

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF TYWYN TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10th JULY 2024
AT 7.00pm AT NEUADD PENDRE AND ONLINE VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: Cllr. John Pughe (Chair)

Cllrs. Matthew Cooling, Nancy Clarke, Alun Wyn Evans,
Cathy Evans, Eileen Jones, Mark Kendall, Anne Lloyd-Jones,
Gareth Mason, Ron McCoo, Marisa O’Hara.

OFFICER PRESENT: Chris Wood (Clerk)

PUBLIC SESSION

There were no questions from members of the public.

CI 047.
10.7.24 **1. APOLOGIES**
Cllr. Olivia Woodward.

CI 048.
10.7.24 **2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST OR PERSONAL CONNECTION**
Cllr. Nancy Clarke, Items 10 and 17.
Cllr. Mark Kendall, Item 10.
Cllr. John Pughe, Item 9.

CI 049.
10.7.24 **3. CHAIRMAN’S ACTIVITY REPORT**
The Chair reported that it is very quiet at present, although he has attended a number of functions.

CI 050.
10.7.24 **4. MINUTES**
To receive and approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 12th June 2024.
It was **Proposed** by Cllr. Alun Wyn Evans, seconded by Cllr. Marisa O’Hara and **resolved** to receive and approve the Minutes of the meeting of 12th June 2024.

CI 051.
10.7.24 **5. TO APPROVE THE TREASURER’S REPORT FOR JUNE 2024**
It was **Proposed** by Cllr. Eileen Jones, seconded by Cllr. Cathy Evans and **resolved** to receive and approve the Treasurer's Report for June 2024.

CI 052.
10.7.24 **6. TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S REPORT**
The Clerk provided a written report to the Council which reported on the following items:

D Day 80

The Council arranged an event at Neuadd Pendre to mark the 80th anniversary of D Day. The event was very well supported, and the Council has received a lot of positive feedback. Special thanks are due to everyone who helped make the event a success - Mark Kendall as MC, performances from The Dysynni Belles, Dyfi Swing, and Andrew Nix on the Wurlitzer. Mandy Hair, the British Legion, displays from John Turner, Andy Penny and Geoff with Michael and his antiques all contributed to a very special event to commemorate an important day in history.

Many thanks are also due to Tywyn Cadets and all who helped with the catering.

Local Regeneration Plan

Attended a meeting arranged by Gwynedd Council to discuss the draft consultation document for the local regeneration plan for the Dysynni area. Many issues had been identified from an online consultation and this was an opportunity to discuss the issues raised and work towards identifying those where influence can be made to ensure positive change.

Community Ffrij

Successfully applied for grant funding from the UNESCO Dyfi Biosphere to support the activities of the Community Ffrij as part of the expansion of the Biosphere area which now includes Tywyn.

Website

Work remains ongoing to finalise the new website and move all required documentation across.

Ffiws Tywyn

Held meetings with Menter Mon to arrange open days over the Summer at the Ffiws in order to be able demonstrate the activities and crafts that we will be offering and to raise interest in the community about the Ffiws project.

The Public Art Project

Following the decision to investigate alternatives to the Public Art Project, attended a meeting with Lafan to explore improvement plans for the area around the Council Office. There is funding available to create an open area with seating and to incorporate a display about the slate heritage of Tywyn which would complement the aims of the Slate Landscape World Heritage Site project.

It was **Proposed** by Cllr. Mark Kendall, seconded by Cllr. Eileen Jones and **resolved** that the Clerk's report be accepted.

CI 053.
10.7.24

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

Cllr. John Pughe reported attending a meeting of the Gwynedd Council Planning Committee

Cllr. Anne Lloyd-Jones reported attending Gwynedd Council Committee Meetings of Democracy, Planning and Language, the CYSAG/SACRE Area Committee Meeting together with Training Courses on Welsh in the Community and the Call for Sites for the Gwynedd Plan. Cllr. Anne Lloyd-Jones also attended Governors Meetings at Ysgols Uwchradd and Penybryn, Dr Daniel Owen's Trust, Ardal Ni and Wales and West discussing the replacement of the gas pipeline from, Derwenlas to Tywyn.

CI 054.
10.7.24

8. AN OPPORTUNITY FOR TYWYN COUNCILLORS TO ASK QUESTIONS AND RECEIVE A REPORT FROM GWYNEDD COUNCILLORS REGARDING MATTERS RELATED TO TYWYN TOWN COUNCIL

Cllr. Marisa O'Hara asked whether there had been an update to the issue previously raised regarding student travel. Cllrs. John Pughe replied that the matter had been raised with out MP and MS.

Cllr. Marisa O'Hara asked if there is an update on the parking situation in Idris Villas, Cllr. John Pughe responded that he has raised the issue again and is waiting for a response from Gwynedd Council.

Cllr. Marisa O'Hara reported the poor condition of the playpark in Brynheulog, Cllr. John Pughe responded that he will report the concerns to Gwynedd Council.

Cllr. Mark Kendall asked for an update on the Promenade grass cutting. Cllr. John Pughe responded that an agreement with Gwynedd Council for Tywyn Town Council to be responsible for the grass cutting has not been finalised.

Cllr. Marisa O'Hara asked when the Promenade paddling pool will be open, Cllr. John Pughe responded that while some maintenance work is still required, Gwynedd Council have indicated it will be open for the start of the school holidays. A fuller programme of refurbishment works is planned for next year.

Cllr. John Pughe handed the Chair to Cllr. Matthew Cooling.

