

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF TYWYN TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8TH MARCH 2017
AT YSGOL UWCHRADD TYWYN AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor Alun W. Evans (Chair)

Councillors: Ron W. McCoo, Nancy E. Clarke, Richie Owens
John H. Boulter, Mark D. Kendall, Mike Stevens
Eileen M. Ellis, Anne Lloyd-Jones, John Pughe
Dan Wyre

OFFICERS PRESENT: Bedwyr Gwilym (Town Clerk)

Cl. 227 **APOLOGIES:**
08.03.17

No apologies received

Cl. 228 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST:**
08.03.17

Councillor Alun Evans (Cl. 233)

Cl. 229 **CHAIRMAN'S ACTIVITY REPORT:**
08.03.17

The Chairman noted the following engagements:

- 17.02.17 Chaired a Meeting to discuss Public Footpaths
- 22.02.17 Attended Tywyn and District Hospital Appeal Committee AGM
- 23.02.17 Attended One Voice Wales' Area Committee, Dolgellau
- Attended Cambrian Coast Railway Liaison Committee

Cl. 230 **RECEIVE AND APPROVE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON**
08.03.17 **WEDNESDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2017**

RESOLVED: To receive and approve the minutes, with Councillor Anne Lloyd-Jones proposing and Councillor Mark Kendall seconding the proposal.

Cl. 231 **RECEIVE AND APPROVE MINUTES OF A MEETING TO DISCUSS PUBLIC**
08.03.17 **FOOTPATHS HELD ON FRIDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2017**

RESOLVED: To receive and approve the minutes, with Councillor Alun Evans proposing and Councillor Anne Lloyd-Jones seconding the proposal.
Town Clerk to distribute to Councillors copies of map displaying public footpaths.

Cl. 232 **CREATING A PUMP PARK AT THE RECREATION GROUND**
08.03.17

Councillor Dan Wyre reported the following:

- Met with members of Bro Dysynni Leisure Association
- Approached various individuals in order to become members of a working group, with six individuals agreeing to form a committee
- Working group to meet prior to the Council's next Ordinary Meeting

RESOLVED: To accept the information.

Cl. 233
08.03.17

GWYNEDD COUNCIL - PLANNING APPLICATION

C17/0109/09/LL - 37 Faenol Isaf, Tywyn, LL36 0DW
Erection of first floor extension to side of dwelling

Councillor Alun Evans declared a non-prejudicial interest. Councillor Mark Kendall informed members present that he is not a member of the Planning Committee and has requested not to be a member of the said Committee due to his professional trade as a builder.

RESOLVED: No objection.

Cl. 234
08.03.17

NOTICE OF MOTION
BY COUNCILLOR MIKE STEVENS

I call on Tywyn Town Council to record all Council Meetings. A number of Council's do this as a matter of course to ensure accuracy of what has been said.

Councillor Mike Stevens informed members that he had not requested a motion to appear on the agenda and had requested an item to be included on the agenda in order for Councillors to discuss recording meetings. Subsequently, Councillor Stevens proceeded to propose that Tywyn Town Council records Council Meetings, with Councillor John Pughe seconding the proposal.

RESOLVED: To approve the proposal in principle, subject to the cost of purchasing recording equipment being considered at the Council's next meeting.

Cl. 235
08.03.17

APPROVE THE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2017

RESOLVED: To approve the Treasurer's Report for February 2017.

Cl. 236
08.03.17

GWYNEDD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

To receive verbal reports from Gwynedd Councillors on matters in the Council's interest.

Gwynedd Councillor Mike Stevens reported the following:

- RNLI Beach Safety Signs. Disappointed to report that no progress has been made despite recent tragedies in Tywyn and Barmouth.
- Keeping in touch with Gwynedd Council's Planning Department in regard to the state of repair of the Grade II listed Corbett Arms Hotel.

- Held discussions with Gwynedd Council regarding dead bushes on the Promenade, with Gwynedd Council to resolve the matter prior to Easter.
- Council Tax increase of 2.8% agreed at Full Council, with staff costs being a high percentage of Gwynedd Council's costs.
- Gwynedd Council handled service cuts well.

