

MINUTES OF HARLECH COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE OLD LIBRARY, HARLECH AT 7.00 P.M. ON 02.06.25

APOLOGIES

Cllr. Ceri Griffiths, Tegid John, and Gwynfor Owen (Gwynedd Council).

PRESENT

Cllrs. Christopher Braithwaite (Chairman), James Maxwell (Vice Chairman), Edwina Evans, Wendy Williams, Gordon Howie, Mark Lewis, Simon Turner Rhian Corps, Reg Chapman, Martin Hughes, and Cllr. Annwen Hughes (Gwynedd Council).

There were 12 members of the public present at the meeting

Questions by members of the public

Questions and comments were received from some members of the public

It was stated that the total expenditure figure in the minutes of the 27th January 2025 meeting were incorrect, wanted to know why One Voice Wales was down twice and what was the £4,000 rent allocated to. It was stated that these matters would be looked into.

Asking who is in charge of the Council's website and also why it states that the minutes go back to 2018 when they actually only go back to 2024. It was stated that the Vice Chairman Cllr. James Maxwell and the Clerk were in charge of the Council's website.

A complaint was received about the state of the toilets at Min y Don car park and it was agreed to ask Gwynedd Council to reopen the cubicles that are shut.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman stated that some matters on the agenda would be moved around this evening, he also had been in contact with One Voice Wales regarding various matters and had sought advice from them regarding asset transfer and this was an ongoing discussion.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on May 12th 2025 were found to be correct.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Clerk stated regarding the quote for taking down the damaged wooden fence along the A496 she had contacted Mr. Meirion Evans after the last meeting to let him know that the Council Members did not accept his quote of £700 and he had come back with a quote of £450 but would remove the wooden posts only and not remove the concrete. This was accepted by the majority of the Council Members.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declaration of interest was made regarding any matters.

GWYNEDD COUNCIL MATTERS

The following report was received from Cllr. Annwen Hughes. Cllr. Annwen Hughes reported that since the last meeting that she had received complaints that the work on the housing development is effecting on some of the houses on Ty Canol estate and she had contacted the Chairman of Grwp Cynefin regarding this and had been promised that he would look into the matter. She had received an e-mail from Gwynedd Council stating that work has been carried out to upgrade the cremators at Bangor crematorium and this meant from now until December 2025 only 4 services a day will be held and no Saturday services will be held. Regarding the work that is been carried out to upgrade electricity cables in the Porthmadog-Maentwrog area there will be traffic lights on the Porthmadog bypass from the 6th May until 18th July and then they will break for the summer holiday season, work has restarted on Briwet Bridge today, the section between the Minffordd roundabout and through Penrhyndeudraeth is planned from mid June through until 18th July and the road from Llandecwyn to Maentwrog will be shut on the 18th of this month until December 2025. She was saddened to hear of the passing of Cllr. Rob Triggs of Barmouth over the weekend and it will be a great loss to Barmouth and the surrounding community and sympathy goes to his family.

MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman stated that as many members of the public were present tonight just to discuss the below matter to bring this item forward to the first matter on the agenda

HAL

The following report was received from Cllr. Mark Lewis with regard to the latest situation regarding HAL. Neither community option has proven themselves financially viable yet. We are now investigating a third option of a hotel that could potentially bring significant employment, tourism and leisure facilities that the community can use. Councillor Gwynfor Owen and representatives of Harlech Community Council, HAL, Gwynedd Council, and Royal St Davids Golf Club all met with representatives from the new hotel option in mid-May. We are not going to share details yet because it is still very early and publicity at this point might harm our chances of success. If this option pans out it will address a wide range of community needs and be a massive uplift for the town. We remain open to new evidence from either community option while we continue to investigate the third option. The HAL board has decided to wind up the company and have offered the site to HCC. Unfortunately, we were not able to secure an appraisal in time for this meeting. That is scheduled for June 3rd. We plan to prepare the transfer contract this month, provide a risk assessment, insurance options, and put the asset transfer to a formal vote at the July HCC meeting. If that is approved, we will sign the contract and wind up HAL as quickly as possible.

