MINUTES OF HARLECH COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE OLD LIBRARY, HARLECH AND OVER ZOOM AT 7.00 P.M. ON 05.10.26

10.1 APOLOGIES
Cllr. Tegid John (Vice Chairman), Christopher Braithwaite, Edwina Evans.

10.2 PRESENT
Cllrs. James Maxwell (Chairman), Reg Chapman, Simon Turner, Mark Lewis, Jane Emmerson, Giles Bentham, Lisa Robertson, Martin Hughes, Cllr. Annwen Hughes and Gwynfor Owen (Gwynedd Council).

There were no members of the public present over zoom or in the room.

Cllrs James Maxwell, Reg Chapman and Giles Bentham were present over zoom together with Cllr. Gwynfor Owen (Gwynedd Council) who was present for part of the meeting.

As the Chairman was in the meeting over zoom and the Vice Chairman not present the Chair was taken by Cllr. Simon Turner.

Questions by members of the public
There were no questions from members of the public.

10**.3 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
The following announcements were made by the Chairman:
The Clerk was asked to send a etter to say thank you to Mrs Wendy Williams for her long service to the Council and Community following her resignation from been a Member of the Council
He had a discussions with Mr. Graham Perch to assume the responsibility for electric and water under the name of George V playing field. It was agreed to pay the water bill once it was received.
He had attended a visit to Llyn y Felin playing field with green spaces committee who will provide a report on urgent work to be done
Had e mail messages with Steve Beech to arrange a meeting with head of Ysgol Arddudwy re plans to relocate the band room onto the school premises.
Arrangements have been made for a public meeting in the Neuadd Goffa in respect ot the hotel development and of the George V field. This will be on 22nd October at 7pm

10.4 MINUTES
The minutes of the meeting held on September 7th 2026 were found to be correct.

10.5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
Item 9.7 (E) Cllr. Giles Bentham stated that he had not agreed to create a new web page for the Council.

10.6 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. Reg Chapman declared an interest in the planning application regarding the Old School and a Personal Declaration of Interest Form will be signed by him when he returns from holiday.

10.7 MATTERS ARISING
A Budget Plan
It was reported that the Council had spent £41,101.66 (which included bank charges) since the start of the new financial year and this was £41,376.84 less expenditure than what was earmarked in the budget for the 2026/27 year.

.....Chairman

B HAL - CIC

The following report was received from Cllr. Reg Chapman with regards to the latest situation regarding HAL –
The Board is still awaiting a meeting that was to be arranged by Gwynedd Council, with the head of Ysgol Ardudwy. This has now been set for 12/10/2026.
There is a question mark as to the exact time but hopefully this will take place.
The Chairman has indicated he is arranging a meeting to give the public information as to the plans for the swimming pool site, and proposals on improving facilities on the King George V field.
This has been set for 22/10/2026
Cllr. Reg Chapman stated that he felt that Gwynedd Council were not co-operating with them regarding this matter.
Cllr. Giles Bentham stated that the site is not a community asset but a building that has been left abandoned

C <u>King George V and Llyn y Felin Playing Fields</u>
It was reported that a new roundabout along with a noughts and crosses panel has been installed at King George's playground at a cost of £21,060 to the Council. The Chairman stated that he had contacted Cllr. Giles Bentham to ask him to include this on the Council's website page, but he refused to do so.

D <u>Signage Grant</u>
Cllr. Simon Turner reported that a grant had been obtained from Gwynedd Council towards the signs which are made of aluminium metal with a map on them and surrounded by 7 QR codes with the following categories on them:
Eating, drinking, and shopping
What's happening
History, heritage, and walking
Things to see and do
Visitor information
Accommodation
Exploring the area.

E <u>Visit Harlech and Community Council Website</u>
Cllr. Simon Turner reported that initial discussions had taken place at the last Council meeting about buying the Visit Harlech website, and that Helen Williams would run the website alongside the Community Council's website. Businesses wanting to be part of any of the categories in the above matter would have to pay. After discussion, it was agreed to hold an extraordinary Council meeting on Monday the 12th of this month over Zoom to discuss the matter further because some Members felt that not enough information had been provided tonight regarding costs, etc., before making a final decision on the matter.

F <u>Proposed Matters</u>
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 – there is a need to promote the work that is been done by the Council on the Council's webpage.
Cllr. Martin Hughes – need for the finance sub committee to look at the budget and review it and also review the Financial Regulations.
Cllr. Simon Turner – wanted to know if it would be ok to spend £500 on chocolate as a Santa Claus present to the children that will visit him during the late night shopping. Everyone agreed to this.
Cllr. Jane Emmerson – wanted to ask Phil Price about translation over zoom
Cllr. Giles Bentham – wanted making payment to be delegated to the sub committees rather than having to wait for full Council approval.
Cllr. Lisa Robertson – nothing to add.
Cllr. Reg Chapman – want to invite Steve Beech to a Council meeting so as to obtain information about the various grants that are available.
Cllr. Mark Lewis – nothing to add

.....Chairman

G <u>Sub-Committees Reports – Finance, Green Spaces, Biodiversity, Infrastructure, Projects, Events</u>

Finance sub-committee – the Chairman reported that this sub-committee met on the 3rd of this month but there were no matters to discuss. The next meeting will be held on the 29th of this month.

