

DOLGELLAU TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Dolgellau Town Council held from afar on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor John Raghoobar – Mayor
Councillor John Cadwaladr – Deputy Mayor
Councillors Ywain Myfyr; Jo Checkley; Dyfrig Siencyn; Richard Jones; Sue Irlam; Bob Gunton and Sion Edwards

Mr Rhys Williams – Clerk

ALSO PRESENT:
Mr Euan Hampton; Ms Annie Lamb – Welsh Water

C30 .2021/2022 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence received from Councillors Heilyn Williams; Branwen Rhys Dafydd; County Councillor Linda Morgan and Patrick Hollis – member of the Press. A period of absence was confirmed for Councillor Heilyn Williams due to illness.

C31 .2021/2022 DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST PERTAINING TO ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE MEETING

No declarations were received.

C32 .2021/2022 PRESENTATION BY OFFICERS OF WELSH WATER

Presentation received from officers on Welsh Water's programme – see the attached appendix.

The information was received with thanks.

C33 .2021/2022 TO ACCEPT AND CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JULY 6, 2021

The minutes were accepted and confirmed.

C34 .2021/2022 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. C.26.2021/2022.1 Christmas Lights – work done by volunteers
Presented: Received information from the Insurance company that the work done by volunteers is included in the Insurance Policy as long as there is a Risk Assessment in place. For this year, the main work will continue with the current contractor.
Resolved: Accept the information.
2. C.26.2021/2022.2 Ffynnon Fair Wood
Presented: i) Feedback from the Mayor that the work to put up a new gate is in hand.
Presented: ii) Information from the Clerk that residents near the woodland have raised concerns about the condition of some trees.
Resolved: Arrange a site meeting with the Council's contractor for the coppice. The Mayor and Councillors Bob Gunton; Richard Jones and Ywain Myfyr to attend.
3. C.26.2021/2022.3 Town Park - flags
Presented: Feedback Councillors Dyfrig Siencyn and Bob Gunton will give this matter some attention.
Resolved: Accept the information.
4. C.26 2021/2022.4 Problem of dog fouling
Presented: Feedback from Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn Gwynedd Council's intention to increase staffing capacity to give this matter more attention.
Resolved: Accept the information.

C35 .2021/2022 FINANCIAL SITUATION

Received the financial situation from the Clerk and confirmed the following payments:

Cheque No	Date	Name	Description	Sum £
103960	12.07.2021	Sign & Slate Creation Ltd	Skateboard Park Notices	45,00
103961	24.06.2021	Wendy Owen	Translation June 2021	47.64
103962	24.06.2021	David Bradley	Ffynnon Fair Tree Works	£1,850.00
103963	01.07.2021	Tindle Newspapers Lts	Vacant Seats notices	369.60
103964	01.07.2021	Inland Revenue	PAYE May & June 2021	143.34
103965	12.07.2021	Coleg Meirion / Dwyfor	Flowers / Tubs Costs	138.25
103966	25.07.2021	JGS Electrical Lts	Webcam Costs	290.68
103967	25.07.2021	Y Cyng Jo Checkley	Flowers / Tubs reimbursement	25.29
103968	03.08.2021	Rhys Williams	August 2021 Salary / mcaffee & stamps reimbursements	381.95
103969	06.08.2021	Wendy Owen	Translation July 2021	123.43
103970	23.08.2021	Playsafety Ltd	Skatepark Safety Report	474.00
103971	28.08.2021	Vision ICT	Website Maintenance	270.00

Also, authorised the Clerk to update the Council's Bank mandate form. The members who have authority to sign are:
The Mayor; Deputy Mayor; Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn and the Clerk.

C36 .202/2021 SESSION FOR SHARING INFORMATION**1. Reports from Town Council Members**

- a) The Mayor
Town's Skate Park – report from ROSPA that the equipment has reached the end of its life.
Resolved: i) Start on work to get rid of the equipment. Need to arrange a public advertisement asking for declarations of interest from suitable companies.
Resolved: ii) Arrange a press release – Councillor Ywain Myfyr to action.
Resolved: iii) Continue to discuss with relevant officers at Gwynedd Council regarding applying for grants for new equipment – Councillor Sion Edwards to lead.

