

MINUTES OF HARLECH COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE OLD LIBRARY, HARLECH AT 7.00 P.M. ON 07.07.25

APOLOGIES

Cllr. Ceri Griffiths, Rhian Corps, Mark Lewis, Simon Turner, Tegid John.

PRESENT

Cllrs. Christopher Braithwaite (Chairman), James Maxwell (Vice Chairman), Edwina Evans, Wendy Williams, Gordon Howie, Reg Chapman, Martin Hughes, and Cllr. Annwen Hughes and Gwynfor Owen (Gwynedd Council).

There were 6 members of the public present at the meeting

Questions by members of the public

Questions and comments were received from some members of the public

Wanted to know why there was £1,300 in the budget for storage and it was explained that the Council has to have storage for Christmas lights, benches etc., in a safe place.

It was explained that it was a mistake that One Voice Wales was down twice in the english minutes of the 27th January.

The £4,000 that was earmarked in the budget was for expenditure on the allotments and not a grant as was stated.

Wanted to know why all the unnecessary information was still on the website, why was Talsarnau Council cookiee and privacy policy on the Council website and this was not compliance and the details of the Councillors or the Clerk's e-mail were not on the website and it was explained that the Vice Chairman and the Clerk were trying to arrange a meeting with the website's administrator.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

On behalf of the Members the Chairman extended the Council's sympathy with Cllr. Ceri Griffiths and family following the death of her monther.

He stated that it had been a busy month and had met to get the latest information regarding HAL and he also stated there will be a need to hold a meeting of the finance sub-committee in August.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on June 2nd 2025 were found to be correct.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr. Reg Chapman declared an interest in the matter regarding HAL and he signed a Personal Declaration of Interest form.

Cllr. Martin Hughes declared an interest in the matter regarding HAL and he signed a Personal Declaration of Interest form.

Cllr. Christopher Braithwaite declared an interest in the Y Foel, Harlech planning application and he signed a personal Declaration of Interest form.

GWYNEDD COUNCIL MATTERS

The following report was received from Cllr. Annwen Hughes. Cllr. Annwen Hughes reported that since the last meeting that several Members of the public had contacted her voicing concern that the Ffridd Rasus site was closing and because of this she had held a meeting with one of the Officers from Gwynedd Council to find out what the latest situation was with regards to this site and she had been informed there are no plans to shut the site but they are not open to the public on a Monday morning on the basis of health and safety. She had been in discussions with

an Officer from Gwynedd Council regarding the public toilets in Min y Don car park and had been told that he had held a meeting with an Officer from the Property Department to see what could be done to upgrade these toilets, also she had been made aware that the grass in Bron y Graig Park had been cut last Friday. It was agreed to recommence talks with Gwynedd Council regarding taking over Bron y Graig Park. It was made known that the grass had not been cut in Bron y Graig park on Saturday the 5th of this month.

Cllr. Gwynfor Owen reported that he had put in a motion at the Full Gwynedd Council meeting to do with the railway and calling on the Welsh Government to insist that the entire Wales railway network be devolved to Wales at once, also he had put in a question in to the Full Council meeting asking what was the latest regarding the bypass in Llanbedr. He had attended a surgery in the town with Liz Saville Roberts and Mabon Ap Gwynfor. He had been appointed the Chairman of the Council's licensing committee.

MATTERS ARISING

Budget Plan

It was reported that the Council had spent £11,387.51 (which included bank charges) since the start of the new financial year and this was £26,577.99 less expenditure than what was earmarked in the budget for the 2025/26 year. It was agreed that the finance sub-committee meet in August.

Complete New Mandate

The Responsible Financial Officer reported that there was a need to update the above and complete a new one as most of the name that is on the present one are not on the Council any longer. This mandate was completed.

Training Courses for Members and Clerk

The Clerk reported that she had received an e-mail from One Voice Wales outlining the training courses that were available between June and September and that she had forwarded this already to all Members. It was agreed there was a need to attend the following training courses – Induction of a New Councillor, The Council, The Councillor, Understanding the Law, Council Meeting, Health and Safety and Code of Conduct.

King George V Playing Field

The Clerk reported that she had received an e-mail from Mr. Joe Patton following a visit from an assessor from Keep Wales Tidy Green Flag Award and although the assessor was pleased with the overall maintenance, he commented that further consideration should be given to improve access for the less mobile and disabled to ensure wheelchair and pushchair users can fully enjoy the orchard / story telling chair area. Therefore following this he was asking for the Council to install a new gate be installed along the service road, accompanied by a pathway similar to the one there already so as to create a direct and accessible route to the orchard seating area. It was agreed to update the Charity Commission details and add the names of Cllr. James Maxwell and Reg Chapman to the Trustees register. The Clerk stated that Mr. Gareth John Williams had contacted her asking for the Council's permission to cut the grass every three weeks instead of every month and it was stated it would be better if the grass was cut every two weeks.

One Voice Wales Meeting – Dolgellau 14.5.25

Cllr. Martin Hughes reported that he had attended the above meeting and it was poorly attended but an interesting meeting and had met with the new Development Officer Katherine Brown. The Clerk had already forwarded a copy of this meeting's minutes to all the Members

HAL

The following report was received from Cllr. Reg Chapman with regards to the latest situation regarding HAL

1. The Board have met with the Hotel group, Celtic -Collections.
2. They have re-affirmed their commitment to manage and lease the site. They are looking for a 100-bed hotel with restaurant and leisure facilities.

