

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF TYWYN TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th DECEMBER 2017
AT YSGOL UWCHRADD TYWYN AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor: Alun W. Evans (Chair)

Councillors: Ron W. McCoo, Nancy E. Clarke, Eileen Jones, Aled M. Lewis,
Quentin E. Deakin, Cathy Evans, Harriet Webb, Mike Stevens,
Frank Bridle, Anne Lloyd-Jones

OFFICERS PRESENT: Francesca Pridding (Town Clerk)

Cl. 195 **APOLOGIES:**
13.12.17 Councillors: John Pughe, Marisa O’Hara

Cl. 196 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST:**
13.12.17

There were no declarations of interest

Cl. 171 **DISCUSSION – MARINE SAFETY WITH MR BARRY DAVIES**
13.12.17 Mr Davies was welcomed by the Chairman and started the discussion by explaining the size of the area he was responsible for, with Gwynedd having one of the largest coastlines of any region within the UK. Although he conceded that times were financially challenging, he also made it clear that his service and Gwynedd in general was proud of Tywyn and considered it to have one of the county’s flagship promenades.

Mr Davies referenced the ways in which Tywyn seafront has changed in recent years following the construction of the breakwater, meaning that Tywyn now has an almost perpetually sandy beach.

Mr Davies explained the difference between the Beach Wardens and Lifeguards and said that the difference in cost of providing a Lifeguard was prohibitive.

It was explained that new safety signage should have been in place for 2017 however technical issues between the designer and the printer had forced this to be delayed. We are assured that new safety signs will be on the beach by 1st April 2018.

The signs are as a result of a collaboration between his department and the RNLI, they will only detail beach safety guidelines as it was felt that including boating regulations on the same sign may cause confusion.

It was explained that buoys marking a safe operating distance from the shore for personal watercraft would not be deployed in Tywyn due to the westerly facing nature of the shore which meant that the buoys would not stay in place, this would open the authority up to potential liability. Mr Davies explained that all boat users launching in Gwynedd needed to be registered and display a registration number. This would mean that they had seen and signed the boating regulations which

included a requirement to maintain a speed below 4 nautical miles per hour whilst within 100m of the tide line.

It was conceded that outside of the Warden's operational hours it was possible for unregistered boats to launch.

The Paddling Pool is emptied and filled everyday during the summer weeks but Gwynedd do not have the resources to manage it throughout the year.

Mr Davies praised the activities of Tywyn Events.

Councillor Frank Bridle asked if there was a remedy for the fact that the slipway had become dangerously steep due to the sand that has built up at the bottom and whether there would be some way of restricting the general public's access to the slipway when boats are being launched or landed. The response was that this would be difficult to manage but that Mr Davies would look at the situation.

Councillor Quentin Deakin felt that the failure of some watercraft owners to adhere to the regulations might be solved by greater enforcement however as Mr Davies explained, the regulations are simply good practice and Gwynedd had no right to enforce compliance. In 12 - 18 months' time, however, there would be a review of the county's byelaws and specific laws could be enacted at this point.

Councillor Ron McCoo requested that benches be left at each end of the prom. Mr Davies warned that they may not survive the winter storms but agreed to look at it.

Councillor Anne Lloyd-Jones thanked Mr Davies for his and his team's commitment and hard work. Councillor Lloyd-Jones also queried works to be undertaken on the Victorian Shelter and mentioned the fact that boats launching from Ceredigion would not be covered by Gwynedd regulations.

Councillor Mike Stevens reiterated the Council's concern regarding the Victorian Shelter and asked whether volunteers could manage the paddling pool over Whitsun. Mr Davies thought that this would probably not be allowable due to insurance requirements but said he would give consideration to opening the pool for the Spring Bank Holiday.

Councillor Frank Bridle asked whether a jetty could be considered and whether the slipway at the opposite end of the prom would be a safer option for launching. Mr Davies felt that current resources would prohibit the building of a jetty but would look at whether the other slipway was a viable alternative.

Councillor Aled Lewis asked how many full-time staff worked in the Maritime department and that the maintenance budget was for the beaches. Mr Davies will provide budgetary information and stated that there were 7 full-time staff members.

