

Draft Minutes

MINUTES OF HARLECH COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE OLD LIBRARY, HARLECH AT 7.00 P.M. ON 06.10.25

APOLOGIES

Cllr. James Maxwell (Vice Chairman), Reg Chapman, Ceri Griffiths.

PRESENT

Cllrs. Christopher Braithwaite (Chairman), Tegid John, Edwina Evans, Wendy Williams, Gordon Howie, Mark Lewis, Simon Turner, Martin Hughes, and Cllr. Annwen Hughes and Gwynfor Owen (Gwynedd Council).

There were 3 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

Wanted to know what was the latest with regards to HAL and the petition. It was stated that this matter would be discussed later on in the meeting.

Table of actions and other matters still not up on the website and the Chairman stated that he would look into this.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman stated that he had another busy month and that he was in discussions with a Solicitor regarding the piece of land from the Woodlands up to Penllech and it was agreed to put this matter on next month's agenda, wanted to carry out another survey on the trees that are in the Bron y Graig Nature Trail. Also it was made known that Gwynedd Council have received 10 names calling for an election to be held to fill the vacant seat that is on the Council.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on September 1st 2025 were found to be correct.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

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

Cllr. Simon Turner declared an interest in the matter regarding HAL and he signed a Personal Declaration of Interest form.

Cllr. Martin Hughes declared an interest in the matter regarding The Old Library financial application and he signed a Personal Declaration of Interest form.

Cllr. Edwina Evans declared an interest in the matter regarding The Old Library financial application and she signed a Personal Declaration of Interest form.

Cllr. Edwina Evans declared an interest in the matter regarding The Memorial Hall financial application and she signed a Personal Declaration of Interest form.

GWYNEDD COUNCIL MATTERS

The following report was received from Cllr. Annwen Hughes. Cllr. Annwen Hughes reported that since the last meeting that she had been made aware that vandalism had taken place once again in the toilets near the Queens Hotel and this matter is on the agenda to discuss later on. Also had been made aware that a builder has been appointed to carry out the work on the Min y Don public toilets and these toilets will have to be closed whilst this work is done. Had received several complaints that the rubbish bin that was in the corner in front of the former HSBC bank had been taken away and that she had contacted Gwynedd Council with regards to this and had been

informed that a new bin will be placed there. Also she had asked for the waiting sign that was on the side of the road below the Church to be put back and had been informed that this matter had been forwarded to the Transport Department in Caernarfon. She was disappointed that someone had been posting stickers on the outside of the noticeboard by Morfa Stores and she had been cleaning these off as it was not possible to read the notices inside. Cllr, Gwynfor Owen apologized for not being present at the last Council meeting due to illness, but that several local residents had contacted him during the past month. He had been visiting the new housing estate and meeting with some of the new tenants. He expressed concern that the toilets near the Queens Hotel were being vandalized, disappointment that the report into Neil Foden's procedures had not been published, that Gwynedd Council had been notified of this at very short notice, and that the Welsh Safeguarding Board had held back the report without any explanation. The Welsh Government is looking at changing the structure of the Fire Authority, and this will be discussed in a Fire Authority meeting on the 20th of this month.

MATTERS ARISING

Budget Plan

It was reported that the Council had spent £22,036.79 (which included bank charges) since the start of the new financial year and this was £35,729.46 less expenditure than what was earmarked in the budget for the 2025/26 year.

Christmas 2025

Cllrs. Simon Turner and Mark Lewis gave the following report regarding the Christmas festivities - Christmas 2025 planning is well underway with late night opening (shops and cafés), Christmas festivities, and a lantern parade (led by Santa Claus) on the evening of Saturday 29th November.

So far, financial donations for new LED Light Strings have been received from Shell Island, Menai Heating, Middleton Foods, Rock Ardudwy, Peninsula Home Improvements, and Caffi Castell. Gwynedd County Highways Department have given permission this year for the new LED lights to be hung across the High Street. As with previous years, Christmas lights will also be placed on street lighting poles in the Town.

Cadw have kindly agreed that the Castle Car Park can be closed to public parking so this area will be used for the public gathering with a celebrity guest turning on the lights. Carol singing will also take place in the Car Park. Rock Ardudwy have kindly agreed to provide a stage, marquee and sound system for the evening in the car park.

Harlech Primary School children are taking part in a competition to design a poster which will be used to publicise the event on Social Media and in printed flyers. This year there will be fabulous family orientated prizes awarded for the best lanterns in the parade. So far, these prizes have been donated by Caffi Llew Glas, Caddy Café, Hufenfa'r Castell, Castle Hair Studio, The Ship Aground, RED Performance, The Pit Stop Food Bar, Caffi Castell, Bay View Restaurant, Y Gwyllt Snowdonia Wilderness Café, Cae Du Designs, North Wales Sauna Company, Morfa Garage, and Bean & Blŵm.

