

DOLGELLAU TOWN COUNCIL

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

PRESENT: Councillor John Raghoobar – Mayor
Councillors Jo Checkley; Bob Gunton; John Cadwaladr; Peter Jones, Peter Barnes, Nia Smith, Sion Edwards, Dyfrig Siencyn, Ray Peters.

Mr Rhys Williams – Clerk

C67.2022/2023 APOLOGIES
Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Branwen Rhys Dafydd; Ywain Myfyr – Deputy Mayor, Richard Jones, Heilyn Williams

C68.2022/2023 DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST PERTAINING TO ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE MEETING

The following declarations were received:

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

C69.2022/2023 TO RECEIVE AND CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 3, 2023

The above minutes were accepted and confirmed.

C70.2022/2023 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- C28.2022/2023 – Felin Uchaf Wildlife Garden**
Presented: Feedback from the Mayor and Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn on the way forward to set up an agreement on use for the new volunteers. Standard agreement to be formed in the near future.
Resolved: Accept the report.
- C28.2022/2023.3 – Ffynnon Fair Wood**
Resolved: To take advantage on putting a gate in the new wall to facilitate access for contractors. Width of the gate to be Resolved soon.
Resolved: Order a 10-foot-wide gate.
- Permanent Memorial - Llynpenmaen Tragedy**
Presented: Explanation there is currently no progress.
Resolved: Re-visit the situation in March 2023.
- Status of the path near Penybanc**
Presented: Update by the Clerk on arrangements for presenting 'DDMO' adjustment to Gwynedd Council.
Resolved: Write to the owner of 'Y Fron' to ask them to repair the wall which has fallen across the above path.
- Members' Training scheme**
Presented: Reminder from the Clerk for member to present details of virtual courses to follow through a programme arranged by One Voice Wales.
Resolved: For the Clerk to share again details of the courses available in February/March 2023.

6. **Football field – Lease for Dolgellau Football Club**
Presented: Details and suggestions on the above by Law Company Guthrie Jones & Jones for each member, following a recent meeting between the Company, the Mayor, and the Clerk.
Resolved: Accept and action the 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 ear. Period of the Lease is 10 years.

C71.2022/2023 FINANCIAL SITUATION

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

Date	Chq No	Name	Description	Sum £
01.01.2023	104069	Rhys Williams	January 2023 & Stamps	498.76
20.12.2022	104079	Mayor's account	Void Cheque	0.00
20.12.2022	104071	RJ Electrics	Christmas Lights	1515.00
03.01.2022	104072	Mayor's account	Mayor's Account	750.00
25.01.2023	104073	Inland Revenue	PAYE December 2022	189.10
07.02.2023	104074	Tindle Newspapers	Public Adverts, casual vacancies and xmas Message	756.00
07.02.2023	104075	Rhys Williams	February 2023 Salary 2023	483.56

Presented: Minutes of the Finance sub-committee held on January 10, 2023

Resolved i) Approve the Minutes, including setting a Precept of £77,000 for the 2023-2024 financial year and approve the financial contributions to external organisations as noted.

Resolved ii) Increase the Council's contribution to the Free Library to £25,000 and increase the Council's contribution to the Trustees of the Marian to £14,000

Resolved: iii) Include discussion with the local organiser who is trying to get more defibrillators for the town in the March 2023 meeting of the Council.

C72.2022/2023 SESSION FOR SHARING INFORMATION AND REPORTS

1. Reports from Town Council members

- i) **Councillor John Raghoobar, the Mayor**
3/1/2023 Chaired Council meeting
9/1/2023 Meeting with Clerk and Nansi Thirsk
10/1/2023 Chaired Finance Sub-committee
19 and 26 Lle'n y Dre. Free Library
21/1/2023 Site meeting Wildlife Garden Felin Uchaf Heilyn, Dyfrig, Rhys Williams, Martin and Kelly Jones and Sam Hunt
6/2/2023 Dolgellau Partnership meeting
- ii) **Councillor John Cadwaladr** – work on the 'Lle yn y Dref' project. Thanks to member Nia Smith for leading on this. Attention on the need to reduce echoes in rooms at the Free Library? - **Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn to enquire with Gwynedd Council regarding specialist advice.** Meeting regarding the Marian's pavilion with the architect. Meeting of Trustees of Dr Daniel Williams

