

MINUTES OF AN EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF TYWYN TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 4th MAY 2023
AT NEUADD PENDRE AND ONLINE VIA ZOOM AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor: Eileen Jones (Chair).

Councillors: John Pughe, Matthew Cooling, Mark Kendall, Anne Lloyd-Jones, Gareth Mason, Ron McCoo, Cathy Evans, Nancy Clarke, Alun Wyn Evans, Olivia Woodward, Aled Lewis.

OFFICER PRESENT: Chris Wood (Clerk).

IN ATTENDANCE: Liz Saville-Roberts MP, Mabon ap Gwynfor MS, Ffion Johnstone BCUHB, Janw Hughes-Evans BCUHB, Karen Mottart BCUHB, Sharon Thomas BCUHB, Beth Lawton Gwynedd Councillor, Louise Hughes Gwynedd Councillor, representatives from local Community Councils.
Approximately 60 members of the public.

195. **APOLOGIES**
Councillor Marisa O'Hara.

196. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PERSONAL CONNECTION**
None received

197. **TO DISCUSS THE CLOSURE OF DYFI WARD AT TYWYN HOSPITAL**

The Meeting was provided with a detailed explanation of the reasoning behind the decision to close Dyfi Ward and the steps that BCUHB are taking to ensure that the ward will be able to reopen as soon as possible. Following a risk assessment which identified a shortage of nursing staff being a safety issue for both staff and patients and whilst the option of moving staff from Dolgellau was investigated, the decision was made to close Dyfi Ward. It was stressed that this was a temporary measure and that Tywyn Hospital remains an important asset to BCUHB.

Councillors and guests questioned the representatives of BCUHB at length about the decision making process, the affects the closure wil have on other services and clinics currently offered by the hospital, what will need to be in place before the ward can reopen and how BCUHB sees the future of the hospital moving forward.

BCUHB assured the Meeting that they are working hard to recruit and retain staff and are trialling new approaches. It was acknowledged that with hindsight, communications around the closure could have been handled differently and it was agreed that in the future, communication between BCUHB and the community will be improved. Tywyn Hospital has benefitted from large financial investment in the past and BCUHB have no plans to close the hospital. BCUHB are currently looking at ways to work in collaboration with the health centre in the future to provide a wider range of services and ensure the future operation of Tywyn Hospital.

Rental accommodation for staff had been raised with BCUHB as being an issue for those staff looking to come to work in Tywyn and discussions were held as to how the community can assist in identifying properties that might be able to be rented by BCUHB for staff. The number of holiday rental properties in Tywyn was highlighted and future conversations will need to be held with Gwynedd Council and the Welsh Government concerning possible planning or licensing of such properties.

Councillor Eileen Jones thanked the representatives of BCUHB for attending the meeting and answering the questions that Councillors and guests had asked.

Councillor Eileen Jones asked the Council for support to send a letter to Eluned Morgan MS, Minister for Health and Social Services and it was **Proposed** by Councillor Anne Lloyd-Jones, seconded by Councillor Mark Kendall and **resolved** to write expressing the Council's concerns at the recent ward closure.

The meeting was closed at 8.40pm

CADEIRYDD / CHAIR