

**MINUTES OF HARLECH COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE OLD LIBRARY, HARLECH AND OVER ZOOM
AT 7.00 P.M. ON 07.09.26**

9.1 APOLOGIES

Cllr. Tegid John (Vice Chairman), Mark Lewis

9.2 PRESENT

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

There were 2 members of the public present over zoom and none in the room.

Questions by members of the public

There were no questions from members of the public.

9.3 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were made by the Chairman:

Cllr. Lisa Robertson was welcomed to her first Council meeting and wished well for the future. The Acceptance of Office Document was signed by Cllr. Robertson.

Himself and Cllrs. Reg Chapman and Simon Turner and Mrs Sheila Maxwell had met with Kate Roberts and Megan Tanner from CADW to discuss the fee CADW intended to charge on Roc Ardudwy next year to use the castle. He wanted to send another letter to Heledd Fychan MP.

Had met with Adult Learning Wales to talk about the land owned by the College with the idea of building houses on it, and they had carried out a survey regarding housing needs.

He had met with George and Stephen John to discuss football training at King George V playing field and it was made known that Dyffryn Ardudwy Youth Football Club is going to use the piece of land that has been fenced off by the rugby club for football training.

9.4 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on July 6th 2026 were found to be correct.

9.5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes

9.6 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

Cllr. Simon Turner declared an interest in the matter regarding HAL

Cllr. Martin Hughes 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.

Cllr. Christopher Braithwaite declared an interest in planning application for 40 Heol y Bryn, Harlech and he signed a Personal Declaration of Interest Form and did not take part in the discussion when the application was discussed.

9.7 MATTERS ARISING

A Budget Plan

It was reported that the Council had spent £32,699.00 (which included bank charges) since the start of the new financial year and this was £41,164.75 less expenditure than what was earmarked in the budget for the 2026/27 year.

B HAL - CIC

The following report was received from Cllr. Reg Chapman with regards to the latest situation regarding HAL - I must report that since the last meeting of the Community Council, developments have been disappointingly slow. Currently we are awaiting a meeting with the headmaster and school governors of Ysgol Ardudwy to establish whether a small part of the school site could be used to accommodate a building for the Silver Band and give a clear site for the hotel development.

The band representatives have stated they support the potential hotel development, subject to suitable alternative accommodation of their own, being provided.

At a meeting hosted by Cllr. Owen with the support of Gwynedd Council's Lindsey Ellis, Community Support services Manager and Stephen Beech, Community Support Officer, resolved to look at the potential of providing a site from the available Gwynedd Council land. Lindsey Ellis has determined the school as the most suitable alternative for relocation.

Since that meeting Lindsey Ellis informed us that a meet with the Headmaster and Board of Governors is necessary to move this forward as Gwynedd Council do not have control.

We are still waiting for this to be arranged.

The Developer has indicated that there is a real possibility they will withdraw because of the time delays and lack of support from Gwynedd Council.

The Welsh Government through Visit Wales continue to give their support for the project.

I was hoping to suggest to this Council meeting that we could provide a public information session on the development and also on proposals for the King George V field.

However, before we set up meetings and provide hope for our community, I wanted to be at a stage where there was a clear path to the development going forward, to present a clear idea to people on where the hotel would fit into the site, even a design concept. The developer would then be able to move towards the planning process.

This would then lead to all the economic benefits, the revitalisation of the High Street, local decent year-round jobs etc, and these were more than a dream.

Because of the time lags in the resolution of this situation, I sense there is a total lack of enthusiasm for yet another project in Ardudwy. An area where economic improvements, cliff railway, Llanbedr Bypass and so many other projects are allowed to wither away whilst other projects in other areas of Gwynedd, prosper.

The Clerk had already sent this on to all Members.

C King George V and Llyn y Felin Playing Fields

The Clerk reported that she had received an e-mail from Mr. Joe Patton stating that he was standing down as a member of the King George V playground group due to disagreements between him and Cllrs. James Maxwell and Reg Chapman. He also stated that since his inspections of the King George playground had always been carried out on behalf of the Council to support those responsibilities, he does not feel he can continue those inspections under an arrangement where responsibility for the site's safety would sit elsewhere.

