

Draft Minutes

MINUTES OF HARLECH COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE OLD LIBRARY, HARLECH AND OVER ZOOM AT 7.00 P.M. ON 06.07.26

7.1 APOLOGIES

Cllr. Martin Hughes,.

7.2 PRESENT

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

No members of the public were present although 3 had asked for the zoom link to the meeting.

Questions by members of the public

There were no questions from members of the public.

7.3 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were made by the Chairman:

Cllr. Jane Emmerson was welcomed to her first Council meeting and wished well for the future. The Acceptance of Office Document was signed by Cllr. Emmerson.

He had held a number of meetings with different bodies including HAL, Joe Patton (who is the secretary to the King George playing field committee), Cllr. Reg Chapman. The finance sub-committee had also met (financial rules needed amending – this to be put on the September agenda for the sub-committee meeting), he had written a letter to be sent to Heledd Fychan (everyone agreed with the content of this letter after the additions were included), and the biodiversity report will be available in September.

He announced that the Clerk will be unavailable from the 18th of this month to the 3rd of August, so if members of the public need to view the accounts between the 18th and the 31st of this month, they should get in touch with him because the Council's accounts will be in his possession.

7.4 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on June 1st 2026 were found to be correct.

7.5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes

7.6 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr. Reg Chapman 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 planning application for Gwalia, Harlech and he signed a Declaration of Personal Interest form.

7.7 GWYNEDD COUNCIL MATTERS

The following report was received from Cllr. Annwen Hughes – She reported that she had received an invitation to attend an initial urban greening project meeting and the presentation was really interesting because Harlech had been chosen as one of the towns suitable for exploring biodiversity improvements since the urban tree canopy rates are relatively low. She had sent her apologies that she couldn't attend the opening of the sensory garden on the 24th of last month as she was in a meeting with the National Park. She reminded the Members of the reply she had received from Iwan Ap Trefor regarding installing a crossing on the Morfa Road.

The following was reported by Cllr. Gwynfor Owen - He reported that he had received complaints that Bron y Graig park is messy, the public paths have not been cut, people are speeding around Harlech, 'he had sent a letter to

Heledd Fychan AM inviting her to Harlech but as yet hadn't received a reply, Gwynedd Council will start looking at 5% cuts this week, had attended the official opening of the sensory garden. Discussed with Natural Resources Wales and Gwynedd Council about clearing the sand to the beach. Some are parking overnight in the Min y Don car park.

7.8 MATTERS ARISING

A Budget Plan

It was reported that the Council had spent £17,850.13 (which included bank charges) since the start of the new financial year and this was £38,719.12 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 - Cllr Chapman explained the difficulties in obtaining insurance for the pool building. The premium was above the figure allowed for in the budget.

He was still awaiting a date for a further meeting with the Band. This was now becoming critical; Cllr. Gwynfor Owen was arranging this to happen as soon as possible.

Discussions had taken place with Aled Williams headmaster of Ysgol Ardudwy about plans for the pool site and the interaction of an improved King George V playing fields and facilities at the school could benefit the local community.

Many items from the pool including the inflatables had been transferred to other leisure sites in Gwynedd. After discussion it was agreed to consider the transfer of HAL to the Council's CIC as a separate item at the end of the agenda for this meeting and everyone agreed for this to be done.

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. This matter was discussed further and after a vote, 4 were in favor of signing, 4 against signing, and although the Chairman abstained from voting, he used his casting vote and voted in favor of signing the document.

D King George V and Llyn y Felin Playing Fields

The Clerk reported that she had received an e-mail from Mr. Joe Patton asking if he could attend the September meeting of the Council to give a presentation on his work of carrying out inspections of the play equipment on behalf of the Council.

Cllr. Chapman reported that a strengthened King George V committee had reformed to work on improving the facilities for the community and a meeting was held on the 3rd of this month with all user groups were represented.

They would report back to the Council on proposals for the future.

It was identified that the sports pitches were now in considerable demand and the playing surface were atrocious and the lack of changing facilities would need to be tackled.

It was also thought a community space would need to be included in any development.

This would all require short- and long-term fixes to enable use to continue while bids for funding could be put together.

The play area was similarly in need of modernisation and review, with further funding bids required.

Financing the work in its entirety would be beyond the Council's modest budget particularly as there is a backlog of repairs required to existing equipment.

The wild area was successfully being developed and this was being worked on through Joe Paton.

It was hoped to bring the proposals for rejuvenation of the area to a public exhibition and also receive any ideas on how the area could be enhanced.

The boundary along the access road was discussed by Council and it was agreed a hedge and stock proof fence offset from the existing one should be achieved this autumn.

E Gwynedd Visitor Levy

Some had already responded to this consultation and the Clerk had stated that it was open until the 26th of this month. It was agreed not to respond as a Council but that anyone who wanted to could respond as an individual.

F Election of Councillor

The Clerk reported that she had been informed by the Electoral Officer in Caernarfon that he had received a request for an election to be held but had not received any further information.

