

DOLGELLAU TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Dolgellau Town Council Committee held on Tuesday, July 2, 2024, at the Free Library, Dolgellau at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Ywain Myfyr (Mayor)
Councillor Bob Gunton (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors John Cadwaladr, Nia Evans, Jo Checkley, Peter Jones, Peter Barnes, Ray Peters, Sion Edwards, Heilyn Williams, Branwen Rhys Dafydd
Mr Rhys Williams – Clerk

C.26.2024-2025 PUBLIC SESSION
Approximately thirty members of the public.

C.27.2024-2025 APOLOGIES
Apologies for absence received from Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn

C.28.2024-2025.1 DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST PERTAINING TO ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE MEETING
No declarations were received.

C.28.2024-2025.2 DOLGELLAU TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION SCHEME – Jessica John and Rhian George from Gwynedd Council in attendance
Presentation given by the above on this project. Explained, money is available from the Welsh Government with this project, to fund opportunities and studies. The source of the Welsh Government funding is through the 'Ardal ni' programme to support projects. Jessica John is the local contact for the project. Jessica has already held local visionary sessions and several ideas have come forward i.e. the fabric of some buildings in the town / environmental issues / hydro / leisure and welfare issues.

This project has a timeline of between 10 and 15 years.
Will need to set up a sub-group / committee to work with Jessica and any other relevant officers.

Resolved: Set up a strategic sub-group from the Council for this, being: the mayor, deputy mayor, Branwen Rhys Dafydd, Jo Checkley, Peter Barnes, and Jessica John.

C.29.2024-2025 TO RECEIVE AND CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JUNE 4, 2024
The above minutes were accepted and confirmed.

C.30.2024-2025 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. **Representatives on the Council's Sub-committees on external organisations**

Resolved: Delay this item until the vacant Council seats have been filled.

1.1 **MATTERS RAISED FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES, IN BLUE:**

1. **Pen y Banc footpath**

Presented: Further details from Gwynedd Council on the legal work to correctly adopt the above footpath.

Resolved: Accept the information. This item can now be deleted from the Agenda.

2. **Permanent Memorial - Llyn Penmaen**

Presented: Messages of pressure to ensure this project goes ahead.

Resolved: For Councillor Nia Wyn Evans and Branwen Rhys Dafydd to lead on this.

3. **A470 footpath between Cwt Gwyn / Ffridd Arw Woods to Tanyfron**

Presented: No further information on this.

Resolved: Accept the information. Keep on the agenda.

4. **Parking problems between the HSBC bank and the Hospice Shop in the Square**

Presented: No progress on this matter at the moment. It will receive attention following the local consultation.

Resolved: Accept the information. Keep on the agenda.

5. **Community Involvement Programme**

Presented: Update on several action points from the October 2023 meeting of the Council, being:

i) **Arrange investigation to establish a specific Notice Board for the Council:**

Presented: Feedback from the Clerk that he is processing pre-application advice prior to presenting full application. Investigation has gone ahead regarding possible design based on a Traditional Notice Board.

Resolved: Accept the information. The Clerk and the current Mayor to work together on this.

C.31.2024-2025

FINANCIAL SITUATION

The financial situation was received from the Clerk.

C.32.2024-2025

SESSION FOR SHARING INFORMATION AND REPORTS

Reports from Town Council members

i) **Councillor Ywain Myfyr - Mayor**

This week staff from Menter Môn and Gwynedd Council are working on completing the local network this week. I understand the work will be completed by Friday. I presume the network will be live at that time.

Some time ago in my report I drew attention to the drains that are overflowing when it rains, as far as I can see no work has been done to empty these drains to date. Has the County Council responded?

Some business have noted that no information was provided that as many as 700 were walking for Alzheimer in Dolgellau on Saturday. Many of the public houses / cafes said that if they had received notice they would have employed extra staff to cope with the demand. I must admit, I did not know about the size of the event until Friday evening.

I must admit I was very disappointed that Gwynedd Council traffic wardens had taken advantage of several of the walkers and placed a parking ticket on their cars in the Marian. This quite often happens when there is an event in town and it does not present the town in a good light and appears unwelcoming.

