

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF TYWYN TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2024
AT 7.00pm AT NEUADD PENDRE AND ONLINE VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: Cllr. John Pughe (Chair)

Cllrs. Matthew Cooling, Nancy Clarke, Alun Wyn Evans,
Cathy Evans, Eileen Jones, Mark Kendall, Anne Lloyd-Jones,
Gareth Mason, Ron McCoo, Marisa O’Hara.

OFFICER PRESENT: Chris Wood (Clerk)

PUBLIC SESSION

Gavin Wagstaff addressed the Meeting to speak about Article 14, which has been recently introduced by Gwynedd Council to try and limit the number of second homes in the county, and what implications this policy will have for homeowners. Current second homes will remain as second homes, but the creation of new second homes will be limited. There is a fear that houses will drop in value but current second homes will increase in value due to the limit on supply. Gavin thanked the Council for helping to raise awareness of the implication of the act as there are concerns that the act will not achieve what it aims to do and will harm existing property owners.

Councillors discussed the issues raised and noted that the act is now in force in Gwynedd but not yet in force in National Park areas.

CI 070. **1. APOLOGIES**

11.9.24 Cllr. Olivia Woodward.

CI 071. **2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST OR PERSONAL CONNECTION**

11.9.24 Cllr. Nancy Clarke, Item 19.

CI 072. **3. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE EROSION OCCURRING ON TYWYN PROMENADE**

11.9.24 Leigh Tunnadine had been invited to speak to update the Council and public as to the issues with the Promenade and the damage that has been suffered. There is now an urgent need for repair work to be undertaken before the damage becomes too extensive. Access to the beach by the slipway at the end of Neptune Road has not been possible this year and is already not looking possible for next year. The repairs need to be coordinated with a strategic review of the coastal defences for Tywyn. Tywyn draws many visitors every year, attracted by the areas natural beauty, and investment is now required in order that Tywyn will continue to thrive for many generations to come.

Councillors thanked Leigh for her presentation and following an extensive discussion, it was **Proposed** by Mark Kendall, seconded by John Pughe and resolved that Tywyn Town Council supports the campaign to attract funding to facilitate the repairs of the Promenade and improve the sea defence.

CI 073. **4. CHAIRMAN’S ACTIVITY REPORT**

11.9.24 Cllr. John Pugh reported that Aled Lewis had resigned as a Councillor and gave thanks for his work over many years.

CI 074. **5. MINUTES**

11.9.24 To receive and approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 10th July 2024.

It was **Proposed** by Cllr. Alun Wyn Evans, seconded by Cllr. Mark Kendall and **resolved** to receive and approve the Minutes of the meeting of 10th July 2024.

CI 075. **6. MINUTES**

11.9.24 To receive and approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 14th August 2024.

It was **Proposed** by Cllr. Mark Kendall, seconded by Cllr. Cathy Evans and **resolved** to receive and approve the Minutes of the meeting of 14th August 2024.

CI 076. **7. TO APPROVE THE TREASURER'S REPORTS FOR JULY AND AUGUST 2024**

11.9.24 It was **Proposed** by Cllr. Mark Kendall, seconded by Cllr. Cathy Eileen Jones and **resolved** to receive and approve the Treasurer's Reports for July and August 2024.

CI 077. **8. TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT**

11.9.24 The Clerk provided a written report to the Council which reported on the following items:

Allotments

A meeting has been held with the Allotment Committee as there are a number of plots that are in poor condition with action required to bring the plots back to a satisfactory condition.

Skatepark

The delayed skatepark opening event took place on Saturday August 10th. Team Rubicon put on a great display and entertained the crowds. There were competitions for local riders and the event was a great success. Many thanks to Mark Greaves for organising the food and drink, Fairbourne Ices and to Cllr. Gareth Mason, our Community First Responder.

Cambrian Road Carpark

The Pay and Display machine has recently been out of order several times, but repairs have been completed and a new front panel installed which should minimise issues. Discussions have been held with Gwynedd Council regarding the provision of an electricity supply to the carpark with work hopefully being able to start soon.

Website

Work remains ongoing to finalise the new website and move all required documentation across.

Ffiws Tywyn

The setting up of the equipment has been progressing well with all equipment working correctly despite being unused for so long. A number of open days are being planned for September and October, to introduce the project to the public and demonstrate the activities that will be on offer. The first event has already been booked for September 24th when Gillian Williams from the Welsh Woolshed will be running a workshop. Broadband has now been installed in the Station Building which was essential for the Ffiws equipment to be able to operate.