He also stated that as a result of the actions of Mr. Chapman and Mr. Maxwell he would not be attending the Community Council's September meeting for playground safety, and that he was stepping back from being a member of the King George V Playground group.

The following report was received from Cllr. Reg Chapman with regards to the King George V playing field - The reformed trustee group is developing plans and projects to revitalise the field.

It is seeking feedback from the community to understand how the field can provide for public needs within available budgets. Opportunities for the public involvement in the process will be given through an open session in the near future.

The field as a whole is a great asset. Sadly, the maintenance of playing surfaces and playground equipment are in poor condition.

It is really encouraging to find we have a strong demand for the football pitch and training areas. We are working with these organisations to accommodate immediate need and plan for the future

In the short term we have provided top soil for levelling pitches and thanks to other help from local organisations the grass has been cut to a level suitable for sport.

The playground is in a poor condition. Safety surfacing needs major work. One slide has to be removed because the support legs are rotting through. The junior swings will need replacement within 12 months There is a new roundabout to be fitted in its place. Improvement can only be funded through a bid for funds as part of the overall

development brief. Several pieces of equipment are needed, set in safer surfacing, to provide a satisfactory experience for our local children.

The trustees have recognised that some areas are receiving grass cutting at the same level as playing surfaces and this is unnecessary and harmful to its biodiversity. Building from the existing work undertaken by Joe Patton, and working with Gwynedd Council's Biodiversity officer, areas for rewilding will be set out mostly around the margins of the Field.

We have also identified the need for new changing accommodation as part of any with improvement in sports provision. A tennis/Padel court, an adaptive cycle track/fitness course. These with other achievable proposals will be the basis of a substantial "Fit For Future Facilities" Programme or similar available Funding bid for this Community. Cllr. Jane Emmerson stated that she had received an inquiry asking if there would be any change to the road if the hotel would be built and it was made known that there would be no change.

Wanted to contact J. B. Pest Control to let him know that there are moles in King George V playing field and Llyn y Felin and they need to be eradicated.

The Clerk had already sent this on to all Members.

Also the following report regarding Llyn y Felin playing field was received from Cllr. Reg Chapman - Cllr Jane Emmerson and myself attended a site meeting to understand the numerous problems as detailed below.

- 1 The entrance gate is not shutting properly and this allows dogs to enter.
- 2 The post and wire fence is damaged at the Llech end
- 3 The grass surface is in a dangerous condition, after extensive mole damage
- 4 The site of the large piece of play equipment requires tidying before a new piece is commissioned.
- 5 The site is generally unattractive and requires proper consideration for some soft landscaping, trees etc as part of an improvement plan.

An urgent meeting of the Green Spaces is required to review and cost this work and it was agreed to hold a meeting once Cllr. Reg Chapman would be back from his holidays and also permission was given for Cllr. Christopher Braithwaite to join this sub-committee.

The Clerk had already sent this on to all Members.

9.11 GWYNEDD COUNCIL MATTERS

Cllr. Gwynfor Owen stated without warning that he wasn't happy that the above item had been moved to the end of the meeting and that he wasn't willing to sit through the whole meeting just to give his report, and said either that he wanted to give his report now or, if that wasn't possible, that he would leave the meeting.

The Chairman allowed him to give his report, but not all the Members were happy with this, and the item will be left at the end of the meeting from now on. It was also agreed that Councillors should send their reports to the Members ahead of the Council meeting.

The following was reported by Cllr. Gwynfor Owen - – reported that he had wanted to convey his thanks to the Fire Service for working so hard during the wildfires in the Rhinogydd. He stated that he was unhappy that Members of the HAL Board were blaming Gwynedd Council for the delay and not doing what the HAL Board asked them to do, as he had held several meetings with Gwynedd Council regarding HAL. It was noted that officials were happy to attend a virtual meeting to discuss the speeding problems in Harlech. It was noted that the workers at Porthmadog Harbour were responsible for the work at sea up to Llandanwg, and he had been out on a boat with them and they had pointed out various hazards to him. Complaints were received that camper vans were staying overnight in the Min y Don car park, had visited Joe Patton's sensory garden with Lis Saville Roberts, and had also met Andrea Bowen with Lis Saville Roberts to discuss getting a statue of Catrin in Harlech.

