

**MINUTES OF HARLECH COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE OLD LIBRARY, HARLECH AND OVER ZOOM
AT 7.00 P.M. ON 01.06.26**

6.1 APOLOGIES

Cllr. Tegid John (Vice Chairman), Christopher Braithwaite.

6.2 PRESENT

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

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

Questions by members of the public

Ms Paula Ireland came to the meeting to discuss the latest developments regarding the allotments and said that the allotment group had been successful with their allotment grant application to Gwynedd Council and had received a grant of £4,176. She showed plans of the work they intended to carry out on the site, namely creating a path from the parking area along the lower edge of the allotments to the shed. She also stated that the group intended to install raised beds on allotment number 8 because individuals were not keen to rent this allotment and to rent it out by bed to whoever was interested. The Council Members agreed that this could be done. It was agreed that Ms Ireland would ask Mr Lee Warwick to cut the grass in the upper part of the site until specific plans had been made regarding the use of this site, and it was agreed to arrange a site meeting with some of the Council Members very soon. It was agreed to transfer £150 to the allotments group's bank account so that they could order the goods they needed.

6.3 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were made by the Chairman:

A draft report on biodiversity will be sent out shortly.

That the finance subcommittee met on the 27th of last month.

That himself and Cllr. Reg Chapman is going to shortly sign the TP1 document regarding the purchase of land at Pen y Graig

The matter regarding consultation by Gwynedd Council on the Gwynedd Visitor Levy Proposal needs to be included on next month's agenda.

That it is necessary to complete the transfer of the website domain name to Harlech Community Council soon, or it will be necessary to go down the route of a dispute resolution

6.4 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on May 11th 2026 were found to be correct.

6.5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Item 5.8 (H) The Clerk reported that she had contacted the Snowdonia National Park Authority regarding the proposed work on the tree near Tryfan, Bron y Graig. The Authority confirmed that they had no objection to the work being carried out, but requested that they be informed when the work takes place.

Item 5.8 (H) The Clerk reported that she had received a reply from Gwynedd Council regarding the request to install a crossing on the lower road. The response stated that, for the current financial year, the Council had prioritised delivering improvements outside Bethel School, Maenofferen School (Blaenau Ffestiniog), Tryfan School (Bangor), and Our Lady's School (Bangor). It was also noted that improvements were delivered last year outside Y Faenol School and Foel Gron School, Mynytho. The Council further explained that these schemes are funded through Welsh Government grants, and that with a new Government now in place, it will be for them to determine future levels of funding available to Councils for this type of improvement. The officer expressed reasonable confidence that the Government's strategic direction will remain consistent in the short term, and therefore there should be opportunities to continue submitting funding applications to progress their programme of work to improve Safe Routes within communities. The Officer confirmed that next financial year, this scheme will be one of those under consideration. The Members were not happy with this reply

Item 5.8 (H) it was made known that no further information had been received regarding the transfer of the webpage administrator to the Council

6.6 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.

6.7 GWYNEDD COUNCIL MATTERS

The following report was received from Cllr. Annwen Hughes –She reported that the issue of skip lorries travelling down to the Min y Don car park had now been resolved, and that she had received an email from the residents of Glan y Môr Road thanking her for her work on the matter.

She stated that she had visited the Min y Don car park on Bank Holiday Monday following complaints, and subsequently contacted the Parking and Street Works Manager to request that an Officer visit the site. Cars had been parked in the spaces designated for buses, which had prevented the rubbish collection lorry from gaining access resulting in the rubbish bins been overflowing.

She also reported that she had received a letter notifying her that resurfacing work would be starting on the road near Stabl Mail, Talsarnau on the 15th of this month, with the work expected to continue for two weeks. The resurfacing would be carried out under a convoy system.

The following was reported by Cllr. Gwynfor Owen – he came into the meeting while the Members were discussing item 5.8 (H) regarding getting a crossing on Ffordd y Morfa and stated that an Officer had visited this road and that Gwynedd Council had seen the speed that was being done on it and that a PCSO had been monitoring the speed. He was disappointed that the Community Council had refused to pay for flashing speed warning signs. Cllr. Simon Turner was congratulated on his work with the bunting in the town, and congratulations were also extended to the Rock Ardudwy crew, and it was nice to see all those people, but disappointing the way the committee had been treated by CADW. He had contacted Helen Fychan, Cabinet Minister for Culture and Sport, inviting her to the town so that she could see the problems the town was facing with CADW. He had been informed that some people had parked caravans in the Min y Don car park for several days and that an Officer had visited them and issued a fine. He was elected Chairman of the Cambrian Coast railway liaison committee.