Problem of rubbish at the rear of 'Boots' has been resolved.
Growth on the exterior of 'Mervinion House' has been cleared.
Met 'Speedo Mick' on his visit to the town on August 26, 2021.
The 'Tour of Britain' will be travelling through the town tomorrow.

- b) Councillor Ywain Myfyr – preparing for the 30-year celebration of Sesiwn Fawr in 2022. New mural on Ty Siamas. Noted disappointment that Gwynedd Council have corresponded with local businesses forcing them to close down open-air locations which were set up during the pandemic.
- c) Councillor Bob Gunton – the Council's 'webcam' is now operational on the Council's website. Noted that perhaps, in the future, another webcam could be set up on the Square?
- ch) Councillor Richard Jones – referred to the 'Pump Track' resource in Machynlleth. Would a similar resource be beneficial to Dolgellau?
Resolved: For Councillor Richard Jones to investigate further.
- d) Councillor John Cadwaladr – volunteered at the leisure centre, as a steward at the vaccine sessions. Also visited the Skate Park.
- dd) Councillor Jo Checkley – assisted with taking individuals to the surgery. Work in hand to re-paint the twinning signs. Work with the town's flowers and tubs is ongoing including re-painting the tubs over the winter. A member of the One Voice Wales panel which will validate next year's new election process. A supply of tree seeds will be received during November 2021. Need to agree a local planting programme – location and type of trees.

2. Reports from Local Gwynedd Councillors

a) Councillor Linda Morgan

The new posters and dog bag dispensers have been a great success in the areas of concern in Finsbury Square, Bottom of Cader Road, Idris Terrace, Baker Street, Marian Road, Well Street, Lombard Street etc. It has helped a great deal and made a big difference. I have been placing new bags for people to pick up in these areas. Bags have also been given to other dog owners in other areas of the town. I replaced the old posters with the new ones in many areas.

Had an enquiry from Y Meirionnydd re the temporary street closures re social distancing rules and the parking spaces by his Hotel - Passed on to Highways.

Had an enquiry from Unicorn re the e mail they have had regarding the temporary street closures. I was very disappointed with Gwynedd Council for not copying me in with this important information. I was told by the Unicorn that a meeting has been arranged with Dyfrig and the businesses to discuss this.

Enquiry re housing estate sign at Nant Y Gader, a request for a new sign including 'cul de sac' to stop visitors calling here by mistake. Passed on to Highways.

Enquiry re traffic up Cader Road - Passed on to Highways

Enquiry re parking both sides of the road leading to Cefn Rodyn, one side is no problem but both sides are unacceptable. I have been told they are cars from holiday lets - passed on to Highways.

Enquiry regarding heavy goods vehicle sign, this enquiry has been ongoing for months, a great concern here. Last week a lorry went down to the town as far as Ty Siamas by old J V Morgan Shop and was stuck.

The driver of the large lorry had to reverse all the way back up Finsbury Square, pass Idris Terrace up Cader Road and take a sharp turn to go back along the Fairbourne Road. This is an accident waiting to happen.

As I have said before, some of the large lorries come down past the Henfaes Flats and end up reversing back up the road to the junction and reverse on to the main road. Very dangerous. We need different, better signs before they turn in to the Dolgellau Road coming from Fairbourne Junction.- Passed on to Highways again.

Enquiry re Coed Y Bryn Estate - they are asking for their road to be adopted by Gwynedd Council. It is in good condition at the moment and the residents have paid to upgrade street lights to LED - Passed on to Highways.

Vaccination Clinic is 11th September 10.30 - 3.30
Treflan Surgery Pwllheli
1st and 2nd doses Pfizer

Vaccination Clinic 10th September 8.30am - 7.30pm
Dolgellau Leisure Centre
1st and 2nd doses Pfizer

Promotional Packs for employers - <https://gov.wales/covid-19-vaccination-promotional-pack-employers>
For information

No Changes to COVID Rules. Review again 16th September by Welsh Government.
Big Concern with numbers in Dolgellau as you all know.

