

MINUTES of the Ordinary Meeting of the Tywyn Town Council
Held at the Resources Centres, Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn,
on Wednesday, 9 September 2015, at 7.00 p.m.

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

Cl. 73 **APOLOGIES:** Cllr. Daniel A.Wyre
09:09:15

Cl. 74 **DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST OR**
09:09:15 **PERSONAL CONNECTION**

There were no declarations of interest.

Cl. 75 **CHAIRMAN'S ACTIVITY REPORT**
09:09:15

The Chairman welcomed Councillors to the meeting following the summer recess. He presented a brief report regarding the following events:

16:07:15 – He had intended to attend a Training Session on Module 4, Understanding the Law, to be held at the Dragon Theatre and Community Centre, Barmouth, organised by Un Llais Cymru. To his disappointment the Session was cancelled due to lack of participants.

27:07:15 – Planning Committee – Tywyn Town Council.

10:08:15 Extraordinary Council Meeting – Tywyn Town Council

30:08:15 Together with Mr John Turner, Caretaker of Neuadd Pendre, had the pleasure of welcoming over 580 cyclists to Tywyn who were using Neuadd Pendre as a staging post during their cycling time trial event. He considered that the event was not very well advertised locally, which was unfortunate. Nevertheless, he subsequently received a telephone call from the event organiser thanking all of those who were present for the generous support they received at Neuadd Pendre on their arrival.

02:09:15 Extraordinary Council Meeting – Tywyn Town Council.

Cl. 76 **TO APPROVE MINUTES OF JULY / AUGUST 2015**
09:09:15 **MEETINGS**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve minutes of:

(a) Ordinary General Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 8 July, 2015, subject to the following amendment:

4 Red Lion Street, Tywyn (Cl. 53 / 08:07:15) the word NOT omitted. Correct reading should be:
'Due to the legal sensitivity of the situation he was not in a position to divulge any further information, but he was prepared to pursue the matter'.

not:

'Due to the legal sensitivity of the situation he was in a position to divulge any further information, but he was prepared to pursue the matter'.

- (b) Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on Monday, 10 August, 2015, subject to the following amendment:

Planning Applications (Cl.66 / 10:08:15) - Incorrect name recorded:

'(Cllr. Anne Lloyd-Jones following advice received from Rhun ap Iarthur, Senior Solicitor, Gwynedd Council (not Cara Owen, Development Control Manager, Gwynedd Council), declared prejudicial interest and left the room at the commencement of proceedings)'.

Cl. 77
09:09:15

**TO APPROVE THE TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR JULY / AUGUST 2015**

RESOLVED: - to approve the Treasurer's Report

Explanation was sought regarding the payment made to HM Revenue and Customs (VAT). This was given by the Clerk, explaining how either amounts paid to / or reclaimed from HM Revenue & Customs on behalf of Tywyn Town Council; Ynysymaengwyn Caravan Park and Ynysymaengwyn Trust are collated by him each yearly quarter. This is in accordance with legislation that only one VAT Registration is permissible, and has been the practice since Councils were able to reclaim VAT.

This led to an altercation regarding the inclusion of Ynysymaengwyn issues in Council on this particular occasion, while at other times it is ruled as being not permissible. It was pointed out that according to legislation, as previously stated, VAT returns have to be processed through Council accounts; whereas management and maintenance issues are discussed at the appropriate Ynysymaengwyn Committee.

The Clerk advised that in future he would include details of the yearly quarter covering VAT transactions in the Treasurer's Report in an effort to clarify the process.

Cl. 78
09:09:15

GWYNEDD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

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

Cllr. G.Mike Stevens reported on his activity:

Nat West Bank, Tywyn Branch – He had written directly to Rt Hon George Osborne MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer, regarding the closure of Nat West Bank, Tywyn Branch. From the reply received he was displeased to discover that guidelines set regarding the closure of Bank Branches had not been adhered to. He had pursued the matter further with Mark Douglas, Nat West, Regional Director for Wales. Cllr. Stevens was of the opinion that procedures set in the signed protocol between Nat West and the Government had not been followed.

