

MINUTES OF DYFFRYN ARDUDWY AND TALYBONT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, DYFFRYN ARDUDWY AT 7.30 P.M. ON 05.04.16

4.1 APOLOGIES

Cllr. Margretta Cartwright, John Ellis Williams, Sion Ifor Williams.

4.2 PRESENT

Cllr. Owen Gwilym Thomas (Chairman), Edward Griffiths (Vice Chairman), Edward Williams, Catrin Edwards, Emrys Jones, Sian Edwards, John Ceri Evans, Mike Tregenza, Eryl Jones-Williams.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr. Mike Tregenza to his first meeting of the Council and he wished him well in the future.

4.3 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman stated that he was disappointed with some of the decision that were made at last month's meeting of the Council.

On behalf of the Council the Chairman sympathised with Cllr. John Ceri Evans and family following the death of his Aunt after a tragic accident recently.

On behalf of the Council the Chairman sympathised with the family of the late Miss Mary Williams, Caerelwan following her death.

On behalf of the Council the Chairman sympathised with a former Member of the Council Mr. Peter Davies and family following the death of his brother recently.

4.4 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on March 1st were found to be correct.

4.5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Item 3.12 Cllr. Eryl Jones Williams reported that he still had not received a reply from the Highways Department regarding what was happening with the 30m.p.h. signs at the bottom of Gors y Gedol Drive.

4.6 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr. Owen Gwilym Thomas declared an interest in the planning application regarding Penybrynau, Dyffryn Ardudwy and he signed a Personal Declaration of Interest form and he was not present when the matter was discussed.

Cllr. Catrin Edwards declared an interest in the planning application regarding Penybrynau, Dyffryn Ardudwy and she signed a Personal Declaration of Interest form and she was not present when the matter was discussed.

Cllr. Sian Edwards declared an interest in the planning application regarding Penybrynau, Dyffryn Ardudwy and she signed a Personal Declaration of Interest form and she was not present when the matter was discussed.

Cllr. Edward Griffiths declared an interest in the planning application regarding Streamside, Dyffryn Ardudwy and he signed a Personal Declaration of Interest form and he was not present when the matter was discussed.

4.7 GWYNEDD COUNCIL MATTERS

Cllr. Eryl Jones Williams reported that since the last meeting he had attended the following:- 1st March 1-3, Dolgellau, Student transport protest. 3rd 8.30-4 Caernarfon, Full Gwynedd council. 7th. 8.30-2.00 Caernarfon, Licensing. 8th. 9.30-1.00. Railway Franchise, Dolgellau. 8th. 5.30-8.30 Gwynedd cuts, Blaenau Ffestiniog. 14th 9-15-2.00 Community Health Council, Tremadog. 6.15-9.15. Gwynedd School Governors forum, Tremadog. 16th 5-10pm Bala south snowdonia access. 17th PM Church meeting, Dyffryn Ardudwy. 21st. 10-1. Dolgellau. Mid Wales Health Collaborative. 1-2.30 Scrutinising the local health. 2.30-4.30 Merioneth area forum. 22nd. 10-1, Barmouth harbour committee. 23. 6.30-9.30 Harlech, Ardudwy school governors. 24. 11.30-4.30 Health meeting Tywyn. 24th 7.30-9.30 Village Hall meeting.

I attended the college students protest in Dolgellau regarding post 16 transport and I agreed with the students concerns over bus transport increases from £60-£100 per term per pupil. The age of the buses, overcrowding of buses and the fact that the students can only use their passes in the morning and evenings when the buses are full.

Almost £5 million in cuts by Gwynedd council included the closing of 50 toilets, TIC's and cut backs in road maintenance. I did not agree and abstained. The school governors forum in Tremadog unanimously asked for the Gwynedd cabinet to look again at their decision regarding post 16 transport. Regarding the Railway Franchise, extended village car parks have been included as well as trains to stop at all stations, and the possibility of re-opening the railway line from Afonwen to Bangor. There are some agreements in place regarding the ticket office in Barmouth TIC as one staff member is being financed by Arriva Trains Wales. A call was made for a full 7 days a week rail service on the Cambrian Line. There was concern at the South Snowdonia Access forum regarding the effects of cuts by Gwynedd council to the footpath maintenance and highways budget as this could have an effect on the users of the footpaths and could lead to complaints. £170,000 has been cut to the rural footpaths budget. £850,000 has been cut to the highways budget. Walkers to the area add a lot of money to the local economy. There are still problems with off roaders causing damage to farmland when straying off proper paths. Signs are to be erected categorising the, gradients, steepness etc of footpaths, from green to access for all yellow and orange for moderate, red for hard and strenuous and black for extreme. Money has been allocated and planning permission granted for a new footbridge over the Ysgethin as part of the coastal path in Talybont. Most of the Meirionnydd budget will be spent in Talybont. Meirionnydd could be split into five areas in the future, there were plans to split Ardudwy with Llanfair joining Penrhyn and Dyffryn joining Dolgellau. Barmouth and Dinas Mawddwy. I was supported in keeping Ardudwy as one area and the new proposal was for five areas under the secondary school catchment areas. There are calls for diversity in councillors with the Welsh Government trying to attract representation from disability groups, ethnic background, age and gender and trying to get young people more involved. One of the regeneration officers is going off on maternity leave. As there are 29 projects on the go in Meirionnydd, another officer has been appointed. There are currently no grant funder application projects in this area, the area has done well in the past attracting almost £750,000 in grant aid. There has now been cuts in the grants budget, so locally we were lucky in getting the grants when we did. It was not possible to get a report on the shifting sand at Bennar beach to the Barmouth harbour committee as the sand shift was as a result of winds either from the north or south west. There is however a steep bank being created. Experts thought that the area was constantly changing. I am very concerned that the mid Wales Health Collaborate which covers this area is becoming a health talking shop. I recently met with the Health Minister, chair and new chief executive of the NHS. Nurses, GP's and carers recruitment was seen as a major problem in rural areas. A career pathway for carers has recently been adopted. We have one local carer who is to shadow district nurses to gain experience on the carers pathway. That person is ahead of many other carers in Wales. I attended the church meeting regarding Llanenddwyn Church and the village hall committee and will report on these matters as they come up on the agenda.

Anyone wishing to contact me can do so on 01341242758 or 07796833767, or on e.joneswilliams@btinternet.com

* The Dyffryn Ardudwy and Talybont community council did not support re opening the railway from Afonwen to Bangor as the cost of around £50 million could be better spent on road improvement in the Meirionnydd area. The councils views are to be forwarded to the next Cambrian Railway committee on 20 May.

4.8 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Replacement roof to conservatory - Pen y Bryniau, Dyffryn Ardudwy (NP5/58/59B)

Support this application.

2 extensions to existing shower and toilet block and replace existing flat roof of same building with new pitched roof and installation of new external fire escape staircase - Boy's Brigade Camping Site, Station Road, Dyffryn Ardudwy (NP5/58/148B)

Support this application.

Replacement conservatory - 26 Glan Ysgethin, Talybont (NP5/58/577)

Support this application.

Erection of garage and workshop (to replace existing workshop) - Streamside House, Dyffryn Ardudwy (NP5/58/581)

Support this application.

Planning Applications with decisions received on them

Construction of footbridge over Afon Ysgethin - Land near Dalar, Talybont (NP5/58/576) - granted

4.9 MATTERS ARISING

A Business Plan

It was reported that the Council had spent £24,576.06 in the last financial year up to 31st March 2016. The Clerk distributed copies of the Council's business plan for the year 2016/17 to every Member that was present who went through the plan. It was agreed to adopt this plan for the coming year.

B CCTV cameras

Cllr. Eryl Jones Williams reported that there was nothing to report on the above matter.

