

**MINUTES OF HARLECH COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE OLD LIBRARY, HARLECH AND OVER ZOOM
AT 7.00 P.M. ON 02.02.26**

APOLOGIES

Cllr. Tegid John, Gordon Howie, Ceri Griffiths, Gwynfor Owen (Gwynedd Council).

PRESENT

Cllrs. Christopher Braithwaite (Chairman), James Maxwell (Vice Chairman), Reg Chapman, Edwina Evans, Wendy Williams, Mark Lewis, Simon Turner, Giles Bentham, Martin Hughes, and Cllr. Annwen Hughes (Gwynedd Council).

There was 1 member of the public present over zoom and 2 in the room at the meeting

The Chairman, welcomed Mr. Owen Brown to the meeting so that he could show the new website to the Members and go through its various sections. It was noted that this website is working well and that the Community Council was now the owner. It was noted that creating Council emails for the Members would cost £60.48 and that this cost would increase annually, and it was agreed to leave this for now. Mr. Brown was asked whether he would be willing to maintain the website for the Council, and he stated that he would think about this and also agreed to contact Mr. Phil Price in order to be able to collaborate with him. Mr. Brown was thanked for coming to the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed Ms. Paula Ireland, Mr. Dafi Owen and Mr. Trefor Davies from the allotments group to the meeting so that they could give the Council an update on what was happening on the site and how to move forward in the future and work together with the Council. It was noted by now that they had an established committee with Ms. Paula Ireland as Chair, Mrs. Sue Davies as Treasurer, and Mrs. Gwen Owen as Secretary, and also that they had opened a bank account. Mr. Trefor Davies spoke on behalf of the group about what they wanted to do on the site and also that they were very willing to show the allotments to Council Members and demonstrate what work needed to be carried out there. It was agreed that they would meet with Council Members on the site on the 14th of this month at 10:30 in the morning and return to the Council in March with a cost plan. They were thanked for attending the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed Ms. Sioned Vaughan Williams to the meeting and Mr. Gethin Jones was present via Zoom in order to discuss a better site for playing football and rugby. It was declared that a 2G astro turf is currently available at Ardudwy School, but a 3G or 4G astro turf pitch would be better for the children. It was asked whether it would be possible to get the Council's support for this. It was agreed that they would look into the different grants available and come back to the Council in the future. Thanks was given to both for attending the meeting.

Questions by members of the public

No questions were received by members of the public

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman stated that he was pleased to see work had been carried out in the area and thanked Cllrs. Reg Chapman and James Maxwell for Regulations to discuss the Notice of Motion that Cllr. Martin Hughes had made, which was - That the Council approve a payment of up to £1,700 to Harlech and Ardudwy Leisure Ltd (HAL) with the intention of funding monthly insurance payments for the period up to and including the end of April 2026. Cllrs. Christopher Braithwaite, Edwina Evans, Wendy Williams, and Mark Lewis agreed to this, with Cllr. Giles Bentham against. The Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were reinstated.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on January 12th 2026 were found to be correct.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Wanted to note that Mr. Chris Travis was present in the December meeting of the Council over zoom but it was stated that the ones present in the room could not see him.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr. Reg Chapman declared an interest in the matter regarding HAL

Cllr. Martin Hughes declared an interest in the matter regarding HAL

Cllr. Simon Turner 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.

GWYNEDD COUNCIL MATTERS

The following report was received from Cllr. Annwen Hughes – She reported that she had been informed by an Officer of Gwynedd Council that damage had been done at Bron y Graig Park because children were playing around there with electric motorcycles and had also received complaints about anti-social behavior, and because of this she had contacted the local Police regarding this matter. She had been informed that the public toilets in Harlech were to be closed for a short period and that this had started on the 30th of last month in order to complete a deep cleaning of them, and she had sent this information on to all Members and had posted it on social media. The Cambrian line will be closed from Saturday the 14th of this month until Monday the 23rd in order for renewal work on the track between Talybont and Dyffryn Ardudwy and Llanaber and Barmouth station to be carried out. When down in the Min y Don car park, she had seen that the base of the pay and display machine had broken and had passed this on to an Officer at Gwynedd Council. Cllr. Hughes stated that she had received the following report from PCSO Eiliw Williams during the meeting -

Myself and Gill have been conducting speed checks/surveys in Harlech, Llanbedr , Dyffryn and Talybont over the weekend. Barmouth will be done again when we are next working together. We have collated all the speeds, and any vehicles that were doing more than 26mph in the 20mph will be sent a letter from the Community Speedwatch Team making them aware of their speed. We will continue to conduct these checks sporadically in Barmouth and the surrounding towns and villages.

