

DOLGELLAU TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Dolgellau Town Council held on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at the Free Library, Dolgellau at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor John Raghoobar – Mayor
Councillor Ywain Myfyr – Deputy Mayor
Councillors Jo Checkley; Bob Gunton; John Cadwaladr; Peter Jones; Peter Barnes; Nia Wyn Evans; Sion Edwards; Dyfrig Siencyn; Ray Peters; John Cadwaladr; Richard Jones.

Mr Rhys Williams – Clerk

C75.2022/2023 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence received from Councillors Branwen Rhys Dafydd, Heilyn Williams, Dyfrig Siencyn.

C76.2022/2023 Mr JP Williams – Defibrillator for the area

Presented: Background information on the above campaign and a request for financial contribution towards it.

Resolved: Order 1 x device in the Council's name at a cost of £1800 including VAT. The location to be Resolved.

C77.2022/2023 Gwynedd Council Grants Officer – Bethan Wyn Roberts Grant opportunities in relation to the 'Lle yn y Dref' scheme

Presented: Background information and update on the above scheme, which is active in the Free Library, Dolgellau.

Resolved: Authorise this activity to continue and sincere thanks to Councillor Nia Evans for leading on this.

C78.2022/2023 DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST PERTAINING TO ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE MEETING

Received the following declarations:

Member	Minute	Reason
Counc. Bob Gunton	Football field lease	Member of the Football club
Counc. Sion Edwards	Football field lease	Volunteer at the Football Club
Counc. Peter Barnes	Financial contributions	Supports Dolgellau Guides and Brownies

C79.2022/2023 TO RECEIVE AND CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 7, 2023

The above minutes were accepted with the following changes highlighted in red in the Minutes.

C80.2022/2023 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. C28.2022/2023.3 – Coed Ffynnon Fair

Presented: Feedback that the new gate has arrived. Access arrangements to be confirmed.

Resolved: Accept the information.

2. Permanent Memorial - Llynpenmaen Tragedy

Presented: Explained that there is no progress to report at present

Resolved: Revisit the situation in April 2023

3. **Training Scheme for Members**
Presented: Reminder from the Clerk for members to present details of courses to follow online through a programme arranged by One Voice Wales.
Resolved: For the Clerk to distribute again details of the courses available during February / March 2023 – Several members have attended. Council's website to be updated.
4. **Football field – Lease for Dolgellau Football Club**
Presented: Following the Mayor and the Clerk's recent meeting with the company, details and offers on the above from Law Company Guthrie Jones & Jones for each member.
Resolved: Accept and action details of the Lease, including that the Football Club will be responsible for the legal costs of the Lease, along with annual rent of £500, payable at the beginning of each year. The Lease will run for 10 years.

C81.2022/2023 FINANCIAL SITUATION

The financial situation was received from the Clerk, and the following payments were confirmed:

Date	Chq No	Name	Description	Sum £
07.03.2023	104076	Inland revenue	PAYE February 2023	188.92
07.03.2023	104077	Wendy owen	Translation October 2022 – January 2023	211.31
07.03.2023	104078	Dolgellau Partnership	Contribution 2022-2023	2500.00
07.03.2023	104079	Dolgellau Guides & Brownies	Contribution 2022-2023	400.00
07.03.2023	104080	Hope House	Contribution 2022-2023	100.00
07.03.2023	104081	Urdd National Eisteddfod	Contribution 2022-2023	100.00
07.03.2023	104082	Cerebral Palsy charity	Contribution 2022-2-23	50.00
07.03.2023	104083	Sesiwn Fawr 2023	Contribution 2022-2023	1500.00
07.03.2023	104084	Cylch Meithrin Dolgellau	Contribution 2022-2023	100.00
07.03.2023	104085	Y Gader 2023 race	Contribution 2022-2023	500.00
07.03.2023	104086	Rhys Williams	Pay for March 2023 and reimbursement for stamps	498.01
10.03.2023	104087	Audit Wales	External Audit 2021 - 2022	325.00
10.03.2023	104088	Dolgellau Green Trustees	Contribution 2022-2023	14000.00
10.03.2023	104089	The Free Library Dolgellau	Contribution 2022-2023	25000.00

C81.2022/2023.2 Review of the Risk Management Register 2022-2023

Received and confirmed the review of the Risk Register for 2022-2023

C81.2022/2023.3 Review of Membership of the Council's Sub-committees

Confirmed the following:

Finance Sub-committee	Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Heilyn Williams, Jo Checkley, Dyfrig Siencyn, John Cadwaladr, Peter Jones
Planning Sub-committee	Mayor, Bob Gunton, Jo Checkley, Heilyn Williams, Peter Jones, Peter Barnes
Twinning Sub-committee	Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Sion Edwards, Branwen Rhys Dafydd, Peter Barnes, Nia Wyn Evans
One Voice Wales	Heilyn Williams, Jo Checkley (Meirionnydd Committee)
Dr Daniel Williams Trust	John Cadwaladr
Dolgellau Partnership	Jo Checkley - Branwen Rhys Dafydd as deputy. Ray Peters, John Raghoobar
Free Library Group	Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Bob Gunton, Dyfrig Siencyn, Branwen Rhys Dafydd, Jo Checkley, Sion Edwards
Dolgellau Skatepark	Richard Jones, Bob Gunton, Sion Edwards, Peter Jones, Nia Wyn Evans, John Raghoobar (Mayor)
Flowers & Tubs Working Group	Jo Checkley, Sion Edwards
Salt Bins Requests	Richard Jones
Public Seating Review	Ray Peters
Penmaenpool Memorial Group	Mayor, Jo Checkley, Bob Gunton, Richard Jones, Dyfrig Siencyn

The right for any member to deputise for the above if needed.

C82.2022/2023 SESSION FOR SHARING INFORMATION AND REPORTS

1. Reports from Town Council members

i) Councillor John Raghoobar, Mayor

A written report on the Month;s activities was received.

ii) Councillor John Cadwaladr – Attended a monthly meeting of Trustees of Dr Daniel Williams. Assisted with work on 'Lle yn y Dref'

iii) Councillor Jo Checkley - attended 'Smart Towns' meeting. Meeting of One Voice Wales – Area Committee. Local Member of Parliament was present. Agreed to extend

flower tubs by the Free Library. Thanked Jo for her work with the brackets and flags for the town.

- iv) **Councillor Bob Gunton** – have arranged to distribute the questionnaire about the Skatepark with pupils of Bro Idris school. Have completed a fire risk assessment for the Free Library.
- v) **Councillor Sion Edwards** – the questionnaire has been adapted and will be shared with the College and Leisure Centre. The Clerk noted the terms and length of the lease for the site needs to be reviewed either with Gwynedd Council or ‘Byw yn iach.’
- vi) **Councillor Peter Jones** – the pile of earth on the Marian will be cleared when the weather improves. Regarding access to Coed Ffynnon Fair from Bodlondeb, permission required from the residents of Bodlondeb. (Private Road)
- vii) **Councillor Nia Wyn Evans** – ‘Lle yn y Dref’ work is continuing. ‘Park Run’ activities on the weekends – request for more volunteers to help with this.
- viii) **Councillor Peter Barnes**
Snowdonia National Park have not included Dolgellau town in their tour around the county consulting and advising on listed building regulations.
Resolved: Contact the relevant officer at Snowdonia National Park and invite them to meet the Council.
- xi) **Councillor Ywain Myfyr**
Feedback on the Football Club’s efforts to secure ‘4G’ grade resource in collaboration with the local School.
Resolved: Support this effort. The Clerk to write a letter of support. Meeting tomorrow with the ‘Pub watch’ Scheme managers regarding arrangements for this year’s Sesiwn Fawr 2023 festival.

The reports were accepted with thanks.

2. Reports from local Gwynedd County Councillors

Councillor Linda Morgan

Report for Dolgellau Cyngor Tref/Town Council Mawrth/March 2023

10th February attended the Warm event at the Rugby Club Dolgellau. Mantell Gwynedd CYF Cyngor Gwynedd Llywodraeth Cymru

13th Feb Meeting Plaid Cymru.

16th February – Meeting at Caernarfon Care Scrutiny committee

A few points for you the Housing Allocation have sent 1500 letters to empty houses, and they have had 170 responses offering to sell the houses or asking for help to arrange a tenancy for the property. This is good news. I asked about future plans for Nursing Homes in South Meirionnydd, Recruitment of staff is a huge problem across the care sector, this is holding plans back such as the 9 Beds at Bryn Blodau. If you see advertisements for jobs in Care on Social Media please share them.

