

**MINUTES OF HARLECH COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE OLD LIBRARY, HARLECH AT 7.30 P.M. ON 08.04.24**

**APOLOGIES**

Cllrs. Thomas Mort.

**PRESENT**

Cllrs. Edwina Evans (Chairman), Christopher Braithwaite (Vice Chairman), Tegid John, Rhian Corps, Ceri Griffiths, Gordon Howie, Martin Hughes, Giles Bentham, Reg Chapman, Wendy Williams, and Cllrs. Annwen Hughes and Gwynfor Owen (Gwynedd Council).

There was 4 members of the public present.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr. Reg Chapman to his first meeting of the Council and wished him well in the future. Cllr. Chapman signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office at the start of the meeting.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on March 4th 2024 were found to be correct.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Cllr. Giles Bentham was not satisfied with what had been written in the minutes about a matter with the Internal Auditor and he had sent an amendment to be included in the minutes to all Members. There was disagreement with this because some Members stated that what was in the minutes was sufficient. There was a vote on whether the amendment was to be included or not with 5 in favour of not including it and 2 in favour.

Cllr. Giles Bentham was not satisfied with what had been written in the minutes regarding the matter that Cllr. Martin Hughes had put before the Council regarding the budget and he had sent an amendment to be included in the minutes to all Members. There was disagreement with this because some Members stated that what was in the records was sufficient. There was a vote on whether the amendment was to be included or not with 5 in favour of not including it and 2 in favour. It was agreed that the budget needed to be reviewed and put this matter on next month's agenda.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Nobody declared an interest on any matter.

**GWYNEDD COUNCIL MATTERS**

The following report was received from Cllr. Annwen Hughes and Cllr. Gwynfor Owen – Cllr. Annwen Hughes reported that since the last meeting that she had that she had been in contact with Gwynedd Council to let them know that the door of the men's toilet in Min y Don's public toilets was open but not the door of the female toilets. She had received a reply stating that every time a new padlock was fitted someone was breaking the men's toilet door lock but the toilets would open for the season on the 25th of last month anyway. 'These toilets had improved after been painted but one of the cisterns in the women's toilets was leaking and she had contacted Gwynedd Council about this and the problem had been resolved immediately, but she had been informed that one of the urinals in the men's toilets had blocked but now this problem had been resolved. She had been told that the pay and display machine in Bron y Graig Isaf car park was not working and she had contacted Gwynedd Council to let them know about this and the problem is now sorted. She had received an email along with pictures from the Officer at the Municipal Department showing the significant work that has been done to improve the look of Bron y Craig Park.

Cllr. Gwynfor Owen reported that he had attended a meeting with Natural Resources Wales on the beach about clearing the sand from the path but Natural Resources Wales was unwilling to do this work. He had attended a

meeting with HAL who he congratulated on the good work they were doing with the pool. He attended the unveiling ceremony of the blue plaques last week and had been around town with Lis Saville Roberts M.P. the same day. He had attended a meeting together with Cllrs. Annwen Hughes, Rhian Corps and Reg Chapman and Rhian Elin George of Gwynedd Council about the Harlech Art Scheme and stated that they intended to place the art piece on the grounds in front of the Church. Members were not happy that this was going to be done and stated it would be better for it to be installed in Bron y Graig Isaf car park and it was agreed that Cllr. Reg Chapman would contact Ms George once she had sent them the brief.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

### **Budget Plan**

It was reported that the Council had spent £100,004.28 (which included bank charges) since the start of the new financial year and this was £14,620.28 more expenditure than what was earmarked in the budget for the year. The Clerk reported that copies of the Council's budget plan for the year 2024/25 had been sent to every Member already.

### **2024 Projects**

Cllr. Christopher Braithwaite reported that he had no update on the above and this matter will need to be re-discussed after Members review the Council's budget.

The Clerk reported that she had been informed that it was the Council's responsibility to select the tender to do the work in the allotments and after discussion it was agreed to give the work to Mr. Dylan Trahearn.

