

MINUTES OF HARLECH COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE OLD LIBRARY, HARLECH AT 7.00 P.M. ON 03.11.25

APOLOGIES

Cllr. Tegid John, Gordon Howie, Ceri Griffiths.

PRESENT

Cllrs. Christopher Braithwaite (Chairman), James Maxwell (Vice Chairman), Reg Chapman, Edwina Evans, Wendy Williams, Mark Lewis, Simon Turner, Giles Bentham, Martin Hughes, and Cllr. Annwen Hughes and Gwynfor Owen (Gwynedd Council).

There were 2 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

Want to ask if it would be okay to get prices to clear the piece of land near Llyn y Felin playground and Cllr. Reg Chapman stated that he is collaborating on this project.

Want to know what was happening with the Council's new website and the Chairman stated that he and Cllr. James Maxwell are going to arrange a meeting with the administrator to discuss the final website.

Want to know what was the latest situation regarding the Council's grant and donations policy and it was stated that this had not yet been approved by the Council and this would be done by next April.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman stated that he was working to get wooden boxes for plants to place around the area and that he and Cllrs. James Maxwell and Reg Chapman were going to have a meeting to discuss various projects, he had attended the autumn gardening show.

Cllr. Giles Bentham was welcomed back as a member of the Council.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on October 6th 2025 were found to be correct.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

That it is necessary to have the name of the person who is going to do the work that needs to be done on the tennis court along with the price.

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. Simon Turner 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. Giles Bentham declared an interest in the matter regarding the matter of a piece of land near Cae Du Design Shop, High Street, Harlech and he signed a Personal Declaration of Interest Form and was not present when this matter was discussed.

GWYNEDD COUNCIL MATTERS

The following report was received from Cllr. Annwen Hughes. She had attended a site visit that was organized by Grwp Cynefin to the new housing estate Maes Meillion as a Member of the National Park Authority on the 17th of last month, she had been informed that the Min y Don public toilets had been closed today for two weeks so that upgrading work could be carried out on them. She had attended the Financial Strategy meeting held on the 22nd of last month, and the financial situation in Gwynedd does not look good, and it may later be necessary to raise the Council tax by 13%, but the Council will have a better idea after the financial settlement has been received. She had been informed that Gwynedd Council is going to install a digital timetable at Bron y Graig bus shelter, and he had

asked them whether such a timetable would also be installed in the shelters in the bottom of the town, and they will look at this in the future.

Cllr Gwynfor Owen reported that he had 27 meetings this month, that he has been appointed Chair of the Gwynedd Plaid Cymru Group, the CPR report will be released tomorrow, and the Council's budget does not look good. One Voice Wales is going to have meetings with Welsh Government regarding running hybrid services. Gwynedd Council is going to install a digital timetable at Bron y Graig bus shelter, and is pleased that trains are continuing with the summer timetable during the winter season. He had been involved with the recycling campaign, received complaints about speeding on Morfa Road, and that Gwynedd Council had conducted a survey as had the Police regarding this, had received quotes for flashing signs, and was pushing to get a crossing near the Ty Canol junction and had a meeting with a Council Officer along with the Police to discuss these issues. He had received a presentation from the Cynefin Group on the Maes Meillion housing estate and had attended the Calan Gaeaf show. The behaviour of children was a concern to him because some children are going around on bicycles without lights and on electric scooters on the road. An elector was concerned about the issue that complaints regarding the rubbish bin in the High Street being removed and wanted to know if another location was available. He had attended a Community Area meeting in Dyffryn Ardudwy and was pleased to see Cllrs Martin Hughes and Reg Chapman there.

MATTERS ARISING

Budget Plan

It was reported that the Council had spent £26,114.33 (which included bank charges) since the start of the new financial year and this was £48,678.17 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 – This year, the parade will start at Bron Y Craig Isaf Car Park and end at the Cadw Castle Car Park. Rock Ardudwy have kindly offered to set up a tent, stage, and AV equipment in the Castle Car Park. These will be used by the Canu mi Gai and Côr Meibion Ardudwy choirs, the Ysgol Ardudwy and Ysgol Tanyst Castell school children, and the Tom Jones Tribute act.