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 Clerk stated further that Cllr. James Maxwell was going to attend the training "The Council Meeting – Module 5" on the 22nd of this month and "The Councillor – Module 2" on the 27th of this month. The Chairman stated that he was going to attend training courses and also Cllr. Martin Hughes reported that he was going to attend training courses and that they would forward the details to the Clerk.

Tennis Court

The Clerk reported that she had been made aware that Mr. Meirion Griffiths has finished the work of tidying around the tennis court. It was agreed that the Chairman would forward the details of the person that is going to carry out work on the above site to the Clerk. The Chairman made it known that he needed one other quote regarding purchasing new equipment for King George playing field.

Bus Shelters

It was made know there were no further reports regarding the above matter.

Y Las Ynys Fawr

It was made know there were no further reports regarding the above matter only that the Chairman was in a discussion with a Solicitor regarding the Lease.

Penygraig Land

The Clerk reported that she had not heard anything further from Groundsolve company since the last meeting of the Council.

Public Toilets near the Queens Hotel

The Clerk reported that she had put this matter on the agenda because vandals had done significant damage to the two toilets and that they had to close both for a time but that they had reopened since the 26th of last month and also they were been locked at night. The Clerk reported further that an Official from Gwynedd Council had asked for the Council to discuss this matter further and that he was willing to attend a Council meeting to discuss the way forward with Members after this. After a discussion it was agreed that the Chairman would contact Mr. Bryn Hughes to arrange to meet him to discuss the above site.

HAL

In the absence of Cllr. Reg Chapman, Cllr. Simon Turner reported that two Directors from Celtrix Connections had been up and that they were looking for investors and that members of the HAL Board had met them and that Celtic Connections were still very interested in the site.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Replace existing shelter with 'eco' toilet on 10th tee Royal St David's Golf Club, Harlech (NP5/61/100S)

Support this application.

Erection of a glazed sunroom to rear courtyard Caereinion, Ffordd Pen Llech, Harlech (NP5/61/T300)

Support this application.

Application for a Certificate of Lawful Use (Existing) to use dwellinghouse as main residence (Use Class C3) and short-term let (Use Class C6) (Re-submission)Gwelfor, Tryfar Terrace, Harlech (NP5/61/LUT312B)

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

Customs & Excise	- £110.00 -	tax on Clerk's wages
Mr. Joe Patton	- £84.55 -	reimbursement for goods for the community garden
Mr. G. J. Williams	- £324.00 -	cut grass in King George field and football pitch
Mr. Simon Turner	- £418.78 -	christmas lights
Mr. Christopher Braithwaite	- £139.59 -	goods for the public toilets near the castle

Applications for Financial Contribution

Memorial Hall Committee	- £1,000.00
Old Library Committee	- £1,000.00
Cyfeillion Ellis Wynne	- £4,577.68 – see note under correspondence

The above payments were processed by Cllr. Gordon Howie 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

None come to hand since the last meeting.

Invoices paid since the last meeting

Catrin Soraya Williams – £145.00 - translation services

The Responsible Financial Officer reported that the charity bank account had been opened for King George playing field and it was agreed to sent the bank details to Mr. Joe Patton so he can complete various grant applications.

CORRESPONDENCE

Gwynedd Council – Environment Department

Had received a letter informing the Council that an opportunity had risen to invest in green infrastructure “for the benefit of nature” through the Gwynedd Green Communities Fund. The Clerk reported that she had forwarded these details to Cllr. James Maxwell who had contacted the Officer that was in charge of this matter and had been told that the Bron y Graig nature trail would come under this scheme. Cllr. Maxwell will report further on this matter at the next Council meeting.

Gwynedd Council – Highways Department

Had received a reply from the above department to matters raised at the last Council meeting and stating that the Council’s request to have a sign showing the right way to the castle had been passed onto the Transport Department in Caernarfon. The Clerk had not heard anything more about this matter.

One Voice Wales

Received an e-mail from the above informing the Council that the annual general meeting together with the Meirionnydd Area Committee would be held virtual on the 21st of this month. The Clerk had forwarded this e-mail already to all Members.

Cyfeillion Ellis Wynne

Receive a letter from the above asking for a financial donation from the Council. It was agreed not to give them a financial donation at the moment as the Chairman was still in a discussion with the Solicitor regarding the Lease. It was also noted that the application was retrospective for the expenditure in the 2024 year.

Ms Pat Elford

Received an e-mail from the above regarding a tree that is growing in Bron y Graig Nature Trail and behind her house. The Clerk reported that she had forwarded this e-mail to the Chairman.

Mr. Giles Bentham

Received an e-mail from the above regarding various matters to do with the Council

SIGNED.....Chairman

DATE..... 859