

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF TYWYN TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9th JULY 2025
AT 7.00pm AT NEUADD PENDRE AND ONLINE VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: Cllr. Matthew Cooling (Chair)

Cllrs. Kath Charters, Nancy Clarke, Alun Wyn Evans, Eileen Jones,
Mark Kendall, Anne Lloyd-Jones, Gareth Mason, Ron McCoo,
Marisa O'Hara, John Pughe, Olivia Woodward.

OFFICER PRESENT: Chris Wood (Clerk)

PUBLIC SESSION

A member of the public addressed the meeting to speak about recent restrictions being imposed on anglers fishing on the Afon Dysynni, despite many decades of unrestricted access. Following a discussion with Councillors, it was agreed that further information was required and it was agreed that this is a subject that the Environment Committee should lead on and to look at the wider river use, not just angling.

CI 055.
9.7.25 **1. APOLOGIES**
Cllr. Cathy Evans.

CI 056.
9.7.25 **2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST OR PERSONAL CONNECTION**
Cllr. Ron McCoo, Item 13.
Cllr. Eileen Jones, Item 13.
Cllr. John Pughe, Item 13.
Cllr. Marisa O'Hara, Item 13.
Cllr. Matthew Cooling, Item 19.

CI 057.
9.7.25 **3. CHAIRMAN'S ACTIVITY REPORT**
The Chair reported receiving many enquiries about Council business and encouraged members of the public to use the proper channels to engage with the Council in order to ensure the correct responses can be made..

CI 058.
9.7.25 **4. MINUTES**
To receive and approve the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 11th June 2025.
Cllr. John Pughe asked that the minutes be corrected to show that he made a declaration of interest in Item 16.
It was **Proposed** by Cllr. Mark Kendall, seconded by Cllr. Nancy Clarke and **resolved** to receive and approve the Minutes of the meeting of 11th June 2025.

CI 059.
9.7.25 **5. MINUTES**
To receive and approve the Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 12th June 2025.
It was **Proposed** by Cllr. Nancy Clarke, seconded by Cllr. Mark Kendall and **resolved** to receive and approve the Minutes of the meeting of 12th June 2025.

CI 060. **6. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE RFO'S FINANCE REPORT FOR JUNE 2025**
9.7.25 It was **Proposed** by Cllr. Nancy Clarke, seconded by Cllr. Mark Kendall and **resolved** to receive and approve the RFO's Finance Report for June 2025.

CI 061. **7. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE CLERK'S REPORT**
9.7.25 The Clerk provided the following written report to the Council.

Tywyn Hospital Steering Group

The Health Board has published its Strategic Direction and Planning paper, which sets out the timescale for developing a long-term sustainable service model for Tywyn. A period of public consultation will be running from now until the end of September, following which long and short lists of options, resulting from data analysis, will be drawn up before December when the final recommendations will be presented to the Board of BCUHB.

Ffiws

Workshops by Cader Soaps to make soaps, balms, oils and wax melts have continued and been well attended.

Gwynedd Council Youth Services are keen to progress the planned setting up of an after-school drop-in centre for school children. Further meetings and consultations are planned for July.

A meeting was held to discuss the use of the building on an occasional basis by Gwynedd Council to provide counselling services.

Christmas Lights Switch On Event

Work has been undertaken to remove a redundant and dangerous raised bed near the leisure centre. In return, the leisure centre will not be making a charge this year for the use of the hall for the Christmas Craft Market.

Surfers Against Sewage

Met with the Surfers Against Sewage area representative and the Coastguard Beach Patrol to discuss littering and dog fouling on the beach and promenade and to develop ways to raise public awareness of the issues and to reduce the number of incidents.

A beach clean will take place at 10.00am on Saturday 19th July, meeting at the Victorian Shelter.

Insurance

A full in person review of the Council's insurance requirements was held with the proposal on the Agenda for discussion by the Council at the July Meeting.

Road Safety by Penybryn School / Brynhyfred Road

Further discussions have been held with the Police regarding the issues of road safety around Penybryn School and Brynhyfred Road. Officers are still attending the school on a regular basis and a new crossing patrol officer has been appointed by Gwynedd Council. Discussions were also held regarding incidents of speeding on Brynhyfred Road and the options that might be available to resolve this issue.

Police and Crime Commissioner

A meeting was held with the Police and Crime Commissioner for North Wales, the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner and North Wales Police, to discuss local policing and ways the community can work together to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.

Corbett Arms Hotel

The application for listed building consent to demolish the unsafe element of the Corbett Arms Hotel is not, as was expected, on the Agenda for discussion by Gwynedd Council at the Planning Committee Meeting to be held on Monday July 14th. This is regrettable and updates will be provided once further information is available about when the application will be heard. Representations will be made to Gwynedd Council in support of those suffering due to the disruption caused by the extended road closure.