- iii) **Councillor Jo Checkley** – work on ‘Lle yn y Dref.’ Meeting regarding the Marian’s pavilion with the architect. Matters about CCTV
- iv) **Councillor Bob Gunton** – work regarding water damage to the Marian’s pavilion. Insurance claim submitted.
- v) **Councillor Sion Edwards** – adapting t the public survey on the Skatepark site/equipment.
- vi) **Councillor Peter Jones** – complaint regarding dog fouling bins being full. Noted that the pile of soil on the Marian will be cleared by the Rugby Club.
- vii) **Councillor Peter Barnes** – joined seminar on Independence for Wales. Companies and businesses in town have received an invitation to join the European craft fair in Guerande. Next circular of ‘Sibrydion’ has been published, would be grateful of information on any future local events from members so that they can be included. Noted the need to re-erect the twinning signs.
Resolved: Re start the Council’s Twinning Sub-committee and hold a review of member of the Council’s sub-committees at the March 2023 meeting.

Received the reports with thanks.

2. **Reports from Gwynedd Council’s local Councillors**

Councillor Linda Morgan

February 2023 - Council Report for Dolgellau Town Council (Via e mail)

Congratulations to the 3 new Councillors, Cllr Peter Jones, Cllr Peter Barnes and Cllr Ray Peters this is great news I hope you all enjoy the work as Dolgellau Town Councillors a very rewarding job, best wishes to you all.

I would like to congratulate Cllr Bob Gunton for the lovely display of Xmas lights during the festive season and the provision of the 2 Xmas trees. Well done Bob a great achievement. Thanks must go to Dr Peter Barnes and Sue Barnes from Dipsy Dragon Shop for organising the Best Decorated Window Competition.

The now Annual event at the Rugby Club organized by Bethan Wyn Roberts for the Age Cymru Gwynedd and Mon , Gwynedd Council Adult Health and Well-being was a great success again and they provided a total of 176 Xmas meals on the 2 days at the Club and delivered some meals out to the Community. Bethan was successful with a Grant for this Project from various sources. Thanks must go to Merfyn and Gwenno Burrough Clwb Rygbi Dolgellau for providing the meals and their team of helpers and the volunteers who delivered the meals out to the community.

Xmas / Services

I attended a Carol Service at St Mary’s Church and a United Carol Service at the Catholic Church

I attended the Barmouth Late Night Shopping, which was a brilliant well organized event, it made the ITV News

Air Ambulance

Supported Andrew O Regan with his petition for the Air Ambulance at Martins Shop. Sent it to Andrew on 6th January but Petition is still going on line. A lot of work done by Andrew here with the Campaign. He needs to be congratulated.

Wales Air Ambulance provide an outstanding air ambulance service to everyone in Wales and is a unique Third Sector and Public Sector partnership between the Wales Air Ambulance Charity and NHS Wales. They deliver innovative emergency treatment across Wales and are so important in the rural areas in Wales with their lifesaving service. They have banners to help raise awareness to suit all budgets, just in case you are interested as a Town Council

Finance

Attended a Briefing on the Financial Situation Gwynedd Council, this was a Zoom Meeting 26th January

Businesses

I promoted Eich lle Prynu'n Lleol, Buy Local Your Place over Xmas to support local businesses.

It is good to see the Old Nurses Shop now taken over by Anheddau It is a not for profit organisation that support adults with support needs in the community. Anheddau have been working for 30yrs. There are about 10 staff in Dolgellau and about 60 in Meirionnydd Branch this is excellent news for the town. The office looks very nice and the staff have a nice view of Eldon Square.