CiLCA Qualification

Work on obtaining the CiLCA qualification, Certificate in Local Council Administration has now begun with it being expected to be completed within twelve months.

Obtaining this qualification will enable the Council to use the General Power of Competence which increases the ability of the Council to operate more services and gives the Council the power to operate for commercial purposes.

Christmas Fair and Lights Switch On

The road closure for the Christmas Fair has been approved and the Craft Fair and Market being well advertised in Mid and North Wales with a good number of bookings confirmed. Gwynedd Council have confirmed that the Christmas lights will be installed in good time, and it is hoped that both sets of cross street lights will be operating this year.

It was **Proposed** by Cllr. Anne Lloyd-Jones, seconded by Cllr. John Pughe and **resolved** that the Clerk's report be accepted.

Cl 078.
11.9.24 **9. AN OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO REPORT BACK TO THE COUNCIL FOLLOWING THEIR ATTENDANCE AT EXTERNAL COMMITTEES**
No reports received.

Cl 079.
11.9.24 **10. AN OPPORTUNITY FOR TYWYN COUNCILLORS TO ASK QUESTIONS AND RECEIVE A REPORT FROM GWYNEDD COUNCILLORS REGARDING MATTERS RELATED TO TYWYN TOWN COUNCIL**
Cllr. Alun Wyn Evans reported that Cwm Maethlon was recently closed with no notice which caused issues for residents and carers. Work to replace the old gas main will be starting soon with more road closures expected over the next few months.
Cllr. Marisa O'Hara asked if there was any update on the parking issues in Idris Villas.
Cllr. John Pughe responded that he is waiting for a date for a site visit from Gwynedd Council.
Cllr. Marisa O'Hara asked whether there was an update on the issue of travel passes for students wishing to attend college in Newtown.
Cllr. Anne Lloyd-Jones responded that there may be help available from Powys Council.

Cl 080.
11.9.24 **11. MOTION TO HOLD A VE DAY COMMEMORATION EVENT ON SATURDAY MAY 10th 2025**
Following a discussion by Councillors, it was **Proposed** by Cllr. Marisa O'Hara, seconded by Cllr. Anne Lloyd-Jones and **resolved** that the Council holds a VE Day commemoration event on Saturday May 10th 2025.

Cl 081.
11.9.24 **12. MOTION TO PURCHASE BODY WORN VIDEO CAMERA EQUIPMENT FOR USE OF THE CLERK IN THE CONDUCT OF HIS DUTIES**
Cllr. Matthew Cooling spoke about the motion and referenced intimidating behaviour that had been made towards the Clerk, both in and out of the office. Following a discussion by Councillors it was **Proposed** by Cllr. Anne Lloyd-Jones, seconded by Cllr. Matthew Cooling and **resolved** to defer the item in order for it to be discussed at the next Personnel Meeting of the Council

Cl 082.
11.9.24 **13. MOTION TO PURCHASE A CCTV SYSTEM FOR THE COUNCIL OFFICE AND TO INVESTIGATE LOCATIONS IN TYWYN THAT WOULD BENEFIT FROM A CCTV SYSTEM**
Councillors discussed the motion at length noting that similar discussions had been held in the past without being actioned. Following a discussion by Councillors, it was **Proposed** by Cllr. Matthew Cooling, seconded by Cllr. Gareth Mason and **resolved** to defer the item in order for the Clerk to liaise with North Wales Police and to conduct further investigations into systems and locations.

- CI 083.
11.9.24 **14. MOTION TO PURCHASE A NEW DEFIBRILATOR CABINET FOR THE PROMENADE**
The current defibrillator cabinet on the Promenade is in poor condition and suffering from extensive rust issues. Following a discussion by Councillors it was **Proposed** by Cllr. Gareth Mason, seconded by Cllr. Marisa O’Hara and **resolved** to purchase a new defibrillator cabinet for the Promenade.
- CI 084.
11.9.24 **15. TO DISCUSS THE PURCHASE OF NEW CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**
Following a discussion by Councillors, it was agreed to defer the item to be discussed at the next Environment Committee meeting of the Council.
- CI 085.
11.9.24 **16. TO REVIEW TYWYN TOWN COUNCIL’S SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**
The Clerk introduced the item saying the current policy was set up in 2017 and was overdue for review. Following a discussion by Councillors, it was **Proposed** by Cllr. Anne Lloyd-Jones, seconded by Cllr. Alun Wyn Evans and **resolved** to accept the review of the Social Media Policy.
- CI 086.
11.9.24 **17. CORRESPONDENCE WHICH REQUIRES A RESPONSE FROM THE COUNCIL**
None received
- CI 087
11.9.24 **18. TO NOTE CORRESPONDENCE WHICH COUNCILLORS HAVE RECEIVED BY E-MAIL**
Gwynedd Council – Article 4 Direction
Gwynedd Council – Footpath resurfacing Tywyn
One Voice Wales – Summer Update
Wales Air Ambulance – Newsletter
Lafan Cymru – Slate Art Commission Update

Correspondence noted.

Councillors had a further discussion about the correspondence from Gwynedd Council about the Article 4 Direction, with the information from the Public Session, and the way that it has been applied. Sympathy was expressed for the intention of the Act but frustration expressed for the manner in which has been implemented with fears that this Act is not the right option and that more homes need to be built.
- CI 088.
11.9.24 **19. TO RECEIVE THE YNYSYMAENGWYN TRUST REPORT**
The Council received the following written report from the Ynysymaengwyn Trust representative.

The Trustees held a meeting on Thursday September 5th with Beth Lawton, Aled Lewis and myself present. Judy Griffiths gave her apologies.
At the Extra Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on August 14th, I reported that Richard Vaughan and Graham Clarke had resigned as Trustees due to the conflict of interest that existed by them also being Directors of the Caravan Park. At that time, Aled Lewis had not resigned as a Trustee, and he had not resigned ahead of the Trustees meeting.
Beth started the meeting by saying that Aled Lewis had offered to resign, and that Judy Griffiths wanted to resign. Beth said that she had spoken with Aled and had asked him not to resign as she felt it was not in the best interests of the Trust for him to resign at this time. I disagreed with this and asked that Aled’s offer to resign be accepted due to the letter received from the Charity Commission pointing out the conflict of interest and that failing to comply with the lawful advice of the regulator may be considered misconduct or mismanagement. Beth again said she wanted Aled to stay and would use her casting vote as Chair of the Trustees to ensure he stayed or that Aled could

vote for himself to stay. So Aled remains as a Trustee against all the guidance. I was totally against this decision.

There was no discussion about the minutes of the Trustees meeting held on June 27th despite there being a large number of items from that meeting that needed to be discussed such as the operation of the Caravan Park and the reasons behind the resignation of Paul Pearce as a Trustee. There are many things that the Directors had agreed to do at that meeting which they have still not done including providing financial information to the Trust, which was first asked for in September 2023 and at every subsequent Trustees meeting, providing the financial information to enable the Charity Commission return to be completed which is now over 200 days overdue, reviewing the contracts of employment and job descriptions for the employees, conducting employee reviews. None of these important outstanding issues were discussed.

I asked how much the playpark had cost as it was built by the directors against the decision of the Trust, but Aled again wouldn't tell the Trustees the final figure despite this also being asked at the Trustees meeting in June.

Beth then went on to say that she had been given permission by the employees to view the accounts once a month in the site office and that the Directors had agreed she could sit in on the Directors meetings. I knew from this point there must have been meetings held with directors and employees by herself, which had not been discussed or sanctioned by the Trust, I asked who she had spoken to and she said Aled, Rob and Christina.

This was a very frustrating meeting for me as I felt many important discussions were not held and that guidance was being ignored. The only positive thing was that a discussion was held on appointing new Trustees with a short list being drawn up.

The meeting was closed with yet again no answers regarding the many outstanding items, previous meetings and important agenda items being unresolved.

The Council's representative on the Trust, Cllr. Mark Kendall then reported verbally that Aled Lewis had resigned as a Trustee ahead of the Council meeting.

Councillors discussed the report at length including the issue of information that the Trust had been requesting from the Directors for many months which has still not been received and that the Directors made no payments to the Trust for the financial year 2022-23. Discussions were also held about the ability of the Trust to explore other income streams, its ability to put on events, who monitors the CCTV system on Trust land and the ongoing issue of the dumping waste on Trust land.

The next Ordinary meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 9th October 2024 at 7.00pm.

The meeting was closed at 8.54pm

CADEIRYDD / CHAIR