

**MINUTES OF HARLECH COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE OLD LIBRARY, HARLECH AND OVER ZOOM AT 7.00 P.M. ON 02.03.26**

**APOLOGIES**

Cllr. Ceri Griffiths.

**PRESENT**

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

There was 3 member of the public present over zoom and 3 in the room at the meeting

**Questions by members of the public**

Mrs J. Cole asked if it would be alright for them to purchase more big poppies as a lot had been damaged in the bad weather last year and for the Council to reimburse them. It was agreed that the Council would purchase more big poppies themselves.

**CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman stated that it had been another busy month and that he had been getting quotes for the new play equipment in King George V playing field and also had a meeting with the Vice Chairman to discuss various matters.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on February 2nd 2026 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

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.

Cllr. Reg Chapman declared an interest in the matter regarding financial contribution to the Old Library

Cllr. Martin Hughes declared an interest in the matter regarding financial contribution to the Old Library

Cllr. Edwina Evans declared an interest in the matter regarding financial contribution to the Old Library and Memorial Hall

Cllr. James Maxwell declared an interest in the matter regarding financial contribution to the Old Library and Memorial Hall

**GWYNEDD COUNCIL MATTERS**

The following report was received from Cllr. Annwen Hughes – She reported that she had received several complaints that cars are driven around the Min y Don car park in the early hours of the morning and she had spoken to the Police about this, she was pleased to see that a new bus shelter had been erected in front of the toilets by the Queens hotel by Traws Cymru and they are hoping to erect a new one on the Pen yr Hwylfa junction during the next financial year. She had attended many financial seminars with the Council and at the Full Council meeting next Thursday the Council tax will be discussed which most probably be set at 5.1% for this coming financial year.

Cllr. Gwynfor Owen reported that Council tax will be lower in Gwynedd than in many other Councils, several meetings have been held to discuss the CPR report, Estyn was at Hafod Lon school and he had been interviewed by them as Chair of the Governors, there had been several complaints regarding antisocial behaviour in the area and because the local Police had conducted a speeding checks, Gwynedd Council has agreed to put up camera signs. Because a campaign had been launched to get a memorial for Catrin, Owain Glyndwr's daughter, a television interview had been given about this. A voter had asked him to state that there was a need for equipment for

disabled children in King George playing field and it was stated that the Council supports any applications and they will consult with Joe Patton and Rhian Corps.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

### **Budget Plan**

It was reported that the Council had spent £68,660.01 (which included bank charges) since the start of the new financial year and this was £32,599.49 less expenditure than what was earmarked in the budget for the 2025/26 year.

### **HAL - CIC**

The following report was received by Cllr. Reg Chapman with regards to the latest situation regarding HAL – that the CIC is in its final draft form, that Visit Wales are contributing £25k towards paying legal costs, that a Board meeting was held on the 26th of last month and that one member has resigned.

### **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.

### **Adult Learning Wales Land**

Cllr. James Maxwell stated that he had met with Kompas Housing on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of last 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. Also they had been looking at the Old School site.

### **King George V and Llyn y Felin Playing Fields**

It was stated that there is a need to bring back the piece of land that has been fenced off by the rugby club back to use in order to enable the pursuit of grants. The Chairman stated that he had received 3 quotes to install an inclusive roundabout at King George's playing field and that the three quotes were very close to each other. He had not received quotes for installing a swing for the disabled. It was agreed after a discussion to order an inclusive roundabout and an OXO board from G. L. Jones Company, Bethesda. It was also agreed that there is a need to contact One Voice Wales regarding King George's playing field as a charity and Harlech Community Council.

### **Training Courses for Members**

It was stated that some Members had attended more than one training course but there was a need for more to attend especially the training course on the Code of Conduct.

### **Council's Sub Committees**

Went through the list of which Members were on different sub committees and it was agreed that the Chairman would draw up a list of Members to be on different sub committees by the next meeting as some new Members had joined the Council.

