

MINUTES OF HARLECH COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE OLD LIBRARY, HARLECH AT 7.30 P.M. ON 13.05.24

APOLOGIES

Cllrs. Thomas Mort, Gordon Howie and Gwynfor Owen (Gwynedd Council).

PRESENT

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

There was 6 members of the public present at the start of the meeting and 2 left shortly after the start of the meeting.

Mrs Jane Jones asked to address the Council to bring to their attention the event that is going to take place to unveil the blue plaque in memory of Bryan Hilton-Jones on the 2nd June and asked if the Council would be willing to give a financial donation towards this event.

Ms Annie O'Brien asked if the Members had received her request to speak at the meeting and she stated that she had sent an e-mail outlining what she wanted to discuss with the Members. It was noted that some Members had received the e-mail in question but unfortunately it had gone to the junk folder of other Members. It was agreed that Ms O'Brien send the e-mail again and the matter would be discussed at next month's meeting.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on April 8th 2024 were found to be correct by the majority of Members, but Cllr. Martin Hughes stated that he did not find the minutes correct and had e-mailed the Members outlining the amendments that should be made to them.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr. Martin Hughes stated it should be noted in the minutes that Cllr. Giles Bentham requested a recorded vote with regards to the matters arising from the April minutes which was refused by the Vice-Chair.

Cllr. Martin Hughes stated it should be noted that the Vice Chair should have explained to members of the public why they had to leave the meeting in April.

Cllr. Martin Hughes proposed that the breach of these two Standing Orders will not be repeated.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr. Martin Hughes declared a non personal, non prejudicial interest when the financial application for a blue plaque for Major Bryan Hilton-Jones was discussed as he is Treasurer of the Harlech Historical Society and he signed a Personal Declaration of Interest Form.

Cllr. Giles Bentham declared a personal interest when the financial application for a blue plaque for Major Bryan Hilton-Jones was discussed as he has helped with the history of Hilton-Jones and he signed a Personal Declaration of Interest Form.

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 been informed that the car charging points were now working in upper Bron y Graig car park. Also she had received an e-mail from Williams Homes the developer of the houses stating that the work of building these houses near Penyrhwylfa estate was starting. She had received an email voicing concern that the owners of motor homes parking on HAL car park overnight were emptying their toilets into the nearby ditch and she had also received pictures showing the difference in the colour of the water in the ditch before the HAL car park and after passing the car park. It was agreed to contact HAL with regards to this matter regarding the motor homes when they park on HAL car park asking what action they are taking with regards to this matter.

She had also been informed that an eye witness saw the owner of a motor home emptying his toilet into the nearby bushes. Following the meeting she had with the Police back in February this year, she was pleased to see that they

were implementing what they had promised by keeping an eye on speeding down Beach Road and also they had arranged for the Traffic Warden to visit the town more often.

MATTERS ARISING

Election of Officers for the year 24/25

Chairman:- Cllr. Christopher Braithwaite was elected unopposed

On leaving the Chair Cllr. Edwina Evans thanked her fellow Councillors for all their support over the last two years although some difficulties had to be faced at times. She also stated that she hoped that the new Chairman would get the support of his fellow Councillors and she also thanked the Clerk for all her work.

Cllr. Martin Hughes conveyed his thanks to Cllr. Edwina Evans.

Cllr. Christopher Braithwaite stated as the new Chairman that he hoped he would be getting the support of his fellow Councillors.

Two names were proposed and seconded for the post of Vice Chairman, namely Cllr. Tegid John and Cllr. Giles Bentham.

Cllrs. Christopher Braithwaite, Edwina Evans, Tegid John, Rhian Corps, Ceri Griffiths and Wendy Williams voted for Cllr. Tegid John.

Cllrs. Martin Hughes and Giles Bentham voted for Cllr. Giles Bentham.

Cllr. Reg Chapman abstained from voting.

Cllr. Tegid John was elected as Vice Chairman

Members of Sub Committees: –

Cemetery – gather any 6 Councillors together

Footpaths - Cllr. Rhian Corps and any 5 other Councillors

Memorial Hall – Cllrs. Edwina Evans and Ceri Griffiths

Playing Fields – Cllrs. Christopher Braithwaite, Tegid John, Rhian Corps and Reg Chapman

Old Library – Cllrs. Edwina Evans and Martin Hughes

One Voice Wales – Cllrs. Christopher Braithwaite and Martin Hughes

Public Benches – Cllrs. Wendy Williams and Rhian Corps

Allotments– Cllrs. Giles Bentham and Reg Chapman

Bron y Graig Nature Trail – Cllrs. Christopher Braithwaite, Tegid John, Rhian Corps, Martin Hughes.

