

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF TYWYN TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13TH JULY 2016
AT YSGOL UWCHRADD TYWYN AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor Nancy Clarke (Chair)

Councillors: Ron W. McCoo, Anne Lloyd-Jones, Eileen M. Ellis,
John H. Boulter, John Pughe, Mark D. Kendall, Dan Wyre

OFFICERS PRESENT: Bedwyr Gwilym (Town Clerk)

PRESENTATION: Sergeant. Iwan Lloyd Jones and Kathryn Lake-Bullen PCSO, North Wales Police

The Chair welcomed Sergeant Iwan Jones and Kathryn Lake-Bullen PCSO to the meeting. It was reported that the number of officers based in Tywyn will stay the same, with a recently retired officer being replaced with a transferee. The number of officers based at a station was demand based and it is unlikely that Tywyn will see an increase in officers.

The new police station at Pendre Industrial Estate is due to open, with delays due to the IT system needed. The investment in the new building showed the force's commitment to the area and PCSO may be receiving bicycles to aid their work.

The southern area of Gwynedd is at the periphery of North Wales Police's area and consequently the force has traditionally faced difficulty in recruiting officers for the area. This difficulty is increased with the need to attend training at St Asaph for six months with no accommodation provided. To assist with recruiting officers, North Wales Police in August will be launching a recruitment campaign with training based at Dolgellau, with officers then posted to their area such as Tywyn station. The intake would be around 18 persons and would need between 10-12 persons for the training at Dolgellau to go-ahead.

Data was given as to how many reported crimes are committed according to each category. The level of crime recorded in Tywyn is low, however year to date figures are slightly above the previous year. It was noted that statistics don't always give an accurate picture, with low crime levels - one or two additional crimes reported can create a situation where the number of crimes reported have increased by 100%.

It was reported that changes have been made recently on how crimes are recorded nationally and offences such as posting on Facebook or other social media platforms are recorded. The target response time to serious crimes is 28 minutes and the current performance figures show the Force having a high response rate. Officers are spread around the area and North Wales Police and Dyfed Powys Police have a good working-relationship and will respond to a serious crime in a neighbouring force area if needed.

A Councillor noted concern regarding the speed of vehicles travelling along the High Street. It was reported that the Go Safe vans do not normally visit town centres, however officers can use hand held speed devices, with enforcement normally having an effect whilst the officer is present. Traffic calming measures are more effective within town centres.

Councillors questioned whether there was any cause for concern locally. It was noted that the number of burglaries were down, breaking into shops also down, theft down, robbery within north Wales virtually non-existent, no figures for victimless crimes such as drug use. The figures recorded for violent crime had increased and is split into two, violent crime with injury and violent crime without injury, with an increase of 40% for with injury and 80% for non-injury. Approximately 80%-85% violent crime is domestic with low levels of violence on the street.

A Facebook page for Meirionnydd is due to be launched and feedback was received as to the force's policy of having separate Welsh and English posts on North Wales Police's Facebook Page, with a suggestion given for one bilingual post.

It was noted that the Police deal with a large number of incidents, with not all incidents being crime e.g. road traffic accidents, working on preventing time, supporting vulnerable people. The officers noted that the more reports that are made to the police, the more that can be done by the police.

In order to combat particular crimes, the Force have a rural crime team which was formed a number of years ago and is very successful. Cyber-crime is recorded where the offence was committed and further information is available from Action Fraud. Caravan crime is being combatted through the Caravan Park Watch Scheme, by targeting caravan owners and caravan parks, whereby a specially trained officer will visit a caravan site and conduct a survey and provide advice to caravan owners. With the School Watch scheme aimed at schools which are a target over the summer with the schools closing.

Cl. 58 **APOLOGIES:**
13.07.16

Councillor Alun Evans
Councillor Richie Owens
Councillor Islwyn Davies
Councillor Mike Stevens

Cl. 59 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST:**
13.07.16

Cllr Anne Lloyd-Jones (Cl. 62)
Cllr Nancy Clarke (Cl. 66)

Cl. 60 **CHAIRMAN'S ACTIVITY REPORT:**
13.07.16

Councillor Nancy Clarke as Vice-Chair of the Council in the Chairman's absence noted the following engagements:

- Attended the Talylyn Railway's 150th Celebrations on behalf of the Chairman.

