

Minutes of Meeting 4/7/2024

Present: Eifion Roberts, Rhys Evans, Clare Mackintosh, Fiona Hopkins, Jacqueline Allen, Sion McGuinness, Eluned Jones, Eric Williams and Huw Antur (*Clerk*).

Apologies: Apology accepted by the Councillors Dilys Evans, Tony Parry, Moira May and Dilwyn Morgan (local Member for Gwynedd Council).

Public: No one present.

1. **The Mayor:** In the absence of Mayor Dilys Evans the meeting was chaired by Cllr Eifion Roberts.

2. **Interest:** There was no expression of interest.

3. **Minutes:** The accuracy of meeting minutes for 6.6.24 were confirmed.

4. **Clerk Issues / Issues arising:**

- i. Bala Triathlon – there has been information that the Triathlon is likely to be on the weekend of May 16-17 2025. It has been noted that there is a need to ensure that the Bala Challenge is not on the same weekend.
- ii. Vacancy of Council: Due to no request to call an election, it was proceeded to co-opt to fill the vacancy. It was reported that two names had been received, and following a secret ballot it was agreed to co-opt Huw Symonds.
- iii. Placemaking Plan: It has been reported that a meeting has been held to consider the draft report, with the final report expected to be published shortly.
- iv. Town Centre Art Scheme: It has been noted that artist Aliss Curtis from Llanberis has started the work, and is currently consulting with various groups in the town.
- v. High Street Matters – it was noted that a request had been made for a meeting with NMWTRA and Gwynedd Council's Traffic Department.
- vi. Shop Window Vinyls Design: It has been reported that this project is now unlikely due to practical problems.
- vii. Anti-social behaviour: It was noted that the licensing authority was aware of these issues, and it was also noted that it would be good to have a police presence in the town when major incidents are on.

5. **Gwynedd Council:** An apology was accepted by Cllr Dilwyn Morgan.
6. **Bala – Yma o Hyd:** Cllr Clare Mackintosh reported when she said a large number of events were planned, this including an exhibition of the town's history at the Cantref Centre and a Celebration Concert at the Derek Williams Theatre on July 13th. Thanks were made to all the organisations (Craft Club, Rotary Club and Capel Clai) who have taken part in the celebrations. It has been reported that Bala's BAFTA night will be at the theatre in November, and it has been agreed to honour individuals and organisations who share to the town, this to include a Unsung Hero category in addition to those already agreed. We agreed to promote these opportunities through the town organisations, y Cyfnod and social media.

7. Subcommittees:

Christmas Sub-Committee: Cllr Rhys Evans said he had contacted Gwynedd Council to discuss Christmas decorations.

Assets Subcommittee: It has been reported that there has been no meeting in the last month.

Friendly Town Sub-Committee: Accredited dementia training has been reported to be underway.

Biodiversity Sub-Committee: It has been reported that an application has been made to be granted 'bee friendly' status to the town.

Sub-Finance Committee: It has been reported that the council's accounts have been properly audited and ascertained by Gwynedd Council as Internal Auditors, and that everything needs to be forwarded to Audit Wales as External Auditors. The information and process were approved by the council.

Sustainable Tourism sub-committee: It has been reported that the group is scheduled to meet at the end of the summer term.

Representatives on organisations: There have been no reports.

8. **Planning Issues:** The following applications were considered, and agreed to be approved.
- a) Penllyn Leisure Centre – Installation of 6 air fountain heat pumps.
 - b) Nat West Bank – Change of use of the ground floor to a retail store and stores.
 - c) Frondeg, 14 Ffrydan Road - Listed Building Consent (retrospective) to remove existing single brick wall.

9. Finance Matters:

- i. The most recent financial position was taken into account, with £16,005.67 reported in the current account, £26,561.45 in the deposit account and £208.77 in the Mayor's Fund. It was noted that a balance of £3,341.26 had been earmarked towards the costs of the Bala Yma o Hyd celebrations. It was agreed to transfer £400 from the current account to the council's mayor's account.

- ii. Payments were approved for cleaning up Bus Shelters, Clerk's salary payment, PAYE, Gwilym Edwards' invoice for maintaining Tomen y Bala, Invoice for Y Bala – Yma o Hyd along with the Mayor's Award payments to Ysgol Godre'r Berwyn and the Mayor's contribution to Frongoch Museum from the Mayor's Fund.
- iii. Annual Audit: It has been reported that the accounts will be sent to Audit Wales as the council's External Auditors.
- iv. Financial receipts: It was noted to receive a grant of £500 from the National Park towards flower box costs for the town.

10. Correspondence:

- i. Welsh Water – information has been received about work to improve the waste water network on Heol Tegid.
- ii. One Voice Wales – received the opportunity to take part in a consultation on Prioritising Culture, information on Youth Engagement and the Training Scheme.
- iii. Gwynedd Council – notice of the closure of Tegid Road for essential works has been received.
- iv. Rotary Club – received a letter applying to install benches on Bala Tip. They agreed to grant the request, but to ask them not to place a plaque on the benches. It was noted that consultation with CADW and the National Park will be required as the domen is a scheduled ancient monument.

11. Town Councillors' local issues:

- i) It has been reported that rabbit hunting has been on both the lake side and the river path, and that this may be a matter for the RSPCA to consider.
- ii) It has also been reported that Openreach has been installing poles and wires near Trem y Ffridd without any local consultation, and that consultation needs to take place in the future before embarking on work in this way.
- iii) Tomen y Bala – there was a discussion on the hedge at the summit of the domen, and it was agreed to enquire whether it is possible to create gaps in the hedge so that views of the town can be obtained.

12. The meeting closed at 8.45pm and the next meeting will be Thursday 12 September 2024.