

Dyffryn Ardudwy and Talybont Village Hall Trustee AGM Minutes

Date: 15 July 2025

Location: Dyffryn Ardudwy and Talybont Village Hall

Time: 19:30

1. Welcome and Introduction

The meeting commenced with Trustee Nia Rees welcoming the trustees and members of the public, and thanking them for their attendance. Trustee Beth Bailey then provided an overview of the meeting, explaining that this year's AGM would deviate from tradition due to the unavailability of key reports, including the minutes from the previous AGM and detailed financial accounts, which had not been provided by the acting Village Hall Committee. And how this issue, along with other governance concerns, led to the vote of no confidence in the Committee on 3rd June. Additionally, there was concern that the Hall had incurred a financial loss for the third consecutive year, with the total deficit now exceeding £32,000.

Beth proceeded with a brief history of the Village Hall, originally known as The Old British School, which was transferred to Llanenddwyn Parish Council in 1931 and managed by the Community Council until around 2009. Around 2007, a separate Hall Management Committee was formed to secure funding for renovations, though the Community Council remained the sole trustee. This arrangement worked until around 2019, but then governance issues started to arise, including incorrect trustee listings, removal of legitimate trustees, and a breakdown in communication. And how more recently, the Hall Committee had operated independently, disregarding the Council's trustee role.

Beth concluded by explaining that as the sole trustee, the Community Council has a legal duty to ensure the Hall is managed properly and transparently. Due to the breakdown in structure and accountability, the Council has dissolved the existing management committee and will be directly overseeing the Hall while determining the best way forward. She advised that, for these reasons, ordinary committee members would not be appointed at this time, and asked for the community's patience as the trustees work to overcome these challenges and secure a brighter future for the Village Hall

2. Apologies

None

3. Present

Trustee Nia Rees, Trustee Nedw Griffiths, Trustee Beth Bailey, Trustee Sian Edwards, Trustee Deilwen Anderson, Trustee Jennifer Yuill, Trustee John Ceri Evans, Trustee Edward Williams, Trustee Sion Ifor Williams.

And members of the public

4. Matters Arising

No minutes were available from the previous AGM.

5. Election of Officers

Chair

Trustee Nia Rees explained that the Chair of the Community Council traditionally serves as the Chair of the Village Hall Charity. However, due to personal circumstances of the Chair, Nia proposed that Trustee Edward Griffiths be elected as Chair of the Village Hall Trustee Committee. The proposal was seconded by all trustees.

The meeting was then chaired by the newly appointed Chair, Trustee Edward Griffiths.

Vice-Chair

Edward Griffiths proposed that Nia Rees be elected as Vice-Chair to support the Chair in fulfilling their duties and act in their absence when needed. The proposal was seconded by all trustees.

Secretary and Treasurer

Edward Griffiths proposed the appointment of an external Secretary and Treasurer to help manage the increased workload and allow trustees to focus on governance and operational matters. The proposal was seconded by all trustees.

6. Waiver Vote

The meeting proceeded to vote on the waiver application to the Charity Commission for Councillor William Hooban, who had been automatically disqualified from serving as a trustee due to personal circumstances. Edward Griffiths proposed supporting the disqualification waiver application. The proposal was seconded by all trustees.

7. Appointing Ordinary Members to the Committee

Trustee Edward Griffiths explained that normally, a public vote would be held to appoint Ordinary Members to the Committee at this stage. However, due to the current issues, the formation of a separate management committee would not take place at this time. He advised that this will be revisited at the next AGM. Edward also mentioned that volunteers would be needed, and the trustees welcomed community involvement to help with the Hall's recovery.

8. Correspondence

No correspondence was presented.

9. Treasurer's Report

Edward notified the attendees that the Treasurer's report was unavailable, as all financial documentation is still being reviewed by an accountant. The accounts will be made public once finalised.

10. Any Other Matters

Consideration of Trustee Eligibility

Trustee Edward Griffiths informed those present that, in accordance with the trustees' responsibility to safeguard the charity's reputation and pending a further review, a decision had been made by the trustees to suspend Councillor Evan Owen from his trustee duties. He emphasised that this action was not a judgment on the outcome of the review into Cllr. Owen's conduct, but rather a precautionary measure, taken with fairness and respect for all parties involved.

Questionnaire for Community Feedback

The Trustees outlined plans to engage the community through a questionnaire aimed at improving the Village Hall's offerings. The questionnaire will be available online and in paper form at key locations towards the end of the summer. Edward said that the trustees wanted to hear the community's ideas to help shape future events and activities at the Hall.

11. Closing Remarks

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and participation. He emphasised the importance of community involvement in shaping the future of the Village Hall, noting that volunteers and ideas for improvement were welcome and how more information will be shared through the website, Facebook page, and local notice boards in due course.

The meeting ended at 19:52.