Councillor Nancy Clarke explained that a letter had been received by Welsh Water regarding accessing Ynysymaengwyn Caravan Park land and requested Councillors to email their observations to the Site Administrator.

Cl. 61 **RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON**
13.07.16 **WEDNESDAY, 8 JUNE 2016**

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

Cl. 62
13.07.16

RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY, 28 JUNE 2016

Councillor Anne Lloyd-Jones declared a prejudicial interest and left the meeting whilst this item was discussed.

It was noted that some nearby residents at Penmorfa (C16/0603/09/LL) had acquired their houses from the Local Authority and there were objections locally to the proposed development of 5 affordable housing dwellings. It was further noted that access may be required through neighbouring land.

RESOLVED: To receive and approve the minutes, with Councillor Mark Kendall proposing and Councillor John Boulter seconding the proposal.

Cl. 63
13.07.16

RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY, 28 JUNE 2016

RESOLVED: To defer until the Council's Ordinary meeting in September 2016 as no Councillors present at the Personnel Committee are present to approve the accuracy of the minutes. The Town Clerk to investigate item 4 in the minutes and provide information to the Council at its meeting in September 2016.

Cl. 64
13.07.16

APPROVE THE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JUNE 2016

RESOLVED: To approve the Treasurer's Report for May 2016, with Councillor John Boulter proposing and Councillor Anne Lloyd-Jones seconding the proposal.

Cl. 65
13.07.16

REVIEW AND ADOPT FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

RESOLVED: Councillor Anne Lloyd-Jones proposed to defer and delegate to the Finance Committee, with Councillor Ron McCoo seconding the proposal.

Cl. 66
13.07.16

CLOSURE OF HSBC BRANCH IN TYWYN

Letters had been received by HSBC and by the local MP Liz Saville Roberts regarding the closure of the branch in Tywyn on Friday, 16 September 2016.

Councillor Nancy Clarke declared a non-prejudicial interest and remained in the room.

RESOLVED: To write a letter to HSBC stating the Council's disappointment regarding the closure with a copy of the letter also sent to Liz Saville Roberts MP, with Councillor Mark Kendall proposing and Councillor John Pughe seconding the proposal.

Cl. 67
13.07.16

PLANS TO ABOLISH GUARDS ON TRAINS AND INTRODUCE DRIVER ONLY OPERATED TRAINS

A Councillor requested the item on the Agenda had received a leaflet from the RMT union and was particularly concerned regarding the health and safety aspect of having driver-only operated trains.

It was reported by a Councillor that Ben Davies of Arriva Trains Wales had at a recent meeting stated that Arriva Trains Wales had no plans to introduce driver-only operated trains within its franchise in Wales.

RESOLVED: To accept the information.

Cl. 68
13.07.16

CHARGING A FEE FOR USE OF THE COUNCIL OFFICE TO CONDUCT AN INTERNAL AUDIT OF NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITY COUNCILS

At the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday, 11 May 2016 the internal auditor was appointed for the 2016/17 fiscal year. It was resolved to enquire whether the Council received a reimbursement by the internal auditor for using Tywyn Town Council's office to conduct an internal audit of neighbouring Community Councils. The Town Clerk explained that the internal auditor had confirmed the fee charged by him did not reflect the free use of the office for neighbouring Community Councils.

Councillor John Pughe requested the minutes to note his opinion that the internal auditor was running his own business and should be making a payment for use of the office.

Councillor Ron McCoo proposed that the Council does not impose a fee for use of the Council office, with Councillor Mark Kendall seconding the proposal.

It was put to the vote:

FOR: Five
AGAINST: One
ABSTAINED: Two

RESOLVED: Not to charge a fee for use of the Council office

Cl. 69
13.07.16

PUBLIC FOOTPATHS

At the Ordinary Meeting of the Council in June 2016 it was resolved to enquire whether Tywyn Town Council is required to maintain public footpaths. The Town Clerk explained that Gwynedd Council had confirmed that the contract between itself and Town/Community Council for maintaining footpaths is a rolling contract, and Tywyn Town Council may end the contract without giving notice.

