

Minutes of Meeting 12/12/2024

Present: Cllr Dilys Evans, Eluned Jones, Fiona Hopkins, Huw Symonds, Sion McGuinness, Rhys Evans, Jacqueline Allen, Ken Edwards, Dilwyn Morgan (Local Member for Gwynedd Council) and Huw Antur (*Clerc*).

Apologies: Apology accepted by councillors Moira Mai, Eifion Roberts, Clare Mackintosh and Eric Williams.

Public: No one present.

1. **The Mayor:** All were welcomed to the meeting by the Mayor, Cllr Dilys Evans. Cllr Ken Edwards was particularly welcomed to his first council meeting, and the members sympathised with former councillor Tony Parry and family in their loss of Megan Parry.
2. **Interest:** There was no expression of interest.
3. **Minutes:** Accuracy of minutes of meeting confirmed 7/11/24.
4. **Clerk Issues / Issues arise:**
 - i. Vacancy of the Council: Councillor Ken Edwards has been confirmed to have completed the Job Acceptance Statement, Register of Interests and Members Allowance Sheet.
 - ii. Tomen y Bala: It has been reported that a message has been sent to the Bala Rotary Club to continue the discussion about benches on the Domen, and also that National Park staff are working on a plan to manage rhododendron on the tip, this as part of the Nature Challenge Fund and the town council's biodiversity plan.
 - iii. Town Centre Art Scheme: It was noted that a launch of the artwork took place on December 4th, at which time the artist, pupils from Ysgol Godre'r Berwyn, Coop staff and representatives from the Town Council came together to celebrate the completion of the work. It has been agreed to enquire whether there are plans to develop an alternative art scheme in the town.
 - iv. High Street Matters – there was a response from NMWTRA to the request for a table of different authorities' responsibilities for different aspects of High Street management, very useful information that will facilitate the future work of the Town Council. It was agreed to apply for a bench to be placed in the gap near Hoffi Coffi if possible.

- v. Bus Shelter Cleaning: It was agreed to accept the costs for the clean-up of two additional bus shelters between Cae Croes and the Leisure Centre, with the agreement to expire concurrently with the agreement of the remaining town bus shelters.
 - vi. RFC licence: Information has been received that Gwynedd Council has granted the application. It has been reported that bright lights were recently left on overnight at the RFC, which has affected residents living near the club.
 - vii. Benches near Tom Ellis memorial: It has been reported that Gwynedd Council has repaired the benches here, NMWTRA has repaired the benches near HSBC, and the Ardal Ni Tidying Team are repairing the bench near Siop Ria.
 - viii. Report of the Welsh Communities Commission: It was agreed to support the main principles of the report, namely to designate areas as areas of linguistic significance, and to develop a policy to reinforce this. It was agreed to send a message confirming this to Gwynedd Council and the Welsh Government.
 - ix. A494 security: It has been confirmed that a message has been sent asking for an update on this situation.
5. **Gwynedd Council:** Cllr Dilwyn Morgan reported that the re-facing of High Street had been postponed until the beginning of the year, that a survey was being carried out of the condition of the paving near Awel y Coleg, and that there was discussion on house renovations in Berwyn Road. He said the council's financial settlement for the year was worrisome, which can lead to a fragile financial situation.
6. **Bala – Yma o Hyd:** There has been an update of the celebrations, and it has been noted that the activities have been completed, with the Awards Night at Theatr Derek Williams being a great success.

7. Subcommittees:

Christmas Sub-Committee: It was reported that the Christmas lights were lit, and the trees looked very beautiful. It was also noted that the main pupils at Ysgol Godre'r Berwyn had awarded Siop Ria the Christmas Shop Window prize, and that Ria wished the Town Council prize of £50 to go towards the Community Garden. It was agreed to make this payment.

Sub-Committee on Assets: Arrangements have been confirmed for the cleaning of the additional bus shelters.

Friendly Town Sub-committee: It has been reported that some water channels on pavements are dangerous to less able pedestrians – Cllr Eluned Jones to forward pictures highlighting the problem.

Biodiversity Sub-Committee: Nothing to report.

Finance Subcommittee: A report was submitted from a meeting of the Sub-Committee held on December 11th. It was agreed to accept the main recommendations, namely to set an expenditure budget of £36,612 and a precept of £28,500 for the year 2025/2026, this meaning a tax of £34.80 for each Band D household.

Sustainable Tourism subcommittee: Nothing to report.

It was agreed for Cllr Huw Symonds to act on the Christmas Sub-committee.

Representatives on organisations:

One Voice Cymru Meirionnydd: No report.

Bala and Penllyn Community Association: No report.

Cwmni Pum Plwy Penllyn: It has been reported that the scaffolding has been installed on Canolfan Bro Tegid, and the builders are ready to start work on the roof. Cllr Huw Symonds was agreed to represent the council on the board of Cwmni Pum Plwy Penllyn.

8. **Planning Issues:** NP5/53/3C: Change of use from empty hairdresser to flat (Use Class C3) 50 Heol Arenig, Bala. LL23 7AL. It was agreed to support the application.

9. **Finance Matters:**

- i. The latest financial position was taken into account, with £12,627.89 reported in the current account, £26,818.74 in the savings account and £181.50 in the Mayor's Fund. It was noted that a balance of £853.97 had been earmarked towards the costs of the Bala – Yma o Hyd celebrations, and £3,000 had been earmarked for the development of the Astro Field.
- ii. Payments were approved for cleaning Bus Shelters, Clerk's salary payment, Tomen y Bala maintenance invoices, council website maintenance, council refreshments on November 7th, annual ICO invoice and Bala 700 invoices.
- iii. It was agreed to transfer £400 to the Town Mayor's Fund.
- iv. It was agreed to re-join the SLCC and to pay the membership charge.

10. **Correspondence:**

- i) Gwynedd Council Communities Survey: It has been noted that there are no plans to change the number of councillors on the Town Council.
- ii) Parking Arrangements at Plase and Grin: There was no comment on Gwynedd Council's proposed changes to the parking and payment arrangements.
- iii) Tree Survey: It has been noted that Gwynedd Council has carried out a survey of High Street trees.
- iv) One Voice of Wales was noted: We noted the receipt of the leaflet '10 Important Things to Do', a leaflet giving guidance on the main duties and responsibilities of the Town Council.
- v) T3 Bus Service: It has been noted that a consultation meeting has been held recently.
- vi) Re-facing the High Street: Information has been received that the work has been postponed until W/C January 6th 2025, this following a request from town councillors for the works not to disrupt the hustle and bustle of the town before Christmas.
- vii) A leaflet was received setting out the division of responsibilities between Liz Saville-Roberts a member of the Westminster parliament, and Mabon ap Gwynfor, a member of the Welsh Parliament.

11. Town Councillors' local issues:

There were no issues to discuss.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm and the next meeting will be Thursday 2 January 2025.