Green area sub-committee – The following report was received from Cllr. Reg Chapman –
In attendance Jim Maxwell, Simon Turner, Reg Chapman, Jane Emerson
Apologies Giles Bentham
· RC apologised for the problems in setting up this meeting online and in the short notice.
· The idea was to meet before the finance committee to allow funding requests or revues to follow a managed sequence.
· The 2 quotes for playground equipment at Llyn y Felin were looked at but not in detail More quotations were needed to comply with financial regulations, then all the quotes can be looked at together and recommendations made to Council. Reg to obtain more quotes and Chris Braithwaite to be invited when more quotes obtained.
· There were a number of issues with Llyn y Felin and it was determined to have a site meeting to suggest a way to bring this site up to standard within available budgets. In particular mole problems and the wire fencing
· It was agreed a specification would need to be produced for all maintenance items such as grass cutting, hedge cutting etc. This would be very important as the sports playing areas and defined natural areas are segregated off on KGV. Also grass cutting on Llyn y Felin will need the cuttings removed.
· A further meeting to be arranged for week commencing 19/10/2026
Wanted to thank Martin Wagner for spraying in Llyn y Felin playing field and planting of shrubs will begin soon.

Biodiversity sub-committee – the Chairman reported that work was suppose to be started 3 month back in King George V playing field but they are still waiting for Hywyn Williams.

Infrastructure sub-committee – nothing to be reported

Projects sub-committee – nothing 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, the Grocer shop is going to serve mulled wine and there is a need to attract the people into the shops along the high street.

10.8 PLANNING APPLICATIONS
Certificate of Lawful Use (Existing) to use property falling under Use Class C5 (Dwellinghouses, used otherwise than as sole or main residences 5 Porkington Terrace, Harlech (NP5/61/LUL293A)
4 supported the application, 2 abstained and 2 were against and therefore supporting the application carried.

Conversion and redevelopment of former Library, to create four residential units. (1 three bed units & 3 two bed units) Library Ffordd Uchaf, Harlech (NP5/61/334A)
Objections to this application as not enough consultation had been on the planning application with the Council beforehand and also there was concern regarding loosing parking spaces and also that plastic windows were going to be installed on a building in a conservation area.

10.9 RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER
The Responsible Financial Officer reported that there was £54,144.71 in the current account and £116,407.76 in the reserve account.

Invoices needing payment
Mr. G. J Williams - £430.00 - cut grass in King George playing field and football field
Mr. Meirion Griffith - £270.00 - cut grass in public cemetery
Mr. Meirion Griffith - £150.00 - cut grass in various places
Mr. Meirion Griffith - £45.00 - cut grass in Llyn y Felin playing field

.....Chairman

G. L. Jones Playgrounds - £21,060.00 – new play equipment for King George V playing field

Mr. Meirion Evans - £240.00 - remove old goal posts from King George V playing field
Mr. Simon Turner - £92.77 - goods for christmas lights
Blachere Illuminations - £1,497.60 - christmas lights
Customs & Excise - £110.00 - tax on Clerk's wages
Mr. Joe Patton - £120.41 - reimbursement items for the community garden (out of King George A/C)

The above payments were processed by Cllr. Mark Lewis and Cllr Jane Emmerson 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 – £155.00 - translation services
Blachere Illuminations - £1,182.48 - christmas lights (paid 11.9.26)

10.10 CORRESPONDENCE

A Gwynedd Council – Environment Department
Received an e-mail from the above Department regarding a Gwynedd Active Travel Network Consultation - walking, wheeling and cycling Consultation and informing the Council that this Consultation was open until the 26th of November. The Clerk had already forwarded this e-mail to every Member.

B One Voice Wales
Received an e-mail from the above informing the Council that the Meirionnydd Area committee was been held on the 13th of this month over zoom. The Clerk had already forwarded this e-mail to every Member.

C Mr. Lee Turner
Received an email from the above asking if the Council would be willing for him to carry out work on the tennis court so he could use it. The Clerk reported that she had forwarded this email to the Chairman and he had replied to Mr. Turner stating that he would get in touch with him when he returned from his holiday.

D Mrs Wendy Williams
Received an e-mail from the above informing the Council that she was resigning as a member of the Council. The Clerk reported that she had been made aware by the Electoral Officer as an election will be held next May advertising a vacant seat does not have to be done. It was agreed to carry on to advertise this vacant seat.

10.11 GWYNEDD COUNCIL MATTERS
The following report was received from Cllr. Annwen Hughes – reported that since the last Council meeting she had met with Ceris Williams, Project Manager, Housing and Property Department, Gwynedd Council to discuss the proposed development of the Old School site in the town for 4 units, namely 3 houses and 1 flat. She had learned that a feasibility study had been completed and that a planning application would be submitted soon. The current entrance would need to be widened and the houses and flat, once completed, would be offered to local people who have lived in the area for 5 years or more.
She had received an email from S. P. Energy Works stating that a road through Barmouth town would be closed for 3 weeks next month while essential electrical work is carried out, and she had forwarded this email to all Members for information. She had also received a letter on behalf of Llanbedr Community Council stating that work to resurface Sarn Hir road will be carried out middle of this month and that this road will be closed at night on the 14th, 15th, and 16th of this month. She had sent a copy of this letter to every Member for information
She reported further on what had been sent to the Members already, PCSO Elliw Williams had contacted her

……Chairman

expressing concern about antisocial behaviour currently taking place in the area from Penrhyndeudraeth over to Barmouth, and that she had received an email from Sian Llwyd, Community and Families Engagement Officer, asking

if it would be possible to get a financial contribution towards the project she is planning to run at Ysgol Ardudwy with the pupils, parents, and guardians to try to prevent what is happening at the moment. It was agreed to contribute £220 towards this project.
She had received an email from Gwynedd Council stating that they were going to install a new bus shelter near the Bron yr Hwylfa estate between December this year and March 2027, on the condition that the Community Council agreed to take responsibility for the insurance and maintenance of the shelter once it had been installed. The Members agreed to this.

No report was given by Cllr. Gwynfor Owen as he was not willing to stay until the end of the meeting to give his report and therefore he had left the meeting.

SIGNED..... Chairman

DATE..... 910