RESOLVED: Councillor John Boulter proposed, with Councillor Mark Kendall seconding the proposal for the Environment Committee to meet in order to prepare a specification for inviting tenders for maintaining public footpaths, with the recommendation to be discussed at the Ordinary Meeting in September 2016. To invite a

Manager from Gwynedd Council with responsibility for footpaths to the Ordinary Meeting held in September 2016 in order to provide advice.

Cl. 70
13.07.16

GWYNEDD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

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

Gwynedd Councillor Anne Lloyd-Jones reported the following:

- Attended two Gwynedd planning committee meetings and one planning training course led by a Barrister.
- Attended the Joint meeting of the Cambrian Coast and Aberystwyth to Shrewsbury Rail Liaison Conference. Information was received that Arriva Trains Wales have no plan to operate driver-only trains.
- Attended a meeting of Dr. Williams Trust, which is a fund that awards grants to young people to aid their education. £400 is available to young people up to the age of 23.
- Was present at Tywyn Hospital, along with the Chairman and Treasurer of the Hospital Appeal Committee to be presented with a cheque of over £1,000 by Tywyn Freemasons. Also had the opportunity to see the new eye scanner which the Appeal Committee have donated over £20,000 towards its purchase.

RESOLVED: To accept the information from the County Councillor. Councillors questioned the developments with the proposed parking order at the Promenade and it was resolved to contact the Charity Commission again.

Cl. 71
13.07.16

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

None to report.

RESOLVED: To accept the information

Cl. 72
13.07.16

CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report for June was circulated to Councillors.

Councillor Mark Kendall left the room.

Within the report a reference was made to the Tywyn Partnership Group and a discussion was held as to who was the secretary, with the discussion naming the previous Town Clerk in a personal capacity or the previous Town Clerk in a professional capacity as Town Clerk. It was requested by Councillor John Pughe that the minutes record that in his opinion the Town Clerk, acting as Secretary of Tywyn Partnership Group should be remunerated by that organisation.

RESOLVED: To approve the Clerk's report.

Councillor Mark Kendall re-entered the room.

TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence That Necessitates Action by the Council.

Cl. 73
13.07.16

Gwynedd Council - Street Enforcement - Street cleanliness questions

A questionnaire was received by Gwynedd Council, focussing on issuing fines for littering offences.

Question 1

Gwynedd Council should be much firmer than at present than it is currently in tackling people who drop litter in the streets or allow their dogs to foul on footpaths.

AGREE

Question 2

Gwynedd Council should give on the spot fines for anyone caught committing environmental crimes – things like dropping cigarette butts, chewing gum or drink cans on the floor or allowing their dogs to foul in public places.

AGREE

Question 3

Because of the substantial financial cuts Gwynedd Council has faced from the Government, there is less money available every year, there is less money available every year to spend on local services.

Bearing this in mind, would you agree or disagree with the following statement:

If Gwynedd Council does not have enough money to go after people dropping litter or allowing dog fouling on our streets, they should be willing to use an external / commercial company to do it with the Council.

AGREE

Question 4

Do you have any further observations on this issue?

Weeds are growing on roads and on pavements, with rubbish collecting in the weeds and causing a hazard.

RESOLVED: To respond to the four questions.

Question 1 Agree

Question 2 Agree

Question 3 Agree

Question 4 Weeds are growing on roads and on pavements, with rubbish collecting in the weeds and causing a hazard.

Cl. 74
13.07.16

Gwynedd Council - Corporate Support - Request to work in partnership to keep public toilets in Tywyn open in 2017/18 and alternative means of maintaining the provision thereafter

RESOLVED: Agree in principle to work in partnership with Gwynedd Council and to contribute £4,000 towards one public toilet on the basis that the contribution will enable Gwynedd Council to keep both public toilets in Tywyn open.