I was recently present at two interesting presentations regarding the town, being Ardal Ni and Dolgellau Town Centre Scheme. Both presentations were quite similar and amazing. I am confident finance will be available to carry out these schemes and they won't just be talking shops. In sync with this scheme – the deputy Mayor and myself have been discussing and are requesting the Council's support to put a 5-year plan in place. Where are we today, where we would like to be in five years? I suggest the way forward is to set up a small sub-committee to look at our priorities as a Council. Perhaps the work could start over the summer months so that we have a skeleton of a plan in place by September.

Perhaps you have noticed the banners advertising the Sesiwn Fawr are up on 8 of the town's lamp-poles. The banners are on brackets ordered by the Sesiwn Committee and were put up by County Council staff. The brackets will stay on the poles and are available to be used for any event – Christmas, Y Gader Race, Carnival etc. It's pleasing to the eye to have some colour on the access to the town. Perhaps, we as a Council, could add to the number of brackets and can use them to draw attention to the town's attractions and area.

In mentioning Sesiwn Fawr, the weekend is nearly here. Activities will start on Friday evening, 18th July and end on Sunday 21st. The Square will be closed to traffic on Saturday the 20th between 09:00 and 02:00 Sunday morning. Several meetings have been held with the police and the licensing authority and both are happy with the arrangements. We appreciate the Town Council's support and on Thursday evening we would like to invite you, as Councillors, to a small reception at *** at 06.30 before joining us in the audience for the opening concert at St Mary's Church. Meinir Gwilyn and the group "Pedair" will be performing.

The report was accepted.

Resolved: Discuss the town's parking arrangement over the summer at the September 2024 meeting of the Council.

- i) **Councillor Bob Gunton** – awaiting quotes for the new artificial 2024 Christmas tree, including a price from Gwynedd Council for anchor points for the tree. The Mayor and the Clerk are looking into a resolution to 'Hybrid Meetings.'
- ii) **Councillor Nia Evans** – work on 'Lle yn y Dref' continues to go from strength to strength. Also engaged with the Dementia Group in the context of this venture.
- iii) **Councillor Jo Checkley** – work ongoing with Felin Uchaf Community Garden and maintain the town's flowers.

- v) **Councillor John Cadwaladr** – work supporting ‘Lle yn y Dref’ and the annual meeting of Trustees of Dr Daniel Williams. Asked the Clerk to send a letter of thanks to the owner of ‘Torrent’ Hotel.
- vi) **Councillor Peter Barnes** – work arranging the content of the ‘Local Contacts in the town.’
- vii) **Councillor Branwen Rhys Dafydd** – work as the Council’s press officer updating contact details for town Councillors.
- viii) **Councillor Sion Edwards** - ESTYN report on Meirion / Dwyfor College is now public. Encouraging the Council to play more of a part in advertising the events in the town.

C.33.2024–2025 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Restoration of house and outbuildings, internal and external alterations including conversion of outbuilding to hobby, storage, and boiler rooms incidental to the residential property, erection of extension, formation of hard standings and the change of use of land to residential curtilage and the erection of bat barn. Plas-yn-Brithdir, Dolgellau. LL40 2PW

Application Type: Full
Application Number: NP5/57/LB284B
Grid Reference: 273503.6 317134.7

Listed building consent for the restoration of house and outbuildings, internal and external alterations including conversion of outbuilding to hobby, storage, and boiler rooms incidental to the residential property, erection of extension, formation of hard standings and the change of use of land to residential curtilage and the erection of bat barn. Plas-yn-Brithdir, Dolgellau. LL40 2PW

Application Type: Listed Building Consent
Application Number: NP5/57/LB284A
Grid Reference: 273503.6 317134.7

**OBSERVATIONS OF DOLGELLAU TOWN COUNCIL ON THE ABOVE TWO APPLICATIONS ARE:
THE COUNCIL SUPPORTS BOTH THE ABOVE ON THE BASIS OF THE HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE OF THIS BUILDING TO THE TOWN AND ALSO THE TIME THIS PLANNING APPLICATION HAS TAKEN TO PROCESS**