MATTERS ARISING

Budget Plan

It was reported that the Council had spent £61,123.59 (which included bank charges) since the start of the new financial year and this was £34,672.66 less expenditure than what was earmarked in the budget for the 2025/26 year.

It was reported that the Finance Sub-Committee had met and had discussed a letter received from Cllr. Simon Turner regarding ordering more electrical boxes in order to install them on the electricity poles at the bottom of the town, with a total of 39 of these costing £240 each, making a total of £9,360, and that it would be possible to arrange for this work to be carried out before the end of the current financial year. The Finance Sub-Committee had decided that this matter should be discussed at tonight's full Council meeting, and after discussion, everyone present was in favor of this being carried out. Cllr. Turner had received a quote of £3,594.02 to install lights on the poles in question and stated that it would be possible for him to raise this amount of money himself.

HAL - CIC

The following report was received by Cllr. Reg Chapman with regards to the latest situation regarding HAL – That they are still working with Visit Wales and it was agreed to make enquiries with the Community Council insurers to ask what the cost would be to transfer HAL onto the Community Council insurance policy.

Bron y Graig Nature Trail

Cllr James Maxwell informed the Members that there was not much to discuss with regards to the above matter and it was agreed to leave it until the next Council meeting.

Penygraig Land

The Clerk reported that she had received a copy of the documents so as to complete the purchase of Penygraig land so as to sign them through Doc E and that she had forwarded these to the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Cllr. Reg Chapman. It was made known that this document had been signed and that Cllr. Reg Chapman had posted it back to the Solicitor. Cllr. James Maxwell stated that he was meeting with Kompas Housing on the 23rd of this month so as to discuss building houses on the Coleg side of this land and that this would come into the Eryri Local Development Plan.

King George V and Llyn y Felin Playing Fields

The Clerk reported that she had received the following update from Mr. Joe Patton with regards to works to be carried out in the Wildflower Community Garden – my costed grant application for just under £1,500 has been approved by the CIST panel responsible for distributing Welsh Church Funding to support local communities. This is a significant step forward for those who volunteer their time and effort to support the Harlech green flag awarded community garden.

CIST funding will now enable the **first stage of the Sensory Sanctuary Project**, allowing us to order the raised beds and the peat-free topsoil/compost mix to fill the raise beds. These will then be planted with sensory grasses and a selection of non-poisonous plants chosen for their colours, textures and scents, following recommendations from the Sensory Gardens organisation. These items will be ordered as soon as the funds are released. Installation will begin after St David's Day, once the daffodils have finished.

The **second stage** is linked to my grant application to the National Garden Society, the outcome of which I expect in February. If successful, this will fund a wheelchair-accessible picnic table, a solar-powered water feature, wind chimes and a weather vane - all designed to make the space more welcoming, and inclusive.

The **third phase** involves an application to the Nuclear Decommissioning Fund. This will support commissioning an artist to illustrate the flowers in bloom, with the artwork forming part of a bilingual lectern-style information board. This will help visitors identify the plants, understand their purpose, and feel invited to enjoy and take pride in this new community space.

The Clerk reported that she had received an e-mail from an Officer from the Play Inspection Company stating that they had just finished carrying out an inspection of the two play parks and that the wooden structure in Llyn y Felin playing field is dangerous and that they had placed red tape around it and asking the Council to act at once and remove it.

The Chairman stated that he had been in contact with various companies regarding the ordering of different equipment for the King George V playing field and showed the different items available to the Members. It was agreed that the Green Area Sub-Committee would meet to look in more detail at the different equipment that had been offered and bring the matter back to the Council. It was agreed that it was necessary to contact J. B. Pest Control to ask him to come and get rid of moles in the two playgrounds.

