

MINUTES OF HARLECH COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE OLD LIBRARY, HARLECH AT 7.30 P.M. ON 02.09.24

APOLOGIES

Cllrs. Tegid John (Vice Chairman), Gordon Howie.

PRESENT

Cllrs. Christopher Braithwaite (Chairman), Edwina Evans, Ceri Griffiths, Rhian Corps, Martin Hughes, Giles Bentham, Reg Chapman, James Maxwell, Wendy Williams, and Cllr. Annwen Hughes and Gwynfor Owen (Gwynedd Council).

There were 7 members of the public present at the meeting

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair stated that August had been fairly quiet but that he felt disappointed with the behaviour of some Members around the table and not getting the support needed in Council or outside the Council.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on July 1st 2024 were found to be correct.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

It was made known that no reply had been received from One Voice Wales with regards to the Clerk's wages or Lee Warwick.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No Member declared an interest on any matters.

GWYNEDD COUNCIL MATTERS

The following report was received from Cllr. Annwen Hughes and Cllr. Gwynfor Owen – Cllr. Annwen Hughes reported that she had received several complaints that the rubbish bins down near Min y Don car park were full and had contacted Gwynedd Council regarding this matter and they had been emptied immediately, complaints about speeding along Morfa Road and had let the local Police know of this, complaints from visitors that they had received a parking ticket because they had not parked within the proper parking space in Bron y Graig upper car park but along the side. Have received an email from the owner of Blue Lion Cafe stating that one of the Community Councillors has been liking negative reviews on tripadvisor about the cafe and they were expecting fair and unbiased representation from Councillors and asking for this to end or they will be forced to take the matter further. Cllr. Gwynfor Owen reported that he had received no complaint about the beach up until now because someone had broken the fence in order to gain access to the tarmac and he had passed this on to the relevant department of Gwynedd Council. There was now a period of cuts as well as cuts at the Fire Authority and he was pleased to attend the event when Llion Kerry passed out as a firefighter. He had a meeting in Bron y Graig Uchaf car park with an Officer from Gwynedd Council who stated that it was possible to create 3 additional spaces and it was possible to make changes to Min y Don car park and he wanted to know the views of Members on this and it was agreed to put the matter on next month's agenda. 'He had written to the Minister for sport and CADW but the Minister had now been replaced.

MATTERS ARISING

Budget Plan

It was reported that the Council had spent £15,164.14 (which included bank charges) since the start of the new financial year and this was £37,345.21 less expenditure than what was earmarked in the budget for the year (This is after the budget has been revised).

HAL

All the Members agreed for the Standing Orders to be suspended so Mr. Simon Dawson, one of HAL Board members could address the Council.

Mr. Dawson stated that the centre had closed since the 1st August due to financial difficulties. The centre had been open since 2010 and he wanted to thank all the Community Councils for their support, all staff had now been made

redundant. There were still costs to be paid for since the centre had closed and asking if the Community Council would still support HAL until they had decided what would be best for the centre. They had already sold some assets to as to keep solvent. The Community Council's decision is critical for the future of the centre. Cllr. Gwynfor Owen thanked the Board members for their work over the years. He didn't want to see the company going bankrupt, no public body was going to take on the centre. He had held discussions with the property department and economy department of Gwynedd Council and Gwynedd Council can take it back for £1, the urgency is to stop the company going bankrupt. There was a vote as to carry on with the precept payment to HAL and 8 Members agreed to pay the precept payments for August and September and the Chairman abstained. It was agreed to review the payment for October at the next Council meeting.

Public Benches

Cllr. Wendy Williams reported that she had received pictures of seats that had been made of recycling material by Cllr. Reg Chapman also has a list of the seats located in the area by Cllr. James Maxwell. Cllr. Williams agreed to ask for a price to paint the seats that needed painting and also a price to purchase one or two seats. Cllr. Reg Chapman agreed to get prices for net and wire for the tennis court.

Christmas Lights

It was made known that the lights were available and it was agreed to pay the invoice for £1,000 for them and Cllr.. Reg Chapman to get a price to store these lights.

Cyfeillion Ellis Wynne

The Chairman reported that a meeting with the above together with Gwynedd Council has been arranged for the 17th of this month and the Chairman stated that the Cyfeillion had asked if the Council would be willing to pay half the cost for a translator and it was agreed to ask them what this cost would be before making a decision.

Assets Register

The Clerk reported that she had already sent a copy of the above to all Members. Agenda next month and get insurance value of assets.

Allotments

Now that the nesting season had come to an end it was agreed to ask Mr. Danny Trahearn if he could start work on the above site and would he contact Cllr. Giles Bentham about this.

Nature trail management plan

Cllr. James Maxwell stated that he had drawn up the above plan 12 years ago and it was agreed a tree survey need to be carried out and that the sub committee meet to discuss the way forward.

