

Minutes of Meeting 2/5/2024

Present: Y Maer Dilys Evans, Rhys Evans, Jacqueline Allen, Eifion Roberts, Fiona Hopkins, Sion McGuinness, Eluned Jones, Eric Williams a Huw Antur (*Clerc*).

Also present: Cyng. Dilwyn Morgan (local Member of Gwynedd Council).

Apologies: Apology accepted by councillors Tony Parry, Clare Mackintosh and Moira Mai.

Public: No one present.

Triathlon 2024: The Triathlon's new organisers, Tim Lloyd and Rhys Pilley from Camu i'r Copa were welcomed to the meeting. They recognised that there had been problems in recent years, and that everyone's confidence in the event needed to be raised. They noted that they intend to collaborate with local community organisations, local businesses and accommodation providers, and also aim to minimise any disruption to the local area by reducing the road closure period etc. It was noted that local stewards will be needed, and intend to park at the RFC. The Triathlon's 2024 date of September 1st has been confirmed, but they plan to move the 2025 date to the end of May. They noted that they were very willing to share new ideas to improve the event, and encouraged local businesses to contact them to discuss collaboration. They were asked to keep in touch with the Council and the Bala Business Group over the summer, and asked to use the branding Y Bala – Yma o Hyd when promoting the event for 2024 – the clerk to forward the logo to the organisers.

1. **The Mayor:** Everyone was welcomed to the meeting by the Mayor, Dilys Evans, and she thanked for the privilege of being elected mayor of the town.

2. **Interest:** Cllr Rhys Evans and Eifion Roberts declared an interest in item 8.4, planning application 2 Ffrydan Road, and Eifion Roberts declared an interest in item 8(v), Ysgol Godre'r Berwyn.

3. **Minutes:** Accuracy of meeting minutes confirmed 11/4/24.

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

- i. Vacant Council Seat: It was agreed to move forward with advertising the opportunity to call an election. It was also agreed to order a plaque to gift John C Williams for his work for the council and the town over the years.
- ii. Placemaking Plan: It was noted that Gwynedd Council had received a draft report from The Urbanists company, and that there was an opportunity to submit comments. It was noted that Fiona Hopkins, Jacque Allen, Rhys Evans and the Clerk

attended a meeting with the company on May 1st and gave their initial comments on it.

- iii. Town Centre Art Scheme: It has been noted that planning has started on the various sites to install artwork in the town.
- iv. High Street Bench – it has been reported that arrangements are in place to repair the bench near the Tom Ellis memorial.
- v. Flower Baskets: It has been reported that the baskets have been ordered. It was agreed to authorise the payment and grant claim from the National Park Authority.
- vi. High Street Affairs – the Clerk and Cllr Dilwyn Morgan have been asked to co-ordinate the meeting arrangements with NMWTRA and Gwynedd Council's Traffic Department.
- vii. Empty Shop Window Vinyls Scheme: It has been noted that Gwynedd Council is happy to use Bala branding – Yma o Hyd on the windows. This will require permission from the shop owners.
- viii. Small woodlands: It has been reported that national Park officials are going to contact Gwynedd Council's Property Department to discuss planting woodland on the land adjacent to Ysgol Godre'r Berwyn's football pitch.
- ix. Bala website: It has been noted that this issue will be addressed by the council's Sustainable Tourism Sub-Committee.
- x. North Wales Police Meeting: Members were reminded of the meeting with the police on May 3rd.
- xi. Canolfan Bro Tegid: It has been reported that the Canolfan Bro Tegid Management Committee has decided to disband the committee and transfer control of the centre to Cwmni Pum Plwy Penllyn. It was noted that Gwynedd Council is preparing a new lease with the company, and that the Town Council will not need to hold the new lease like the previous arrangement, but that a Tenancy at Will arrangement will be in place until the new lease is ready.

5. **Gwynedd Council:** There was a report from Councillor Dilwyn Morgan, whence he referred to the death of the late John James , one who served the council and town for many years. He talked about filming Prosiect Pum Mil programme in the community garden on May 11th, about a Safe Route to School project, a consultation on a 20mph speed limit and about meeting on May 20th to discuss the future of the Ysgol Bro Tegid site.