Gwynedd & Môn Joint Local Development Plan – Cllr. Stevens stated that the existing Plan replaced the old Unitary Development Plan. He then proceeded to reiterate comments made previously by him regarding the fact that Tywyn had been classified as a Local Service Centre and not an Urban Service Centre. In his opinion this would have a detrimental effect on the town.

Cllr. Stevens was dismissive of the commitment and time given by members of the Planning Committee and the Clerk to consider this report. He further made derogatory comments regarding their response and ultimate decision which was presented to the Council.

The Clerk expressed his objection and disapproval of Cllr. Stevens' comments, reminding the meeting that the Planning Committee had given due and careful consideration to the JDLP Topic Paper 5: Developing the Settlement Strategy. Their resolve 'Not to offer any comments and that the group was satisfied with Tywyn being placed in the category of Local Service Centre' was included in the Minutes of the Planning Committee (18:03:15) which were approved by the Council at the Ordinary Meeting held in April 2015 (Cl. 182 / 15:04:15). The Clerk also reminded of comments made at that meeting that 'It was therefore imperative that clarity should be made between observations made by individual Councillors and Tywyn Town Council'. (Cl.184 / 15:04:15).

Cllr. Anne Lloyd-Jones presented a report on the meetings and functions she had attended during the summer recess, some of which are noted:

09:07:15 – Gwynedd Council

14:09:15 – Tywyn Hospital Project Group Meeting – it was reported that the building of the new extension is progressing according to plan and is within the set budget

15:09:15 – Meeting of the Tywyn & District Appeal Fund to view the new X-Ray Unit. Agreement was given to donate funding to Mr Kruschentha, Eye Specialist, towards equipment that would enable him to carry out pre-operation work in Tywyn.

29:09:15 – South Meirionnydd Older People's Forum. Guest Speaker was Mr Dilwyn Williams, Chief Executive, Gwynedd Council

Meeting with members of the Wales Audit Commission, together with other members of Gwynedd Cabinet and Chairs of Committees to receive the Audit report for Gwynedd Council.

Attended meeting in Caernarfon with the North Wales National Grid Connection to discuss the options following the decommissioning of Wylfa B and its effect on Gwynedd.

Report was also presented on the following Gwynedd issues:

Llys Cadfan, Ffordd Brynhyfryd, Tywyn – This residential care home had benefited from a major project to upgrade the building, which has not only created a more comfortable living environment for its residents but also is set to deliver significant savings in the costs of maintaining the building – e.g. installing a new boiler and heating system enabling the home's temperature to be monitored and controlled remotely. Introducing new efficient heating and lighting systems has meant that the home now generates 26.2% less carbon emissions than it did ten years ago, electricity consumption has decreased by 13.5%, and gas consumption is down by 35.8%

Her Gwynedd Challenge – Gwynedd Council's Cabinet has approved a recommendation to seek the public's view on a wide range of possible options for service cuts to bridge the £9 million the Council forecasts it might need to deliver from April 2016 onwards. This is on top of the £25m efficiency savings it is already in the process of implementing. All council departments have been engaged in identifying possible options for service cuts, while councillors from all political groups have been scrutinising over 100 possible options. Their findings will form the basis of a county-wide public engagement, commencing in mid-September; at the end of which Gwynedd would be giving consideration to all the responses and comments submitted before coming to an informed decision in early 2016 on which cuts to implement. The consultation will include the opportunity for face to face meetings or to complete a questionnaire online.

Domestic Abuse 17 8 15- More than 47,000 incidents of domestic abuse were reported to the police in Wales in 2014, but the total number of actual incidents could be higher. A new Welsh Government campaign has been re-launched to tackle this. Central to the campaign is challenging bystanders to speak up, thereby a Freephone, Confidential All Wales Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Helpline provides advice to help other 24 hours a day, while livefearfree.org.uk provides extensive advice about tell-tale signs to look out for where there is suspicion that somebody is suffering at the hands of their partner. 24-hour confidential Helpline – 0808 80 10 800.

Economic Boost – Big events such as Festival Number 6, Snowdon Race and Marathon, Race the Train and sailing and cycling races have been supported by Gwynedd during 2014 – 2015. As a result, Gwynedd economy has been boosted by a £6 million cash injection.

