wider Amman Valley — taxpayers who have invested in it for generations. The way Ammanford Town Council has been treated throughout this process demonstrates a complete lack of respect and support from members of Carmarthenshire County Council".

Cllr Jones also highlighted the lack of engagement and transparency at higher levels, noting that only one Member of the Senedd responded to the Town Council's correspondence — and that response, he stated, was "a fabrication of the truth."

"Significant funding has been diverted toward the Town Hall situation — resources that could and should have been invested in local parks, green spaces, and other vital community assets".

"Ammanford Town Council remains committed to challenging the process and is calling for ministerial intervention".

"We will continue to fight our corner. Welsh Government Ministers must be informed and must conduct a formal review into the processes and procedures being carried out by Carmarthenshire County Council".

Cllr Wayne Erasmus joined 18:18

The Mayor closed the meeting at 18:19

Signed:
(Cllr. Heulwen Howells, Mayor)
Nate: