

## **DOLGELLAU TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Dolgellau Town Council held on Tuesday, July 4, 2023, at the Free Library, Dolgellau at 7.00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Ywain Myfyr – Mayor  
Councillor Bob Gunton – Deputy Mayor  
Councillors Heilyn Williams; Richard Jones; Peter Jones; Nia Wyn Evans; Dyfrig Siencyn; Branwen Rhys Dafydd; Peter Barnes; Ray Peters; John Raghoobar; Jo Checkley; John Cadwaladr.  
Mr Rhys Williams – Clerk  
Mr Stephen Parry – Dolgellau Football Club Secretary

**C24.2023/2024 APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from Councillors Nia Evans, Sion Edwards, and Heilyn Williams

**C25.2023/2024 DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST PERTAINING TO ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE MEETING**

Received the following:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Minute</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Ywain Myfyr	C27.2023-2024.1	Member of Football Club
Branwen Rhys Dafydd	C.27.2023-2024.1	Member of Football Club
Bob Gunton	C27.2023-2024.1	Member of Football Club

**C26.2023/2024 TO RECEIVE AND CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JUNE 6, 2023.**

The above minutes were accepted and confirmed.

**C27.2023/2024 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**1. Football Field lease for the Football Club – Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn chairing on this matter.**

**Presented:** The following feedback regarding details for the above lease.

**Resolved:** For the Council to move ahead with the lease in accordance with the details already agreed, and for the Football Club to present a request for financial assistance from the Council along with a request to change some of the conditions within the lease.

**2. Y Felin Wildlife Garden**

**Presented:** The need to action the following steps:

Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn to provide a contract / licence between the Town Council and the new volunteers.

The Clerk to arrange payment for the public insurance policy for the site and volunteers.

**Resolved:** To action the above.

**3. Pen y Banc footpath**

**Presented:** Further discussion regarding ownership of the wall, which has collapsed onto the footpath.

**Resolved:** Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn to contact the relevant office at Gwynedd Council regarding this.

4. **Permanent memorial - Llyn Penmaen**  
**Presented:** Report from Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn that, following a recent site meeting, the National Park are incredibly supportive.  
**Resolved:** Accept the information.
5. **Events Licence for the Square**  
**Presented:** The Mayor reported there will be 2 x TENS licence be in place for this year's Sesiwn Fawr in anticipation of an option to set up a general licence for the Square in the future.  
**Resolved:** Accept the information and for the Council to meet a relevant officer from Gwynedd Council's Licencing Unit.
6. **Recent Moto Camps event – Pencefn Area**  
**Presented:** Feedback from Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn on recent contact with the organiser of the above. A site meeting will be held soon to discuss problems and complaints which have arisen.  
**Resolved:** Accept the information.

## **C28.2022/2023 FINANCIAL SITUATION**

The financial situation was received from the Clerk.

## **C29.2023/2024.1 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION - COUNCILLOR PETER BARNES TO LEAD**

**Presented:** Discussion paper from the above member on the following items which require attention:

Community Involvement (general)

Process for Meeting Notices

Arrangements/process for hybrid meetings, a combination of face to face and virtual meetings.

Public input to Council meetings.

Process for declaring draft minutes (7 days),

Process for Annual Report.

Deal with upgrading the Council Standing Orders to version 2021.

**Resolved:** Action as follows:

Community Involvement (General)

**Investigate arranging a Specific Exhibition Board for the Council.**

**Appoint a new Press Officer for the Council, such as Councillor Branwen Rhys Dafydd.**

**Adapt and improve the Council's headed paper - 'Headed note paper' – for the attention of the Mayor.**

Process for Meeting Notices – on-line public notices are already in place.

Arrangements/process for hybrid meetings, a combination of face to face and virtual meetings – **the Clerk to write to the relevant Welsh Government Minister, at the moment there is no standard or practical technical solution.**

Public input to Council meetings – **the Clerk to formally include an item of the Agenda.**

Process for declaring draft minutes (7 x days after the meeting) - **for the attention of the Clerk.**

Process for Annual Report – **now in place by the Clerk for the external 2022-2023 audit.**

Deal with upgrading the Council Standing Orders to version 2021 – **the Clerk to share copies for the Council's September 2023 meeting.**

## **C29.2023/2024.2      SESSION FOR SHARING INFORMATION AND REPORTS**

### **1. Reports from Town Council members.**

i) **Councillor Ywain Myfyr** (Mayor) - written report received from the Mayor with thanks.

ii) **Councillor Branwen Rhys Dafydd** – reported on her recent work collecting rubbish at the park.  
Input to the Gwynedd and Môn digital project. Input into the work of grant application for the new Skate Park for the town.

iii) **Councillor Peter Jones** – declared concerns regarding the new access for pedestrians / residents of Ty Paradwys near the junction of Bodlondeb Road and Ffordd y Gader.  
**Resolved:** The Clerk to contact Gwynedd Council (Highways) on this matter.

iv) **Councillor Peter Barnes** – concern noted regarding the access problems between the site / pavement between the HSBC bank and the Hospice shop on the town square.  
**Resolved:** Refer the matter to Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn

v) **Councillor Richard Jones** - parking lines on the square are worn – **for the attention of Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn**

No connection times between bus and train Dolgellau / Machynlleth and Dolgellau / Barmouth.

**The Clerk to write to the relevant Welsh Government minister on this.**

There is survey of rural roads in the area, tree growth causing walls to collapse.

**The Clerk to write to Gwynedd Council (Highways) about this.**

Tan y Fron Road to the by-pass is a danger to pedestrians. Also need a footpath for pedestrians from the town to Cwt Gwyn – **for the attention of Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn**

vi) **Councillor Ray Peters** – continuing with the work to assess the condition of the town's benches.

vii) **Councillor Bob Gunton** – currently undertaking forming a biodiversity policy with the Council including Ffynnon Fair Woods, with support from National Park. Also creating a risk / health and safety report for Council assets e.e. flowerpots in the square.

viii) **Councillor Jo Checkley** – asked permission to transfer the purchase of flowers from Coleg Meirion/Dwyfor to the local

flower shop on the basis there will be no increase in cost as a result of the College no longer willing to continue with this provision – **Agreed.**

Flags for the town have been ordered.

Public seat in memory of Mr Don McAffrey is to be set up.  
Attended meeting regarding setting a 20mph order for vehicles.  
Work with 'Te yn y Dref'

- ix) **Councillor John Cadwaladr** – attended 2 x meetings of Trustees of Dr Daniel Williams and a meeting of Coleg Meirion / Dwyfor Council.
- x) **Councillor John Raghoobar** – Llynpenmaen site meeting regarding permanent memorial. Virtual meeting with National Park regarding strategy/scheme leading to 2025. Meeting of Dolgellau Partnership. Updated minutes of the meeting with the local PCSO. Work on application for funds for the new skate park.

## **2. Reports from Local Gwynedd Councillors**

### **1. Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn**

Discussions with WLGA regarding budgets for the main councils in Wales. Possible £10m deficit. A meeting of Meirionnydd Forum will discuss Tywyn Hospital, changes in the working practice leading to the hospital being re-opened. County's presentation on the homeless situation in the county, 239 cases. The number has doubled since covid. Meeting with Magnox regarding decommissioning Trawsfynydd. Three hundred jobs available to do this work.

### **2. Councillor Linda Morgan – Written report**

#### ***Report for Dolgellau Cyngor Tref/Town Council July Meeting 2023 (May and June)***

Congratulations to, the New Mayor and Deputy Mayor

I hope you both have a Good and Busy Year

4th May Attended GCC Meeting at Caernarfon  
(Details on Website)

5th May Supported an Event at Clwb Rygbi

9th May Attended a Care Annual Workshop on Zoom as a Committee member of Care Scrutiny Committee

10th May Attended a Communities workshop via Zoom as a Committee member

20th May Attended the Ras y Gader – excellent well organised event, Excellent speech by our Mayor. A brilliant event for the Town

25th May Q & A - Housing on Zoom

### **Flowerbeds**

2nd June Meeting with Adra Manager at Y Lawnt re need to repair walls around flowerbeds and clear weeds.