Leaflets and Posters have been produced using a front cover illustration by Amelia McLoughlin, age 9, from Tsgol Tanyst Castell. Thanks also goes to Helen Williams from Visit Harlech for designing the printed and social media marketing materials. Printing costs have been kindly funded by Harlech Tourism Association.

Murmur y Môr Ltd has kindly donated craft materials for Ysgol Ardudwy and Ysgol Llanbedr school children to make Christmas themed lanterns for the parade.

Each school child in Harlech, Talsarnau, and Llanbedr will be given a leaflet to take home publicising the parade. Donations for the new High Street lights has now reached £3,300 and no more contributions are likely for 2025. Scottish Power have kindly offered to help provide a Cherry Picker and manpower to help with the erection of the new lights across the high street. Steve Acton from Y Copa Bistro has also kindly offered to assist Mark Lewis and Simon Turner in erecting the high street lighting.

In addition, new LED Light Braids have been purchased from Blachere Illuminations by Harlech Community Council. The new braids and the existing light frames will be attached to streetlights in Lower and Upper Harlech by Gwynedd County Council. An additional seven streetlights have also been selected to have a power outlet fitted to support more Christmas lights in Lower Harlech.

To provide local children with a Christmas Present on the night, Harlech Community Council has purchased Lindt Christmas themed chocolates for Santa to distribute.

Harlech's PCSO and local Police have been informed about the event and will be attending.

A Christmas snowflake pattern will be projected onto the Castle walls along with a Happy Christmas Message from Harlech Community Council. This will be funded by Harlech Tourism Association.

It was agreed for payment to be made to purchase more power adapters for streetlight poles and also father Christmas gifts for the children.

Bron y Graig Nature Trail

It was reported by Cllr. James Maxwell that no meeting had taken place with the Woodland Trust and that another meeting had been arranged for the 7th of this month, and also that he was awaiting a report from Hywyn Williams.

Tennis Court

The Clerk reported that she had received the following reply from the Rates Officer stating Councils cannot receive statutory relief for Taxes unless specific guidance has been provided. Also stating the way around this, which is used by several Councils, is to set up an 'arm's length' charity or non-profit company to use assets for the benefit of the local community. This 'arrangement' can apply for support that is not available to the Community Council. (these bodies can apply for grants and public funds to promote health, etc.)

It was noted by the Chairman that a quote had been received by Dylan Trehearn towards carrying out the work on the above site. Everyone was happy with this quote.

Bus Shelters

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

Y Las Ynys Fawr

It was made known there were no further reports regarding the above matter only that the Chairman was in a discussion with a Solicitor regarding the Lease. The Chairman had spoken with the Solicitor and a meeting was going to be held between them.

Council's Website

The Clerk reported that she had received a copy from Mr. Owen Brown of what the website would look like at the end and showed this to everyone. The Chairman reported that he and Cllr James Maxwell were going to hold a meeting with Mr. Brown before transferring the website over to the Council.

Public Toilets near the Queens Hotel

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

HAL

The following report was received by Cllr. Reg Chapman with regards to the latest situation regarding HAL - Celtic Collection continue with their interest for the site and more meetings have taken place.

I have had a meeting with the Gwynedd Council leader and officers to stress the importance of this economic development for Harlech. They are very supportive to the project, as are the Welsh Government, I met with Visit Wales, the Welsh Government responsible body for tourism.

They have offered their financial support and will pay all legal fees necessary to help our Community Council set up a Community Interest Company which will enable it to take ownership of the site from HAL and provide clear title.

This will give our Community the land asset as the company will be wholly owned by the Council.

The Council will benefit from any ground rent paid by the hotel to the CIC. once the development is complete.

These are all preparatory steps in a long road before any development is complete.

