

MINUTES OF DYFFRYN ARDUDWY AND TALYBONT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, DYFFRYN ARDUDWY AT 7.30 P.M. ON 4.11.25

11.1 APOLOGIES

Cllrs. Evan Owen, Eryl Jones Williams (Gwynedd Council)

11.2 PRESENT

Cllr. William Hooban (Chairman), Nia Rees (Vice Chairman), Beth Bailey, Gwynfor Evans, Sian Edwards, Edward Williams, Jennifer Yuill, Sion Ifor Williams, Edward Griffiths, Deilwen Anderson, John Ceri Evans..

11.3 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman had no announcements to make.

11.4 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on October 7th 2025 were found to be correct.

11.5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No matters were arising from the minutes

11.6 DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

Cllr. William Hooban declared an interest in the matter to do with the football field.

Cllr. Nia Rees declared an interest in the matter to do with the football field.

No Personal Declaration of Interest Form was signed by him as he had done this already in the last meeting of the Council and the interest in this matter is running continuously.

11.7 GWYNEDD COUNCIL MATTERS

The following report was received from Cllr. Eryl Jones Williams:- Gwynedd council supported my campaign to retain the first and last trains on the Cambrian Coast line in the winter months and Transport For Wales have agreed to retain the summer timetable through the winter. The concerns were that it was hitting the economy of the area with staff at supermarkets and the hospitality industry not able to get to and from work as there were no alternative buses between Machynlleth and Fairbourne and Barmouth and Porthmadog. It was also pointed out to TfW that people had to use cars which was against the Welsh Governments own policy of trying to reduce car use. A spokesman for TfW stated that a 500 named petition by train users also helped to retain the service in the winter. New trains on the line will not be provided before September 2026 at the earliest with the spring of 2027 being most likely. Gwynedd's chief executive Dafydd Gibbard has warned that there will be a £14.9 million shortfall in the 2026/2027 budget that could mean a 13% council tax increase. Nothing has been finalised because of the November 26th Budget, but the outlook is again gloomy for Gwynedd which has the lowest Welsh Government settlement of all Wales Councils. Over recent years Cyngor Gwynedd has made over £70 millin in cuts and now there are no further savings available Without cuts that will effect services. To provide existing services will cost around £8 million caused by overspending this year and wage and additional costs next year. All departments have been asked to look at 5% savings. Council charges including car parking etc are sure to be increased. This year it is expected that there will be overspending on Adult services, education, highways and economy. It looks a grim forecast. The North Wales Police are warning caravan owners to be aware of thefts etc from unoccupied caravans during the winter as stats show that unoccupied caravans are the target for thieves during this period. At a presentation by ADRA at the Meirionnydd area committee ADRA officials said that they had 734 properties,438 flats and 318 bungalows. I could not take part as I am an ADRA tenant. A question was asked why there was such a delay in occupancy of properties when a tenant moved out? Officials explained that under new landlords/tenant laws the properties HAD to be of good standard and work on the properties normally meant a 6 month delay if work had to be done. There was an example in Harlech

when ADRA offered a property for sale rather than upgrade the property, but after housing grants the property was retained and let locally. Cllr Gwynfor Owen was praised for stopping the sale after consulting ADRA to complain. Only 1 tenant was evicted for breach of rules last year. There is a department at ADRA that deals with breaches of rules and regulations. It looks like Gwynedd are going to change their re-cycling from the plastic containers to sacks after over 70% in a trial favoured the sacks, and that they were cheaper for the council. No final decision has been made yet. It looks like urban areas favour the sacks, but rural areas favour the plastic trollies. I am in favour of retaining the trollies as carrying the sacks would be difficult for the elderly, especially if wet. Gwynedd want to increase re-cycling as for the first time they have not met the Welsh Government targets and will probably have to pay a fee. Bus travel and timetables are now in the hands of Transport for Wales and this area will be very lucky to retain the bus timetables that we have. A Dolgellau councillor praised the T2 and T3 services as being excellent. But councillors between Aberdyfi and Dolgellau and Barmouth to Porthmadog disagreed, pointing out that the T2 and T3 did not serve their areas and connections were difficult and returning home the same day was virtually impossible and having to arrange a taxi or friends to pick them up. I asked for a report on road closures, controlled from Caernarfon, to be presented at the next meeting after I said that I was getting reports of road closures two days after the road has closed. A road closure for the 25th was not circulated and dated the 28th. At the Barmouth harbour committee Cllr Wendy Cleaver was appointed chair and I was re-appointed vice chair. Public consultation on staff and facilities at Barmouth harbour was very good indeed and the staff were complimented on the feedback report. Vessels using the harbour increased although the harbour is expected to make a small loss by the end of the financial year at the end of March. Many events were held and all proved successful. All were supported by the Barmouth town council. A special meeting is to be held regarding concessions on the beach and harbour with one application has been submitted to sell fish caught locally to be sold on the harbour. Talks are taking place regarding a designated paddleboard and swimming area with plans to get the pontoon replaced for next summer. A report on children's safeguarding is due this week and the indications are that it will not be very good for Cyngor Gwynedd regarding the abuse of young girls by headmaster Neil Foden. I am available on 01341242758 or e.joneswilliams@btinternet.com or Cynghorydd.ErylJones-Williams@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

11.8 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None had come to hand since the last meeting.

11.9 MATTERS ARISING

A Budget Plan

It was reported that the Council had spent £26,855.83 (including bank charges) since the start of the new financial year and this was £13,807.17 less expenditure than what was earmarked in the budget for the year.

B Christmas 2025

It was reported that a meeting of the christmas arrangements sub-committee had been held before the official meeting of the Council and that they had agreed to apply for an alcohol license so as to be able to sell mulled wine during the christmas social evening on the 30th of this month. A discussion had been held regarding the type of christmas trees that were needed and it was agreed that Cllr. Beth Bailey would look into prices of different trees and also the final arrangements for the christmas social evening was discussed. It was agreed to hold a meeting of the sub committee again before the 30th.

C Remembrance Sunday

It was reported that the arrangements for the above had been completed and it was agreed that the service would be held outside by the War Memorial and Cllr. Beth Bailey agreed that the Council would be able to lend a gazebo so that the PA system would not get wet.

D Pentre Uchaf Play Park

Nothing more to report regarding the above matter at the moment only that Cllr. Edward Williams had received one quote to carry out the work under the basket ball equipment and there will be a need to get additional quotes to carry out this work and therefore it was agreed until more quotes have been received to leave this quote on the table.

E Football Field

The Clerk reported that she had not received a reply from Michael Evans from ADRA to the e-mail that was sent to him following the last meeting of the Council regarding the football field lease although she had resent the e-mail to him and still had not received a reply.

11.10 CORRESPONDANCE

A Gwynedd Council – Highways Department

Received a letter from the above informing the Council that the Tim Tacluso Ardal Ni will be coming here between the 3rd and 7th of this month.

B Gwynedd Council - Environment Department

Received a letter from the above informing the Council that Ffordd Glan y Mor, Talybont will be closed on the 12th of this month and the closure is necessary on health and safety grounds to the public during works to replace electrical poles.

C Gwynedd Council - Environment Department

Received a letter from the above informing the Council that Ffordd Isaf, Dyffryn Ardudwy will be closed on the 26th of this month and the closure is necessary on health and safety grounds to the public during works on behalf of Welsh Water.

D Gwynedd Council - Environment Department

Received an e-mail from the Cabinet Member of the above Department asking the Council if it would be possible for them to take part in the survey regarding Gwynedd Council's Waste Strategy by completing the questionnaire by the 30th of this month. The Clerk had already forwarded this to the Members.

E Dyffryn Elves

Received an e-mail of thanks from the above for the recent financial donation they received from the Council.

F Mrs Sarah Tibbetts

Received a reply from the above to the answers that were sent to her regarding matters to do with the village hall. The Members went through these answers. It was agreed to leave this matter on the table.

G One Voice Wales

Received an e-mail from the above as information to the Council regarding training dates between October and December. The Clerk had already forwarded this to the Members.

H One Voice Wales

Received an e-mail from the above regarding Consultation on the changes to local government election rules in Wales for information to the Council and stating that they will be responding to this Consultation and inviting views of the Council by the 6th January 2026. The Clerk had already forwarded this to the Members.

11.11 TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported that there was £30,801.83 in the current account and £66,373.92 in the reserve account.

Invoices needed to be paid since last meeting

Mrs Annwen Hughes	- £273.06 (wages) + £189.25 costs = £462.31
Evergreen	- £480.00 – cut grass in cemeteries and hedge in public cemetery
Mr. G. Martayn	- £2,501.00 - cut grass in play park, car park and various locations
Village Hall Committee	- £20.00 - hire of meeting room (Community Council)
Village Hall Committee	- £45.00 - hire of hall (Youth Club)

Village Hall Committee - £20.00 - hire of hall (Halloween Disco Primary School)
 Gwynedd Council - £4,000.00 – contribution to keep Talybont toilets open
 Elliot Electrical Ltd - £1,166.19 - carry out electrical work in the village hall
 Blachere Illuminations - £270.60 - christmas lights
 Mrs Nia Rees - £64.46 - items for the christmas event
 Royal British Legion - £40.00 - 2 poppy wreaths

Applications for financial support

Wales Air Ambulance - £500.00

The above payments were processed by Cllr. Edward Griffiths and Cllr. Gwynfor Evans approved the payments and permission was granted to the Clerk/Treasurer to make payment on line or by cheque at the end of the meeting.

Monies received since last meeting

Customs & Excise - £378.00 – repayment of VAT

Invoices paid since the last meeting

Catrin Soraya Williams - None - translation services

11.12 ANY OTHER MATTERS

It was made known by the Chairman that he had recently attended a meeting of the Ardudwy Councils Forum.

It was made known that the pot holes on Gors y Gedol road had been filled in at last.

Concern was raised that Cllr. Evan Owen had written under the name of the Community Council to the post office regarding the village post office without prior consultation with the Council. It was agreed that the Council should see the letter that he sent to the post office.

Cllr. Beth Bailey informed the meeting that she was going to be a member of the Governing Board of Dyffryn Ardudwy Primary School representing the Community Council instead of Cllr. Sian Edwards.

It was agreed that next month's meeting would be starting at 6.30 p.m.

SIGNED.....CHAIRMAN

DATE..... 849