The Clerk was asked to contact CADW to ask them to consult with the local community as part of the consultation with the castle walls management plan.

6.8 MATTERS ARISING

A Budget Plan

It was reported that the Council had spent £14,058.81 (which included bank charges) since the start of the new financial year and this was £34,153.69 less expenditure than what was earmarked in the budget for the 2026/27 year.

B HAL - CIC

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

1 Progress has been slow and frustrating from the perspective of HCI CIC. An online meeting has taken place with Gwynedd Council and Visit Wales representatives. Jim maxwell was also present to represent HCC.

2 Outcome was to receive an offer of help with negotiations with other stakeholders. The new CIC articles were passed forward to Gwynedd Council for information. They were also informed as to the management arrangements within the Council.

3 Following a request for a meeting with Ysgol Ardudwy some three weeks ago, I am still awaiting a date from them.

4 We await a further meeting with the Harlech Silver Band.

5 A meeting to discuss improvements to King George V playing fields is set for Wednesday 3rd June 2026.

6 During the month there were 2 separate break-ins into the pool building. Repairs were carried out to one access door by ourselves and the glass panels by the entrance were readjusted and fixed securely, using a specialist local contractor. A local child was chased away from the building and spoken to.

Other Projects

The Chair with myself, have had initial meetings with CWMPAS and Adult learning Wales on the potential for more community housing relevant to local need. I believe a presentation to the full council is scheduled for the next Council meeting.

It was reported by Cllr. Reg Chapman that some residents of the Castell y Morfa housing estate want to get rid of the pine trees that have grown near the old swimming pool, and it was agreed that the Clerk would contact the National Park to ask them to come and take a look at these trees and to liaise with Cllr. Reg Chapman.

C Launch of the One Voice Wales Civility and Respect Pledge

Some Members were in favour of signing this document and other against. It was agreed to put the matter on next month's agenda so as to discuss it further before coming to a final decision.

D King George V and Llyn y Felin Playing Fields

The Clerk reported that he had asked Cllr. Christopher Braithwaite for an update regarding the ordering of the new equipment for King George's playing field, but had not received a reply from him.

Cllr. Reg Chapman had stated in his report in item 6.8 (B) what was happening with King George's playing field.

E Bus Shelters

The Clerk reported that she had been in contact with Rhian Williams of the Transportation Department, Gwynedd Council, in her capacity as a Gwynedd Councillor regarding the above matter and asked whether it would be possible to have additional bus shelters installed at the bottom of Harlech along the A496, that is opposite the current bus shelter located near the public toilets by the Queens Hotel, and also another one installed opposite the Penyrhwylfa housing estate because there is a sign for the bus to stop located here, and several residents of the housing estates in this area wait at this location for the bus to go to Porthmadog. She had received the following response stating that the Bron yr Hwylfa location is the designated location for a new shelter this year. But if the Community Council have a priority to have one in the locations mentioned instead of Bron yr Hwylfa, for them to inform the Department.

After a discussion it was agreed to let Gwynedd Council know that the Members were happy for the present old bus shelter to be changed for a new one this year and also ask if they had any plans to install bus shelters in the other locations that the Community Council had mentioned.

F Election of Councillor

The Clerk reported that she had been informed by the Electoral Officer in Caernarfon that the necessary papers will be distributed at the end of this month

G Proposed Matters

The Chairman went around the table asking each Member what they wanted to include on the agenda in the future and the following responses were received –

Wanted to discuss Ardal Ni.

Bron y Graig Park.

Wanted members of each sub-committee to come to the next Council meeting with the name of the Chair of their sub-committee.

The Clerk was asked to contact the Highways Department, Gwynedd Council, to ask when the High Street was last cleaned and also what the legal situation is with some people living in a business site but not running a business there.

6.9 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None come to hand since the last Council meeting.