It was agreed that the Council's Standing Orders would be suspended when this matter was been discussed so as to give members of the public a chance to ask questions and make comments.

The Chairman stated that he would be acknowledging receipt of a complaint regarding the above and he was currently looking into it and would present a report back to the Council in due course.

The Council's Standing Orders were reinstated

Budget Plan

It was reported that the Council had spent £10,512.51 (which included bank charges) since the start of the new financial year and this was £20,833.74 less expenditure than what was earmarked in the budget for the 2025/26 year.

Council's Website

It was reported that the website is been developed slowly and it was also made known that the Clerk has now got a new e-mail address Enquiriescynghorharlech@outlook.com. It was agreed to put a link to the Council's facebook page on the Council's website.

Penygraig Land

The Clerk reported that she had received a reply together with a quote from the Datrys company from Caernarfon to carry out the surveying work. It was agreed to accept this quote.

Complete New Mandate

The Responsible Financial Officer reported that there was a need to update the above and complete a new one as most of the name that is on the present one are not on the Council any longer. Because there was not enough time to discuss the above tonight, that the item be moved to July's agenda.

Training Courses for Members and Clerk

The Clerk reported that she had received an e-mail from One Voice Wales outlining the training courses that were available between April and June and that she had forwarded this already to all Members. Because there was not enough time to discuss the above tonight, that the item be moved to July's agenda.

Membership of SLCC

The Clerk reported that the Council is no longer a member of the above Society and that joining the Society was going to cost £80 a year. It was agreed to join the SLCC.

Council's Annual Report

It was reported that the Chairman has provided his own presentation for the beginning of the report and it was agreed by everyone to accept it. Also the Clerk reported that she had added the Clerk's new e-mail address to this report.

One Voice Wales Meeting – Dolgellau 14.5.25

Because there was not enough time to discuss the above tonight, that the item be moved to July's agenda

King George V Playing Field

Because there was not enough time to discuss the above tonight, that the item be moved to July's agenda. Cllr. Reg Chapman asked if it would be possible to update the details of the above on the Charity Commission website.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None come to hand since the last meeting.

RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Responsible Financial Officer reported that there was £15,159.79 in the current account and £114,344.85 in the reserve account.

Invoices needing payment since last meeting

Mr. G. J. Williams - £202.00 - cut grass in King George V playing field

Mrs Annwen Hughes - £499.00 - repayment for purchasing new laptop for the Clerk

The above payments were processed by Cllr. Edwina Evans and Cllr. James Maxwell approved the payments and permission was granted to the Clerk/Treasurer to make payment on line or by cheque at the end of the meeting.

Monies received since last meeting

Groundwork Uk - £500.00 – grant for the community garden

Ms Laura Sanderson - £40.00 – rent for allotment no. 4

Mr. Lee Warwick - £60.00 - rent for allotments nos. 13 & 14

Invoices paid since the last meeting

Catrin Soraya Williams – £165.00 - translation services

The Treasurer reported that that the Internal Audit had been completed and there were no significant matters arising apart from the following –

Failure to set a balanced budget

Failure to review the Financial Regulations and Standing Orders on an annual basis

Failure to review the rates of staff expenses

The Treasurer reported that she had completed the Annual Return up to 31st March 2025, the Members went through this return and agreed to approve it and it was also agreed that the Chairman and Clerk/Treasurer sign this on behalf of the Council.

CORRESPONDENCE

Gwynedd Council - Environment Department

Received a letter from the above informing the Council that the Old Llanfair Road near Hafod y Bryn will be closed on the 2nd of this month and the closure is necessary on health and safety grounds to the public during works on behalf of Scottish Power.

Gwynedd Council - Environment Department

Received a letter from the above informing the Council that the Old Llanfair Road near The Old School will be closed on the 9th of this month and the closure is necessary on health and safety grounds to the public during works on behalf of Welsh Water.

Sian Gwenllian AS

Received a letter of thanks from the above for supporting a need for a dental school in Bangor

SIGNED.....Chairman DATE..... 846