I hope things improve for all the Businesses in the town, we need more people to shop local and save the high street. The visitors to the town support all the businesses really well and so many compliments from them for the eating places we have in the town.

Congratulations must go to Gareth Torrent who has now taken over the Cross Keys, I wish him well.

I visit many of the Businesses and many are so concerned about the town being so quiet and with the added costs. We must continue to support them all and promote them on Social Media.

4 businesses have closed with another one for sale now and another one will be for sale in March

Yr Hen Efail Tearooms Back open after decorating – Good News
Late Val Wilkins Shop – Work started Good news

Dog Mess in the Town

There are a lot of problems with dog mess throughout the town again, especially on the pavements on Arran Road, Smithfield Street, Finsbury Square, (the pavement opposite The Indian Restaurant is a big concern) Eldon Square etc etc. I have reported this problem. I would be grateful for your help. We need times and days so that the Warden can monitor the situation. If any of you have any details could you let me know. Is it possible for you to also write to the Council to say we need the situation monitored.

Croeso Cynnes locations

As you know the Warm Welcome scheme was launched in October to offer people warm shelter, for free. It is more important than ever that people know about Croeso Cynnes locations as the increase in energy costs bites and people have to make difficult decisions between buying essentials and being able to pay the bills.

All locations are on the Croeso Cynnes map on Gwynedd Council's website [Warm Spaces - Croeso Cynnes \(llyw.cymru\)](http://www.llyw.cymru). I did notice that

the Free library was not on the Map but the Rugby Club was. I have told a couple of people. I know the Town Council Scheme is well advertised thanks to Cllr Nia Evans

An organisation or business owner who wants to offer a suitable and warm space can also register through the website.

Gwynedd Council has worked with Menter Môn to set up the scheme. A number of Croeso Cynnes locations are provided by the Libraries. I attended the Croeso Cynnes at the Rygby Club on Friday, which as you know is another location in Dolgellau providing this service.

I took along some Books about Dolgellau for the people to look at, it was very warm there and nice a spacious for people to sit and chat etc

Also good news

- 964 emergency vouchers [Home | Fuel Bank Foundation](#) up to 31/01/23 - £47,236.
- 294 calls to Nyth [Hafan - Nyth Cymru - nyth.llyw.cymru](#) in the last quarter of 2022.
- 60 new Eco4 [ECO \(llyw.cymru\)](#) applications active on the system in Q1 2023.

Details are on the Gwynedd website to

see if people are eligible

Food Bank

It is excellent news to know there are provisions/food for people to pick up free at The Catholic Church. Well done all involved.

Cist Gwynedd and Supporting Communities Service

- Through the Community Support Service and Cist Gwynedd they have succeeded in supporting 26 Community Groups/Initiatives to receive a grant for developing food projects within communities, and £77,516.20 worth of grants have been allocated across the county. This is good news.

[Information for residents on the Help with the cost of living crisis](#)

There is a simple 'one-stop-shop' on the Council's website which brings together in one place all the support the Council offers, for example advice on benefits, information on home energy and contact details of other organisations who can help. Local people are encouraged to have a look over the page to ensure that they are aware of all the help, support and practical advice available. Go to the website: www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/CostOfLiving

This site is very easy to read and worth having the link on Facebook/Social Media

Networking event

Improve your Digital Platform scheme, in partnership with Neges – Menter Môn's project to offer local food to self-catering customers – are holding free networking events for local hospitality and food and drink businesses at the following location:

15 February 2023 (2:00pm) Royal Ship, Dolgellau LL40 1AR

Details and registration available from:

<http://bit.ly/3iTIqAf>

Housing

Remind anyone you know

You may be aware of an exercise conducted by our Housing Options Team which has been underway for some months now, asking individuals on the Common Housing Register to check that their application is still valid.

