

Minutes of Meeting 5/6/2025

Present: Cllr Moira Mai, Jacqueline Allen, Ken Edwards, Sion McGuinness, Clare Mackintosh, Rhys Evans, Huw Symonds, Fiona Hopkins, Eluned Jones, Dilwyn Morgan (Local Member of Gwynedd Council) and Huw Antur (*Clerk*).

Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllr. Dilys Evans, Eifion Roberts and Eric Williams.

Public: No one present.

1. **The Mayor:** In the Mayor's absence, the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Moira Mai, extended a welcome to the meeting.
2. **Interest:** Interest was declared by Cllr Sion McGuinness in item 9.1c (Aran Ice Cream licence application).
3. **Minutes:** The accuracy of the minutes of the meeting was confirmed on 1/5/25.
4. **Clerk Matters / Matters Raising:**
 - i. Membership of sub-committees: The membership of the sub-committees for the year 2025/2026 was reviewed to ensure that the committees were fairly representative of the members.
 - ii. Bus Shelter near Cae Croes: As no response was received from Gwynedd Council regarding the missing glass panel of one of the shelters, Cllr Dilwyn Morgan was asked to discuss this with the appropriate officers.
5. **Gwynedd Council:** There was a report from Cllr Dilwyn Morgan, who said that he was trying to get a date from the Area Nine Tidy Team to paint the metalwork of the town's billboards and signs, and also to carry out necessary weeding work.
6. **Sub-committees:**

Assets sub-committee: It has been reported that Draig Goch flags have been flagged at the Tomen y Bala site and near Penllyn Leisure Centre.

Christmas Sub-Committee: It was reported that an application had been made for the costs of providing Christmas lights.

Finance sub-committee: It was noted that a meeting of the sub-committee has been scheduled for June 16th to consider an audit of the council's accounts for 2024/2025.

Friendly Town sub-committee: It was agreed to continue the discussion to develop the town as a dementia friendly town.

Biodiversity subcommittee: It has been reported that a Biodiversity Report is being prepared.

It was also reported that the committee was working with the Welsh Wildlife Trust to organise a Black Swift awareness night on June 16th. Posters for the occasion were distributed, and it was noted that it needed to be put on the website. It was noted that prices for flower boxes were required as last year.

Representatives on organisations:

Bala and Penllyn Community Association: It was reported that there was a meeting of the association and that the Town Council representatives have had an opportunity to provide information on the council's financial contribution in March.

Cwmni Pum Plwy Penllyn: It was reported that the company's latest meeting was held in Ystafell Celyn, which is the new meeting room within Canolfan Bro Tegid. It was noted that the company is preparing an application for funding to fund Phase 2 work on the centre, which will include repointing the building and adapting access and toilets for the less able. It was also noted that discussions are ongoing on the development of a community energy and community transport plan.

7. **Planning Matters:** A planning application has been received to install solar panels, gate and cameras on the Llyn Tegid Warden site. It was agreed to support the application, and to discuss the arrangements with the local wardens.

A request was also received to install a lighted sign on the window of the Co-op's shop. It was agreed to oppose the application as the development would not suit Bala High Street and the Conservation Area, and could contribute to light pollution in the town.

8. Finance Matters:

- i. The most recent financial position was considered, which stated that the current account was £15,914, £27,018 in the retention account and £228 in the Mayor's Fund.
- ii. The receipt of a percentage of the income of the town's car parks was noted by Gwynedd Council.
- iii. Payments for cleaning Bus Shelters, the Clerk's salary payment, the council insurance payment, the Hill & Roberts invoice for processing council salaries, the Meirion Jones invoice for plants and flower troughs, and Cllr Jacqueline Allen's costs for the purchase of compost were approved.
- iv. Information was received of an intention to organise a Lantern Parade in the town, with a request for the council to support the event by letter, and also to consider a financial contribution towards the event. It was agreed that additional information about the arrangement of the event was needed before the council could consider a contribution.
- v. The Council's Annual Return for 2024/2025 was submitted, and the form was approved ready for submission to the auditors. It was agreed to appoint Gwynedd Council as Internal Auditors.

9. Correspondence:

- i) Gwynedd Council: A letter has been received inviting the council to discuss the re-establishment of a Youth Club in the town. It was agreed to invite the officer to the next council meeting. Information was received about the Gwynedd Ni Fund, which is a specific fund for community and town councils, and the Placemaking Plan Sub-Committee was asked to consider potential schemes. A copy of an application for a licence to sell alcoholic beverages was received at the Ice Cream shop in Aran. Following discussion it was agreed to express concerns about the sale of alcoholic beverages in an environment where children are present, about the proposed opening hours and about the concern that the development could lead to drinking on the street due to the limitation of space in the shop.
- ii) Snowdonia National Park: Information was received about the Snowdonia Communities Fund, the Local Development Plan Delivery Agreement and the Snowdonia Nature event at Plas Tan y Bwlch on June 25th, when Cllr Fiona Hopkins and Moira said they would represent the council.
- iii) One Voice Wales: Information was received to the council about the need to prepare a Biodiversity Plan, and it was noted that a plan was in the pipeline.
- iv) Mantell Gwynedd: Information has been received about the Gwynedd Voluntary Sector Fund.
- v) Illegal camping: A letter was received highlighting illegal camping near the Rugby Club, and it was noted that the letter had also been sent to Gwynedd Council's Highways Department. It was noted that suitable signage could be helpful in a situation like this.
- vi) Anti-social behaviour: Information of anti-social behaviour was received in the Castle Road area, and it was noted that the police were aware of the situation.
- vii) T3 Bus Service: Information was received from Mabon ap Gwynfor about adjustments to the bus timetable, and it was noted that the new arrangement was a significant improvement on the situation.

10. Town Councillors' local affairs:

Attention was drawn to English monolingual signs that have been installed on the Co-op, and it was agreed to contact to request Welsh or bilingual signs.

It was noted that Urdd Gobaith Cymru had announced that the Urdd National Eisteddfod 2028 may come to Gwynedd, and it was agreed to contact to ask Bala to be considered as a possible site for the festival.

The meeting closed at 9pm and the next meeting will be on Thursday 3 July 2025.