Dyffryn Ardudwy and Talybont Village Hall

Trustees | Committee Emergency Meeting at Dyffryn Ardudwy and Talybont Village Hall
12 March 2026, 7:30pm

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1. Present

Trustee Edward Griffiths (Nedw) (Chair), Trustee Deilwen Anderson, Trustee Sian Edwards, Trustee Edward Williams, Secretary Heather Williams.

Apologies for absence

Trustee Nia Rees, Trustee Jennifer Yuill, Trustee John Ceri Evans, Trustee Beth Bailey, Trustee Gwynfor Evans, Trustee Sion Ifor Williams, Treasurer Ffion Thomas

2. Chair's Welcome

The Chair thanked all present for attending the meeting at short notice and noted that, given the seriousness of the incident on Saturday, it was not appropriate to wait until the scheduled meeting on 7 April. This was agreed by all present.

3. Mediation

Sian provided an overview of the mediation session. Both Sian and Heather expressed disappointment that, despite lasting over 3.5 hours, discussions were largely repetitive and did not progress towards a resolution. It had been anticipated that the parties' positioning statements would support a "meet in the middle" discussion; however, this did not occur. The session concluded over 30 minutes later than scheduled, with no agreement reached.

The meeting noted that the volume and tone of correspondence received from the Snooker Club on Friday evening and Saturday morning indicated that a constructive working relationship would be unlikely, even if the Trustees were to agree to a 60% reduction in fees for residents (Morning: £1.40; Afternoon: £1.80; Evening: £2.60). It was reaffirmed that the Trustees' best offer, representing a reduction of £0.50 per hour (Morning: £3.00; Afternoon: £4.00; Evening: £6.00), was reasonable, particularly when compared with charges for activities such as squash, tennis, and table tennis at leisure centres.

It was agreed that informing the Club that they must cease use of the room from that Saturday was the appropriate course of action, given that the volume and tone of correspondence received since the start of the dispute in November had placed an undue strain on the committee's time and wellbeing, and that it was necessary to bring the matter to a close.

4. Removal of the Snooker Table

The Chair reported that, since the incident, all Trustees had expressed serious concern and horror regarding the removal of the snooker table by the Snooker Club. Many were shocked that this occurred during an event at the Hall, causing disruption. It was noted that several of the event attendees were upset at the actions of the Club, with some suggesting that the police should have been contacted immediately, as the table is a community asset and not the property of the Club.

It was reported that, during cleaning of the room on Monday, pieces of slate, wood splinters, and slate dust were found. This was considered to indicate that the table may have been damaged during its removal.

The Secretary confirmed that the unauthorised removal had been reported to the police, the insurance provider, and the Charity Commission, on the basis that the table is a charitable asset.

It was noted that comments on social media indicated that the Snooker Club had stated the table was in storage when asked by a member of the public. The meeting agreed that confirming the table's location was a priority, given that it is community property.

The Chair noted that it was regrettable that the initial correspondence sent on 15 November had stated that the Club could remove the table, as it was believed at that time to be their property. However, it was further noted that, following the court case, this position had been clarified on multiple occasions with the Club, confirming that the table is owned by the community, having been funded through grants and community fundraising. On that basis, it was considered that the table should remain at the Hall or within a public building in LL43 or LL44, and this position had been communicated to the Club by the Trustees' solicitor.

5. Your Community, Your Choice Grant
The Secretary reported that, given the Hall had been offered a loan of a 6ft snooker table, they would not need to withdraw from the bid for the project.

6. Room Refurbishment
It was suggested to obtain quotes for plastering, electrical work, and flooring to refurbish the room given that it was now empty.

7. Further Actions
It was suggested that the solicitor write to the Snooker Club requesting copies of any evidence they have to support their claim of ownership of the table, as the paperwork shared with the Trustees on Saturday morning did not confirm ownership. It was also noted that the statement made to the insurance company in 2017 is inaccurate and further indicates that governance had not been properly followed during the period from 2010 to the present. The Secretary agreed to contact the solicitor for advice.

Meeting ended 8:30pm

Approved by:

Date: