

DOLGELLAU TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Dolgellau Town Council Committee held on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at the Free Library, Dolgellau at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Bob Gunton – Deputy Mayor - Chairing
Councillors John Cadwaladr, Nia Evans, Jo Checkley, Dyfrig Siencyn,
Peter Jones, Peter Barnes.
Mr Rhys Williams – Clerk

C.18.2024-2025 PUBLIC SESSION
No member of the public present.

C.19.2024-2025 APOLOGIES
Apologies for absence received from Councillor Ywain Myfyr (Mayor),
Branwen Rhys Dafydd, Sion Edwards, Ray Peters and Heilyn Williams.

C.20.2024-2025 DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST PERTAINING TO ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE MEETING
No declarations received.

C.21.2024-2025 TO RECEIVE AND CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MAY 7, 2024
The above minutes were accepted and confirmed.

C.22.2024-2025 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. **Representatives on the Council's Sub-committees and External Organisations**
Decided: Delay this item until the Council's July 2024 meeting.

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

1. **Pen y Banc footpath**
Presented: Letter and plan from Gwynedd Council's Environment Department setting out intention to change the official right of way map to include the above.
Decided: Accept the information and support the addition. Also agreed to draw attention to the fact there is a private access to the house 'Awelfa'.
2. **Permanent Memorial – Penmaen Lake**
Presented: Update from Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn that he continues to discuss this matter with the National Park.
Decided: Accept the information.
3. **A470 path between Cwt Gwyn / Ffridd Arw Wood to Tanyfron**
Presented: Update from Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn explaining that Gwynedd Council will look at the speed restriction situation on this stretch of road. Also considering creating an unofficial path for pedestrians along this stretch
Decided: Accept the information. Keep on the agenda.
4. **Parking problems between HSBC bank and the Hospice Shop in the Square**
Presented: No progress on this at the moment. The matter will receive attention following local consultation.
Decided: 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:

i) **Arrange an inspection to set up specific Notice Boards for the Council:**

Presented: Feedback from the Clerk that he is processing a request for pre-planning advice prior to full planning application. Research ongoing regarding a possible design based on a Traditional Notice Board.

Decided: Accept the information. The Clerk and the current Mayor are working together on this.

ii) **New Twinning Signs**

Presented: Information that 2 x further signs are now in place.

Decided: Accept the information and Councillor Peter Barnes was thanked for this.

C.23.2024-2025 FINANCIAL SITUATION AND RESULT OF THE INTERNAL AUDIT FOR THE 2023-2024 FINANCIAL YEAR

The financial situation was received from the Clerk and the above internal audit was approved. The Annual Form for 2023–2024 was confirmed. The Clerk to forward it to Audit Wales and arrange for a Public Notice.

C.24.2024-2025 SESSION FOR SHARING INFORMATION AND REPORTS

1. Reports from Town Council members

i) **Councillor Bob Gunton** – waiting for quotes for the new artificial Christmas tree for Christmas 2024, including a price from Gwynedd Council for ‘anchor points’ for the tree. Progress with extending the safety bollards near Bodlondeb / Ffordd y Gader junction, and dealt with complaint about a sunken surface drain.

ii) **Councillor Nia Evans** – work on ‘Lle yn y Dref’ continues to go from strength to strength. Also had an opportunity to visit the repair work to the old ‘Wilkins’ shop - excellent repair and design work. Possible opportunity to jointly employ one post for this building and the Free Library.

iii) **Councillor Jo Checkley** – 08.05.24 One Voice Wales

- Interesting talk from Llais, who have taken over from Community Health Council. They have extra powers to ensure hospital boards do listen to complaints and improve medical/social care. Contact details 01248 679284/01978 356178, northwalesenquiries@llaiscymru.org.
- Town councillors' payments of £154pa, many members when polled, are refusing payments as they insist, they are volunteers not employees.
- we will lose 4 trains from the Cambrian Coast provision this winter.
- air ambulance petition, if they can collect 10,000 signatures, it means discussion must take place in the Senedd about the removal from North Wales.