Proposals for setting up the CIC are to be presented to the December meeting of the Council

Election of Councillor

The Clerk reported that she had received a notice from the Electoral Officer stating that an election for the vacant seat that exists on the Council would be held on the 27th of this month if more than one name would be received by him by 4.00 p.m. on the 31st of last month. The Clerk reported further that she had been informed that Mr. Giles Bentham had been elected unopposed onto the Council.

Cambrian Coast Railway Liaison Meeting – 21.11.25

The Clerk reported that she had placed the above matter on the Council's agenda at the request of Cllr. Martin Hughes, and it was agreed that if anyone had any matter to discuss at the above meeting, they should send it to the Clerk by the 10th of this month.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Listed Building Consent to replace storm damaged windows and doors with new double-glazed aluminium windows and doors to match existing Coleg Harlech, Harlech (NP5/61/LB3Z)

Support this application.

RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Responsible Financial Officer reported that there was £50,612.90 in the current account and £115,100.02 in the reserve account.

Invoices needing payment since last meeting

Mr. G. J. Williams - £296.00 - cut grass in King George field and football pitch
Royal British Legion - £20.00 - poppy wreath
Gwynedd Council - £12,000.00 - contribution to keep the public toilets open
One Voice Wales - £42.00 - Cllr. James Maxwell training course
Mr Lee Warwick - £265.69 - clean toilets by the memorial hall x 2
Mr Peter Havelock - £300.00 - clean toilets by the memorial hall x 2
Mr. Meirion Griffith - £2,290.00 - cut grass on public footpaths
Mr. Meirion Griffith - £2,185.00 - cut grass in public cemetery and surrounding area
Mr. Simon Turner - £253.17 - christmas lights
King George V Field - £1,000.00 - transfer of loan

It was agreed to transfer £1,000 to the King George Field account as a loan.

Permission was given to the Clerk to purchase a new pad for the defibrillator in the kiosk near Engedi Chapel as the present one comes to an end next month.

The above payments were processed by Cllr. James Maxwell and Cllr Mark Lewis 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

Blachere Illuminations - £354.24 - christmas lights (paid 5.11.25)
Mr. Simon Turner - £499.00 - goods for christmas parade (paid 5.11.25)
Catrin Soraya Williams - £145.00 - translation services

CORRESPONDENCE

Gwynedd Council – Highways Department

Received a letter from the above informing the Council that upgrading work will be carried out on Min y Don public toilets, they will be digging and changing street lighting cables on the A496 in front of the Queens Hotel and the Tim Tacluso Ardal Ni will be coming here between the 17th and 21st of this month. The Clerk had forwarded this already to every Member.

Gwynedd Council - Environment Department

Received an e-mail from the Cabinet Member of the above Department asking the Council if it would be possible for them to take part in the survey regarding Gwynedd Council's Waste Strategy by completing the questionnaire by the 30th of this month. The Clerk had already forwarded this to the Members.

Gwynedd Council – Licensing Service

Received an e-mail from the above department regarding the consultation Application for a Premises Licence Y Copa Limited, 1 Castle Court, Stryd Fawr, Harlech and any representations regarding this application should be received by them no later than the 20th of this month. The Clerk had already forwarded this to the Members. It was agreed unanimously to support this application.

One Voice Wales

Received an e-mail from the above as information to the Council regarding training dates between October and December. The Clerk had already forwarded this to the Members.

One Voice Wales

Received a copy of the minutes of the Meirionnydd Area committee that was held on the 21st of last month as information for the Council. The Clerk had forwarded this already to every Members.

One Voice Wales

Received an e-mail from the above regarding Consultation on the changes to local government election rules in Wales for information to the Council and stating that they will be responding to this Consultation and inviting views of the Council by the 6th January 2026. The Clerk had already forwarded this to the Members.

Mrs Myfanwy Jones

Received an e-mail from the above asking what was the latest situation regarding the land adjoining the Llyn y Felin playground. The Clerk had forwarded this to Cllrs. James Maxwell and Reg Chapman. Cllr. Chapman informed the Members that he had contacted Mrs Myfanwy Jones with regards to this matter already.

SIGNED.....Chairman

DATE..... 864