

## Minutes of Meeting 12/9/2024

**Present:** Eifion Roberts, Fiona Hopkins, Sion McGuinness, Eluned Jones, Eric Williams, Moira Mai, Huw Symonds, Dilwyn Morgan (local Member for Gwynedd Council) and Huw Antur (Clerc).

**Apologies:** Apology accepted by councillors Dilys Evans, Tony Parry, Rhys Evans, Clare Mackintosh and Jacqueline Allen.

**Public:** No one present.

1. **The Mayor:** In the absence of Mayor Dilys Evans the meeting was chaired by Cllr Eifion Roberts. Cllr Huw Symonds was welcomed to his first meeting as a councillor. Cllr Roberts referred to a number of recent events in Bala, an ITV Wales item on the Bala celebrations – Yma o Hyd, and also the fact that Mary Jones' original bible was coming to Bala for a period between September 21-22nd.
2. **Interest:** There was no expression of interest.
3. **Minutes:** Accuracy of meeting minutes confirmed 4/7/24.
4. **Clerk Issues / Issues arise:**
  - i. Cllr Huw Symonds' co-optation arrangements – it has been confirmed that the necessary documents have been completed for the formalisation of Huw's position as a member of the council.
  - ii. Cllr Tony Parry's resignation: A letter of resignation was received from Tony Parry explaining that, due to personal circumstances, he was resigning from the council. They agreed to thank Tony for his tireless work for the council and the town for a number of years, and agreed to honour him for his work. It was agreed to advertise the vacancy on the council, and to fill the role of deputy mayor at the next council meeting.
  - iii. Bala Triathlon – feedback has been received from triathlon 2024, and it has been reported that the event arrangements have been effective, the town has benefited from the event, and the local response has been good.
  - iv. Tomen y Bala – confirmation has been received that planning permission will not be required to install benches on Tomen y Bala, and it has also been noted that progress is needed to prune the hedge to improve visibility from the domen.

- v. Placemaking Plan: Receipt of the final report was noted, and it was agreed to arrange a specific meeting to consider the plan.
- vi. Town Centre Art Scheme: Invitation has been accepted to meet on September 19th to discuss the next steps of the work.
- vii. High Street Matters – a report of a meeting with NMWTRA, the trunk roads agency was given on July 31st during which a number of relevant issues were discussed to Bala High Street. It was agreed that a table of different authorities' responsibilities for different aspects of the High Street was necessary to facilitate future discussions.

5. **Gwynedd Council:** Cllr Dilwyn Morgan reported that MSparc had temporarily opened an office in the town, and that businesses and town organisations were invited to visit for advice and guidance. It was agreed to invite MSparc to the next Town Council meeting. He directed universal praise for the view of the High Street (flowers and banners etc) and thanked everyone who has been involved.

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.

**7. Subcommittees:**

Christmas Sub-Committee: There was a discussion on Christmas decorations 2024, and a budget of £2,000 was agreed for the work.

Assets Sub-Committee: Agreed to report on the work of the sub-committee at the next meeting.

Biodiversity Sub-Committee: It was noted to receive information about a Refill Pack for gardens.

Subcommittee on Sustainable Tourism: It has been reported that the group intends to meet soon, this includes a conversation with local National Park wardens.

**8. Representatives on organisations:**

Cwmni Pum Plwy Penllyn: Funding applications for the upgrade of Canolfan Bro Tegid has been reported to be ongoing, with applications submitted to Gwynedd Council.

9. **Planning Issues:** The following applications were considered, and agreed to be approved.

a) The Co-op: Installation of a new refrigeration unit.

b) Glasfryn, 2 Station Road: Listed Building Consent for repair, painting and rendering at rear of house.

**10. 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 deposit account and £362.57 in the Mayor's Fund. It was noted that a balance of £3,177.46 had been earmarked towards the costs of the Bala celebrations – Yma o Hyd. It was noted that the receipt of 50% of the precept by Gwynedd Council, and a

grant of £500 from the National Park towards the costs of flower baskets etc to the town.

- ii. Charges for cleaning of Bus Shelters, Clerk's salary payment, invoices for Bala – Yma o Hyd were approved along with payments to Gwynedd Council for maintaining town toilets and for an Internal Audit of Town Council accounts.
- iii. Application for financial support from Bala Hockey Club: An application for match funding has been received towards the costs of re-developing the town astro pitch. It was agreed to earmark up to £3,000, and to discuss the needs further with the Hockey Club.

**11. Correspondence:**

- i. Cwmni Pum Plwy Penllyn– a request has been received for a letter of support for financial applications for funding to fund a community car for the town. They agreed to submit the letter.
- ii. One Voice Wales – received information about their Annual Conference, Councillors' 6 Month Rule, Community Action Training, Powers and Policies information, Clerk Recruitment and Retention and Code of Conduct.
- iii. Gwynedd Council – received information about the Tidying Up Ardal Ni work programme, and information about the possibility of getting monolingual Welsh language signs to the town.

**12. Town Councillors' local issues:**

- i) It was reported that there was a wasp nest near the Family Centre, and Cllr Eric Williams agreed to contact Gwynedd Council.
- ii) Access for young children towards Ysgol Godre'r Berwyn – it was noted that the school was discussing this issue to ensure the safety of children when walking to school.
- iii) Llyn Tegid Railway – agreed to write to the railway company to congratulate them on their work to date, and to wish the future developments well.

13. The meeting closed at 8.30pm and the next meeting will be Thursday 3 October 2024.