### **Eryri Local Development Plan**

Cllr. Martin Hughes stated that he had attended a meeting that had been arranged by the National Park on the 5th of last month to discuss the above and that he had forwarded everyone a copy of the presentation to every Member.

### **Allotments**

The Clerk reported that she had received e-mail from Ms Paula Ireland on behalf of the allotments committee informing the Council that they had received a quote to cut back the hedge, create a hardstanding area and clear the pig sty and also she informed the Council that two other plots had been rented out. Also a copy of the report that was read out by Mr. Trefor Davies at the last Council meeting was forwarded to the Council. The Clerk had already forwarded these e-mail to all the Members.

### **Council's facebook page**

Everyone agreed that it was a good idea to re-start the above page and the Chairman agreed to ask if it would be possible for the administrator of the previous facebook page transfer the details of the page to the Council.

### **Proposed Matters**

Cllr. Giles Bentham stated that he had asked for this matter to be put on the agenda as he thought it would be a good idea at the end of every meeting for everyone to have a chance to state what should be on the Council's agenda for the next meeting and also bring up any matter that had been raised by members of the public.

### **Notice of Motion**

Notice of Motion from Cllr. Martin Hughes in accordance with Standing Order 9 asking that the Council receive the draft minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on Monday 23rd February and consider any recommendations in its minutes. Every Member agreed with this motion and also it was agreed there was a need to look again at the Standing Orders so as to include that less than 7 days notice can be given.

Notice of Motion from Cllr. Martin Hughes in accordance with Standing Order 9 asking that the Council develop new ways of working to improve its efficiency and effectiveness, and that a group of Councillors be appointed to produce a report for the Council to consider at its meeting in April. This should include a review of its committee structure and the use of technology. All the Members agreed with this motion and it was agreed that the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Cllr. Martin Hughes meet so as to act on it.

### **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

#### **Certificate of Lawful Use (Proposed Use) for change of use from a sole or main residence (Use Class C3) to a dwellinghouse used otherwise than as a sole or main residence and occupied for 183 days or fewer (Use Class C5) Llys Bach, Harlech (NP5/61/LUL442B)**

Support this application

### **RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER**

The Responsible Financial Officer reported that there was £21,410.34 in the current account and £115,667.17 in the reserve account.

### **Invoices needing payment**

J. B. Pest Control	- £100.00 – annual contract to eradicate vermin in King George V playing field
J. B. Pest Control	- £100.00 – annual contract to eradicate vermin in Llyn y Felin playing field
Gwynedd Council	- £4,394.12 – purchase 7 new boxes and put up and take down Christmas lights
Gwynedd Council	£11,232.00 – purchase 39 new boxes
Play Inspection Company	- £348.00 – inspection of the equipment in both play parks
Eryri Arboriculture & Consultancy	-£300.00 – inspection of tree in Bron y Graig Nature Trail and create report
Mr. Joe Patton	- £168.00 - compost for raised beds in sensory sanctuary
Mrs Annwen Hughes	-£882.00 (6 months wages) + £636.58 (6 months costs) = £1,518.38
Mr. Christian Bowater	- £252.00 - cut grass on public footpath from Llys Bach to the B4573
One Voice Wales	- £42.00 - training (Cllr. James Maxwell)
Mr. G. J. Williams	- £162.00 - cut grass in King George V playing field and football field.
Mr. M. J. Kerr	- £480.00 - opening grave re the late Mrs Anne Shaw

### **Allowances paid to Councillors**

The Treasurer reported that the Councillors who had signed the January 2025 form declared that they were taking the allowance of £156 to be paid now, and the form was signed by Councillors James Maxwell, Reg Chapman, Simon Turner, Christopher Braithwaite, Tegid John and Gordon Howie. Councillors who were absent will have their payment at the next Council meeting.