6. **Bala – Yma o Hyd:** It has been reported that there has been no meeting since the most recent Town Council meeting.

7. **Subcommittees:** It was noted that a meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee will be required before submitting council accounts to the Internal Auditor.

Representatives on organisations:

- i) One Voice Cymru - Meirionnydd: It has been noted that the next meeting will be on May 8th.

8. **Planning Issues: NP5/53/576A:** Extension to Lake Tegid narrow track railway to include 1200m of railway track, railway crossing, erection of new railway station, ancillary buildings for train engine and rolling stock, signal box together and associated development (Re-submission). Land in Bala.

NP5/70/LB28B: Listed Building Consent for alterations to footbridge including train track installation and associated works (Re-submission). Pont Mwnwgl y Llyn.

NP5/53/L33H: Retrospective application to install UPVC windows on the front elevation of the Plas Coch Hotel, 52 High Street, Bala. LL23 7AB.

NP5/53/345A. Re-modelling of Flats 1, 2 and 3 to create a 2 bedroom and 3 bedroom property, removing the existing chimney, constructing a rear extension and installing a new roof window and solar panels, 2 Ffrydan Road, Bala. LL23 7RT.

The 4 planning applications were discussed above and agreed to support.

9. Finance Matters:

- i. The most recent financial position was taken into account, with £15,240.56 reported in the current account, £16,507.89 in the holding account and £726.94 in the Mayor's Fund. It was noted that a balance of £4,848.50 had been earmarked towards the costs of the Bala – Yma o Hyd celebrations.
- ii. Charges for cleaning up Bus Shelters, Clerk's salary payment, Gwynedd Council's invoice for Tomen y Bala's rent, sticker invoices and QR code Y Bala – Yma o Hyd and Gerallt Williams' invoice for cutting a public footpath hedge near Bro Eryl were approved.
- iii. Audit Wales: It was noted to receive their letter of 23 April regarding the audit round.
- iv. Members' Allowance: It was noted that this matter had been considered at the Annual Meeting.
- v. Ysgol Godre'r Berwyn application for financial aid: Agreed to ask the Mayor to make a donation from the Mayor's Fund.

10. Correspondence:

- i. One Voice Wales Conference – Information about an Innovative Practice conference received on July 3rd.
- ii. One Voice Wales Training - – received a copy of the May/June training programme.
- iii. One Voice of Wales: A copy of the Form of Annual Report has been received for the council.
- iv. 'Daughter of Bala' performance: Information received about this performance on July 9th which will be based on the life of Betsi Cadwaladr.
- v. Electric Cars: A copy of Nefyn Council's letter to Gwynedd Council stating their opposition to the council's proposed purchase of a fleet of electric cars has been received.
- vi. Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg – Welsh Education: A copy of a report on Welsh language education submitted to Senedd Cymru in April has been received.

- vii. Gwynedd Council Work Programme: Information was received about the work of the Ardal Ni Tidying Up Team in Bala on May 6-10.
- viii. Allotments – an email was received asking about allotments in the town. It was noted that discussions are currently taking place about the future of lands near the Ysgol Bro Tegid site.
- ix. Joint Committee of National Health Service Commissions: Received an update on recent decisions regarding the Air Ambulance service.
- x. Ardal Ni: An invitation to an advisory meeting was accepted on May 20th, and Cllrs Dilys Evans, Fiona Hopkins and Dilwyn Morgan were asked to represent the Town Council.
- xi. One Voice Wales – Biodiversity Resources: It was noted that a launch of these resources will take place in an online presentation on May 21st.

11. Town Councillors' local issues:

- i) Ysgol Godre'r Berwyn Lunch: It has been brought to the attention of council members that school lunches have not been provided to some school pupils for some time. Due to the impact on the pupils it was agreed to write to the Chief Executive of Gwynedd Council and to the Children's Commissioner for Wales drawing their attention to the situation and appealing for their help to resolve the situation.
- ii) Key names and dates of Bala's local heroes: The need to record the key dates of Bala's local heroes – this was discussed in more detail at the next council meeting.

12. The meeting closed at 9.10pm and the next meeting will be Thursday 6 June 2024.