The purpose of this is to ensure that all details are accurate and current in order to meet the housing needs of applicants, while also ensuring that everyone who needs to be on the housing register are included and receives the appropriate attention. With over 3300 applications currently on the register, this process will ensure the Council is able to concentrate its resources on those who really needs the service.

Over the next few weeks, individuals will receive their **third letter** asking them to get in touch to tell them whether their application is still valid or not in order to remain on the register.

If they do not reregister within the timescale indicated, it will be assumed that their situation has changed and they no longer need to be on the register. Important for people to do this, help is available if needed

The Housing Options Team are available for further information.

[Re-registering Social Housing Applications.](#)

If you or any of your electorate as Town Councillors have any questions regarding the process, please contact

opsynautai@gwynedd.llyw.cymru or

MarianWynJones@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

I attended a meeting last week at the Glanwnion Site (Old Infant Primary School Site)

Work should be finished in about 6 weeks

I asked many questions on behalf of the residents in the area of the old School.

The slate with all the information and history from many years ago by local people dating back to 1949 will be placed back on completion.

The Old School sign will go back up
The original stones are to be used on the front of the building
The water problems during the cold weather which affected the neighboring properties have been dealt with. When I e mailed Gwynedd County Council they replied immediately very prompt.

They said the Homeless list is coming down it is now 700 in Gwynedd, which sadly is still very high. The homeless on Band 1A will have priority when allocating the homes in Glanwnion to single people.

There are five Units and one Office, There will be a Warden and one member of staff here. I spoke to the Warden.

They will have CCTV on the premises

They will have a lift on site and room for 2 cars to park in the back of the building

There will be a lawn in the middle and maybe a small tree, it will be built up to the level of the Pods for easy access for people with any mobility issues.

The windows on the side will be frosted on not open and when finished will appear smaller. This was a concern for people in Maestlarran. They are still concerned about the height of the building re sun and light and the distance between their Boundary and the New Build. But I was told the building is lower than the Original School, so when it is finished and we have nicer weather maybe the residents either side of the new Build will be happier.

Homebuy Scheme – to find out if someone is eligible
www.taiteg.org.uk/en/am-i-eligible-to-apply

Communities meetings

I attended another Communities meeting on 19th January at Caernarfon. It is so much better to have the meetings face to face. Some of the items discussed were Community Safety Partnership, Well Being-Plan, Grass cutting and Grounds Maintenance, Waste and recycling

All Minutes and Reports are available for you to read on the Gwynedd website

It will be nice to see the wildflowers which have a positive effect on biodiversity.

As part of changes to the corporate senior management structure , the Cabinet decided that the responsibility for collecting and processing waste and recycling should be transferred from the Highways and Municipal Department to the Environment Department/ Dafydd Wyn Williams is Head of the Environment Department.

One important point was the Recycling target is stable now at 64%

The new target is 70% by 2025

I have asked again for a large bin to be placed behind The Hospice Shop for the residents of the flats to use, if they all

had a key it would help with the problems in this area and there would be less bins for people passing by to misuse.

Tidy Communities

Great news with this investment.

£1.5 million investment 5 new teams (Tirau Tacluso Ardal Ni)

There are 5 teams brightening up Gwynedd communities, I gave them a list with about 24 items/areas.

I sent them photos of the seats opposite the Indian Restaurant which were unsafe, they removed these and have been replaced with new ones but using the concrete sides.

I sent photos of the 2 seats by the old Grammar School above Henfaes Flats which were very dangerous Gwynedd Council removed these and 1 new one has now been placed there and the other has been placed by Coleg Meirion Dwyfor.

Gwynedd Council have tidied the area along Penbryn Croft twice and the Ardal Ni Team have cleared all the overhanging branches which were a concern.

Chapel street has been cleared by Ardal Ni Team which was quite bad with overhanging branches, this road is very narrow and needs to be clear of overhanging branches. It is early days but they will make a great difference to the town.

