

**MINUTES** of the Ordinary Meeting of the Tywyn Town Council  
held in the Resources Centre, Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn,  
on Wednesday, 27 May, 2015, at 7.00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Cllr. John H.Boulter (Chairman);  
Cllrs: Nancy E.Clark; Islwyn H.Davies; Eileen M.Ellis;  
Alun Wyn Evans; Mark D.Kendall; A.Lloyd-Jones;  
Ron W.McCoo; John Pughe; Richie E.Owens;  
G.Michael Stevens; R.M.Vaughan.

**Cl. 14**                    **APOLOGIES:** Cllr. Daniel A.Wyre.  
**27:05:15**

**Cl. 15**                    **DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST OR**  
**27:05:15**                    **PERSONAL CONNECTION**

The following declared interest in the said items:

Cllr. M.D.Kendall – Cl. 23

**Cl. 16**                    **CHAIRMAN'S ACTIVITY REPORT**

**27:05:15**                    The Chairman commenced his first report by congratulating the Vice-chairman firstly on being re-elected as Chairman of the Meirionnydd Area Branch of One Voice Wales for another year, and secondly on being elected as one of two of Meirionnydd's representatives on the Executive Committee of One Voice Wales. He had acted as the reserve representative for the past years.

He had attended the following events:

17:05:15 Extended a welcome to a group of sponsored walkers who had walked from Telford to Tywyn, raising money for cancer. They had commenced their walk from Telford on Friday, 15 May, 2015. Also present was Cllr. Mark D. Kendall representing the local Buffaloes Branch.

18:05:15 Meeting at Bro Dysynni Leisure Centre, Tywyn. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ways of instigating increased use of the Leisure Centre, and making use of the excellent facilities available.

In his opinion the meeting was constructive, and he was pleased to report that at present there are no suggestions of leisure Centre closing.

19:05:15 Police Crime and Disorder Forum at the Resources Centre, Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn. Representing the Police were Sergeant Iwan Lloyd Jones and PCSO



**Cl. 18**  
**27:05:15**

### **GWYNEDD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

To receive verbal report from Gwynedd Councillor on matters in the Council's interest.

At the commencement of his report Cllr. Stevens stated that he had not always seen eye to eye with the Clerk on several issues, but that he respected the work he had done; and that he had done a formidable job over the years. He then progressed to report on the following issues:

Afon Dysynni – He was being kept informed by Mr Dafydd Roberts, Natural Resources Wales, of any progress. Work had commenced on dredging the estuary (Broadwater) and that the river was flowing much better. Nevertheless, NRW would be monitoring the situation.

Paddling Pool, Tywyn Promenade – Repair work was in progress. However, there was disappointment and criticism that the completion date had not been met, due to the fact that work had come to a stop for a period with the workers not being present on site. He had been given permission by Mr Llyr B. Jones, Senior Manager, Economy & Community, Gwynedd Council, to erect signs to apologise for the situation and to give assurance that the Pool would not be closing.

Dog Fouling – the seasonal restricted area for dogs (in front of the Victorian Promenade) is not functional. Being that it is seasonal, dog owners are confused and unaware of the situation, while others ignore it. In his opinion every effort should be made to establish the seasonal restricted area as permanent restricted area. It could be less confusing and enable better signage.

Suggestion was put forward of Gwynedd Council providing dispensers along the sea front containing green bags for the use of dog owners. It was considered that there was need for a better dog management policy.

Parking Restrictions – Cllr. Stevens had asked Gwynedd Council for unrestricted parking in the town on Sundays. Gwynedd had responded noting that such restrictions could be lifted by the end of the summer provided that there would be no objections following public consultation.

Similarly, he had raised an objection to the 45- minute parking limit throughout the town for the whole week, which should be changed to limited parking period of one hour from Monday – Saturday. Again, Gwynedd had responded noting that changes could be introduced by the end of the summer.

Recycling – all households in Tywyn should have received their purpose built ‘Cartgylchu’ recycling cart. Those who had not received them should contact the relevant department of Gwynedd Council.

Cllr. A. Lloyd-Jones reported that she had attended the following events:

29:04:15 Lunch and site visit around the new extension to Tywyn and District Memorial Hospital. Also present were Mr Morgan Vaughan MBE; other executive members of the Hospital Appeal Committee; Matron and Dr. Peter Higson, Chairman Betsi Cadwalader University Health Board. The project is progressing well, running to schedule and due to be handed over to the BCUHB by the end of the year. She was overwhelmed by the size of the project.