Harlech & Ardudwy Leisure– Cllrs. Giles Bentham and Martin Hughes

Tan y Castell School Governor – Cllr. Wendy Williams

It was agreed to set up the following sub-committees:-

Staffing – Cllrs. Christopher Braithwaite, Tegid John, Ceri Griffiths and Rhian Corps

Finance – Cllrs. Christopher Braithwaite, Tegid John, Reg Chapman and Martin Hughes

Council's Annual Report

The Clerk reported that the Council has to publish an Annual Report for the financial year which has been so because of this she had sent a copy of the Report that she has prepared for the Council to all Members for comment if necessary. It was agreed to include that Audit Wales had published a report which was in the Public Interest with regards to the scam and also budget needed to be changed to precept under the budget heading and the income and expenditure should read 2023/24 and not 2022/23. It was agreed to forward the annual report with the amendments to the Members and asking them to response back in 5 working days before it is published on the Council's website.

It was also stated by the Chairman that any comments the Members have regarding the minutes should be received within 14 working days from the date of the meeting.

Concern was voiced regarding the website and the Chairman agreed to speak with Mrs Kim Howie.

Budget Plan

It was reported that the Council had spent £3,765.76 (which included bank charges) since the start of the new financial year and this was £10,966.49 less expenditure than what was earmarked in the budget for the year.

Review Council's Budget

It was agreed that the finance sub-committee would meet before the next Council meeting and report back at the next meeting with regards to the Council's budget.

Council's Financial Regulations

It was agreed that in section 4.5 the limit for the budgetary provision for the expenditure should be changed from £500, to £2,000 and add "with the agreement of the Chairman and Vice Chairman".

Christmas Lights

The Chairman reported that he had received a list of all the expenditure with regards to the above from Mr. Geraint Williams and it was agreed that the Clerk would forward this to all Members and the matter would be discussed again at next month's meeting.

Election of Councillor

The Clerk reported that she had received a notice of Election from the Electoral Officer and that the notice had commenced since the 8th of this month and was ending on the 16th. If more than one name would be received by him an election will be held on the 13th of June.

Harlech Council Investigation Quotations

Cllr. Martin Hughes reported that he had received 3 quotes from One Voice Wales to carry out the investigation ranging from £945 to £11,000 and he also stated that the remit had been prepared by One Voice Wales and sent out to the three investigators. The Chairman voiced concern that Cllr. Martin Hughes had been able to make contact with One Voice Wales without the permission of the Chairman and that the Council was ready to spend public money on the matter to investigate the fraud. The Chairman also stated that he had no confidence in the quotations received due to the process in which they had been obtained following a conversation with One Voice Wales earlier today where they stated that they can only discuss topics with prior arrangements from the Chairman or the Clerk. A vote was taken to receive the lowest quote and everybody agreed to this.

Public Toilets by the Castle Lease

The Clerk reported following last month's meeting that he had sent copies of the above to all Members so they could have a look at it before the Council contact Gwynedd Council back. It was agreed to reply stating that the Council was not happy with the Lease and to ask if it would be possible a more simpler document and less years on the Lease.

Cyfeillion Ellis Wynne Meeting – 3.5.24

Cllr. Martin Hughes reported that himself and Cllr. Giles Bentham had attended the above meeting on behalf of the Council. It was also reported that minutes of that meeting had been received by everybody. Both Councillors stated that a letter by Cyngor Gwynedd to Cyfeillion Ellis Wynne, dated 7/7/2010, which included a list of the obligations of Cyngor Tref Harlech need to undertake as lease holders, which have not been done, thus far, by the town council' was going to be sent to them by Sian Llewelyn but as yet nothing had been received. It was decided to leave the matter until such letter had been received and to place the matter on next month's agenda.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Vary Condition No.2 (approved plans) attached to Planning Consent NP5/61/657A dated 01/08/2023 for changes to parking bay - Aelfor, Ffordd Isaf, Harlech (NP5/61/657E)

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported that there was £5,367.08 in the current account and £72,481.11 in the reserve account.