Had a meeting with Bethan Wyn Roberts, Community Connector for South Meirionnydd
Re Age Cymru
Adult Social Services
Home Care etc etc
Further meetings to come
A Visit to Bontnewydd Age Cymru Centre planned in next 2 weeks

Dolgellau Hospital now Red Zone all patients were moved out to other areas. Now has Covid patients

Still promoting the Town Bus which is an essential service for many people to get from A to B.
I am sure when the COVID numbers come down, more people will use this essential service.

Hoping to attend an event for International Day of Older Persons on 1st October.
Will let you know the details when I receive them.

Continuing to promote local businesses on social media and Facebook Story

I was pleased to see Caffi Sgwar open, as I mentioned before. Good luck to Osian Llyr.
So pleased to attend the opening of the 'Present from India' shop in Eldon Square. This is a beautiful shop, so colourful, well designed, lovely people and a very nice addition to our town centre. Good Luck to them

Another new Business is the Spanish delicatessen, Diana's. Again, another lovely shop, with specialised Spanish foods, and top-quality products cheeses, hams, chorizo, olives etc. This is an additional

business for them as they have the Tapas at Tafarn Y Gader in the town which has won many awards. I also visited them and wished them luck.

As you know the owners of Riva are retiring after 20 years trading and service in the town. New people are taking over in October and they are local which is great news. The Business is To Let. Best wishes must go to Joe and Wendy on their retirement. And a Big Thank You.

Housing issues are on-going as you know there are many people on the waiting list for Social Housing.

Met an inspirational gentleman called Speedomick Michael Cullen who is walking 2000 miles for Charity, he came through Dolgellau and was so pleased to meet so many children he was brilliant with them, he was very pleased to see our Mayor who presented him with a cheque for his Charity.

I welcomed him and gave him a Welsh Flag. He is today receiving a Citizens Award for Charity. In London on the Thames
Congratulations Michael

Enquiries re weeds and overgrowth on roadsides in the town passed on to Adra, Cynefin and Highways.

Problems with parking in Penbrynglas and on pavements in the North side of town reported and ongoing here.

Good news all Businesses very busy in the town, we are so lucky to have so many unique shops, cafes, Tea Rooms, Pubs, Hotels, and Restaurants etc all providing First Class Service. I am told every day by visitors that they love our little town, and enjoy the many walks and stunning views.

Also dealt with confidential concerns.

b) Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn

Successful in extending the right for businesses to keep the open-air areas open until the end of September 2021.

It is likely a local application will be submitted to the County Council for:

- Pedestrianizing parts of the town permanently
- Probably via the Discovering Dolgellau Group

Numbers of Covid cases in the County are on the increase.

Concern regarding the current lack of response to complaints from the public by Council staff.

Number of second homes and house prices are a concern.

The Llanbedr by-pass scheme has been secured to move ahead.

Local Development Plan – the review process is a matter of concern.

Questions / Comments

C. Concern about the under occupancy of houses / flats in the town.

Q. What will be the future of Ffordd yr Arran school if Gwynedd Council's planning appeal fails?

C37 .2021/2022 CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received as information:

- i) 'Tour of Britain' Information poster
- ii) Welsh Government – Consultation on qualifications of Clerks in Wales Regulations
- iii) Eryri Community Fund Information
- iv) Public Services Ombudsman for Wales- -Updated Code of Conduct
Resolved: To propose the adoption of this new version at the Council's October 2021 meeting.

C38.2021/2022 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Tynnu dormer to fflat ar y drychiad cefn ac adfer proffil gwreiddiol y to gan gynnwys 5 ffenestri to newydd, ffenestri a drysau newydd, tynnu simnai ar y drychiad cefn a dihangfa dân newydd ar y drychiad Dwyreiniol

Gwesty Fronolau, Dolgellau. LL40 2PS

Removal of flat roof dormer on rear elevation and reinstate original roof profile including 5 new rooflights, new and replacement windows and doors, removal of chimney on rear elevation and new fire escape on East elevation

Fronolau Hotel, Dolgellau. LL40 2PS

Math Caniatad: Llawn Application Type: Full

Rhif Cais / Application Number: **NP5/57/205H**

Cyfeiriad Grid / Grid Reference: 274911 317561

**SYLWADAU CYNGOR TREF DOLGELLAU TOWN COUNCIL
COMMENTS:
DIM GWRTHWYNEBIAD / NO OBJECTION**