Training Courses for Members

As there was no time to discuss the above matter at tonight's meeting to include it on next month's agenda.

Council's Sub Committees

As there was no time to discuss the above matter at tonight's meeting to include it on next month's agenda.

Eryri Local Development Plan

As there was no time to discuss the above matter at tonight's meeting to include it on next month's agenda.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Change of use from Use Class C5 (Holiday home) to Use Class C6 (Holiday let) Bryn-y-Coed, High Street, Harlech (NP5/61/680)

No comments on this application

RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Responsible Financial Officer reported that there was £25,068.04 in the current account and £115,525.88 in the reserve account.

Invoices needing payment since last meeting

Guthrie Jones & Jones - £2,156.14 – completion of purchase re Penygraig land
Kudos Fencing Ltd - £533.00 - 2 raised flower beds for the community garden
Welsh Water - £34.13 - allotments water tap
Welsh Water - £452.43- water for public toilets near Memorial Hall
Gardencraft £950.00 - 5 heavy timber planters
Mr. Lee Warwick £372.10 - clean the public toilets near the Memorial Hall
Dingle Nurseries £1,162.62 - purchase of shrubs and plants to plant in various locations in the town

Application for financial donation

Harlech & Ardudwy Leisure - £1,700.00

The above payments were processed by Cllr. Edwina Evans and Cllr Wendy Williams 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

Gwynedd Council - £5,200.00 – Gwynedd Ni grant scheme
Pritchard & Griffiths - £1,960.50 – burial of the late Mr. Peter Jones
Gwynedd Council - £808.32 – Cist Gwynedd grant for the community wildflower garden (Welsh Church Fund)

Invoices paid since the last meeting

Catrin Soraya Williams – None – translation services
Blachere Illuminations - £527.10 - christmas lights

The Responsible Financial Officer stated that it was time to ask Ms Luned Fon Jones from the Finance Department, Gwynedd Council if she would be willing to act as an Internal Auditor for the Council again this year. It was agreed that the Responsible Financial Officer send this letter asking to act on our behalf again this year.

It was discussed by the Members that the hourly rate for the Clerk's wages would be reviewed in line with the SLCC recommendations. **The Clerk did not take part in this discussion.**

CORRESPONDENCE

One Voice Wales

Received an email from the above with a copy of the minutes of the Meirionnydd Area committee which had been held on the 14th of last month. The Clerk had already forwarded this to all the Members.

One Voice Wales

Received an e-mail from the above with training dates for January until March. The Clerk had already forwarded this to all the Members.

Gwynedd Council – Highways Department

Received a letter from the above informing the Council that work is going to be carried out to repair the handrail on the bridge and change a slab on the step of public footpath no. 28 near Bron Castell, Ffordd Newydd and that the our area tidy team is coming to the area between the 9th and 13th of this month. The Clerk had already forwarded this to all the Members.

Gwynedd Council – Municipal Department

Received an e-mail from the Assistance Engineer of the above Department stating that someone is planting trees and flower in Bron y Graig Park and that this is been done without their permission and asking for the work to be stopped at once. He also stated that he had a talk with Cllr. James Maxwell so as to arrange a meeting on site to discuss further developments.

Patricia Elford

Received an e-mail from the above voicing concern once again regarding an oak tree that is located at the bottom of her garden and asking the Council to do something about it. The Clerk stated that she had forwarded this to the Chairman. It was agreed to contact Luke O'Connor with regards to this tree and ask him to come and inspect it and state that this was an emergency.

Lucy Freeman

Received an e-mail from the above on behalf of the Harlech WI asking for a financial grant from the Council to pay for some flyers to promote the May Fete in the Memorial Hall on the 4th May. The Clerk had already forwarded this to Members of the finance sub committee. It was agreed to discuss it along with all the other financial applications at the next meeting of the Council.

G & J Cole

Received an e-mail from the above asking if it would be possible for the Council to contribute towards purchasing more poppes so as to display them in the area as some of the present ones were lost during the bad weather last year. It was agreed to discuss it along with all the other financial applications at the next meeting of the Council.

SIGNED.....Chairman

DATE..... 875