Cl. 79
09:09:15

SPEED REGULATION ON A493 – TYWYN - BRYNCRUG

Correspondence received from Legal Service, Gwynedd Council that The Gwynedd Council (Meirionnydd Area) (30 and 40 mph Speed Restriction) Order 2015 will come into force on 10 August, 2015. Its effect will be to restrict the speed to 40mph on:

Class 1 Road – A493 Tywyn – Tywyn to Brynchrug road, from a point 41 metres north east of the centre of the westerly junction to the Pendre Industrial Estate to a point 45 metres north east of the centre of the junction of the road leading to the cemetery.

Class 1 Road – A493 Tywyn – from a point 40 metres south east of its junction with Ffordd Cadfan to a point 360 metres north west of its junction with road leading to Happy Valley.

RESOLVED – to receive correspondence and note information given.

Correspondence was also received from:

Mrs A Williams, 104 Potters Bank, Ketley, Telford, Shropshire

Mrs Jane Hardy, 65 Wrekin Road, Wellington, Telford, Shropshire.

Both were concerning the speed of the traffic on the A493 Tywyn – Brynchrug and requesting that action be taken to introduce a speed restriction on this section of the road, following a serious road traffic accident involving three vehicles on night of Tuesday, 18 August, 2015.

Meeting was reminded that following a request from Brynchrug Community Council, presented via PCSO Meirion Ll. Jones, a site meeting was held at the Ynysymaengwyn Caravan Park entrance on Thursday, 23 April, 2015. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss safety issues regarding the entrance to Ynysymaengwyn Caravan Park. Present were representatives from Gwynedd Council; Brynchrug Community Council; Ynysymaengwyn Trust Committee; Mr Mark and Mrs Rita Blunden, Ynysymaengwyn Caravan Park and PCSO Meirion Ll. Jones.

From this it was discernible that concern regarding the speed of traffic along this section of road had been discussed, and that it was a matter for Ynysymaengwyn Caravan Park / Trust Committees to give further consideration.

The Chairman expresses his concern regarding this matter, and it was his opinion that drivers do not observe the 60 mph speed restriction. Further, that following the creation of the multipurpose cycle / footpath between Tywyn and Brynchrug there was an apparent increase in the speed of vehicles travelling along the road.

There was consensus that influence should be brought on North Wales Police and Road Traffic Division, Gwynedd Council to take action. Also those entrances to Ynysymaengwyn Caravan Park and Llwynderw / Ysguboriau Caravan Park should be addressed.

It was PROPOSED that a meeting of the Ynysymaengwyn Caravan Park Committee be held after the close of the next Ordinary Meeting of Tywyn Town Council (October) to discuss the entrance to the Caravan Park.

When put to the vote, the motion was DEFEATED.

It was further proposed that a meeting of the Ynysymaengwyn Caravan Park Committee be convened at the earliest possible date, and before the next Ordinary Meeting of Tywyn Town Council (October) to discuss the entrance to the Caravan Park.

When put to the vote, the motion was CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

- (a) meeting of the Ynysymaengwyn Caravan Park Committee to be convened at the earliest possible date, and before the next Ordinary Meeting of Tywyn Town Council (October) to discuss the entrance to the Caravan Park
- (b) Correspondence received from Mrs A Williams and Mrs Jane Hardy to be forwarded to Transportation and Street Care Service, Gwynedd Council and North Wales Police (Tywyn Station)

Cl. 80
09:09:15

RESTRUCTURING OF REGISTRATION SERVICE IN DWYFOR AND MEIRIONNYDD

Response received from Mr Idris Jones, Customer Contact and Registration Manager, Gwynedd Council, following letter of concerns expressed by the Council regarding the intention to terminate the Registration Service in Tywyn as part of the restructuring process.

Assurance was given that points raised in the letter from the Council had been considered. Nevertheless, the intention remained to introduce the change on 1 October, 2015.

The Council expressed deep disappointment regarding the letter received from Mr Idris Jones, and was unwilling to accept his decision.