### **Application for financial donation**

Cylch Meithrin Harlech	- £2,000.00
Friends of Ysgol Tanycastel	- £3,000.00
Old Library Committee	- £1,000.00
Memorial Hall Committee	- £1,000.00

Chapters Gymnastics – it was made known that this group does no longer exist in the area

Karen & Danny Ratcliffe – it was agreed to discuss this application further at the next Council meeting when more information has been received.

Harlech W. I – it was agreed to discuss this application further at the next Council meeting when more information has been received.

G & J Cole – it was agreed that the Council would purchase big poppies themselves

Visit Harlech – it was agreed to discuss this application further at the next Council meeting when more information has been received and also invite the applicant to the next meeting of the Council at 7.00 p.m.

Meirionnydd YFC - None

The above payments were processed by Cllr. Tegid John 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.

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

Customs & Excsie - £1,127.85 - reimbursement of VAT

Gwynedd Council - £990.35 – reimbursement for cutting grass of public footpaths

Gwynedd Council - £1,760.52 – rest of Gwynedd Ni grant scheme

### **Invoices paid since the last meeting**

Catrin Soraya Williams – £175.00 – translation services

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **One Voice Wales**

Received a newsletter jointly sent by Age Cymru and One Voice Wales, which aims to support Community and Town Councils to understand the issues affecting older people and to share reliable local information. It also states that an invitation has been extended to the Council to attend a tasting and learning session (online) on Tuesday the 3rd of this month at 12:00. The Clerk had already forwarded this to every Member.

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

Received an email from the above informing that a grant will be available to Community Councils through the Gwynedd 2026 City, Town and Community Council Support Fund, and full information regarding the grant in question will reach the Council at the beginning of this month. The purpose of the fund is to support capital projects that improve community spaces, public areas, and contribute to local regeneration, and to encourage the Council to start thinking about possible projects. The Clerk had already forwarded this to all Members. It was agreed to invite Mr. Steve Beech, Community Support Officer for Meirionnydd to the next meeting of the Council on the 13<sup>th</sup> of next month at 7.30 p.m.

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

A letter has been received from the above Department notifying the Council that Ffordd Penllech, Harlech will be closed on the 18th of this month on the grounds of public health and safety during work carried out on behalf of Welsh Water. The Clerk had already forwarded this email to the Members.

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

A letter has been received from the above Department notifying the Council that Ffordd Uchaf, Harlech will be closed on the 16th of this month on the grounds of public health and safety during work carried out on behalf of Open Reach. The Clerk had already forwarded this email to the Members.

### **Eryri Arboriculture & Consultancy**

Received a report regarding the condition of a tree in the garden of Tryfan Bron y Graig that backs onto the Bron y Graig Nature Trail. The Clerk reported that the Chair had asked her to contact the National Park to request permission for work to be carried out on the tree in question. The Clerk had already forwarded this to all Members. It was agreed that the Chairman would look into to see if the tree in question is on Tryfan, Bron y Graig land or on the Bron y Graig Nature Trail land.

**Mr. Graham Perch**

Received an e-mail from the above asking for permission to clean the War Memorial in readiness for the Remembrance Sunday in November. It was agreed to give permission for this work to be done.

**Opening Grass Cutting Tenders**

The Clerk reported that she had received three tenders to carry out the work to cut the grass on the public footpaths, Llyn y Felin playing field and the public cemetery. It was agreed to accept Mr. Meirion Griffith's tender. It was also agreed to accept the price of Mr. Gareth John Williams to cut the grass in the king George playing field, cut the grass on the football pitch again this year and cut the rest of the field. It was agreed to accept this tender. It was agreed to look again at the tender document and the finance sub committee will discuss it at their next meeting.

**Because the members of the public had to leave the room/zoom when the above matter was discussed it was agreed to discuss it at the end of the meeting.**

At the end of the meeting the Members stayed behind to discuss the Clerk's wages and the Clerk was not present.

SIGNED.....Chairman

DATE..... 880