There are 100 fewer beds in Ysbyty Gwynedd compared to when the Hospital was built. We need more beds to improve the waiting times outside Hospitals.

We have 36 Sheltered Housing Units in Dolgellau, which is good news. We have 39 people in South Meirionnydd waiting for a residential or nursing bed, which is a concern. But again we need more Carers/staff.

I asked about Dolfeurig Building again and was told there are more plans available now. I will be meeting Cllr Dilwyn Morgan soon on site so I will give you another update next month. They have the funding £1.2 m and the Council have filled the gap with £600.

They discussed Health and Wellbeing dept, and Adults Populaion Needs Assessment. All details are in the Agenda and reports on the Gwynedd Website for you to read.

24th Feb - Attended the event at Rugby Club, gave out dog bags, leaflets, Newyddion, Sibrydion and had Books of Dolgellau on display and old photos of Dolgellau Hospital.

28th February – attended a Workshop in Caernarfon re Fuel Poverty
Some contacts for you

NYTH NEST Freephone 0808 808 2244

The Nest Scheme offers a range of impartial advice and if people are eighble, a package of home energy efficiency improvements. This can lower energy bills and benefit health and wellbeing.

ECO4 Flex Scheme

The main objective of ECO4 is to improve the least energy efficient housing stock in Gwynedd.

The three Contractors below have successfully gone through Cyngor Gwynedd's ECO4 Flex Procurement Process

City Energy 02920 499 183

Menai Heating 01248 421044

Baxter Kelly 01352 860499

Gwynedd Fuel Advisors Ffion Haf/Meilyr Tomos 01766771000

Age Cymru for Advice for people over 50 - 0300 303 44 98

Power Cut Call 105

Winter Fuel Payment Centre 0800 731 0160

2nd March meeting at Caernarfon

3rd March attended the Rugby Club

Cyngor Gwynedd 'Arosfan' scheme - After securing funding through the Welsh Government's Brilliant Basics programme (May 2022) Cyngor Gwynedd hopes to trial five 'aire'-style overnight sites for motorhomes and campervans, as part of a project to further prevent the environmental and social problems caused by illegal camping.

Tenants move into new homeless accommodation pods in Gwynedd- Innovative purpose-built pods to house homeless people are now ready to welcome tenants.

Claim the benefits you're entitled to. You can check what is available on the government's website: www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators

[Attended the Rugby Club for a night to remember the late Don McCaffrey. He was a local character and a neighbor.](#)

[Don was a talented footballer he helped a lot of local young people, he was also a boxer and established boxing clubs in the area. He was also a member of charitable organisations Ran the London Marathon, organized the Ras a Gader and many more. My thoughts are with his family and friends.](#)

[Attended the Rugby Club again to support Croeso Cynnes event, gave out Details on NYTH/NEST,ECO \\$ FLEX SCHEME, FUEL BANK and handed out free Room Thermometers](#)
[Special thanks must go to Gwenno and Merfyn Burrough and Adele Evans Roberts of Clwb Rygbi Dolgellau for their work every Friday with this Scheme.](#)

[Some info on Housing for you-](#)

Tŷ Gwynedd: for the first time in 30 years, the Council will be building its own housing, starting with 10 intermediate properties on the former Ysgol Babanod Coed Mawr site in Bangor. Planning permission was granted at the end of 2022 and building work will commence later this year. This development will be a home for up to 46 people when completed. This is good news. Other sites, such as Maes Twnti, Morfa Nefyn, is moving along well, with the potential for 9 houses helping approximately 40 people.

- The main social housing programme (the “PDP”): Since the Housing Action Plan began, 173 social housing has been built across Gwynedd, with a budget of **£9.4m** (2021/22), **£12.3m** (2022/23) and **£13.5m** (2023/24). 88 units are currently being built (since April 2021) with another 113 earmarked for commencing in the next year. Owing to the Council’s success in this field, £1.1m of additional funding was secured by Welsh Government for 2021/22 through other authorities’ underspending. This scheme aims to **build 500 social housing**.
- Purchasing private homes on the open market: Recently, it was announced that the Council has purchased 8 properties on the open market, with the intention to let them to local people in need of housing. The Housing and Property Department will begin the process of bringing these houses up to the required standards before letting them to local people. With the homes that have been purchased to date, up to 36 people can be helped, and another 5 properties are currently going through legal proceedings.
- Leasing Scheme Wales: Gwynedd: Leasing Scheme Wales aims to encourage private landlords to let their properties to local authorities in order to address the need for long term accommodation for Gwynedd residents. The Housing and Property Department was able to secure over £2.7m in funding for this scheme, and such is the interest shown, the original target of 4 units will be far surpassed by the end of this year. Therefore, we now aim to for 19 units by the end of 2022/23. This in turn will ease the pressure on the social housing register.
- **Gwynedd Homebuy Scheme:** This scheme offers financial support for eligible individuals and families by loaning them the difference between a property’s value and what they are able to offer as a deposit and

