

Minutes of Meeting 6/11/2025

Present: Cllr Dilys Evans, Eifion Roberts, Rhys Evans, Eluned Jones, Clare Mackintosh, Huw Symonds, Ken Edwards, Sion McGuiness, Dilwyn Morgan (Gwynedd Council Local Member) and Huw Antur (*Clerk*).

Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllr Moira Mai and Jacqueline Allen.

Public: Nobody present.

1. **The Mayor:** Everyone was welcomed to the meeting by the Mayor, Cllr Dilys Evans, and referred to councillor Fiona Hopkins' bereavement of the loss of her husband Neil earlier in the day. The council's deepest condolences were extended to Fiona and her family.

Discussion with Snowdonia National Park officials. Jonathan Cawley (Chief Executive), Edward Jones (Property Officer) and Arwel Morris (Area Warden) were welcomed to the meeting to discuss parking arrangements and charges at the Llyn Tegid car park.

The financial context of the National Park was given, and the current constraints were noted, and it was explained that the Park's financial options included increasing commercial income, cutting capital budgets or staffing cuts.

The officers' recommendations, which will be submitted to the Park Authority in December, were to increase the parking fee (up to 4 hours) from £3 to £5, and the parking fee (over 4 hours) from £6 to £8, with local residents being able to park for free for up to half an hour at night and in the morning. It was noted that the car park would be closed overnight (10pm to 6am) and the site would be monitored by ANPR and CCTV cameras.

Following discussion it was agreed for the Town Council to apply to the National Park to increase the free parking period from 30 minutes to 45 minutes. It was also emphasised the need to obtain community benefit from the arrangement by means of a levy (similar to Gwynedd Council's arrangement on the Grin and Plase car parks), or to adapt the National Park Community Fund's guidance so that it prioritises areas under pressure during the main visitor season. The need for a sustainable arrangement was emphasised, and the need to take care that the National Park does not distance itself from the local community. Park officials have therefore been asked to re-examine the whole arrangement to ensure that communities benefit from the arrangement.

It was suggested that the Tegid, Celyn and Thryweryn Advisory Committee be re-established to be the voice of local communities on National Park issues.

Officers have also been asked to prepare in advance for the May 2026 bank holiday parking arrangements to ensure suitable and responsible parking arrangements.

The officers were thanked for the discussion.

2. **Interest:** No interest declared.

3. **Minutes:** The accuracy of the minutes of the 2/10/25 meeting was confirmed.

4. **Clerk's Issues / Matters arising from:**

- i. Council Seat Vacancy: It was reported that no request for election had been received, and that the council was therefore able to co-opt a new member. It was agreed to advertise this opportunity.
- ii. Gwynedd Youth Service: No further information has been received about this development.
- iii. Gwynedd Grant Ni: A report was given on the installation of additional bike racks and flower boxes for the town, and it was noted that discussions were ongoing with officials from Gwynedd Council's Highways Department and officials from the Welsh Government's Highways Department.
- iv. Bala Artwork: Discussions were reported on to relocate the Cywain Centre artwork to a public site in the Bala area. It was agreed that there was a need to proceed with costs for the development, and the Assets Committee was asked to undertake this work.
- v. Tomen y Bala Benches: A picture of the proposed benches was received, along with the plaque to be placed on them. It was agreed that the benches and plaque were very suitable.
- vi. Penllyn Leisure Centre: A response was received from the centre's officers explaining that commercial issues sometimes result in the closure of some elements of the centre to the public.

5. **Gwynedd Council:** A report was received from Cllr Dilwyn Morgan, who said that he was working with Gwynedd Council officers on the intention of getting additional yellow lines for the town, on improvements to the pavements of the High Street, on parking arrangements near the Rugby Club, on the need for an additional 'school' sign near Ysgol Godre'r Berwyn, and on a new Signage Strategy for the town, and that the consultants who have developed the ideas are ready to come and present them to the Town Council.

6. Sub-committees:

Assets sub-committee: It was noted that the committee will lead on the relocation of art work at Canolfan Cywain.

Friendly Town, Resources and Christmas subcommittee: Christmas Lights reported to have been booked, and the Older People's Commissioner for Wales' briefing paper on making Wales a nation of age-friendly communities.

Finance sub-committee: It was noted that the November 6th meeting had been adjourned, but that it was intended to be rescheduled for early January 2026.

Biodiversity Sub-Committee: It was noted that a Section 6 Report will need to be prepared by the end of December.

Sustainable Tourism Sub-Committee: It was reported that a meeting had been arranged by the Snowdonia National Park on November 20th to discuss a sustainable tourism project, and Cllr Dilys Evans and Eifion Roberts agreed to make an effort to represent the council at the meeting. It was also agreed to forward the information to the Bala Business Group.

Representatives on organisations:

One Voice Wales: The Mayor reported on a recent meeting, and it was agreed to complete a questionnaire on the work of the Meirionnydd One Voice Wales Committee.

Bala Business Group: Cllr Rhys Evans reported on the group's work, this including Bala Late Night Shopping arrangements.

Cwmni Pum Plwy Penllyn: It was reported that Phase 2 work at Canolfan Bro Tegid had begun, and that the arrangements for the Community Transport Plan were coming together.

7. **Planning Issues:** There were no planning issues to consider.

8. Finance Matters:

- i. The most recent financial position was considered, with £13,063 in the current account, £37,208 in the retention account and £513 in the Mayor's Fund at the end of October.
- ii. Payments were approved for the cleaning of Bus Shelters, the Clerk's salary, an invoice for the maintenance of Bala Public Toilets, the council's PAYE service, the Cyfnod advertisement (vacant council seat) and SLCC membership for the year.

9. Correspondence:

- i) Gwynedd Council: A Waste Strategy Questionnaire and a Community Councils Questionnaire have been received for completion. Information has been received that the Ardal Ni Tidying Team will be in Bala at the end of November.
- ii) National Park: Invited to the Sustainable Tourism meeting on November 20th.
- iii) One Voice Wales: Information has been received about the Older People's Commissioner for Wales' Age Friendly Community briefing.
- iv) Police: A request was received from the police to attend the next council meeting to introduce Constable Aled Hughes.
- v) Bala Football Club: An invitation to a meeting was accepted on November 10th, and Cllr Huw Symonds agreed to attend.
- vi) Yellow Lines near Castle Road – Cllr Dilwyn Morgan was asked to discuss this with Gwynedd Council's highways officers.
- vii) Town Clock Repair: Information was received from a company promoting their work of clock repair. It was agreed to leave the matter for the time being.

- viii) Gwynedd Council: A copy of the Temporary Prohibition of Parking Notice on the High Street, and a copy of the New Parking Order Consultation which applies to the Green and Plase car parks have been received.
- ix) Remembrance Sunday: Information was received about Remembrance Sunday arrangements on November 9th.

10. Town Councillors' local affairs:

- i) A question was received about film screening arrangements at Theatr Derek Williams. It was clarified that the theatre is making some changes which mean that films will not be shown for the time being.

The meeting closed at 9pm and the next meeting will be on Thursday 11 December 2025.