12.05.24 50yrs Barmouth Council

Attended church service and food to celebrate 50yrs of Barmouth Council and the exhibition celebrating the history of Barmouth.

23.05.24 Is the Cost-of-Living Crisis Over - Zoom talk organised by One Voice Wales very informative and interesting talk from the 2 councils who won awards for helping their residents during the last couple of years. This included different events such as skateboarding lessons to country and western day and coach trips for the elderly. Visit their websites and look at the award information.
Blaenavon Town Council (6000+ residents)
Darren Valley community council (2000+ residents)

03.06.24 Dolgellau Partnership

- a. model railway - due to not having a room to display, the railway is in storage and waiting for another group to offer to take it over. Bala railways is the main contender.
- b. Dolgellau Park - a teenage boy was badly injured climbing over the fencing into the pre-school play area to retrieve his football.
- c. Quaker trail - the new leaflet is still being written. Some of the boards have been refurbished, but due to costs will not be replaced, instead a QR code will be used to provide information.
- d. Community garden - Kelly is the new enthusiastic main contact. She is hoping to provide a covered community seated area and a growing area for youngsters, alongside walks, free vegetables for local residents and wild areas for wildlife. They have many volunteers, grants in progress and Kelly offers to help the elderly/disabled with their garden care by offering free grass strimming and hedge cutting for a donation towards the upkeep of the garden. Ring 07468 568821 to arrange.
- e. Hydro - Dyfrig Siencyn is working hard to resurrect the hydro scheme.
- f. old photos - there will be a display of old Dolgellau in August or September.

Also attended training and cared for flowers.
Helped another severe complaint about medical care at Bangor hospital.

- iv) **Councillor Peter Jones** – regarding re-building part of the wall near Ffynnon Fair wood, a price will soon be available from the owner of 4 Bodlondeb. **Also agreed** for Councillor Nia Evans to send contact information for the local wall contractors to the Clerk.
- v) **Councillor John Cadwaladr** – work supporting 'Lle yn y Dre' activities. Meeting of Trustees of Dr Daniel Williams. Request for the Clerk to contact One Voice Wales regarding future arrangements for 'en block' training for the Council.

- vi) **Councillor Peter Barnes** – the two new twinning signs are now in place. Recently interviewed the Police Commissioner who is happy to meet with the Council. Decided to keep contacting the local Police. Assisted with clearing work following the carnival. Decided to send a letter of thanks to the Carnival committee.
- vii) **Councillor Nia Evans** – need to arrange discussions regarding employing an individual to undertake the work of co-ordinating ‘Lle yn y Dre’ activities. Possible to receive an income from the local Co-op grant source. An application for further equipment for Lle yn y Dre events in hand.
Need to recognise the two local children who helped save the arm of a child during a recent incident in the town park.
The mayor to arrange a certificate of thanks to be put in a frame for them both.

2 **Reports from Gwynedd Councillors**

i) Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn

Following the recent announcement for a General Election, Gwynedd Council are currently following the ‘Purdah’ rules. Meeting taken place with several Senedd Minister including Julie Jones, Minister for Housing and Planning and Ken Skates, Minister for Transport and North Wales. ‘Levelling Up’ and ‘Arfer’ grants come to an end in March 2025.
Work on Article 4 being delayed due to the it being contentious during the General Election period.

The reports were received with thanks.

C.25.2024 – 2025 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Listed Building Consent for internal works to combine flats 9 & 10 on the first floor into a single dwelling

Flats 9 & 10, Golden Lion, Dolgellau. LL40 1DN
Type: Listed Building Consent
Application Number: NP5/57/LB167S
Grid Reference: 272773 317891

DOLGELLAU TOWN COUNCIL’S COMMENTS

The Council noted concerns that this application would result in the loss of one living accommodation for the town.

Conversion of second floor office to 3-bedroom flat.

Victoria Buildings, Meyrick Street, Dolgellau, LL40 1LN
Application Type: Full
Application Number: NP5/57/T537B
Grid Reference: 272847 317735

DOLGELLAU TOWN COUNCIL’S COMMENTS

The Council supports this application.