3. They will provide a presentation to HCC on their proposals.
4. St David's Golf Club are not directly involved in either formulating or cooperating in this early phase of the proposals
5. The Board representatives, Chair and Company Secretary, have met with Pobl to discuss various issues including their financial plan. A new illustrative document has been produced by them. This will be looked at during the next Board meeting.
6. Access to the swimming pool site has been allowed for Pobl to carry out further assessment of equipment etc
7. There are still a number of outstanding items to be provided by Moelwyn Gymnastics. These include revised build costs following consultation with SNP planners.
8. Further information is being sought as regards to Welsh Gymnastics financial support for this project.
9. Timing of a handover of the Asset to HCC is dependant on risk assessment. This has still to be considered. An offer of professional advice has been received and passed to the HCC finance sub-Committee.
10. Evaluation criteria for assessing the social value to the Harlech community is being developed to give HCC a benchmark to evaluate all the diverse bids for the site.
11. Following further unpleasant and unnecessary local social media criticism it is likely some other Board members will resign in the near future.
12. The insurance policy for the site has been renewed.
13. The recommendations for Asset transfer to HCC are being evaluated by Cllr Lewis. An expert on Asset Transfers, working for Flintshire CC as lead officer in Social enterprise Development is available as a consultant to assist HCC. No expert is available from Gwynedd.

Eryri National Park Community Fund

Cllr. Martin Hughes made it known that the capital fund will be available to local communities and volunteer groups/associations for the purposes of economic-social resilience with a deadline for applications being Friday, August 1st, 2025.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Demolish existing conservatory and construct new extension with external insulation to dwelling, and the erection of a new detached garage/garden shed (revised application) 23 Ystad Castell Morfa, Harlech (NP5/61/660A)

Support this application.

Erection of single storey rear extension Hafan Bach, Tŷ Canol, Harlech (NP5/61/675)

Support this application.

Certificate of Lawful Use (Existing) to use property as short-term holiday letting unit falling under Use Class Order C6 Gwelfor, Tryfar Terrace, Harlech (NP5/61/LUT312A)

No comments with regards to this application as the Members felt they had not received enough information.

Retrospective application for retention of solar photovoltaic panels on front and rear elevations 71 Glan Gors, Harlech (NP5/61/676)

Support this application.

Installation of 23 Ground mounted solar panels Foel, Harlech (NP5/61/608F)

Support this application.

Erection of single storey front extension and single storey glass roof extension to rear Erinfa, High Street, Harlech (NP5/61/669B)

Support this application.

Retrospective application for the retention of an outbuilding within the domestic curtilage of an existing dwelling. Erinfa, High Street, Harlech (NP5/61/669A)

Support this application.

RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Responsible Financial Officer reported that there was £21,195.35 in the current account and £114,480.01 in the reserve account.

Invoices needing payment since last meeting

Mr Lee Warwick - £358.95– cleaning of public toilets near the memorial hall (May and June)
Mr. Lee Warwick - £50.00 - cut grass around the allotments
Wateroo Ltd - £1,471.20 - carry out survey of Pen y Graig land
Mr. Meirion Evans - £540.00 – removing broken fence along A496
Mr. G. J. Williams - £162.00 - cut grass in King George field and football pitch
Mrs Annwen Hughes - £104.99 – repayment of subscription to microsoft 365
Customs & Excise - £109.80 – tax on Clerk's wages

The above payments were processed by Cllr. Edwina Evans 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.

The Treasurer reported that she had received an e-mail from the bank informing her that they were removing the £8 monthly account fee as of 1st of this month.

The Treasurer asked for the Council's permission to make payments that were deemed urgent during the month of August as there was no official Council meeting until September. It was agreed to delegate this to the finance sub-committee with a maximum of £15,000 expenditure.

Monies received since last meeting

Gwynedd Council - £6,685.56 – contribution of the income from the car parks

Invoices paid since the last meeting

Catrin Soraya Williams – None - translation services

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. D. Richards

Received an e-mail from the above asking for permission to place a memorial bench in memory of his Father and the Clerk stated further that she had asked him if it would be possible to give the Council some indication where they would like this bench to be placed and that she had not heard further from him. This e-mail had already been forwarded to Members.

Ms Karen Berry

Received an e-mail from the above regarding footpath adjacent to 18 Parc Bron y Graig and asking if the Community Council could arrange for this path to be cleared. This e-mail had already been forwarded to Members. It was made known that the Chairman was dealing with this matter.

One Voice Wales

Received an e-mail regarding Meirionnydd Area Committee which is been held at Penrhyndeudraeth on the 16th of this month. This e-mail had already been forwarded to Members. Cllr. Martin Hughes stated that he would be attending the meeting in Penrhyndeudraeth on the 16th.

Mrs Myfanwy Jones

Received an e-mail from the above regarding a piece of land opposite her house. This e-mail had already been forwarded to Members. It was made known that Cllr. Reg Chapman was dealing with this matter.

Teulu Gwynedd

Received an e-mail from the above asking for the Council's permission to take the Play Trailer to King George playing field on the 6th August between 10.30 a 12.30. This e-mail had already been forwarded to Members. Permission was granted to them.

Ms Paula Ireland

Received an e-mail from the above regarding the recent development with the allotments and stating that they had now created a committee, that they had a Constitution and also in the process of opening a bank account. Also asking for confirmation that the Council has insurance for the allotments and that Mr. Lee Warwick had agreed to cut the area of the allotments every three weeks. This e-mail had already been forwarded to Members.

SIGNED.....Chairman

DATE..... 851