mortgage. The aim is to make properties affordable to residents who find it challenging to secure an adequate mortgage to buy a house on the open market in their local area. Since launching the scheme on 13 September 2022, 15 units have been approved across Gwynedd and 6 others are at various steps of the process. The applicants come from all over the county including Llanystumdwy, Edern, Porthmadog, y Felinheli, Harlech and Llanrug.

- Notable developments: Substantial projects such as the redevelopment of the Polish Care Home site in Penrhos, and creating the Penygroes Health Hub, are ongoing, and will take some pressure of the housing register in the long term.
- Empty homes: 104 empty homes have been brought back into use since the Housing Action Plan came into force, with over £323,000 spend to date. This will not only improve the quality and the look of villages and towns but will also provide more options for individuals and families when looking to rent or purchase a home in Gwynedd.
- Homelessness prevention: The Homelessness Service undertakes key prevention work to prevent a situation where an individual or family finds themselves without a place to live. This work in turn eases the pressure on the housing register by helping people keep their current home. The latest data shows that the service has successfully **prevented an increased number of homelessness cases recently.**

Had various meetings with the Warden

Bins and blue boxes left out on pavements by Siop Y Cymro every week and open for a minority of people to misuse. Letter went to the residents with advice – problem now resolved

Bins by Free Library ongoing problem waiting for a large bin with keys for the residents of the Flats. Will keep you updated

Area opposite Indian Restaurant requested it be jet washed, so many dogs fouling here.

I have put new Posters/bags up in Lombard street, Chapel Street, Eldon Square, Meyrick Street etc and handed out bags to many dog owners. NB The situation is quite bad in the town especially in the street on the pavements and Chapel Street and Finsbury Square. I would like your support ? we need times and days of these dogs making a mess, then we can ask the Warden to target the areas at those specific times. Diolch

We must Congratulate Phil Leeds on his brilliant achievement with the Over 50's Cricket World Cup at Cape Town South Africa. We are very proud of him. Playing Pakistan today

Congratulations also to Dr Kathryn Whitty, she will be among 180 women, from 25 countries, who have been chosen as leaders in their fields to ensure the sustainability of our planet. A team of 10 of Kath's family

and friends will be racing 10,000 miles the distance from Dolgellau to Antarctica to raise £10,000. We are very proud of her.

Businesses – we need to continue to shop local and support all our local businesses here in Dolgellau. It is important to support the High Street and the local Bws Y Dref, (Travel to CO OP, Eurospar , Library and the Hospital etc) so many people do not have the luxury of a car and rely on public transport.

Other various confidential meetings

C.83.2022-2023 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Problem with rubbish around the town / activity

Presented: Letter of concern about this from a local resident.

Resolved: Respond by agreeing with this concern and refer to the main bodies who have responsibility for managing this. Also note the Town Council would welcome any ideas / activities that would assist in reducing this problem.

C.84.2022-2023 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Application for Advertisement Consent to display one illuminated fascia sign, one non-illuminated wall-mounted sign and one non-illuminated freestanding sign

Gwyndaf Evans Motors, Arran Road, Dolgellau, LL40 1HS

Application Type: Advertisements

Application Number: **NP5/57/AD212Q**

Grid Reference: 273259 317765

TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS: TO SUPPORT THE APPLICATION.

Advertisement Consent to display one illuminated fascia sign, one non-illuminated wall-mounted sign and two non-illuminated freestanding signs

Unit 1, Lion Yard, Dolgellau. LL40 1DG

Application Type: Advertisements

Application Number: **NP5/57/AD3P**

Grid Reference: 272698 317899

TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS: TO SUPPORT THE APPLICATION.