Invoices needing payment since last meeting

Mrs Kim Howie - £25.99 – monthly payment for administration of Council website
Mr. M. J. Kerr - £580.00 - opening grave re the late Mr. Robert John Shaw
Mr. Lee Warwick - £298.00 - cleaning toilets by memorial hall March and April
Mr. G. J. Williams - £156.00 - cut grass King George playing field and football field.
Clear Insurance Management Ltd - £2,082.04 – Council's insurance

Applications for financial contributions

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

The above payments were processed by the Chairman, Cllr. Christopher Braithwaite and Cllr. Edwina Evans 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

Ms Melissa Morgan - £40.00 – allotment rent nos. 17 a 18
Mr. Lee Warwick - £60.00 - allotment rent nos. 13 a 14
H. O. Davies - £1,908.00 - burial of the late Mr. Robert John Shaw
Mr. Dafi Owen - £150.00 - allotment rent nos. 1, 2 a 3
Gwynedd Council - £35,000.00 – half the precept
Customs & Excise - £175.04 – reimbursement of V.A.T
Gwynedd Council - £6,921.79 - reimbursement car parks income

CORRESPONDANCE

Gwynedd Council – Environment Department

Received a reply from the above Department informing the Council that the Class III Road known as Ffordd Uchaf, Harlech from a point by its junction with Bron y Graig travelling north westerly up to a point by the entrance road to Harlech Library will be closed on the 25th June. The closure is necessary on health and safety grounds to the public during excavation works on behalf of Scottish Power. The Clerk reported that she had already forwarded this e-mail to the Members.

Gwynedd Council – Economic Department

Received an e-mail from the above informing the Council that a meeting of Ardal Ni Bro Ardudwy will be held on the 16th of this month at Harlech & Ardudwy Leisure at 5.30 p.m. The Clerk reported that she had already forwarded this e-mail to the Members and she had also forwarded the names of Members that was going to attend the meeting to Anna Lewis.

One Voice Wales

Received an e-mail from the above informing the Council that free training was been held and there was room for two Councillors to attend it. Also received a list of training dates for May and June. It was agreed to forward this e-mail to all Members.

SARPA

Received a letter from the above asking the Council to contact Wales Transportation regarding the proposed cuts to the service on the Cambrian line they are proposing to do by cutting out the service of 4 trains between December and March. The Clerk reported that she had already forwarded this e-mail to the Members. Cllr. Edwina Evans thanked the Clerk for sending such a good e-mail on behalf of the Community Council to Transport for Wales objecting to this proposal.

Wales Air Ambulance

Received a letter from the Chief Executive of the above regarding the review of the EMRTS service which was held independently come to an end. The Clerk reported that she had already forwarded this e-mail to the Members.

Snowdonia National Park

Received a letter from the above about becoming a Member of the Park's Authority and stating that there is currently a vacancy for a Welsh Government appointed Member for the Authority. The recruitment process for this role will commence on the 16th of this month and full details of the vacancy and application process can be found on the Welsh Government website from 9 a.m. on this day. The Welsh Government have asked for this vacancy to be promoted locally and if anyone has further interest for them to contact the Authority's office.

Mrs Pamela Ainsworth

Received a letter from above asking the Council to make sure the speed limit of the traffic stays at 20 m.p.a through the town.

Mrs Anna Cole

Received an email from the above voicing disappointment that when visiting the town recently that they had received a parking ticket at Min y Don car park despite the ticket they had purchased was within the time limit and had not gone over and stating it would be good to get the Council's feedback on this. It was stated by Members that they thought that the pay and display machine in question accepted credit cards but they would check if this was correct and advice Mrs Cole to take the matter up with Gwynedd Council.

Mrs Jane Jones

The request received by the above at the beginning of the meeting was discussed and it was decided to give a contribution up to £300 if the principal meets the financial regulations.

ANY OTHER MATTER

The Chairman stated that he hoped every Member would keep to the Code of Conduct.

It was agreed to put the matter of public benches on next month's agenda.

It was made known that there was a meeting of the public art scheme on Wednesday 15th

Cllr. Reg Chapman made it known that he was in the process of drawing up a list of items to place on next month's agenda.

SIGNED.....Chairman

DATE.....

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