The following report was received from Cllr. Annwen Hughes – She reported that she had an exhibition about Capel Salem in the Old Library and wanted to congratulate the organizers on a great display, she had been copied into correspondence between the owner of 18 Parc Bron y Graig and Gwynedd Council, asking who was responsible for the top of the rock near their house. Gwynedd Council had carried out a Land Registry of the site and it looks like the land at the top of the rock behind the house and in front of the land owned by the farmer hasn't been registered.

D Public Benches

The Clerk reported that this matter has been placed on the agenda as she had received an e-mail from Mr. Cecil Carter together with pictures of benches along the Old Llanfair Road that were in a bad way and needed urgent attention. The Chairman stated that he had asked Mr. Dylan John to carry out the work of reinstating the benches in the worst condition first.

E Communications

Cllr. Jane Emmerson had asked for this item to be put on the agenda and she was asking if it would be possible for the sub-committees to meet regularly, wanting to create a new web page for the Council, and Cllr. Giles Bentham agreed to try to do this. It was agreed that Cllr. Christopher Braithwaite would draw up a grant application form and for it to be posted on the Council's facebook page. Also to move discussing financial applications to the November meeting.

F Proposed Matters

The Chairman went around the table asking each Member what they wanted to include on the agenda in the future and the following responses were received –

Chairman – nothing to add.

Cllr. Martin Hughes – nothing to add.

Cllr. Christopher Braithwaite – asked for the Council's permission to share the Play Inspection Company report with his work colleagues and permission was given for this to be done. He also stated that a monthly inspection of the play equipment is needed and he would see if someone is available to do this work.

Cllr. Simon Turner – is going to receive £1,000 from Gwynedd Council Event Development Fund to purchase more lights to light up the town at Christmas and it was agreed he could proceed to purchase these lights. He also stated that he had received a £7,000 grant to order signs, but more money is needed to order the signs and it was agreed to discuss the matter at the next Council meeting. Stated that Visit Harlech is willing to sell their website to the Council and to network this website with the Council's current site. The matter will be put on next month's agenda.

Cllr. Jane Emmerson – nothing to add.

Cllr. Giles Bentham – nothing to add.

Cllr. Lisa Robertson – nothing to add.

Cllr. Wendy Williams – now that the 20 mph signs have been taken down near the Ty Canol estate junction, signs saying 'children playing' need to be put in their place. Cllr. Annwen Hughes agreed to look into this matter.

Cllr. Edwina Evans – nothing to add.

G Sub-Committees Reports – Finance, Green Spaces, Biodiversity, Infrastructure, Projects, Events

Finance sub-committee – the Chairman reported that this sub-committee met on the 3rd of this month but there were no matters to discuss.

Green area sub-committee – it was reported that this sub-committee has not met yet but will hold a meeting once Cllr. Reg Chapman returns from his holiday.

Biodiversity sub-committee – the Chairman reported that he, Cllr. Reg Chapman, and Mr. Joe Patton had met with Mr. Hywyn Williams from Gwynedd Council and they had agreed to cut back the growth by the wall next to the golf course, leaving a patch near the rugby site to grow. They want to see if there is anything that could be done with the piece of land near Llyn y Felin playing field.

Infrastructure sub-committee – the Chairman reported that it would be possible for the Council to approve the installation of a roundabout at a price of £20,060 (including VAT) received from GL Jones company and also to remove the slide because the base is collapsing. It was further reported on this matter and it was stated that the price had risen to £21,060 because it has become clear that one of the slides needs to be removed because the legs are rusty. Everyone agreed to accept this price apart from Cllr. Lisa Robertson, who was abstaining because this was her first Council meeting and she was not aware of this matter.

