

Minutes of Meeting 3/10/2024

Present: Cllr Dilys Evans, Eifion Roberts, Eluned Jones, Eric Williams, Moira Mai, Huw Symonds, Clare Mackintosh and Jacqueline Allen, Dilwyn Morgan (Local Member for Gwynedd Council) and Huw Antur (*Clerc*).

Apologies: Apologies received from Cllrs Fiona Hopkins, Sion McGuinness, and Rhys Evans.

Public: No one present.

Also present: Sion Wynne of M-Sparc company for the first part of the meeting.

M-Sparc presentation: Sion Wynne was welcomed to the meeting, and he explained that M-Sparc is a Science Park set up by Bangor University, who are headquartered in Gaerwen on Anglesey, but have set up in Bala temporarily for several months. He explained that their role is to co-ordinate business support, recharge businesses and target business grants. He explained that they can print in 3-D, print mugs, T-shirts and programme robots etc. He also said they can repair laptops or tablets, and that there will be a Repair Workshop in town on October 4th. Sion was thanked for his presentation, and Sion said he hoped they would leave a legacy for the town. Council members were welcomed to visit the workshop.

1. **The Mayor:** All were welcomed to the meeting by the Mayor, Cllr Dilys Evans. She explained that she has been to meetings with the Gardening Club and Merched y Wawr, and attended the launch of the Tegid 360 local website. She also gave an account of the meeting of the One Llais Cymru Meirionnydd Committee on 2.10.24 during which there were discussions with Llais on the lack of doctors and dentists, the lack of a mental health service, and discussion on the Air Ambulance service.

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

3. **Minutes:** Accuracy of meeting minutes confirmed 12/9/24.

4. **Clerk Issues / Issues arise:**

- i. Vacancy of Council: It has been reported that there has been no response to the advertisement for an opportunity to call an election. It was therefore agreed to proceed with the process to co-opt a new member of the council. Arrangements were agreed to honour John C Williams at the start of the next council meeting.
- ii. Election of Deputy Mayor: It has been agreed to elect Cllr Moira Mai as Deputy Mayor of the town.

- iii. Tomen y Bala – it has been agreed to discuss with the Rotary Club the proposed installation of benches on Tomen y Bala, and it has been noted that the work to prune the hedge to improve visibility from the domen will take place with the final cutting of the grass for 2024.
- iv. Placemaking Plan: It has been noted that a specific meeting to consider the scheme is scheduled for October 10th.
- v. Town Centre Art Scheme: The final draft of the design was shown, and it has been noted that painting on the Coop wall will start soon.
- vi. High Street Matters – It has been reported that a request has been made to NMWTRA for a table of responsibilities of different authorities for different aspects of High Street to facilitate future discussions, but no response has yet been received.

5. **Gwynedd Council:** Cllr Dilwyn Morgan reported that he was in discussion with Gwynedd Council about the condition of pavements between Cysgod y Coleg and the town, and the upper section of Heol Tegid. He also said he had met the Older People's Commissioner for Wales at Canolfan Henblas, and had the opportunity to discuss issues affecting older residents in the area (fuel poverty, pension credit etc).

6. **Bala – Yma o Hyd:** There was an update of the celebrations, a lantern workshop and parade in October, followed by Bala Community Awards Night in November. It was noted that tickets were available for the Awards Night, and that a panel of judges needed to be created.

7. Subcommittees:

Christmas Subcommittee: It has been reported that extra lighting has been ordered.

Assets Sub-Committee: A comprehensive report on the town's assets was received from Cllrs Eluned Jones, Moira May and Eric Williams. It was highlighted:

- The need for a flag near the Leisure Centre by spring 2025.
- The need to renew the flag on the Domen by spring 2025.
- The need to make an arrangement to clean the bus shelters near Mawnog Fach.
- The condition of the Plase and Grin public toilets (Cllr Dilwyn Morgan to contact Gwynedd Council).
- The condition of a public bin near Siop DE on High Street.
- The state of the town's notice boards (Cllr Dilwyn Morgan to contact Gwynedd Council's Ardal Ni Tidying Team).
- The condition of the plaque on the Railway Signal Pole on the Grin.
- The condition of some of the benches on High Street.
- The need to clean up the War Memorial by Remembrance Sunday in November.
- The need to confirm the town's Defibs check-in arrangements (Dilwyn Morgan and clerk to discuss).
- The need to fix the Mayor's Chain – Clare Mackintosh to coordinate the work.
- Need to ask ADRA about the Cysgod y Coleg play area – the clerk to contact.

Friendly Town sub-committee: The pavement slabs in the Tom Ellis memorial area have been identified as dangerous – Cllr Dilwyn Morgan to contact Gwynedd Council as a matter of urgency.

Biodiversity Sub-Committee: The need to clear flowers off the boxes on High Street was discussed (Jacquie and Fiona to discuss), and the need to put floral costs into the council's annual budget was identified.

Finance subcommittee: It has been agreed that a meeting of the sub-committee will be required during November.

Sustainable Tourism Subcommittee: There has been no report.

Representatives on organisations:

One Voice Cymru Meirionnydd: See the Mayor's report above.

Bala and Penllyn Community Association: Copy of minutes of meeting received September 6th.

Cwmni Pum Plwy Penllyn: Funding for the upgrade of Canolfan Bro Tegid has been reported to be ongoing, and a tender for construction has been announced on Sell to Wales.

8. **Planning Issues:** There were no applications to consider.

9. **Finance Matters:**

- i. The most recent financial position was taken into account, with £19,056.38 reported in the current account, £26,691.54 in the holding account and £362.57 in the Mayor's Fund. It was noted that a balance of £2,629.46 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 for cleaning Bus Shelters, Clerk's salary payment, and HMRC income tax payment were approved.

10. **Correspondence:**

- i. Bala RFC – an application for a premises licence that would allow a bar to be opened at the club.

Details of the Application Form setting out the proposed opening hours were read, and a letter from the RFC explaining the background to the application was read.

Members were reminded that the RFC had indicated that, during the original construction of the club, they had no intention of applying for a licence. There was a lengthy discussion on the issue, and it was noted that a petition had been prepared by residents of Glannau Tegid and Trem y Ffridd, raising concerns about noise levels and behaviour etc. There were comments for and against the application, and it was noted that the council had the option to approve the application as is, to oppose it

altogether, or to support it with conditions on the opening hours. Following discussion, it was agreed, by a majority, to approve the application if opening hours were restricted from 1pm to 9pm.

ii) One Voice Wales – information received for a session on the Role of Community and Town Council Governance and Accountability.

iii) Gwynedd Council – received a consultation on the town's polling stations, a town parking order, and a temporary Heol Arenig closure notice for essential work.

iv) Eryri National Park – a request has been received to attend the next town council meeting to discuss parking issues during the visitor season.

11. Town Councillors' local issues:

There were no additional issues to discuss.

12. The meeting closed at 9.15pm and the next meeting will be Thursday 7 November 2024.