### **Election of Councillor**

The Clerk reported that she had been informed by the Electoral Officer that a request for an election had been received by him but he will not be sending the notice of this until after the Police Commissioner's Election which is held on the 2nd of May.

### **HAL**

The Chair reported that she and Cllrs. Giles Bentham and Martin Hughes had attended a meeting with some of the Board members of the above on the 17th of last month. 'This meeting was due to take place on the 21st of last month. It was stated that this meeting was a more positive one and that the Board had decided to let the café out to independents in order to bring in additional funding and at the moment 5 had shown interest in the site. No date for another meeting had been scheduled. Concern was voiced that the Council had not received a copy of the company's monthly balance sheet since January.

### **Review of Authorisation of Payments/Standing Orders**

It was stated that it was necessary to follow what was contained in the Standing Orders and the Financial Regulations and it was agreed to revisit the Financial Regulations at next month's meeting of the Council with them including emergency payments.

## **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

### **Demolition of existing buildings and construction of a rural enterprise dwelling (Re-submission) - Ty'n y Gwater, Harlech (NP5/61/647A)**

Support this application.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer reported that there was £6,982.84 in the current account and £72,358.15 in the reserve account.

### **Invoices needing payment since last meeting**

Mrs Kim Howie - £25.99 – monthly payment for administration of Council website  
Customs & Excise - £110.00 – tax on Clerk's wages  
One Voice Wales - £350.00 – membership fee for the year  
E.. W. Owen & Co - £228.00 - completing P.A.Y.E on line  
Mrs Annwen Hughes - £250.00 – administration allowance for the last 6 months  
Gwynedd Council - £821.02 - emptying of litter bins in both play parks  
Mr. G. J. Williams - £156.00 - cut grass King George playing field and football field.

### **Applications for financial contributions**

Harlech & Ardudwy Leisure - £1,824.75 – precept proposal (monthly payment).

The above payments were processed by Cllr. Ceri Griffiths and the Vice Chairman, Cllr. Christopher Braithwaite 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.

The Treasurer that she had sent a copy of the Council's accounts for the year ending 31st March 2024 to every Member already. The Members went through the accounts carefully and they all accepted the accounts after changing "Is there an incomprehensible variation of the budget to a Yes instead of No" because the Council spent £26,982 on new play equipment and they had not budgeted for it.. It was agreed by everybody that the accounts book be signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

### **Monies received since last meeting**

Customs & Excise - £310.50 – reimbursement of V.A.T

### **CORRESPONDANCE**

#### **Gwynedd Council – Legal Department**

Received an email along with a draft copy of the Lease of the The Castle public toilets, Castle Square from the above and asking the Council to have a look at it and confirm if they are satisfied with the contents or not. It was agreed that the Clerk would forward a copy of this Lease to every Member and to discuss it at the next Council meeting.

#### **Gwynedd Council – Legal Department**

Received an email along with copies of the Public Notices regarding the closure of the road for the Harlech Triathlon on the 14th of this month for information of the Council.

#### **Gwynedd Council – Economic Department**

Received an email from the above regarding the Friends of Ellis Wynne and asking if it would be possible to arrange a meeting between the members of the Friends and this Council as the Friends are keen to cooperate with the Council. Cllr. Martin Hughes agreed to attend this meeting on behalf of the Council.

#### **Gwynedd Council – Environment Department**

Received a letter from the above informing the Council that they are carrying out the work of drywal building, drainage and fencing work on bridleway 16/23 during this month.

### **Mr. Steffan Howell Jones**

Received an email from the above as coach of the Penrhyndeudraeth under 17 football team and asking if it would be possible to use Harlech football pitch if necessary due to a lot of fixture congestion. It was agreed to give them permission and also state that they would be allowed to use the toilets at the Band Room.

**ANY OTHER MATTER**

It was agreed to start next month's meeting at 7.00pm because it was the annual general meeting.

It was reported that North Wales Active had started in the area.

It was reported that the Old Library committee has been successful in obtaining a grant of £6,500

It was agreed to put christmas lights on next month's agenda.

Want to know what's going on with the tennis court.

**SIGNED.....Chairman**

**DATE..... 788.**