- Cl. 198
13.12.17 **CHAIRMAN'S ACTIVITY REPORT:**
21st November - Snowdonia Access Committee
25th November - Christmas Light switch-on
28th November - One Voice Wales Meirionnydd Committee Meeting
- Cl. 199
13.12.17 **MINUTES:**
Receive and approve: -
- a) Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 22nd November 2017
- RESOLVED:** To receive and approve with Councillor Alun Evans proposing and Councillor Nancy Clarke seconding the proposal.
- Cl. 200
13.12.17 **STANDING COMMITTEES:**
Receive and approve: -
Planning Committee
- a) Minutes of Meeting held 27th November 2017
- RESOLVED:** To receive and approve with Councillor Nancy Clarke proposing and Councillor Quentin Deakin seconding the proposal.
- Cl. 201
13.12.17 **MUSEUM FOR TYWYN**
Motion to set up a Working Group to investigate the establishment of a museum in Tywyn which amongst other things will reflect the town's military history.
- RESOLVED:** To approve with Councillor Quentin Deakin proposing and Councillor Nancy Clarke seconding the motion.
- Cl. 202
13.12.17 **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**
Motion for the Council to help the British Legion with the organisation of the Remembrance Parade and local commemorative activities from 2018 onwards.
- RESOLVED:** To approve with Councillor Alun Evans proposing and Councillor Eileen Jones seconding the motion.
- Cl. 203
13.12.17 **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**
Motion to adopt a Social Media Policy as recommended by One Voice Wales
- RESOLVED:** To approve with Councillor Alun Evans proposing and Councillor Nancy Clarke seconding the motion.
- Cl. 204
13.12.17 **GWYNEDD COUNCIL 'JOB AND KNOCK' CULTURE**
Motion to call upon Gwynedd Council to take action to overcome the "Job and Knock" culture that at present exists within the Municipal Section of the Environment Directorate

RESOLVED: To approve with Councillor Aled Lewis proposing and Councillor Frank Bridle seconding the motion.

Cl. 205
13.12.17

OMBUDSMAN DECISION

Motion to receive the information, dated 29 November 2017, that under Section 69(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 2000, the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales found no evidence that Councillor George Michael Stevens had failed to comply with the Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED: To approve with Councillor Alun Evans proposing and Councillor Nancy Clarke seconding the motion.

Cl. 206
13.12.17

TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report for the month of November 2017

RESOLVED: To approve subject to spelling correction of 'Clwb' with Councillor Anne Lloyd-Jones proposing and Councillor Alun Evans seconding the motion

Cl. 207
13.12.17

NEWS FROM GWYNEDD COUNCIL

- Street Enforcement, Fly Tipping and Fly Posting fixed penalty notices are to be raised from £50 to £75. A new company called Kingdom are to be contracted to enforce these littering abuses across the county.
- The progress of the investigation into the completion of the Tywyn to Aberdyfi Cycle Path has entered a new phase, where the Council is looking at approved routes, costs and land acquisitions.
- Tywyn is being reported as having a chronic housing shortage to the County Council.
- It is to be noted that the Youth Clubs are not going to be closing but that ways of saving money are being investigated by Youth services at county level. The public need to be aware of the ability to provide feedback on the services via the online 'Have Your Say' platform. This can be found on the Gwynedd Council App and website.
- Gwynedd Council are encouraging the public to start using the online services, this will save money and resources.
- There will be free parking on Gwynedd Council car parks from 15th – 27th December to encourage local shopping.
- Gwynedd Council has announced that it has started working with Tidal Lagoon Power on a six month pilot project during which time sites will be identified where the natural environment can be improved.
- Gwynedd Leisure Services are offering a special discount for anyone over the age of 16 using leisure centre facilities during December.

RESOLVED: To accept the information

Cl. 208
13.12.17

EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Councillor Alun Evans reported the following:

One Voice Wales' Area Committee, Dolgellau, 28th November –

- Presentation given by Emma Quaeck on behalf of the DementiaGo Project.
- One Voice Wales training programme is being finalised for the coming year.
- Pico hydro schemes are being investigated as means of providing cheap energy for schools.
- The County is looking at purchasing small electric cars to trial them in various locations with a view to helping tourists arriving by train get to their holiday destinations.

Snowdonia Access Committee, 21st November –

- The gorse has made the path at Rhyd yr Onyn, Happy Valley, impassable.
- A burnt-out Land Rover Discovery is blocking the Dyffryn Gwyn path.
- The Bailey Bridge has had remedial works done however the authority is looking into a potentially flawed paint job which has contributed to the early deterioration.

RESOLVED: To accept the information

Cl. 209
13.12.17

CLERK'S REPORT

Motion to receive Clerk's Report

RESOLVED: To receive the report with Councillor Alun Evans proposing and Councillor Nancy Clarke seconding the proposal.

Cl. 210
13.12.17

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence That Necessitates Action by the Council.

- a) Email from Independent Reviewing Panel considering the future of Local and Community Councils. Second question for consideration "What's standing in their way to deliver for the local community?"

RESOLVED: To respond with the comments of the Council

Correspondence Received That Does **Not** Necessitate Action by the Council

- a) Thank you letter from Dysynni Paddling Club
- b) Acknowledgement from the Environment Department of Gwynedd Council that they are investigating the Council's concerns regarding the Public Toilet provision on Marine Parade.
- c) Letter from the Highways Maintenance and Municipal Service of Gwynedd Council regarding the proposed change of street lighting columns on Maethlon Close during December

RESOLVED: To accept the information

The meeting was declared closed at 8:50 pm

CADEIRYDD / CHAIRMAN