RESOLVED - further letter to be written to Mr Idris Jones, Customer Contact and Registration Manager, Gwynedd Council, requesting that Staff at Tywyn Library be re-trained to be able to undertake registration work.

Cl. 81
09:09:15

CAMBRIAN ROAD SKATE PARK

Quotation for the repair of the Skate Park was received promptly from Mr Chaz Hampson, Chesmetalwork. An emergency meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Tuesday, 23 June, to discuss it. On the basis that:

- (i) The quotation was considered to be reasonable
- (ii) There was an agreement with Chaz Hampson to carry out annual maintenance
- (iii) His knowledge of the Skate Park (he was involved with the construction company) and expertise in the field

- (iv) The hazardous situation and Health and Safety implications
- (v) Under Financial Regulation 11.1.vi procedures for contract for goods or materials proposed to be purchased which are proprietary articles and / or are only sold at a fixed price are exempt

It was RESOLVED by the Finance Committee to accept the quotation received from Mr Chaz Hampson, and instruct him to proceed to carry out the repair work.

In the event, Mr Chaz Hampson was unable to proceed with the repair work until Monday, 20 July, 2015, due to other standing commitments. However, after arriving, he reduced his cost on the basis that he had mistaken the ramp that was to be repaired, and also volunteered to carry out additional repair work.

Council accepted the verbal report presented and gave retrospective approval to the action taken. There was also consensus that the repair work was of high standard, and that the skate looked good.

Discussion was held regarding the condition of the side panels on the remaining two ramps. Similar to the one that had been repaired, they were also corroding badly. It was regarded that financially, it would be irresponsible to continually pay for minor repair work, and that it would be prudent on the Council's part to completely replace the panels with new.

Council was reminded that this had been resolved in the past, and that Chaz Hampson had been asked to submit a quotation for replacing the side panels for each ramp individually.

RESOLVED: - to invite quotation for replacing the side panels on the two remaining ramps i.e. quarter pipe (section nearest to the railway line) and jump box (middle section) from:

- (a) Chaz Hampson, Chesmetalwork
- (b) Les Hunt, Beacon Garage, Tywyn
- (c) Wyn Rowlands, Brithdir (if required)

RoSPA (The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) had carried out its Annual Inspection of the Skate Park on 9 July, 2015, and had produced its report. The overall risk rating for the play space was high. Ancillary items e.g. litter bins, youth shelter, fencing; general surface was assessed as being very low / low. The ramps were assessed as being medium / high. However, it had to be kept in mind that the inspection had been carried out a few days before repair work and annual maintenance had taken place.

Cl. 82
09:09:15

COUNCIL WEB-SITE

The Clerk reminded the Council that by now it was a legal requirement for Councils to have their own web-site. This had been discussed previously. Despite some progress made, there had not been a productive outcome; Tywyn Town Council still did not have a web-

site. It was not known whether or not the grant of up to £500 was still available to Town and Community Councils to produce had been extended. The Clerk also stated that he had been advised of a relatively local company that had created a web-site for a neighbouring Community Council, and were extremely satisfied with his work.

Following a brief discussion it was proposed that information be sought from One Voice Wales regarding the stipulated contents of a Council Web-site and that Technoleg Taliesin be approached to provide a quotation, provided that he was interested in carrying out the work.

When put to the vote, the motion was CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

- (a) information be sought from One Voice Wales regarding the stipulated contents of a Council Web-site
- (b) Technoleg Taliesin be approached to provide a quotation for creating a Web-site for Tywyn Town Council.

Cl. 83
09:09:15

APPOINTMENT OF NEW TOWN CLERK

The Clerk had only a brief verbal report to present following the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 2 September, 2015. The amended job advertisement with the revised closing date of 25 September, 2015,

- was circulated in the town
- was placed in both editions of the Cambrian New (Meirionnydd and Machynlleth / Aberystwyth) for the weeks 10 September and 17 September, 2015
- process of placing in Job Centre was successfully completed.

Cl. 84
10:09:14

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk's written report for July / August had been circulated to members.

Issues noted in the report:

Tal-y-Llyn Railway Car Park, Cambrian Road.
Cambrian Line Railway Focus Group

RESOLVED – to approve the Clerk's Report

CORRESPONDENCE.

