

DOLGELLAU TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Dolgellau Town Council held on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, 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, Dyfrig Siencyn, Sion Edwards, Branwen Rhys Dafydd, Nia Wyn Evans, Branwen Rhys Dafydd, Jessica John
Mr Rhys Williams – Clerk

C.65.2024-2025 PUBLIC SESSION
No member of the public present.

C.66.2024-2025 APOLOGIES
Apologies for absence received from Councillors Llinos Rowlands, Ray Peters and Peter Jones.
The new member, Jessica John was welcomed and a Happy New Year wished to all.

C.67.2024-2025 DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST PERTAINING TO ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE MEETING
No declarations were received.

C.68.2024-2025 TO RECEIVE AND CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 3, 2024
The above minutes were accepted and confirmed.

C.69.2024-2025 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1.1 MATTERS RAISED FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

1. Ffynnon Fair Woods

Reported that the contractor David Bradley will visit the woodland tomorrow to arrange and deal with clearing the trees.

Resolved: Accept the information.

2. Permanent Memorial – Penmaen Lake

Presented: Feedback from Councillor Nia Evans that discussions with the National Park are continuing and a quote for a permanent memorial is in action. A pre-application advice prior to presenting full planning application is being prepared and discussion on the style of letters on the memorial will be discussed with the National Park.

Resolved: Accept the information with thanks.

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

Presented: No progress to date.

Resolved: Accept the information. Keep on the agenda.

4. Community Involvement Programme

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

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

Presented: Feedback from the Clerk regarding a second contractor who has asked for further details.

Resolved: Accept the information. The Mayor to action.

Further matters raised:

- v) **Skate Park** - nothing to report at the moment.

Resolved: Accept the information.

- vi) **Public seats – review**

Presented:

Ten new seats have been ordered from Wynnstay. They have agreed to keep them in storage for the time being. The seats will arrive by January 31, 2025. The contractor R.W. Britland will be responsible for installing them.

- vii) **Public Entertainment Licence for the Square**

Reported that attention will be given to complete the licence during February and March 2025.

Resolved: Accept the information.

- viii) **Vehicle on the “Lawnt”**

Reported by Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn that the land where the vehicle is located belongs to the ADRA Housing Association. Further update to follow.

- ix) **Situation of gutters and drains around the town**

Presented: Feedback from Gwynedd Council that attention will be given, when possible, to the most problematic areas and hoping to undertake further work during 2025/2026.

Resolved: Accept the information and monitor the situation.

- x) **Parking regulations in the town including the Marian Car Park**

Presented: Feedback from Gwynedd Council explaining that the above rules arise from the Town Council's enquiry regarding a higher rate of penalty raised on vehicles during events e.g. sports events etc.

Resolved: Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn to follow up on this.

C.70.2024-2025 SEFYLLFA ARIANNOL

The financial situation was received from the Clerk. Feedback has been received from Audit Wales on the audit of the 2023-2024 accounts. Some issues need to be addressed. The Clerk to arrange a translation into English to share with all Members.

Meeting with HSBC Bank held via the Clerk. Online Banking mandate application form now received after a quote of which mandate version was required for Community Councils

Resolved: Appoint the following Members for the intended mandate, being: Bob Gunton, John Cadwaladr, Peter Jones, Jessica John, Nia Wyn Evans and the Clerk as the main user.

Hold a Finance Sub-committee at the Free Library on Tuesday January 21, 2025, to suggest a precept and to review the 2024-2025 Budget. And to consider requests for financial contributions. Members are Ywain Myfyr, Bob Gunton, John Cadwaladr, Jessica John, Dyfrig Siencyn.

1. Reports from Town Council members

i) Councillor Ywain Myfyr – Mayor

Can I wish you all a Happy New Year hoping that 2025 will be a good year for Dolgellau. I trust you have a good time over Christmas and had an opportunity to relax.

Christmas lights

Many have contacted to say how beautiful our Christmas lights were again this year. One or two mentioned that they have travelled to the town specifically to see them. We owe a huge debt to Councillor Bob Gunton. The Christmas lights, which were a laughing stock for several years, are now the envy of other towns.

As we, the Council, make an effort, the town businesses follow us and all of it comes together to make our town worth seeing.

Coffee morning

Before Christmas, I was invited to a coffee morning at the Fire Station. It was good to see students from Meirion Dwyfor College and the younger children of Ysgol Bro Idris there.

Drains

When storm Bert and Darragh came some weeks ago, the drains in the town were tested to their extreme. Water flooded along the streets in some areas of the town.

Contacted the Council several times going back months. I understand there is a solution but the drains are still full just waiting for the next storm. We are now expecting the next storm and the drains are still full and if anything, they are worse.

Societies

As a town we can be proud of the several clubs, societies and organisations which operate within the town. Can I suggest we form a list of all these groups with their contact details so as to include them on a page on the Council's website.

We could ask the groups via Facebook for Name; short description and include when they meet and a contact.

Penybanc footpath

Van on the Lawnt

Proposes consideration to establish a new page on the Council's website to inform the public of events in the town as well as contact details of local organisations.

Agreed to discuss the matter at the February 2025 meeting of the Council.

- ii) **Councillor Bob Gunton** – for the time being have been focusing on work with the Christmas lights. Some of the lights are already down, with the rest coming down soon. Proposes offer to consider a budget for Christmas lights in the Free Library for 2025 – 2026?
Concerned regarding the possibility of losing the right for one-hour free parking for families to take children to school with Gwynedd Councils current scheme. Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn to enquire.
Yellow lines are now back on the junction of Ffordd y Gader and Ffordd Bodlondeb.
- iii) **Councillor Nia Evans** – work on ‘Lle yn y Dref’ continues to go from strength to strength. “Clwb Cawl” now in operation at the Free Library. New page on Facebook.
Llyn Penmaen memorial scheme is moving forward.
Resolved: Accept the information and give thanks to Councillor Nia Evans.
- iv) **Councillor Jo Checkley** – attended a meeting regarding Coed y Brenin site, all staff are to be dismissed, from what we understand the cycling tours are to continue. Concerns received regarding the town’s surgery service – this has been referred to the Member of the Senedd, Mabon ap Gwynfor. Y Marian public toilets – no seats on some of the toilets - **the Clerk to contact Gwynedd Council.**
Resolved: Accept the information.
- v) **Councillor John Cadwaladr** – attended a meeting of Trustees of Dr Daniel Williams on 09.12.2024 and was Father Christmas at the Rotary Club. Gwynedd Council have completed work to clear leaves along Ffordd Pencefn.
- vi) **Councillor Branwen Rhys Dafydd** – rubbish collection in the park. No seat in the park from the ‘zipline.’ The Park page on Facebook has been updated.

2. Reports from Gwynedd Councillors

Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn

Met with Elin Williams – Regeneration Unit. Agreed to meet with the Town Council at their February 2025 meeting. A Regeneration Plan for the town centre to be announced soon. Discussions on the town Partnership’s future is in hand.

The new Leader and the new Cabinet has been appointed by Gwynedd. Discussions to be held on 09.01.2025 regarding the 2025-2026 budget. A settlement of 3.2% has been received from Welsh Government. The lowest settlement in Wales. £8million gap in the 2025-2026 budget. Emphasised priority of supporting and regenerating the town centre.

C.72.2024-2025 CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing to report.

C.73.2024-2025 PLANNING

No official planning applications received. Correspondence received from resident of Llwyn View area. No application received the National Park to date due to awaiting further information/responses from applicants.