05:05:15 Meeting of the Mid Wales Collaborative Board in Machynlleth. Members consisted of the Chairman and Chief Executives of Betsi Cadwalader, Hywel Dda and Powys Teaching Health Boards, Chief Executives and Leaders of Local Authorities and Chief Executives from Community Health Councils and Voluntary Sector organisers. Jack Evershed and Dr Ruth Hall were appointed as Co-Chairs. It is expected that the next meeting of the Board will be held in Tywyn on Monday, 6 July, 2015.

Cambrian Coast Railway Conference in Porthmadog. The enhanced service was launched in Aberystwyth on Monday, 18 May, 2015, providing almost an hourly service between Aberystwyth and Shrewsbury. This gave her much delight and paid tribute to those who worked hard to collect signatures in Tywyn to persuade Edwina Hart AM, Minister for Economy, Science and Transport, to provide extra funding.

Meirionnydd Area Forum commenced with a site visit to the Food Recycling Plant in Clynnog Fawr, which was most educational. The meeting then transferred to Tremadog with a presentation by Arwyn Thomas, Head of Education. He presented his vision for the future of the service and on the application for the World Heritage Site Status for the slate industry in Gwynedd which will include the old Bryneglwys Slate Quarry at Abergynolwyn and its links with Tal-y-Llyn Railway.

Annual Reports – Gwynedd Councillors are being encouraged to write annual reports. At present these are discretionary, but could become mandatory as the Welsh Government believes that electors have a right to know what their elected representatives are being paid for. Such a move would make Councillors more accountable to the electorate.

Recycling – as local county councillors, both had met with Gwyn Morris Jones, Head of Highways and Municipal Services; Steffan Jones, Senior Manager, Highways Maintenance and Municipal Service and John Wyn Jones, Cabinet member, to discuss the various options open or Tywyn following the closure of Potters Recycling Centre at Machynlleth. At present various ideas, needs and affordability were being sought.

Collection of Household Wastes – Commencing on 1 June, 2015, domestic waste for disposing in the green wheelie bin or black sack will be collected on the 3-week cycle. This will bring Meirionnydd in line with Dwyfor area, where this new service was introduced in October, 2014. This change will not affect other household waste collection services. All household should receive information regarding this change by the date that it is implemented. Meirionnydd residents unsure of the changes can contact Gwynedd's Recycling Helpdesk on 01766 771000 or [recycling@gwynedd.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@gwynedd.gov.uk)

Support for Sports in Gwynedd – At its first meeting of the current financial year, Gwynedd Community Chest agreed to allocate a total of £18,769 to 13 sports clubs and organisations in the county. The aim is to further Gwynedd Council's Healthy initiative by helping to promote sports clubs and organisations and provide improved sporting opportunities. Two local clubs that were allocated funding were Bro Dysynni Hockey Club and Dyfi Yacht Club. The next Gwynedd Community Chest allocation meeting will be held on 1 June, 2015.

**Cl. 19  
27:05:15**

**TYWYN TOWN COUNCIL ACCOUNTS FOR  
FINANCIAL YEAR 2014 – 2015**

Copies of the Income and Expenditure Account; Balance Sheet, Bank Reconciliation and Auditor's Report for the Financial Year 2014 – 2015 as prepared by the Internal Auditor were distributed to Councillors. These had been scrutinised by the Finance Committee at the meeting held on Thursday, 21 May, 2015.

The Internal Auditor was present on Tuesday, 19 May and Wednesday, 20 May, 2015, to carry out the Audit of the accounts.

The Finance Committee had noted a difference between the amount of receipts as recorded on the Bank Reconciliation to the total of Income Received on the Income and Expenditure Account. The Clerk had received a verbal explanation from the Internal Auditor. This was due to a process of completing the accounts which had regard to Debtors (sums due to the Council but not yet received) and creditors (payments due to be made by

the Council but not yet processed). In the case of Tywyn this is particularly necessary because it provides a means of isolating VAT recovered on behalf of the Ynysymaengwyn Caravan Park and the Trust, which if not identified as such would distort the impression of the Council's finance. It is understood that the Auditor will in future include a specific explanation within his report.

Based on this report given by the Clerk, members were content to approve the Council's Accounts for the Financial Year 2014 – 2015.