Gwynedd Councillor Anne Lloyd-Jones reported the following:

- A budget of £231 million agreed for 2017/18, with a council tax increase of 2.8%. £168.9 million received by Welsh Government and £62.3 million received from council tax. Total increase of 3.3% in Tywyn, taking North Wales Police and Tywyn Town Council precept into consideration.
- CCG awarded a contract to build 5 new houses in Tywyn to a local company. With CCG currently owning 157 properties, and a total of 186 housing association properties in Tywyn. 154 people are currently on a waiting list for a property.
- Residents are reminded of a website that provides an extensive range of health and well-being advice and support. The website is called Dewis Cymru www.dewis.cymru or www.dewis.wales
- Gwynedd Council is eager to hear the views of local residents on how the Youth Service should be shaped for the future. With Gwynedd Council receiving £270,000 less in funding to provide a Youth Service.
- Ritchie Green, Chief Inspector of North Wales Police has taken the decision to close the custody unit at Dolgellau Police Station. The decision had been made at Chief Officer level and approved by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

RESOLVED: To accept the information from the County Councillors.

To write a letter to North Wales Police and Police and Crime Commissioner objecting to the closure of Dolgellau custody suite, with concerns regarding distance to Aberystwyth and Caernarfon and resulting increase in travelling time of officers to reach a custody suite.

Cl. 237
08.03.17

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO REPORT BACK TO THE COUNCIL FOLLOWING THEIR ATTENDANCE AT EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

Councillor Alun Evans reported the following:

Tywyn and District Hospital Appeal Committee AGM -

-Mr Morgan Vaughan MBE, former Chair retired from Committee after 16 years as Chairman

-Councillor Anne Lloyd-Jones elected as Chairman

-Councillor Alun Evans elected as Vice Chairman

-Mrs Barbara Jones elected as Secretary

-Mrs Christine Hughes elected as Treasurer

One Voice Wales' Area Committee, Dolgellau -

-Presentation given by an Officer of the Older People's Commissioner for Wales

-It was noted that more and more people are living older, with more now living over 70 years of age, circa 45,000 people live with Dementia, the Older People's

Commissioner's strategy define older people as those over 60, with the strategy looking at the needs of people

Cambrian Coast Railway Liaison Committee -

-Welsh Government funding additional shelter at Dyfi junction

-Remedial work at Barmouth bridge meaning bridge will not close whilst work is undertaken

-Made contact with Arriva Trains Wales and Network Rail

Councillor John Boulter reported the following:

Meirionnydd Access Group -

-Two members from the Cambrian Coast Railway focus group were present to ask questions regarding the use of the line. Feedback was given on shelters not facing the correct way, toilets, wifi on carriages, overcrowding during summer time and a timetable at Tywyn station placed where wheelchair users could not access.

-Resignation received from Secretary of the Access Group

-Road safety at the proposed location of Tywyn Post Office

RESOLVED: To send a letter thanking Mr Morgan Vaughan MBE, for his hard work and dedication as Chairman of the Hospital Appeal Fund Committee for 16 years and for his service to the community.

Cl. 238
08.03.17

CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report was circulated to Councillors.

RESOLVED: To approve the Clerk's report. Clerk to contact Solicitor regarding rent arrears and to forward a copy of a letter received from Solicitor regarding tenant vacating building to Councillors.

TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence That Necessitates Action by the Council.

Cl. 239
08.03.17

Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales - Review of the electoral arrangements for the county of Gwynedd

RESOLVED: To accept the information.

Cl. 240
08.03.17

One Voice Wales - Membership of One Voice Wales 2017/18

RESOLVED: To renew membership, with Councillor John Pughe proposing and Councillor Ron McCoo seconding the proposal.
To appoint a Council representative at the Annual General Meeting in May 2017.

Cl. 241
08.03.17

North Wales Police - Response time to attend a Fire at High Street, Tywyn

RESOLVED: To accept the information.

Cl. 242 Gwynedd Council - Highways and Municipal - Public Toilet Agreement

08.03.17

RESOLVED: To authorise the Town Clerk to sign Cinema agreement.
To defer making a decision on Promenade public toilet until the Council's Meeting in April 2017, with Councillor Mike Stevens proposing and Councillor Anne Lloyd-Jones seconding the proposal.

Cl. 243 Gwynedd Council - 2017/18 funding of flowers outside Canolfan Hamdden

08.03.17

Dysynni

RESOLVED: To accept the information.

Cl. 244 Gwynedd Council - Corporate Property Unit - Victorian Shelter

08.03.17

RESOLVED: To defer making a decision on Victorian Shelter until the Council's Meeting in April 2017, with Councillor Anne Lloyd-Jones proposing and Councillor Mike Stevens seconding the proposal.

Cl. 245 Donation of two bills to be archived

08.03.17

RESOLVED: To forward the donated bills to Gwynedd County Archive at Dolgellau.