6.10 RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Responsible Financial Officer reported that there was £64,783.36 in the current account and £85,980.84 in the reserve account.

Invoices needing payment

Mr. G. J. Williams	- £368.00 – cut grass in football field and King George V playing field
Mr. Meirion Griffith	- £210.00 - cut grass in public cemetery
Mr. Meirion Griffith	- £105.00 - cut grass in various locations
Mr. Meirion Griffith	- £45.00 - cut grass in Llyn y Felin playing field

Clear Insurance - £2,797.32 – Council’s insurance for the year
Harlech Allotment Group - £150.00 – part of the budget that has been earmarked for them towards buying goods

The above payments were processed by Cllr. Wendy Williams 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

Delyth Kerr - £25.00 rent allotment no. 12
Lee Warwick - £20.00 – rent allotment no. 13 and 14
Gareth Jones - £20.00 – rent allotment no 11 (b)
Dan Watts - £25.00 – rent allotment no. 6

Invoices paid since the last meeting

Catrin Soraya Williams – None - translation services

6.11 CORRESPONDENCE

A Gwynedd Council – Economic Department

Received an e-mail from the above Department regarding Formal notification of Gwynedd Council’s consultation on the Gwynedd Visitor Levy Proposal and further details on the consultation can be seen here:

<https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Residents/Have-your-say/Live-Consultations/Gwynedd-Visitor-Levy-Consultation.aspx>. The Clerk had already forwarded this e-mail to every Member. It was agreed to put this matter on next month’s agenda.

B Mr. Joe Patton

Received a letter from the above stating that he had read the joining instructions to attend the RoSPA Routine Playground Inspection’ course on 16 June in Telford to become competent to undertake routine inspections of the King George V and Llyn y Felin playgrounds.

When approached by Cllr Chapman to undertake this role, mention was made of remuneration; I wish to make it clear that it does not sit comfortably with me to seek financial remuneration for work that relates directly to the Health and Safety of our community. This has always been my approach, reflected in the voluntary Health and Safety reviews I have previously carried out at the Old Library and the Memorial Hall. My willingness to travel to Telford for a full day’s RoSPA workshop, and to undertake routine playground inspections thereafter, comes from a genuine desire to help protect the children of our community and the visitors who use these facilities. For me, this is a voluntary contribution to community wellbeing, not a responsibility I would wish to be paid for.

That aside, may I ask for the Community Council’s full support in ensuring that my future routine playground inspections - an essential part of the Council’s duty of care - are acted upon promptly and effectively. Public spaces, especially those used by children, must be safe, compliant, and properly maintained. Without timely action on inspection findings, the process risks becoming a procedural formality rather than a meaningful safeguard for the community.

On a separate matter, Cllr Maxwell spoke to me at the end of March to ask whether I would be willing to become a trustee of the King George V Field Charity, which the Community Council established some years ago. I agreed in principle, on the basis that I could contribute to improving accessibility to the field and to the activities it offers for people of all ages with disabilities.

This is an area I have been committed to for decades, through long-standing support for Ty Gobaith Children’s Hospice and several years’ involvement with an adaptive cycling club in Dolgellau. Since stepping back from that role, I have continued to advocate for accessible initiatives locally, including the path to the Welsh fruit tree orchard and the sensory sanctuary that will open in the KGV community garden at the end of June. It has now been two months since that conversation with Cllr Maxwell, and no progress has been made to list me as a trustee - a role that would provide a platform for me to seek grant funding for further initiatives to support inclusive use of the KGV. I would therefore be grateful for the Community Council’s support in formalising my appointment as a trustee of the King George V Harlech Charity, so that I can help attract funding to make our playing field a place where children and adults of all abilities have equal opportunities to enjoy play, relaxation, and sport.

C Mr Gordon Howie

Received an e-mail from the above informing the Members that he was retiring from being a Councillor on Harlech Community Council. It was agreed to forward this e-mail to the Electoral Officer in Caernarfon.

D Clear Insurance

The Clerk reported that she had contacted the Council's insurance company regarding adding clear cyber to the insurnace policy and that she had received a reply from them stating that their minimun premium for clear cyber policy is £420.25 (depending on the annual income). It was agreed to ask them to add this to the insurnace policy.

SIGNED.....Chairman

DATE..... 894