**RESOLVED** – to approve the Income and Expenditure Account; Balance Sheet, Bank Reconciliation and Auditor's Report for the Financial Year 2014 – 2015.

**Cl. 20**                    **ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH**  
**27:05:15**                **2015 – SECTION 1 – ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS.**

Copies of the Accounting Statements were circulated to Councillors. These had been scrutinised by the Finance Committee at the meeting held on Thursday, 21 May, 2015.

Members of the Finance Committee were content to recommend that the Council approve Section 1 – Accounting Statements of the Annual Return.

**RESOLVED** - to approve the Accounting Statements for the financial year 2014 – 2015.

**Cl. 21**                    **ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH**  
**27:05:15**                **2015 – SECTION 2 – ANNUAL GOVERNANCE**  
**STATEMENT**

Copies of the Annual Governance Statement were circulated to Councillors. These had been scrutinised by the Finance Committee at the meeting held on Thursday, 21 May, 2015.

The Finance Committee had pondered over Sections 7 and 8.

Section 7 - 'We have taken appropriate action on all matters raised in previous report from internal and external audit'. The only option given was to answer either 'Yes' or 'No' which was regarded as an anomaly, as the Internal Auditor had not raised any matters, and the External Auditor had returned an 'unqualified audit certificate'. As members of the Finance Committee were indecisive as how to best answer this section it was agreed to seek advice from the Internal Auditor.

Section 8 – 'We have considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on

the Council and, where appropriate, have included them on the accounting statements’.

There was disagreement within the Finance Committee as to how this section should be answered. This was arising from the on-going dispute between the Council and members of the Tywyn Spiritualist Church and Centre, a matter that was in the hands of Evans-Roberts Solicitors. Again members of the Finance Committee agreed to seek advice from the Internal Auditor.

Otherwise it was the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the response to the remaining sections (1 – 6 + 9) be affirmative and that this be approved by the Council.

The Internal Auditor had advised as follows:

Section 7 – to reply in the affirmative and to include a foot-note that ‘an unqualified audit certificate had been issued’

Section 8 – to reply in the affirmative as the Council was aware of the situation and had ‘Disclosed everything it should have about its business during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant’.

**RESOLVED** - to approve the recommendations of both the Finance Committee and the Internal Auditor and that the response to all of the sections (1 – 9) of Section 2 - Annual Governance Statement for the financial year 2014 – 2015 should be affirmative (Yes).

Cllr. J.Pughe requested that it be recorded in the minutes his opposition to Section 8 being answered ‘Yes’ and that in his opinion it should be ‘No’.

**Cl. 22**  
**27:05:15**

**JOINT SLCC AND ONE VOICE WALES SEMINAR**

The Clerk presented a verbal report of the joint Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and One Voice Wales (OVW) Seminar held at the Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells on Thursday, 14 May, 2015.

The Keynote Address was given by Leighton Andrews AM, Minister for Public Services. His topic was ‘A Vision for the Community & Town Council Sector’ in connection with his Government’s White Paper – ‘The Reform of Local Government – Power to the People’. Although his presentation was low key and non-controversial, it was clear that the future for Town and Community Councils is perilous, and that the days of ‘small’ local councils are in jeopardy. In the Clerk’s opinion ‘The Writing is on the wall’ – and used the occasion to

rebuke the Council for unseemly behaviour at times, and that there was room to act in a more professional manner.

The session came to an end with an opportunity to present questions to the Minister, which was taken to its full advantage.

Another two sessions were included in the morning programme:

Insurance Implications for Community & Town Councils  
Facing the challenges of Devolution of Services & Asset Transfer

and a choice of four workshops in the afternoon.

The Clerk was thanked for his report.

**Cl. 23 TYWYN SEA FRONT**

**27:05:15**

(a) Beach Clean – Cllr. M.D.Kendall gave a verbal report of the ‘Beach Clean’ which he was involved with. When the first beach-clean initiative was held five years ago, over 31 one-ton bags of waste were collected between Aberdyfi and the mouth of Afon Dysynni. Since then the Beach Clean has been an annual event. This year only 4 one-tone bags of waste were collected. From this it could be deduced that the initiative is having the desired effect and all for the good.

It was a little disappointing that the number of volunteers had dropped this year, and it would be gratifying to see an increase in the number of volunteers in the future.

Cllr. Kendall thanked all of those who had taken part, and in particular builder’s merchants Travis Perkins for supplying gloves and bags.