C Village Hall

It was reported that a meeting of the above committee had taken place on the 24th of last month and the minutes of the meeting that the Council had received were read out and it was made known there was a need to refix the plaque in memory of the late Mr. Meirion Williams back on the wall of the hall and it was agreed to ask Mr. Gwynfor Edwards to carry out this work and also the Council agreed to pay for this work to be done, it was also agreed that the Council would pay to refence part of the car park and Cllr. Edward Williams agreed to have a look on what work needed doing and draw up a specification of the work and it was agreed to ask Mr. Dei Thomas, Mr. Hefin Edwards and Mr. Meirion Jones for quotes to do this work. A discussion took place with regard to the fact that the lighting in the car park does not work properly and Cllrs. Edward Williams and Emrys Jones agreed to look at what was needed to do and contact the Chairman and the Clerk with regard to the matter. For Council's information it was made known that Mrs Denise Stone had resigned as secretary of the hall committee and Cllr. Catrin Edwards reported that she was doing the work temporarily until a new secretary was found and it was also agreed that the new secretary should be paid for the work done. Also a letter was read out that Mr. Peter Davies had send the hall committee informing them that he was resigning as a member of the committee.

D Inspection of bus shelters, cemeteris and play parks

Cllr. Edward Griffiths agreed to carry out the above inspection and he agreed to take Cllr. Mike Treganza around with him.

E Council's Website

It was made known that the old password had been retrived and a discussion took place of various ideas of how to move on and Cllr. Mike Treganza agreed to look into the matter and report back at the next meeting.

F Llanenddwyn Church

It was made known that a public meeting had taken place on the 18th of last month in the Church Hall to discuss the above site. Cllr. Eryl Jones Williams reported that he and the Chairman had attended the meeting and that a decision had been made that no services will be held at this church again. Also it was made known that a local builder had offered to repair the roof free of charge and that Huws Gray were going to donate the materials to do this work also free of charge.

G One Voice Wales Meeting - Dolgellau 24.2.16

Cllr. Eryl Jones Williams reported that he and the Chairman had attended the above meeting on behalf of the Council and reported as follows - Bethan Jones Parry was welcomed and invited to give her presentation on the bid to gain World Heritage status for the Slate Industry in Gwynedd on behalf of the Council. Bethan is responsible for coordinating the application. If and when the application is successful, these areas will be in the same category and the Great Wall of China and the Taj Mahal. The Development Officer referred to the situation in general, and in particular to the series of meetings which have been arranged for community and town councils in the coming weeks). It was confirmed that there was much ambiguity around the cuts, with some representatives of Gwynedd Council stating that decisions on the cuts have already been made, and others saying that the decision will be made at the next meeting of the full Council on the 3rd of March. The Development Officer explained that she had received further information regarding the cuts to the salt bins service. She spoke to an officer from Gwynedd Council on the latest situation, who told her that a letter will go out to the community and town councils in the next few days stating a revised quote for the price of filling salt bins for winter. If the council needs to refill more than 4 salt bins, the cost will be £80. If they need to refill less than 4 salt bins, the cost will remain at £156.

The next meeting will be held on 25th May 2016 - This meeting will include the Annual General Meeting and will be held in the Tywyn area. Venue to be confirmed.

H Meetings with Anwen Davies, Gwynedd Council

The Chairman reported that he had attended the above meeting on behalf of the Council at Dolgellau on the 1st of last month and Cllr. Eryl Jones Williams reported that he had attended the meeting on behalf of the Council at Blaenau Ffestiniog on the 8th of last month and reported as follows - at Blaenau Ffestiniog the chief executive said that the decision on which 50 toilets to shut had not been made. It depended on whether local community councils took them over. It is the same situation regarding salt bins, although there have been some changes in fees and whether it could be cheaper for Gwynedd to distribute road salt with combining communities.

4.10 CORRESPONDANCE

A Snowdonia National Park

Received a letter from the above informing the Council that they are reviewing the Eryri Local Development Plan and asking if the Members had any comments on the plan.