Projects sub-committee – not to be reported

Events sub-committee – Cllr. Simon Turner reported that the Harlech lighting will take place on 28th November along with a late-night shopping evening and a lantern parade, and also that he will be visiting the town's businesses to ask for a financial contribution from them.

9.8 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Installation of ground mounted solar array (14 panels) Cynfal, 40 Heol y Bryn, Harlech (NP5/61/83E)

Support this application

Erection of new timber summerhouse and re-position of existing shed Bryn Siriol, Ffordd Uchaf, Harlech (NP5/61/665A)

Support this application

9.9 RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Responsible Financial Officer reported that there was £62,545.37 in the current account and £116,277.40 in the reserve account.

Invoices needing payment

Welsh Water	-	£130.25	-	water in toilets by memorial hall
Welsh Water	-	£81.71	-	allotments water tap
Mr. G. J Williams	-	£430.00	-	cut grass in King George playing field and football field
Gwynedd Council	-	£420.00	-	internal audit 2025/26
Mr. Meirion Griffith	-	£270.00	-	cut grass in public cemetery
Mr. Meirion Griffith	-	£90.00	-	cut grass in various places
Mr. Meirion Griffith	-	£45.00	-	cut grass in Llyn y Felin playing field
Mr. Meirion Griffith	-	£515.00	-	cut grass of public footpaths in the area
Mr. Lee Warwick	-	£369.34	-	clean toilets by memorial hall (July & August)
Mr. Lee Warwick	-	£50.00	-	strim around the allotments
Mrs Annwen Hughes	-	£882.00	-	(wages 6 months) + £607.11 (costs 6 months) = £1,489.11
Mr. Joe Patton	-	£112.04	-	reimbursement items for the community garden
Christopher Braithwaite	-	£42.75	-	toilet rolls for toilets by memorial hall
Tree Fella	-	£1,200.00	-	cut back tree in Bron y Graig
Mr. James Maxwell	-	£131.98	-	top soil for King George V playing field

Applications for financial contributions

Harlech & Ardudwy Leisure - £1,700.00

The above payments were processed by Cllr. Christopher Braithwaite 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

Pritchard a Griffiths	-	£2,025.00	-	burial of the late Blodwen Iona Evans
Customs & Excise	-	£1,593.20	-	reimbursement of VAT
Gwynedd Council	-	£42,500.00	-	half the precept

Invoices paid since the last meeting

Catrin Soraya Williams	-	£155.00	-	translation services
Japanese Knotweed	-	£350.00	-	annual contract (paid 3.8.26)
SLCC	-	£84.00	-	membership fee (paid 3.8.26)

9.10 CORRESPONDENCE

A Gwynedd Council – Highways Department

Received a letter from the above informing the Council that the road down Twtil will be closed on the 10th of this month for public health and safety reasons during work on overhead cables. The Clerk had already sent this on to all Members.

B Radio Ysbyty Gwynedd

Received an e-mail from the above asking for a financial donation from the Council. It was agreed to discuss it at the next Council meeting along with the other applications. The Clerk had already sent this on to all Members.

C Rosy Berry

Received an e-mail from the above asking if it would be possible to install a rubbish bin on Penllech Road. The Clerk had already sent this on to all Members.

D Harlech Triathlon Club

Received an e-mail from the organizers of the above informing the Council of the arrangements for the duathlon which will be taking place on the 18th of next month. The Clerk had already sent this on to all Members.

E Mrs J. Cole

Received an e-mail from the above regarding purchasing big red poppies and asking if the Council has purchased some yet as agreed at the March meeting of the Council. It was agreed that the Chairman would contact Mr. Graham Perch asking him to purchase 10 big red poppies on behalf of the Council

F Gwynedd Council – Highways Department

Received a letter from the above informing the Council of the work that is going to be carried out by them during this month. The Clerk had already sent this on to all Members.

G One Voice Wales

Received an e-mail from the above regarding dates for training sessions that are been held from August to December. The Clerk had already sent this on to all Members.

SIGNED.....Chairman

DATE..... 905