Cl. 75
13.07.16 Gwynedd Council - Transportation and Street Care Service - Active Travel Consultation

RESOLVED: Tywyn Town Council not to respond, with Councillors to respond individually with their own views.

Cl. 76
13.07.16 Gillian Hughes - Complaint regarding grass cutting in areas around Tywyn

Councillors discussed the quality of the grass cutting by the Council's new contractor and noted that to-date the work is not meeting the requirements completely.

RESOLVED: To respond to the complainant stating that the successful contractor was awarded through a competitive tendering process following proper procedures.

Cl. 77
13.07.16 Correspondence Received That Does **Not** Necessitate Action by the Council

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

- (a) One Voice Wales - Wales Audit Office - Good Practice Exchange event at Glasdir, Plas yn Dre, Llanrwst on Thursday, 29 September 2016
- (b) One Voice Wales - Public Services Staff Commission - Annual Report
- (c) Public Services Ombudsman for Wales - Annual Report 2015/16
- (d) One Voice Wales - Wales Audit Office - Annual Report and Accounts 2015-16
- (e) Llangelynnin Community Council - Letter regarding proposed Dyfi Bridge
- (f) Gwynedd Council - Highways and Municipal Service - Works Programme July, 2016
- (g) Gwynedd Council - Property Service - Report on the proposed new Parking Order being submitted to the Council's Cabinet on July 12th 2016
- (h) One Voice Wales - Welsh Government - written statement from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, announcing further details on the collection and management arrangements for Welsh devolved taxes from April 2018
- (i) Big Lottery Fund - new fund "Celebrate Wales" available

The meeting was declared closed at 9:03pm

MINUTES of the Planning Committee
held in the Committee Room, Council Office, High Street, Tywyn,
on Tuesday, 28 June, 2016 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllr. Alun W.Evans (Chairman)
J.H.Boulter; R.E.Owens; G.M.Stevens; N.E.Clarke; I.H.Davies

IN ATTENDANCE: None

OFFICERS PRESENT: Bedwyr Gwilym (Town Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES: Councillors: John Pughe; Anne Lloyd-Jones; Ron McCoo

A Councillor noted and questioned the inclusion of Councillor Nancy Clarke on the distribution list for the Agenda. The Town Clerk explained that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 11 May 2016 had been confirmed as correct. A Councillor disputed the information given by the Town Clerk and the Councillor would take up matter with a Solicitor at Gwynedd Council.

On receiving the explanation by the Town Clerk, the Chairman moved to the next item on the Agenda.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

Councillor Islwyn Davies - NP5/79/231D, Replacement Garage
Councillor Mike Stevens - NP5/79/231D, Replacement Garage

3. OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE THE CONTENTS OF A NEW SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE (SPG) TO SUPPORT THE JOINT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (JLDP): WELSH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Councillors discussed the current supplementary guidance notes; with concerns raised regarding Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and that the proposed JLDP was not robust and strong enough to support Welsh Language and Culture.

RECOMMENDATION: To allow Councillors further time to digest the information contained within the current supplementary guidance and to comment on the contents of a new supplementary planning guidance by the due date of 12 August 2016.

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

4.1

C16/0603/09/LL

Full application to erect 5 two storey affordable dwellings and provisions of amenity area

Land at Penmorfa, Tywyn, Gwynedd, LL36 9BL

RECOMMENDATION: No objection, the Council noted concerns regarding large vehicles accessing the site during the construction period and that deliveries should comply with the Construction Traffic Management Plan, with deliveries restricted between the hours of 9:30 - 16:30. In addition, care should be taken during the hours where children are accessing or leaving school. Further concerns were raised regarding the community losing a green space and that the amenity area provided by the applicant be suitable for the number of children residing nearby.

4.2

NP5/79/231DL

Replacement garage

Riverslea, Tywyn, Gwynedd, LL36 9HS

Councillors Islwyn Davies and Mike Stevens declared a prejudicial interest and left the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: No objection

Councillors Islwyn Davies and Mike Stevens re-entered the meeting.

The meeting was declared closed at 7:28pm