

Draft Minutes

MINUTES OF HARLECH COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE OLD LIBRARY, HARLECH AT 7.00 P.M. ON 01.09.25

APOLOGIES

Cllr. Ceri Griffiths, Gwynfor Owen (Gwynedd Council).

PRESENT

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

There were 7 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 noted that there is a petition regarding HAL asking the Council to make it a condition that a swimming pool and leisure facilities will be available to the public if any hotel developers take over the site. There is nothing for tourism to do in the area in wet weather. It is disappointing that those who were interested in the site have withdrawn their application. There is concern about whether the hotel company will be able to secure the funding they need. Asking the Community Council to ensure there will be a community benefit, public consultation, and that professional risk management will be robustly carried out.

Want clarification on whether Celtic Connection is looking at the swimming pool site and the site of the St. David's hotel, and it was clarified that they were only looking at the swimming pool site.

Want to thank Mr. and Mrs. James Maxwell and their friends for holding a sale at the Old Library during the summer to raise funds.

Want to thank those who are keeping the piece of land on the top of St. David's hill tidy.

Want to know what correspondence was meant on the agenda and want to know why 'none received' is on the agenda and it was clarified that this header is where emails, letters etc. are listed and it was also clarified that nothing was received by the time the agenda was sent out but that some had come in afterwards.

Wanted to know what the arrangements are from the Council regarding holding Christmas activities in the town this year. It was stated that this matter will be on the agenda for next month's meeting, but next year we will need to start organizing this sooner.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman stated that August had not been a quite one and that he had met with Mr. Joe Patton, met with some members of the public, working on the wayforward document. He stated that the Clerk completed the FILCA course during August and that she had passed. It was made known that the new website was nearly ready and that he, Cllr. James Maxwell and the Clerk had met with Mr. Owen Brown and the changes will be made.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on July 7th 2025 were found to be correct.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr. Reg Chapman declared an interest in the matter regarding HAL

Cllr. Martin Hughes declared an interest in the matter regarding HAL

Cllr. James Maxwell declared an interest in the matter regarding HAL

No Personal Declaration of Interest Form was signed by them as they had done this already in the last meeting of the Council and the interest in this matter is running continuously.

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 several complaints regarding the state of the public toilets and also had been made aware that vandalism had taken place in the toilets by the Queens hotel more than once. She had received complaints that the rubbish bins down by Min y Don car park were full and she had contacted Gwynedd Council with regards to this and had asked them to empty them more often. Received complaints about speeding along Morfa Road and about the state of the bus shelters. Work will be starting this month to upgrade the Min Don toilets, but she had been informed, regrettably because vandalism was still been done to the toilets near the Queens hotel that the money that is available to spend on Min y Don toilets is getting less. Also the mens side of the toilets near the Queens hotel are still closed because of vandalism.

MATTERS ARISING

Budget Plan

It was reported that the Council had spent £14,667.01 (which included bank charges) since the start of the new financial year and this was £36,531.99 less expenditure than what was earmarked in the budget for the 2025/26 year.

Election of Councillor

The Clerk reported that she had received a letter from Ms Rhian Corps informing the Council that she was resigning as a member of the Council. It was agreed to send a copy of this letter to the Electoral Officer in Caernarfon. Concern was voiced by Members that yet again a young Councillor is resigning from been a Member due to the harassment that she has received from a member of the public.

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 June and September and that she had forwarded this already to all Members. The Chairman stated that he will forward a list of the courses that he is going to attend to the Clerk.

Tennis Court

The Clerk reported that she had put the above item on the agenda as some members of the public had drawn the Members attention that significant work is needed on the site. The Chairman stated that he had looked into purchasing new posts and net and it was agreed that he would carry on to order these, he also agreed to look into getting a quote to re-paint the lines. It was agreed there was a need to ask Mr. Meirion Griffiths to tidy around the tennis court as previously done.

Bus Shelters

The Clerk reported that she had received an email complaining about the condition of the bus shelter by Penyrhwylfa and also about the one near the toilets. It was agreed to fit new panels and get a quote for these and Cllr. Tegid John agreed to deal with this matter.

Y Las Ynys Fawr

The Chairman explained that he had asked for this matter to be put on the agenda as some members of Friends of Ellis Wynne were asking if the Council had made a decision regarding the site. It was agreed that the Chairman asks a professional in assets transfer the way forward with this.

Penygraig Land

The Clerk reported that she had put the above matter on the agenda because she had been informed by the Waterloo company that they could not carry out the necessary inspection that was needed. The Clerk reported further that she had received a quote of £2,700 that included VAT from Groundsolve company to carry out the survey that was needed and also she had received a refund from the Waterloo company. It was agreed to accept this quote and ask the company to carry out the survey.

HAL – Formal Vote on Aset Transfer

It was made known that matters had changed with regards to the above site and not in a position to vote tonight. The following report was received from Cllr. Reg Chapman with regards to the latest situation regarding HAL I noted that both Moelwyn and Pobl had withdrawn their interest and neither had contacted HAL in an acceptable way.