B Gwynedd Council - Highways Department

Received a further letter from the above with regard to the salt bins and stating when the responsibility of these will be transferred to the Community Council the cost of filling a cluster of bins (minimum of 3) is £80 per bin, and filling one only is £156 and that the Community Council is to advise which bins need filling by contacting the area Liaison Officer and also there will be a need to contact the Liaison Officer to agreed in moving or introducing more salt bins. Also stating that every salt bin will be inspected and filled before the winter season which starts on the 1st october 2016 and a plan showing the location and number of each bin will be sent to us for information and use before the 1st October and this can be referred to and used when there is a need to refill any salt bins in the future.

C Gwynedd Community Housing

Received a letter from the above regarding the football field that is in Pentre Uchaf and is under their ownership and informing the Council that the original lease for this field was between them and the Community Council and this has expired since 1999 and never been renewed. They are asking if the Council would have an interest in renewing this lease or do they know of any local group, club or trustees that would have an interest in leasing the land. It was agreed to reply stating that the Council still want to take over the lease on the same terms as last time on the condition that the fence around the field firstly gets repaired.

D Llanddwywe Cemetery

The Clerk reported that she had received a letter from Mrs Val Smedley, Treasurer of the above Church informing the Council that an end of a tomb has fallen down and resting on another grave in the above cemetery and this tomb is now open and quite dangerous and there is a large space underneath the tomb. Also asking when the part of the boundary wall in the above cemetery is going to be fenced off and also asking who holds the keys to the two noticeboards so they can put posters up. It was made known by Cllr. Edward Griffiths that he has installed the posts around the boundary wall and that he will be fixing the wire tomorrow and also the Chairman, Cllrs. Edward Griffiths and Emrys Jones agreed to inspect the tomb that has fallen. It was agreed that the Clerk states that the keys to both noticeboards are with her and they are welcome to leave any posters in Smithy garage.

4.11 TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported that there was £10,288.70 in the current account, £1,319.39 in the play park account, £7,537.77 in the reserve account and £33.00 in the Chairman's account.

Invoices needed to be paid since last meeting

Mrs Annwen Hughes - £147.00 (wages) + £174.41 costs = £321.41
Customs & Excise - £110.40 - tax on Clerk's wages
Mr. J. D. Roberts - £45.00 - internal audit
One Voice Wales - £256.00 - membership fee
Cllr. Eryl Jones Williams - £66.60 - travelling expenses
E. W. Owen & Co. - £180.00 - prepare and send Clerk's PAYE on line
Catrin Sorya Williams - £171.12 - translator

Monies received since last meeting

None come to hand since last meeting.

The Treasurer distributed copies of the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2016 to every Member present. The Members went through the accounts carefully and they all accepted the accounts. The accounts book was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

The Treasurer reported that Mr. John Roberts was willing to carry out the internal audit for the year 2015/16 and everyone agreed to this and it was agreed to send Mr. Roberts a letter confirming his appointment.

4.12 ANY OTHER MATTER

The Members agreed for Cllr. Eryl Jones Williams to ask Mr. Steffan Chambers to be a member of the village hall committee.

Concern was voiced that patients are being sent home from hospital without nobody there to receive them.

It was agreed that the Council support the proposed Llanbedr bypass and that Cllr. Eryl Jones Williams writes to the Clerk of the Council stating this.

Concern was voiced that there are no litter bins down by the ice cream place on Glan y Mor road in Talybont and that the Clerk contacts Mr. Steffan Jones with regard to this.

Concern was voiced that the road from the station towards the Ystumgwern junction is dark and it was agreed that the Clerk asks the Highways Department if there is a possibility of installing some lighting on this road.

It was agreed that there is a need for an officer from the Highways Department to come down to the village to go around with the Chairman to see where new street signs are needed to replace the ones that have deteriorated.

SIGNED.....CHAIRMAN

DATE..... 431.