Election of Councillor

The Clerk reported that a notice had been put up on both the notice boards and the Council's website advertising the vacant seat that exists on the Council and this notice will expire on the 9th of this month. The Chairman stated that he had received an e-mail from Cllr. Tegid John informing him that he was resigning as a member of the Community Council. The Clerk was asked to send him a letter thanking him for all his hard work and also send a copy of the e-mail to the Electoral Officer in Caernarfon. Disappointed was voiced by some Members that another young, hard working member had decided to resign.

Public toilets by the Memorial Hall

The Chairman reported that he had received a price from Mr. Geraint Jones for upgrading the lighting in the above toilets and it was agreed that the email regarding this be forwarded to all Members.

Council's Training Plan

Because there was not enough time to discuss the above issue tonight, that the issue is moved to next month's agenda.

Council's website

Cllr. Giles Bentham agreed to contact Mrs Kim Howie to offer his assistance with the above website.

Financial Regulations

Because there was not enough time to discuss the above issue tonight, that the issue is moved to next month's agenda.

Various Reports

Because there was not enough time to discuss the above issue tonight, that the issue is moved to next month's agenda.

Translator

Because there was not enough time to discuss the above issue tonight, that the issue is moved to next month's agenda.

Remote access at Council meetings

Because there was not enough time to discuss the above issue tonight, that the issue is moved to next month's agenda.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Variation to Conditions 2 (Approved plans and details), 3 (Reduce number of dwellings from 20 to 19), 4 (Roofing material) & 6 (Stonework panel) attached to Planning Consent NP5/61/654 dated 23/04/2024 Land adjoining Pen yr Hwylfa, Harlech (NP5/61/654A)

Support this application.

Installation of external air-source heat pump 5 Pen-y-Graig, Harlech (NP5/61/667)

Support this application.

Change of use of ground floor shops to restaurant Castle Court & Gwynfa, High Street, Harlech (NP5/61/123E)

Support this application.

RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Responsible Financial Officer reported that there was £45,279.53 in the current account and £102,975.29 in the reserve account.

Invoices needing payment since last meeting

Mrs Kim Howie	- £51.98 – monthly payment for administration of Council website
Gwynedd Council	- £10,000.00 – contribution to keep the public toilets open
Gwynedd Council	- £336.00 - internal audit 2023/24
Welsh Water	- £461.64 - water for public toilets near memorial hall
Welsh Water	- £28.14 - water tap at the allotments
Mr. C. Braithwaite	- £102.98 - toilet rolls for public toilets near memorial hall
Mr. Geraint Williams	- £1,000.00 – Christmas lights
Japanese Knotweed Removal Wales	- £155.00 – treat knotweed in Bron y Graig nature trail
MAS Seeds Ltd	- £67.43 - plants for community wildflower garden
Vera Blue Bell	- £35.00 - plants for community wildflower garden
Celtic Wildflowers	- £250.80 - plants for community wildflower garden
J. Parker Dutch Bulbs	- £109.74 - plants for community wildflower garden
One Voice Wales	- £40.00 - Councillor Training
Mr. G. J. Williams	- £352.00 - cut grass in King George & football field (July & August)
Mr. Lee Warwick	- £519.46 - clean toilets near memorial hall x 4
Mrs Annwen Hughes	- £882.00 wages and £570.60 costs for the last 6 months = £1,452.60

Applications for financial contributions

Harlech & Ardudwy Leisure - £3,649.50 – precept proposal (monthly payment) x 2.

The above payments were processed by Cllr. Edwina Evans and Cllr. Ceri Griffiths 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 - £3,648.00 – burial re the late Mr. Robert Sulwyn Lloyd Williams
- Pritchard a Griffiths - £247.00 – burial of ashes re the late Ms Rhian Wyn Roberts
- Triathlon Harlech - £150.00 - hire of King George playing field for the triathlon
- Triathlon Harlech - £100.00 - contribution to the Community Wildflower Garden
- Gwynedd Council - £35,000.00 - half the precept

Invoices paid since the last meeting

Catrin Soraya Williams – £165.00 - translation services

CORRESPONDENCE

Always Aim High

Received an e-mail from the above asking for permission to use King George playing field for the Harlech Triathlon 2025 as in previous years. It was agreed to give them permission and ask them what contribution they were going to give to the Council.

Gwynedd Council – Legal Department

Received an email from the above Department regarding a single vote system consultation stating that there is a link to the consultation for the Council to complete. The Clerk reported that she had forwarded this email to all Members already. It was agreed by 7 Members to keep the voting system the same and Cllr. Martin Hughes favoured the single vote system.

One Voice Wales

Received an e-mail from the above regarding the annual conference which is been held on the 16th of next month on the Royal Welsh showground in Builth Wells. The Clerk reported that she had already forwarded this e-mail to all Members and Cllr. Martin Hughes stated that he had showed interest in attending this conference.

SIGNED.....Chairman

DATE..... 802.