Fire Safety

Annual fire safety checks have been completed at the Office and Station Building.

Shared Prosperity Fund

The Council has been awarded £6,500.00 as part of the Gwynedd Ni scheme, funded by the Shared Prosperity fund. The award is to be used to help improve the appearance and facilities in Tywyn and work will be undertaken to consult on how best to use this award.

Website

Further discussions have been held with Netwise regarding the accessibility of the website, the uploading of all required bilingual documents and the operation of new email addresses for members.

Brook Street Garden

Work has been undertaken to improve and refresh Brook Street Garden. There have been some problems with communication between the volunteers and the Council which have caused issues with some members of the public and organisations. Work has been undertaken to resolve these matters.

General

Time has been spent this month in assisting members of the public who have visited the office to raise concerns or have asked for help with matters. Help was given and advice provided when it was possible, with information provided about who to contact when it was not directly possible to assist.

It was **Proposed** by Cllr. John Pughe, seconded by Cllr. Mark Kendall and **resolved** that the Clerk's report be accepted.

CI 062.
9.7.25

8. AN OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO REPORT BACK TO THE COUNCIL FOLLOWING THEIR ATTENDANCE AT EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

Cllr. John Pughe reported attending a meeting concerning proposals to downgrade the stroke unit at Bronglais Hospital, local meetings regarding the Corbett Arms Hotel and meetings with local charitable organisations that are unhappy with the decision made by Wales Air Ambulance to close the bases in Welshpool and Caernarfon and operate from only a single base in North Wales.

Cllr. Alun Wyn Evans reported the next One Voice Wales Area Meeting will be held next week.

Cllr. Eileen Jones asked about the work that has been undertaken at Brook Street Garden and expressed disappointment that the Friendship Bench has been replaced. The volunteers had explained that the bench slats were rotten and needed replacing although some people disagree with that and Cllr. Eileen Jones asked whether it was possible to see if a new Friendship Bench could be created. Cllr. Matthew Cooling asked that the Environment Committee look at the Brook Street Garden with regard to work done and work to be undertaken.

CI 063.
9.7.25

9. 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 raised the issue of grass cutting not being undertaken along Cwm Maethlon and that it is now hazardous for drivers. Cllr. Anne Lloyd-Jones responded that grass cutting has now been subcontracted out by Gwynedd Council but does not know who the contractors are.

Cllr. Alun Wyn Evans also raised the issue of the Afon Dysynni silting up at the estuary and was concerned that this could lead to flooding at the Gwalia. Cllr. John Pughe responded that routine dredging has not been undertaken for a number of years and will raise this concern with Natural Resources Wales.

Cllr. Marisa O'Hara asked if an update on the condition of the sea defence at Neptune is available and raised the issue of young people in the area struggling to find affordable housing together with the limitations of the local bus service. Cllr. Anne Lloyd-Jones responded that Gwynedd Council did apply for government grants to fund the work on the promenade but had not been successful. Cllr. Anne Lloyd-Jones highlighted the recent housing event in Tywyn, organised by Gwynedd Council, which provided the opportunity for people to find out about the housing options available in Tywyn.

Cllr. Anne Lloyd-Jones also spoke in support of the bus services in Tywyn saying they serve the town and its residents well.

Cllr. John Pughe responded that he had recently assisted two people to secure accommodation.

CI 064. **10. MOTION TO APPROVE THE COUNCIL'S INSURANCE RENEWAL**

9.7.25

The Clerk introduced the motion, having distributed the supporting paperwork ahead of the meeting. Councillors discussed the motion at length, following which it was **Proposed** by Cllr. John Pughe, seconded by Cllr. Mark Kendall and **resolved** to renew the Council's Insurance Policy for a period of three years.

CI 065. **11. MOTION TO WRITE TO GWYNEDD COUNCIL TO FORMALLY REQUEST A REVIEW OF PARKING ARRANGEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS IN IDRIS VILLAS**

9.7.25

Cllr. Kath Charters gave the background to the motion, having been approached by residents and members of the public raising concerns about the current situation, together with the requirement of Gwynedd Council that any changes be supported by the Town Council. Following a discussion by Councillors, it was **Proposed** by Cllr. Kath Charters, seconded by Cllr. Anne Lloyd-Jones and **resolved** to write to Gwynedd Council to request a review of parking arrangements and restrictions in Idris Villas.

CI 066. **12. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR GRANT FUNDING BY THE MARGARET BARNARD TRUST**

9.7.25

Cllr. Anne Lloyd-Jones suggested that grant funding applications should be discussed in the first instance by the Finance Committee. Cllr. Gareth Mason commented that whilst the policy states that organisations may approach the Council at any time, in general, applications will be considered in May and November and wanted the Council to follow the policy. Following a discussion by Councillors, it was **Proposed** by Cllr. Anne Lloyd-Jones, seconded by Cllr. Gareth Mason and **resolved** to defer any decision on the application until after a meeting of the Finance Committee.

