

DOLGELLAU TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Dolgellau Town Council held on Tuesday, January 6 2026, at the Free Library, Dolgellau at 7.00 p.m.

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

C.62.2025-2026 PUBLIC SESSION

Nothing to report / discuss

C.63.2025-2026 APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillors Llinos Rowlands - due to a family bereavement. (Letter of condolence to be sent). Ray Peters, Jo Checkley.

C.64.2025-2026 DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST ARISING FROM ANY INFORMATION RELATING TO THE MEETING

No declaration of interest received,

C.65.2025-2026 TO ACCEPT AND CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 2, 2025

Accepted and confirmed the above minutes.

C.66.2025-2026 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Dolgellau Town Centre Regeneration / New Dolgellau Partnership Structure / Membership

Presented: Represented from the December 2025 Meeting:

New Directors need to be appointed together with an administrative post. The job description of the administrative post requires more detail together with agreement as to who is responsible for line manager duties for this post

Agreement from the Town Council is needed as to how much it is willing to contribute to funding the New Partnership - but For Councillor Dyfrig Siencen to provide financial details relating to the current / new Partnership, particularly the financial situation relating to the Town park Element of the Partnership

Proposed: new Partnership constitution requires 3 Town Councillors to put forward their names to be members. Next Partnership Meeting is on February 2, 2026 at 6.00 p.m at the Free Library. Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn to advertise / appeal the need for new governors

2. Permanent Memorial – Penmaenpool Tragedy - Permanent Memorial

Presented:

Resolved: Confirmed the acceptance of the EHS Company quotation of £6966.00 inc Vat. A further cost of £1736.00 will be incurred for the memorial Plaque itself as agreed with Snowdonia National Park.

Also agreed to allocate £500 towards the cost of meet and greet on the day.

3. Public Entertainment Licence for the Square

Presented: Nothing to report at the moment. –Apologies received from Gwynedd Council officer due to weather conditions.

Resolved: Accept this information.

4. Ardal Ni Grant - Flowers / Tubs Grant application:

Presented: Details by Cllr Bob Gunton of an update on developments namely: Planting of Daffodils on By Pass is currently not an option, but work is in hand to arrange a meeting on site, other areas though need to be found for the daffodil Bulbs. Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn to discuss other planting areas with ADRA

Resolved: To receive the information.

5. 'Pumptrack' Project

Presented: Feedback from Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn that a feasibility study needs to be undertaken to progress this project. **Grant finance from Gwynedd Council may be available during 2026 – 2027 financial year**

Resolved: For Cllr Siencyn and Cllr Bob Gunton to follow up on this matters, namely feasibility study and a Potential visit to Rhayadr Pumptrack .

6. Coed Ffynnon Fair

Presented: Damaged has occurred to gates at a neighbouring property

Costs for replacements are in hand and to be considered

Resolved: To accept the information.

7. CCTV Facilities in the Town

Presented: No progress on this matter since the last meeting Regarding the transfer and access of the current CCTV equipment to the Police who have finance to upgrade and enhance the current System

Resolved: For the Clerk To contact Cllr Heilyn Williams to progress this matter

C.67.2025-2026

FINANCIAL SITUATION

Received and confirmed the financial situation from the Clerk

Total Current Balances are: £111600

C.68.2025-2026

SESSION FOR SHARING INFORMATION AND REPORTS

1. Pre Presented Written Reports from Town Council members

i) Councillor Bob Gunton (Mayor)

Mayor's Report December 2025 Happy New Year to you all. December has been a busy month for the Clerk and me, 1 Contact has been made with Alys of the grant department to finalise our submissions and retrieve the grant money. 2 Coed Ffynon Fawr has again been in the forefront of our minds, with yet another tree falling and hitting the gate of Bryn Mawr. The neighbours have now expressed their concern about the trees and, in particular, 3 very straggly Beech trees. Consultation with David Bradly took place, and the three trees have been topped, thus reducing their height and the chances of them being blown over. The tree that was

causing concern with Sian Lee has been removed. 3 I made contact with Rhyader Town Council Clerk regarding their pump track. Unfortunately, the clerk is not the same clerk who was in post during the planning and development stages. I have a promise that she will find the relevant councillor so we can quiz them over the procedure. 4 Worcester Council have just released the news on their second pump track, and construction is due to commence very shortly. I had a conversation with the councillor responsible, and although guarded in some of his answers was helpful. 5 Christmas lights were once again expanded, and with the addition of lights donated by Clive Evans Family, brightened up the corner of Smithfield Square. I have heard favourable comments on the lamppost lights, so am pleased it went down well. We suffered some damage to the main tree during the storm. This was caused by the fastenings of the fence around the tree failing and snapping one strand of lights. Ray, Martin Levy, and I found a more secure method that will be used in future. A string of lights has also failed at the Ship Hotel. We normally have a failure rate of three to four strands a year but when you consider some of the lights are now six years old, not bad really. With your approval, I intend to expand the lights in the square by including the shops at the top of the square, and make a start down Smithfield Street, depending on how far our money will stretch. It has been arranged for the lights to be turned off on the twelfth night. 6 Liz and I have discussed the new Town Council biodiversity project and will present our ideas to you at the next meeting. Help will be required from you and others in planting bulbs we have 4000 to get in the ground before the end of January. 7 I inspected the flag poles in the park and found that both halyards are frayed and in need of replacement. Contact with the SMP Mabon regarding the roundabouts, which appear dull, and Dolgellau Town Council wishes to plant them to make them more visually appealing. He will make contact and arrange a meeting between the Welsh Assembly and us .

Late Night Christmas Shopping Arrangements – Need for myself and Nia (Deputy Mayor) to discuss with clrs. Jo Checkley, Llinos Rowlands and the Dolgellau Carnival Committee (Annabel Louise)

ii) **Councillor Nia Evans (deputy Mayor)**

Lle yn y Dref has started offering an additional session on Monday afternoons. It would be great if you could help promote this service. Hot chocolate and a cup of tea between 3:30 and 4:30pm – do drop in if you can!

- We have received several requests and had conversations with local residents regarding the library being open on late shopping night. There appears to have been quite a bit of confusion about the stalls. The hard work that goes into organising an event of this kind is greatly appreciated, but moving into 2026 it may be necessary to ensure clear communication regarding locations, which organisation is involved, and who is responsible for what.

- **Penmaenpool Tragedy** – I am grateful to Branwen for coordinating the discussions regarding moving forward with obtaining quotations. Rhys has already shared the news with the

stonemason. As a result, I have confirmed with Derec Jones that we are now in a position to move on to the next stage of the arrangements, and the wording that will appear on the stone will need to be reviewed (Branwen has offered to support with this work – many thanks to her).

In addition, I kindly ask that you begin to think about the unveiling service for the plaque, which will be held on Wednesday 22 July 2026. Organising work will be required to ensure that this is a dignified service in memory of those who lost their lives.

- We have received several complaints from local residents regarding parking that continues to take place by HSBC. We are confident this will be resolved as a result of the flower planting that is planned.

C.69.2025-2026 REPORTS FROM GWYNEDD COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Gwynedd Council Matters - Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn

Point of interest regarding general problems relating to poor condition of drains in the Town which need replacing or upgrading. A pilot scheme for these replacement works is to commence 2026/2027 financial year

C.70.2025-2026 PLANNING MATTERS

Application Number: NP5/57/1176H Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) and deletion of Condition 3 (Preclusion of shelters, greenhouses, etc.) attached to Planning Permission NP5/57/1176 dated 10/11/2023 Dolfeurig Centre, Dolgellau. LL40 1EL Grid Reference: 272653 317842 – No Objection