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 –

Put reports from the sub-committees on the agenda

Move Gwynedd Council matters to the end of the agenda

Councillors are holding surgeries

Translation over Zoom

Council website to gov.uk

Bron y Graig Park

Fence near Cae Besi is untidy

The Clerk was asked to contact Mr. Bryn Hughes regarding the condition of Bron y Graig Park

7.9 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Certificate of Lawful Use (Existing) to confirm that the use has changed from combined mixed use of Residential (Use Class C3) and Restaurant (Use Class A3) to Residential (Use Class C3) only - Gwalia, High Street, Harlech (NP5/61/LU335G)

Object to this planning application as it goes against the Local Development Plan.

Advertisement Consent for replacement of existing signage and the display of 2 illuminated fascia signs, 2 illuminated pylon signs & 1 non-illuminated pylon sign Harlech Toyota, Ffordd Newydd, Harlech (NP5/61/AD20K)

Support this application.

7.10 RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Responsible Financial Officer reported that there was £61,278.04 in the current account and £86,074.31 in the reserve account.

Invoices needing payment

Mr. G. J. Williams	- £208.00	– cut grass in football field and King George V playing field
Mr. Meirion Griffith	- £265.00	- cut grass in public cemetery
Mr. Meirion Griffith	- £105.00	- cut grass in various locations
Mr. Meirion Griffith	- £90.00	- cut grass in Llyn y Felin playing field x 2
Lee Warwick	- £377.07	– clean toilets by memorial hall (May & June)
Lee Warwick	- £100.00	- strim around the allotments x 2
Bevan Brittan	- £8,881.20	– Harlech hotel project
Playsafety Ltd	- £438.00	- play parks safety course (Joe Patton)
Mr. Simon Turner	- £48.25	- goods for Council's christmas decorations
Mr. Joe Patton	- £34.96	- goods for Llyn y Felin play park
Mr. Joe Patton	- £491.42	- goods for the community garden (out of King George playing field account)
Mr. Meirion Evans	- £240.00	- removal of broken play equipment from Llyn y Felin playing field
Mr. T. Cotterill	- £500.00	- work on land near Llyn y Felin playing field
Mrs Annwen Hughes	- £104.99	- repayment of subscription to microsoft 365
Mr. M.J. Kerr	- £600.00	- opening grave re the late Blodwen Evans
Customs & Excise	- £109.80	- tax on Clerk's wages
Clear Insurance	- £420.25	- add clear cyber to the insurance policy

Applications for financial contributions

Harlech & Ardudwy Leisure - £1,700.00

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.

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

Customs & Excise - £260.00 – reimbursement of VAT

Invoices paid since the last meeting

Catrin Soraya Williams – £115.00 - translation services

7.11 CORRESPONDENCE

A Snowdonia National Park

Received a request for Feedback: Draft Settlement Profiles from the Planning Policy team of the above, asking for the Council's help in reviewing settlement profiles that have been prepared for settlements within our Community Council. It also states that the settlement profiles bring key information together for each settlement. They are one of the first steps in gathering evidence that will help guide future settlement assessments and the spatial strategy for the Local Development Plan. It states that the Community Council would see the settlement profiles relevant to this area, and these are in draft form, and they would be very grateful if the Community Council could contribute to them to ensure that local stakeholders' information and voices are included.

What the Planning Policy team is asking the Community Council to do is the following:-

For each settlement included, we ask that you complete the following three steps:

1. Review the settlement profile

Please check the profile and identify any information that is missing, incorrect, or could be improved.

You can record these comments on the first page of the questionnaire.

2. Complete the questionnaire

Please complete one questionnaire for each settlement.

We are particularly looking for your views on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of the settlement.

You can also use this questionnaire to provide corrections or additional information.

3. Complete the services and facilities form

Please list all local services and facilities that should be included in the settlement profile. Include as much detail as possible.

The Clerk had already forwarded this e-mail to all Members.

B Mrs Judith Strevens

Received an e-mail from the above asking the Members if it would be possible for the Council to purchase a trolley (to be chained to the fence or gate of the main entrance) so that residents could take it to the beach to clear larger items of rubbish off the beach. The Clerk had already forwarded this e-mail to all Members. It was agreed to contact the Maritime Officer to ask about their clearing regime of the beach

C One Voice Wales

Received an e-mail from the above regarding training dates that are available to Members between June and September. The Clerk had already forwarded this e-mail to all Members

D One Voice Wales

Received an e-mail regarding Meirionnydd Area Committee which is been held over zoom on the 15th of this month. This e-mail had already been forwarded to Members.

E Visit Harlech

Received an e-mail from the above asking the Council for a financial donation towards keeping the website of this organisation open. This e-mail had already been forwarded to Members. It was agreed to leave this matter on the table and Cllr. Simon Turner agreed to discuss the matter with Helen Williams

F Snowdonia National Park

Received a letter from the above with regards to Planning Compliance Service – Information for Community and Town Councils and giving a brief overview of the Authority's Compliance Service and to clarify how compliance matters are handled.

CIC Vote

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Reg Chapman – that HCI takes over HAL's assets as soon as possible. Cllrs. James Maxwell, Christopher Braithwaite, Reg Chapman, Edwina Evans, Wendy Williams, Simon Turner, Jane Emmerson, and Mark Lewis were in favour of the motion. Cllr. Giles Bentham abstained from voting.

SIGNED.....Chairman

DATE..... 899