Cl. 246 Correspondence Received That Does **Not** Necessitate Action by the Council

08.03.17

And Is Available At The Clerk's Office For Perusal By Any Interested Councillor

- (a) Gwynedd Council - Town / Community Council Elections
- (b) Gwynedd Council - Highways Maintenance and Municipal Service - resurfacing
- (c) Dafydd Elis-Thomas - Pont ar Ddyfi
- (d) Gwynedd Council - Social Services (Adults) - Developments at Llys Cadfan
- (e) John Wynn Jones - Cabinet Member for Environment – Report on the findings of the inquiry regarding the Tywyn depot case
- (f) Gwynedd Council - DEWIS Cymru
- (g) Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales - Annual Report for 2017/18
- (h) Natural Resources Wales - Consultation - Planning of gypsy, traveller and show people sites
- (i) Public Services Ombudsman for Wales - The Ombudsman's Casebook - Issue 27

The meeting was declared closed at 8:17pm

MINUTES OF A MEETING TO DISCUSS PUBLIC FOOTPATHS
HELD ON FRIDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2017
AT TYWYN TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE ROOM AT 1.30PM

PRESENT: Councillor Alun W. Evans (Chair)
Councillors: John Boulter, Anne Lloyd-Jones, Richie E. Owens

IN ATTENDANCE: Wyn Williams (Countryside Access Manager)
Liz Haynes (Footpaths Manager Meirionnydd)
Ron Marshall (Local Rambler)

OFFICERS PRESENT: Bedwyr Gwilym (Town Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES:

Councillor Nancy E. Clarke
Councillor John Pughe
Councillor Mike Stevens

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No Councillor declared a personal or prejudicial interest

3. DISCUSS PUBLIC FOOTPATHS IN TYWYN WITH GWYNEDD COUNCIL OFFICERS

Gwynedd Council's Footpaths Manager responsible for Meirionnydd gave a demonstration of a hand-held electronic device used for managing footpaths in Gwynedd. The device showed the position of each stile, gate, way markers and problem areas.

The Countryside Access Manager explained what cuts had been made to the works budget and that a works budget of £400,000 existed ten years ago. With the staffing budget also cut and the loss of a post. It was reported that cuts are impacting on service with staff having to do more, however the quality of public footpaths have yet to deteriorate as it will take time for footpaths to deteriorate.

Financial Year	Total works budget	Total reduction
2017/18	£175,000	Reduction of £60,000
2016/17	£235,000	Reduction of £20,000

Prior to recent budget cuts, Town and Community Councils in Gwynedd received annual contributions of circa £70,000. In 2016/17, the amount a Town or Community Council could receive was set at 75% of the average claims made over 5 years. With a further cut to be made in 2017/18, meaning Town or Community Councils could only claim 50% of the average claims made over 5 years.

Financial Year	Total budget for TTC	Total reduction
2017/18	£295	Reduction of 50%
2016/17	£440	Reduction of 25%

It was reported by Gwynedd Council Footpaths Officers that Gwynedd Council wishes to know which Town and Community Councils will participate in 2017/18 and which paths are a priority e.g. to be maintained or to be upgraded/downgraded.

Members present informed Gwynedd Council Officers that Tywyn Town Council had set-aside £2,500 for public footpaths in the 2017/18 budget, with £2,000 in the maintenance budgeted and £500 in the materials budget. However, Tywyn Town Council at present does not have a contractor in place for 2017/18.

A Councillor noted that 4x4 vehicles are using footpaths/roads and causing surface damage. The Footpath Manager explained that 200km of greens lanes exist in Meirionnydd. However, the green lanes are not under the jurisdiction of Gwynedd Council's Footpaths Unit as they are technically classed as a highway.

It was reported by a Councillor that a footpath near Penllyn is heavily used and that two new gates have recently been installed. The Countryside Access Manager confirmed that funding for coastal paths is secure as grant funding is available.

Gwynedd Council's Footpath Manager distributed maps showing category 1 footpaths in red and category 2 footpaths in orange. The following observations were made:

- Faenol footpath near Penllyn - waterlogged with ditch to be re-opened. Stiles need to be replaced with gates. Additional way markers need to be erected. Possibly footpath should be upgraded to category 1.
- Llanerch-y-Llyn - 14 issues reported on Gwynedd Council's system. Route identified as low priority and as such any works required are prioritised accordingly.

It was reported by Gwynedd Council's Footpath Manager that Gwynedd Council's statutory duty is to mark footpaths from the Highway and there is no duty to erect way markers.

RECOMMENDATION: To accept the information. To contact local contractors to quote for maintaining category 1 and 2 footpaths, and to request that contractors possess qualifications or have attended chainsaw and brush cutter courses.

The meeting was declared closed at 14:40pm