Cllrs. Eileen Jones, Ron McCoo, Marisa O'Hara and John Pughe left the meeting.

CI 067. **13. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR GRANT FUNDING BY NEUADD PENDRE**

9.7.25

Cllr. Anne Lloyd-Jones asked that the application be deferred to the Finance Committee and noted that the application only contained one quote and it would be useful for other options to be included. Cllr. Gareth Mason asked that the Grant Policy be followed. Following a discussion by Councillors, it was **Proposed** by Cllr. Anne Lloyd-Jones, seconded by Cllr. Gareth Mason and **resolved** to defer any decision on the application until after a meeting of the Finance Committee.

Cllrs. Eileen Jones, Ron McCoo, Marisa O'Hara and John Pughe returned to the meeting.

CI 068. **14. TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL FROM GWYNEDD COUNCIL TO SUPPORT THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF A YOUTH CLUB IN TYWYN**

9.7.25

The Clerk introduced the item, following which Cllr. John Pughe left the meeting once it appeared that the proposal could involve the Neuadd Pendre as a location.

Councillors discussed the application at length, considering the historic and current provision of youth services in Tywyn. Following the discussion, it was **Proposed** by Cllr. Gareth Mason, seconded by Cllr. Anne Lloyd-Jones and **resolved** to support the proposal in principle, but to ask for further information from Gwynedd Council and ask that the Finance Committee then consider the proposal in more detail.

Cllr. John Pughe returned to the meeting.

CI 069.
9.7.25 **15. TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL FROM GWYNEDD COUNCIL THAT TYWYN TOWN COUNCIL TAKES ON THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PLANNED NEW BUS STOPS TO BE INSTALLED IN TYWYN**

The Clerk introduced the motion, having distributed the supporting paperwork ahead of the meeting. Councillors discussed the proposal at length, and asked that the clerk enquire whether the bus stop at the cinema be renewed rather than the bus stop by the hospital. Following the discussion it was **Proposed** by Cllr. Anne Lloyd-Jones, seconded by Cllr. Mark Kendall and **resolved** agree to the proposal subject to the change in the bus stops being renewed being approved.

Cllr. John Pughe left the meeting.

CI 070.
9.7.25 **16. TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATION C25/0450/09/LL TYWYN BAPTIST CHURCH, HIGH STREET, TYWYN LL36 9AD**

Following a discussion by Councillors, it was **Proposed** by Cllr. Nancy Clarke, seconded by Cllr. Alun Wyn Evans and **resolved** to make no objection to the application.

Cllr. John Pughe returned to the meeting.

CI 071.
9.7.25 **17. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING A RESPONSE FROM THE COUNCIL**

Cllr. Matthew Cooling read out a letter that had been received from pupils at Ysgol Penybryn which contained their views on Tywyn following visits to the town. The pupils had positive views about much that happens in Tywyn and also had some suggestions on how to make improvements.

Following a discussion by Councillors, it was agreed that the Clerk should write a letter of thanks to the school.

CI 072.
9.7.25 **18. TO NOTE CORRESPONDENCE WHICH COUNCILLORS HAVE RECEIVED BY E-MAIL**

Liz Saville-Roberts – Tywyn Surgery
Mabon ap Gwynfor – Tywyn Surgery
Play Wales – Playwork Principles Scrutiny Group Survey
Edinburgh Napier University - Active Travel Survey
Dyfi Biosphere - Newsletter
One Voice Wales – Wales Nature Week
Dementia Friendly Tywyn Steering Group – Questionnaire

Correspondence noted.

Cllr. Matthew Cooling left the meeting.

CI 073.
9.7.25 **19. TO RECEIVE THE YNYSYMAENGWYN TRUST REPORT**

Cllr. Mark Kendall, the Council's representative to the Ynysymaengwyn Trust Committee, gave a verbal report to the Council. The report covered the external consultants report, the fact that a number of legal documents have not been executed, the consultants view that the Council is no longer a managing Trustee and that the caravan park is operating without a lease. Many issues in the report have been raised in previous Council and Trust meetings. The views of the public are important to be considered when discussing

Ynysymaengwyn, as the land was left to be used by the public under the terms of the Open Spaces Act of 1906.

Councillors discussed matters raised in the report at length, about the options for possible ways forward and what discussions have been held by the Trust. Councillors agreed that further meetings will be needed to be held and that as the Council has already passed a number of resolutions, these should be followed.

The meeting was closed at 8.45pm

The next Ordinary meeting of the Council is scheduled for
Wednesday 10th September 2025 at 7.00pm.

CADEIRYDD / CHAIR