Correspondence That Necessitates Action by the Council.

Cl. 85
09:09:15

Un Llais Cymru – Annual Conference and AGM – Bont Pavilion,
Pontrhydfendigaid – Saturday, 3 October, 2015

RESOLVED – Cllr. Alun W. Evans and the Clerk as the Council's elected representatives on Un Llais Cymru nominated to attend the Annual Conference and AGM.

- Cl. 86** Un Llais Cymru – AGM – Motions being put forward (9)
09:09:15 Copies of motions to be put forward at the Un Llais Cymru AGM had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.
RESOLVED – Cllr. A.W.Evans to vote at his own discretion after following the debate.
- Cl. 87** Mr Llŷr B. Jones, Senior Manager Economy & Community, Gwynedd
09:09:15 – Tywyn Promenade
Due to the Summer Recess matters referred to in the correspondence had been surpassed in that all of the repair work had been completed with the exception the stone walls surrounding the raised flower beds. Mr. Llŷr Jones also gave thanks for the opportunity to have an Introductory Consultation with the Council, and was optimistic that there would be opportunities to further work in co-operation with the Council in the future.
RESOLVED – to receive correspondence.
- Cl. 88** Planning Aid Wales – Planning Training Workshop – Plas Tan y
09:09:15 Bwlch, Maentwrog – Monday, 21 September, 2015 – 6.00 p.m. – 9.00
p.m. **RESOLVED** – to receive correspondence and note information given.
- Cl. 89** Un Llais Cymru – September Training Programme
09:09:15 In response to question raised it was explained that the Council had allocated a sum of money in its Precept for the training of Councillor. This would be to cover the cost of any Councillor wishing to attend a training seminar.
RESOLVED – any Councillor wishing to attend any of the Training Seminars to contact the Clerk.
- Cl. 90** Correspondence Received That Does **Not** Necessitate Action by the
09:09:15 Council And Is Available At The Clerk’s Office For Perusal By
Any Interested Councillor.
- (a) Simon Thomas AM – Regional Bulletin - Simon.Thomas@Assembly.Wales
 - (b) Welsh Government – Tax Collection and Management (Wales) Bill
 - (c) Un Llais Cymru – Briefing from NALC on The Local Government (Democracy) Wales Act 2013 (Wales only).
 - (d) Hywel Dda University Health Board – Talking Health – Newsletter – Issue 12 – Summer 2015
 - (e) **Gwynedd – Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013** – comment was made that it was imperative that the Council took action on this , and that the matter should be pursued.
 - (f) Wales Audit Office – Good Practice Exchange Team – The Future of Parks and their Positive Impact on Wellbeing – Glasdir, Plas yn Dre, Llanrwst – 5 November, 2015 – 9.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.
 - (g) Sarah Rochira, Older People’s Commissioner for Wales – Care Home Review Statement
 - (h) Anglesey & Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan – Newsletter – Issue 5 – July 2015
 - (i) Natural Resources Wales – 2016 Natural resources Wales Competitive Grant
 - (j) BBC Trust – BBC Charter Review Consultation

- (k) North Wales Community Health Council – Press Release – Proposed Changes to Women’s and Maternity Services.
- (l) Mantell Gwynedd – North Wales Public Sector Equality Network – Llandudno – 2 October, 2015
- (m) British Weights and Measures Association – *The Yardstick* – Journal – Number 58, August 2015

Cl. 91 **TYWYN RAILWAY STATION**
09:09:15 **Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960**

In accordance with Public Bodies Admissions to Meetings act, - Local Government (Access to information) Act (1985) Schedule 12A, parts 1.1. and 4.14, public and press are therefore excluded from this part of the meeting.

Copy of correspondence from Tywyn Spiritualist Church & Centre, dated 19 August, 2015, to Evans-Roberts had been received. It was disappointing in that it was apparent that no real progress had been made since negotiations commenced.

RESOLVED – The Chairman and the Clerk to have a further meeting with Mr Bryn Roberts, Solicitor, to convey the Council’s strong opinion of this and its proposal on how to proceed.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.35 p.m.