Council reiterated the comments made by Cllr. Kendall and expressed its thanks to all involved, and in particular to Cllr. Kendall.

(b) Cllr. Kendall spoke of places on the seafront that were in need of repair or some form attention, and produced a series of photographs taken by him to illustrate and corroborate his views:

- (i) Raised Beds – there are several of these along the Promenade (probably 6 or more) often referred to as ‘islands’. In some of these the retaining wall is becoming loose and falling apart.
- (ii) Wooden Flower Beds – timber surrounding the beds had become rotten and in some places was missing
- (iii) seating benches surrounding the Pump House had been removed over 12 months ago (presumably for re-painting) and not replaced.



Cllr. Kendall was critical of the fact that he had presented a quotation to the Maritime and County Parks Service in April 2012, and was still waiting for their decision, and that the repair work still had not been done.

(c) Paddling Pool – Cllr. Kendall reiterated previous comments made that he was disappointed that renovation work on the Paddling Pool had not been completed. He emphasised the importance of the Paddling Pool as the only facility on the seafront that was available for use. He also raised concern regarding the edge of the Paddling Pool formed at 90° and was sharp. This finish was potentially dangerous to very young children using the Paddling Pool, and should be reconsidered.

He also raised an objection to the content of the notices displayed on the security fencing surrounding the Paddling Pool, apologising for the delay in the opening of it. His objection was based on the fact that the information on the boards was such that it gave the impression that Tywyn and District Chamber of Tourism and Commerce was responsible for the renovation work and not Gwynedd Council.

Notice was also made that the promise given at the site meeting held with the Maritime and Country Parks Officer (March) that his department would position two wooden plinths each side of the Information Panels to eliminate the danger to young children was remaining outstanding.

**RESOLVED** – letter to be written to Mr Llŷr B.Jones, Senior Manager Economy & Community, Gwynedd Council, conveying the above comments, and enclosing the photographs that were shown to the Council.

**Cl. 24**  
**27:05:15**

**MAINTENANCE OF GRASS VERGES**

Cllr. Kendall stated that he had been questioned why the grass verges on the Tywyn – Aberdyfi Road (A493) had not been cut beyond Escuan Hall towards Aberdyfi.

Members presumed that this was due to Gwynedd Policy of maintenance of roadside verges i.e. grass verges outside 30 m.p.h. speed limit are cut 1 / 2 per year; grass verges within 30 m.p.h. are cut approximately 5 times per year. There was general consensus that grass verges in general are untidy and overgrown.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) Letter to be written to Highways Maintenance and Municipal Services, Gwynedd Council, requesting information regarding its Policy on maintenance of roadside verges, and which department is responsible for the work
- (b) Letter to be written to Sir Meuric Rees, Escuan Hall, to inform him of the Council's decision.

**Cl. 25 CLERK'S REPORT**  
**27:05:15** No report had been prepared

**TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE.**

Correspondence That Necessitates Action by the Council

**Cl. 26** (a) Gwynedd – Mr Llŷr B.Jones, Senior Manager Economy &  
**27:05:15** Community – Amenities and Promenade Area Tywyn  
 Letter referring to the financial challenges facing Gwynedd  
 Council and as of consequence each department was expected  
 to operate more efficiently with the scant resources available. In  
 view of this, the letter was an invitation to the Council to enter  
 into discussions with the Economy and Community Department  
 regarding models of provision of maintenance of Tywyn  
 Promenade in the future.  
**RESOLVED** – To extend an invitation to Mr Llŷr Jones to  
 address the Council at the Ordinary Meeting on Wednesday, 8  
 July, 2015.

(b) North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils  
 Letter extending invitation to join the Association  
**RESOLVED** – not to join the North and Mid Wales  
 Association of Local Councils.

**Cl. 27** Correspondence Received That Does Not Necessitate Action by  
**27:05:15** the Council And Is Available At The Clerk's Office For Perusal  
By Any Interested Councillor

- (a) Gwynedd – Health and Social Care – Integration  
 between Social and Health Services
- (b) Simon Thomas AM – Regional Bulletin –  
Simon.Thomas@wales.gov.uk
- (c) Grŵp Cynefin Community Development Grant
- (d) Gwynedd – Highways Maintenance and Municipal  
Service – Works Programme – May, 2015.

The Meeting concluded at 8.45 p.m.