- CI 055.
10.7.24 **9. TO DISCUSS PLANNING APPLICATION C24/0526/09/LL GOLDEN SANDS LL36 ODG**
Following a discussion by Councillors on the application, Councillors, it was **Proposed** by Cllr. Ron McCoo, seconded by Cllr. Mark Kendall and **resolved** to offer no objections to Planning Application C24/0526/09/LL.

Cllr. John Pughe resumed his position as Chair of the Meeting.

Cllrs. Nancy Clarke and Mark Kendall left the Meeting.

- CI 056.
10.7.24 **10. MOTION TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING BY TYWYN EVENTS ORGANISATION**
Cllr. Gareth Mason spoke to ask that the Grants Policy be followed and to defer the application to November. Cllr. Cathy Evans agreed with the suggestion to follow the Grants Policy and Cllr. Eileen Jones asked about the balance sheet. The Clerk provided an update on the application as the event is taking place in August and considerable expenditure is required ahead of the event. Following a discussion by Councillors on the merits of the application, it was **Proposed** by Cllr. Eileen Jones, seconded by Cllr. Anne Llyd-Jones and **resolved** to award a grant of £750.00 to Tywyn Events Organisation.

Cllrs. Nancy Clarke and Mark Kendall returned to the meeting.

- CI 057.
10.7.24 **11. TO DISCUSS THE PURCHASE OF A NEW NOTICEBOARD FOR THE COUNCIL OFFICE**
The Clerk had obtained and distributed three quotes for new noticeboards and updated the Meeting as to the condition of the noticeboard and the need for a replacement. Following a discussion by Councillors, it was **Proposed** by Cllr. Mark Kendall, seconded by Cllr. Eileen Jones and **resolved** to purchase a new noticeboard for the Council Office.

- CI 058.
10.7.24 **13. TO DISCUSS OBTAINING AN ELECTRICITY SUPPLY TO THE CAMBRIAN ROAD RECREATION GROUND CAR PARK**
The Clerk introduced the item by raising the issues that have been occurring with the pay and display machine caused by it operating from a battery. Corrosion in several components would also have been avoided if the machine had heating which requires a mains connection. The ability for the machine to accept card payments would also require a mains electricity supply.
Councillors discussed the item at length and it was **Proposed** by Cllr. Marisa O'Hara, seconded by Cllr. Matthew Cooling and **resolved** to obtain an electricity supply to the Cambrian Road Recreation Ground Car Park.

- CI 059.
10.7.24 **13. TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL RETURN FOR 2023-24**
Following a discussion by Councillors, it was **Proposed** by Cllr. Mark Kendall, seconded by Cllr. Gareth Mason and **resolved** to approve the Annual Return for 2023-24.

CI 060. **14. CORRESPONDENCE WHICH REQUIRES A RESPONSE FROM THE COUNCIL**

10.7.24 None received

CI 061. **15. TO NOTE CORRESPONDENCE WHICH COUNCILLORS HAVE RECEIVED BY E-MAIL**

10.7.24 Gwynedd Council – Dysynni Area Plan
Transport for Wales – Timetable Review Update
One Voice Wales – Innovative Practice Conference, Addressing the Diverse Needs of our Communities
Planning Aid Wales – Training courses
One Voice Wales – Draft Consultation on Priorities for Culture 2024 – 30
One Voice Wales – Training Courses July, August, September 2024
NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee – EMRTS update

Correspondence noted.

CI 062. **16. MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 2A OF THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960.**

10.7.24

Following the Clerk explaining the reasons for the requirement of the Motion, it was **Proposed** by Cllr. Mark Kendall, seconded by Cllr. Marisa O’Hara and **resolved** to exclude the Press and Public in accordance with section 2A of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

CI 063. **17. TO RECEIVE THE YNYSYMAENGWYN TRUST REPORT**

10.7.24

The Council received the following written report from the Ynysymaengwyn Trust:

The Trustees held a meeting on July 27th 2024 to discuss the resignation of a Trustee, to review the operation of the Caravan Park and to review the applications for new Trustees.

To discuss the resignation of a Trustee

A Trustee resigned from the Trust on May 30th 2024 with the letter of resignation being discussed due to a number of issues of concern being raised:

Financial information not being provided by the Directors to the Trustees.

The commissioning of a new playpark against the instructions of the Trust.

The Caravan Park not being run in the best interests of the Trust.

The issues raised in the resignation letter were discussed, but not fully addressed due to time constraints and will need to be returned to in future meetings.

To review the operation of the Caravan Park

Ahead of the meeting, the Trustees had for the second time, requested financial and contract information from the Directors of the Caravan Park. Apart from a redacted version of the employment contracts, this information was not provided and this meant that again, the Trustees were not able to discuss an Agenda item fully. Concerns were raised that the interests of the Trust are not being prioritised as they should be as there is a conflict of interests between the Trustees and the Trustees who are also Directors.

New Trustees

The Trustees agreed that until until issues between the Directors and Trustees are resolved, it would not be appropriate, to appoint new Trustees.

The Council's representative on the Trust, Cllr. Mark Kendall then gave a verbal report on the two meetings of Trustees that he had attended, together with a report on the recent resignation of one of the Trustees and of the issues that were raised in their letter of resignation.

Following an extensive discussion by Councillors about the Trust and the operation of the Caravan Park, it was **Proposed** by Cllr. John Pughe, seconded by Cllr. Gareth Mason and **resolved** that Tywyn Town Council makes a formal complaint to the Charity Commission regarding the actions of the Trustees in failing to ensure that the Directors of its trading subsidiary company, Parc Ynysymaengwyn Cyf, operate the company in the best interests of the Trust.

The next Ordinary meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 11th September 2024 at 7.00pm.

The meeting was closed at 8.40pm

CADEIRYDD / CHAIR