Celtic Collection had re-affirmed their strong interest in the Pool site and are developing proposals.

A meeting with an expert on Asset transfer was scheduled for the 5th September.

Meetings with Gwynedd Council and representatives of the Wesh Government are to place later this month

One Voice Wales Meeting – Penrhyndeudraeth 16.7.25

The Clerk reported that she had received an e-mail from One Voice Wales informing the Council of the on line Extraordinary General Meeting that is been held on the 3rd of this month at 4.00 p.m so as to discuss One Voice Wales's Constitution and Governance Framework. The Clerk had already forwarded this e-mail to all Members. The Clerk reported further that she had received another e-mail stating - In view of the low numbers expected to participate in this meeting, the Chair of One Voice Wales has agreed to its cancellation. The Annual General Meeting on the 1st October 2025 will now include a Motion seeking approval of the new Constitution. The Clerk made it known that she had received an e-mail from One Voice Wales regarding the annual meeting that is been held on the 1st October on the royal welsh showground in Builth and that she had forwarded this to all Members and sadly nobody were in a position to attend this meeting.

Cllr. Martin Hughes reported that he had attended he meeting of the Meirionnydd Area committee on the 16th July in Penrhyndeudraeth but regrettably there was no guest speaker present and they were hoping that the Chief Executive of Gwynedd Council will come and speak at the next meeting. They had a chance to look around the new premises of Penrhyndeudraeth Town Council and also some Councils were voicing concerns regarding the load of work that Clerks have now and also various matters were raised by other Councils.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Installation of air-source heat pump on the front elevation 2 Y Waun, Harlech (NP5/61/653A)

Support this application.

Erection of single storey glass roof extension to rear Erinfa, Stryd Fawr, Harlech (NP5/61/669B) AMENDED

DESCRIPTION

Support this application.

RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Responsible Financial Officer reported that there was £62,060.22 in the current account and £114,800.53 in the reserve account.

Invoices needing payment since last meeting

Welsh Water	- £254.77 -	water supply to toilets by the castle
Welsh Water	- £43.02 –	allotments water tap
Audit Wales	- £3,755.00 –	external audit 2022/23 a 2023/24
Gwynedd Council	- £408.00 -	internal audit 2024/25
Derwen Garden Centre	- £180.02 –	goods for the community garden
Mr. Joe Patton	- £111.63 -	reimbursement for goods for the community garden
Mr Lee Warwick	- £384.17 –	clean toilets by the memorial hall x 2
Mr. Lee Warwick	- £100.00 -	cut grass around the allotments x 2
Mr. G. J. Williams	- £578.00 -	cut grass in King George field and football pitch
Mrs Annwen Hughes	- £882.00 -	6 months wages + £528.17 6 months costs = £1,410.17

The above payments were processed by Cllr. Reg Chapman and Cllr Tegid John 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

Wateroo - £1,226.00 - repayment carry out survey of Penygraig land
Customs & Excise - £418.37 - repayment of VAT
Gwynedd Council - £42,500.00 – half the precept

Invoices paid since the last meeting

Gwynedd Council - £36.56 – tennis court rates (paid 30.7.25)
Japanese Knotweed - £350.00 – annual contract (paid 30.7.25)
SLCC - £85.00 - membership fee (paid 1.8.25)
Catrin Soraya Williams – None - translation services

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Joe Patton

Received an e-mail from the above informing the Council that he was unable to pursue funding to carry out work on King George playing field as the playing field does not have its own bank account and that Councils cannot seek grants from the National Gardens Scheme. Mr. Patton was asking if the Council would be willing to prioritise and allocate a budget so as to be able to carry out work to create a space where disabled children can enjoy play opportunities alongside able bodied children and also enable individuals with disabilities to gain access to the orchard and the story tellers chair area that attracts more adult members of our community. The Chairman agreed to look for a price to create a path to the story telling chair and the orchard and also for a price to get play equipment that would be suitable for the disabled in the play park. It was agreed to open a bank account in the name of King George V playing field.

Mrs Myfanwy Jones

Received an e-mail from the above asking if it would be possible to install a seat near the yellow bin opposite her house as so many people are exhausted after walking up Penllech and need to sit down. Also asking if it would be possible to erect a sign near the Seasons and Reasons shop stating where the castle is as many motorists drive past and start going down Penllech road before realising that they are going the wrong way and then start reversing back causing a problem to other drivers. The Chairman agreed to visit Mrs Jones so as to be made aware of where the bench was needed and also it was agreed to forward to Gwynedd Council regarding having a sign installed.

Gwynedd Council – Highways Department

Received a letter from the above informing the Council that the Tim Tacluso Ardal Ni will be coming to the area between the 8th and 12th of this month. It was agreed to send them a list of the work that needed to be carried out.

SIGNED.....Chairman

DATE..... 855