Organised volunteers to dig up the flowerbeds in Y Lawnt and plant wildflowers and Garden flowers. Coming along well, we hope to have a good display by August.

22nd June Attended a Care Scrutiny meeting at Caernarfon – Good positive reports,

**DOGS:** Ordered more bags, problem seems to be still improving in most areas. But people are still requesting the bags.

**Housing:** Sorted and dealt with many Housing issues again, some problems with bins, request for bins and blue boxes, need for sound proofing, damage to flowerbeds. Concern re wall taken down without permission etc etc

**HIGHWAYS:** Reported potholes in Eldon Square these aren't now repaired,

## **Dolfeurig**

Now gone to Planning Looking forward to  
Start date

*Mentioned this below in last Report*

*Copies of Papers and survey still  
available at Martins Shop*

**Attended a Meeting re Air Ambulance** at the Leisure Centre

*You can have your say by using one of the options below:*

Telephone 01443471520

E mail [eascservicereviewqueries@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:eascservicereviewqueries@wales.nhs.uk)

*It is important to have as many views as possible especially if you  
want the Caernarfon and Welshpool bases to stay as they are.*

*I was told individual e mails will go down well and will be a big help  
with their next decision.*

*You can also participate at an engagement session (online  
timetable)*

<https://easc.nhswales/engagement/sdp/engagement-timetable/>

*or complete an online Query Form:*

<https://easc.nhs.wales/engagement/sdp/>

*You can also complete a Survey*

<https://picker.fra1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SVdojh6Yk1DG1pyD4?QCHL=qr>

*I have detail in Martin's Shop Top of Eldon Square Dragon Snaps  
photography, if you want to pick up any leaflets*

*I also have paper copies of the Survey if you do not want to do them  
online*

## **Bins**

Concern re bin top of Penbrynglas and  
Lombard Street all dealt with promptly by  
GCC

Concern re Blue Boxes behind Tŷ Siamas,  
belonging to No 5

requested they are emptied.

Promoted the Town Bus by giving out Bus  
Timetables, also available at Martin's  
Shop also giving out Library opening  
times as the Bus stops at the Library

### **Homeless**

Numbers still rising in Gwynedd up by  
200 in last 2 months now up to over 700

A big concern.

### **Residents Parking**

Enquiry - A request for Residents Parking

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Requested Leaflets Resident Parking  
Proposal, asked Resident to write letter  
with the request and ask her neighbours to  
sign the letter if in agreement. Will have a  
Site meeting and then pass the letter with  
signatures on to Gwynedd Council as  
evidence of support.

Gwynedd Council will then make an  
assessment and see how many parking  
spaces can be offered, it will then go to  
consultation.

Details are Confidential at this Stage

As you know we have 12 in Heol Plas  
Uchaf

And 7 in Ffordd Pont yr Aran

Chair I will keep you updated

### **Disabled Parking**

Enquiry A Request for Residential  
Disabled Parking Spoken to Geraint Wyn  
Jones Customer Care Officer (Adults)

I have been told there is a waiting list here.  
I have copies of the Form etc for the  
Resident

Confidential

### **Food Bank**

Request re Food Bank. Confidential  
Making enquiries

Request re Council Tax  
Exemptions/Reductions, spoken to Dept  
will be speaking to Council Taxation  
Manager in 7 days

Confidential

### **Speeding Concern**

Alleged Speeding in Marian Mawr Car  
Park, every evening (allegedly)

Chair - Have you as a Council had any  
complaints? Need more information here.

The person wishes to stay anonymous.

### **Access to Highway**

Concern re dangerous Access up near  
Bodlondeb

Making enquiries

Confidential



**Area Forum** 4th July and Main Council  
Meeting on 6th July

**St Mary's Church Dolgellau**

Last day for Rev Tim Webb who is  
retiring on Sunday 23rd July

United Service

**Sesiwn Fawr 20-23 July**

Good Luck to Sesiwn Fawr in July

Sesiwn Fawr venues and line-ups  
announced details on Facebook

Eglwys Y Santes Fair, Gwesty'r Llong,  
Caffi T H, Yr Unicorn, Cross Keys, Y  
Stag,

Y Torrent, Y Sospan, Y Clwb Rygbi and  
Tŷ Siamas some of the venues taking part.  
Good Luck to them all. Congratulations to  
the committee for all their work in  
preparation for this very busy event in  
Dolgellau

**Businesses**

Still a concern to hear more businesses  
closing in the town. Might be more in  
September.

We need to encourage Local people to  
shop Local First and visit our many unique  
shops in the town followed by Coffee or  
Lunch in our many Cafes, Hotel and  
Restaurants, Tea Rooms etc

### **Dolgellau Information Centre**

Can anything be done to help Cllr Jo Checkley. Can the Council ask for volunteers?

This Shop is providing a very valuable Service.

Marc Wiseman was very kind to allow the Town to use the facilities free

### **Town Seats (The late Cllr John Evans)**

You asked about the Seats in the Town.  
Rhys will have the official one

1. Pandyrodyn 1
2. Old Grammer School (there were 2 now 1, the other is by the College.
3. Finsbury Square 3 (one needs to be varnished)
4. The 4 in Eldon Sqare GCC repair
5. By the Post Office Meurick Square 1
6. College 1
7. South Street 1
8. Pen y Bank 1
9. Up Cader Road 1
10. Up Pandy Hill 1
11. Top of the Bridge by Zebra Crossing
12. Half way up Pen Cefn road 1

13. Top of Pen Cefn road , top of hill 1
14. Park - Park committee now look after these
15. By the Fire Station 1 (elderly from flats used this one)
16. Y Lawnt – Adra look after these
17. By the Cemetery (opposite by side of road)
18. In the Cemetery GCC look after
19. The Marian Recreation Ground Maian Trustees and SNP and people who bought the Seats in Memory of someone – the late Cllr John Evans used to check these
20. Ardd Fawr 1? there were 2

Hope this info helps, Rhys will confirm if it is correct

### **Glanwnion update**

**Update on the Glan Wnion, Dolgellau development** - Work is nearing the final steps, with exterior stonework on the front of the building completed last week. We expect the rest of the stone cladding work to complete by next week. Also, work on internal plastering, kitchen and bathroom fitting has completed and final painting work is currently being conducted. This is good news

### ***Glaslyn Leisure Centre***

- **Day of Fun and Wellbeing at Glaslyn Leisure Centre** - A free Well-being Day will be held jointly by Llwybrau Llesiant and Byw'n Iach on Monday, 10 July at Glaslyn Leisure Centre in

Porthmadog between 10:00am and 3:00pm and everyone is very welcome to join.

Reports were received with thanks.

**C.30.2023-2024**

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **1. Dolgellau Rugby Club**

**Presented:** Letter from the above asking for a support letter to apply for funds to change the lights at the Rugby field and the marian to LED.

**Resolved:** To support this request and write a letter of support.

**C31.2023-2024**

## **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Conversion of former hotel into six residential units (C3) consisting of 3 open market dwellings and 3 affordable dwellings together with retention of alterations to the external appearance of the building

Former Fron Olau Hotel, Tabor, Dolgellau. LL40 2PS

Application Type: Full

Application Number: NP5/57/205J

Grid Reference: 274903 317577

### **DOLGELLAU TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**The Council wishes to express concern regarding this application on the grounds that it is an over development in a rural location**

Listed Building Consent for restoration works and internal alterations, together with installation of flue liner and cowl.

1 Old Bank, Lombard Street, Dolgellau. LL40 1EG

Application Type: Listed Building Consent

Application Number: NP5/57/LB398A

Grid Reference: 272661 317767

### **DOLGELLAU TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**The Town Council wishes to emphasise that the historical elements of this building be safeguarded.**