Parking problems

Walkway needed alongside HSBC Bank- have requested a few times will follow this up. We need to keep this area for some parking as it will help the people attending the Free Library

Liz Saville Roberts AS/MP and Mabon ap Gwynfor AS/MS Dwyfor Meirionnydd

Surgery in Dolgellau Friday 10th February - Contact for appointment
Liz – 01341422661 Mabon – 03002007175

Confidential Matters

Dealt with many confidential matters with residents

It was sad to hear of the passing of Donald George McCaffrey (Don) another local character gone, he will be remembered for his work with the young people with Football and Boxing and the Ras Y Gader etc also his Shop Celfi Diddan and the Shop on Arran Road. He ran the London Marathon when he was 60 +in about 3 hrs a real gentleman.

Sesiwn Fawr

This year – 20-23/07/2023 for your diary

Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn

Work ongoing to find savings in Gwynedd Council's budgets. The financial gap has reduced from £20m to £12m. Financial report due this Thursday. Educational service to receive a cut of 2.9% over the next two years. The financial situation is bad across the whole of Wales. There will be a 5% increase in Council Tax in the next financial year. A bad and chaotic experience of the 'Levelling up' from the British Government. No budget for the Llanbedr by-pass but money available - £18m for slate areas in Wales. Will continue with efforts to promote Llanbedr Airfield. Attended a meeting of the Welsh Government Cabinet Sub-committee for the North. Received information from Minister Vaughan Gething regarding 'Cynllun Arthur' scheme, an isotopic programme in the field of medicine and nuclear. Confirmation that the 'Ardal Ni' tidy

team will be in the Dolgellau area this month up to the beginning of March 2023.

Questions (q) and Answers (a)

Development of Homeless Building, Arran Road.

(q) Will they re-use the original stones from the old building?

(a) Yes, but not the old roof slates.

C.73.2022-2023

CORRESPONDENCE

Received the following for information:

1. Trustees of Dr Daniel Williams Annual Report
2. 2 x local request for new salt bins. The cost of providing them would fall on the Town Council, around £400. Then, Gwynedd Council would be responsible for filling them with salt.
Resolved: Send a copy of the requests to the attention of Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn.

C.74.2022-2023

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Tystysgrif Defnydd Cyfreithiol (Defnydd Presennol) i ddefnyddio yr eiddo fel 2 fflat

3 Bryn Teg, Dolgellau, LL40 1ST

Certificate of Lawful Use (Existing Use) for use of property as 2 flats

3 Mount Pleasant, Dolgellau, LL40 1ST

Math Caniatad: Tystysgrif Defnydd
Cyfreithlon Application Type: Certificate of
lawful use (Existing)

Rhif Cais / Application Number: **NP5/57/LUT649A**

Cyfeiriad Grid / Grid Reference: 272753 317564

**SYLWADAU CYNGOR TREF DOLGELLAU:/ TOWN
COUNCIL OBSERVATIONS : DIM SYLW / NO COMMENT**

**Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig ar gyfer newidiadau i'r
prif ddrychiad, drws mynedfa llawr gwaelod a
fffenestri drychiad deheuol, gan gynnwys ymestyn
cornis ac ychwanegu pilastrau naill ochr i ffenestri**

Tŷ Meirion, Stryd Fawr, Dolgellau, LL40 1PU

Listed Building Consent for alterations to principal elevation, ground floor entrance south elevation door and windows, including extending cornice and adding pilasters either side of windows

Tŷ Meirion, Eldon Square, Dolgellau, LL40 1PU

Math Caniatad: Caniatâd Adeilad

Rhestredig Application Type: Listed Building
Consent

Rhif Cais / Application Number: **NP5/57/LB120E**

**SYLWADAU CYNGOR TREF DOLGELLAU:/ TOWN
COUNCIL OBSERVATIONS : DIM GWRTHWYNEBIAD
AR SAIL Y BYDD CYMERIAD HANESYDDOL YR
ADEILAD YN PARHAU / NO OBJECTION ON THE BASIS
THAT THE HISTORICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE
BUILDING WILL REMAIN.**