

## **Minutes of Meeting 15/1/2026**

**Present:** Cllr Dilys Evans, Moira Mai, Jacqueline Allen, Huw Symonds, Eifion Roberts, Rhys Evans, Eluned Jones, Ken Edwards, Dilwyn Morgan (Gwynedd Council Local Member) and Huw Antur (*Clerk*).

**Apologies:** Apologies were received from Cllr. Sion McGuiness.

**Public:** Nobody present.

1. **The Mayor:** The Mayor, Cllr Dilys Evans, welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a happy new year.

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

3. **Minutes:** The accuracy of the minutes of the 11/12/25 meeting was confirmed.

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

- i. Resignation of Cllr Fiona Hopkins: A letter has been received from Cllr Fiona Hopkins stating that she is resigning from her role as a member of the Town Council. It was agreed to write to Fiona to thank her for all her work. It was also agreed to advertise the opportunity to call an election to fill the vacant seat.
- ii. Previous Vacant Council Seat: It has been clarified that the council can co-opt a new member. It was reported that two names had been received, and following discussion it was agreed to co-opt Tomos Ffrancon, who works as a solicitor in Bala. The clerk was asked to contact Tomos and complete the appropriate forms.
- iii. Snowdonia National Park – Parking arrangements near Llyn Tegid: A further response has been received from the Chief Executive of the National Park following the recent discussions on parking arrangements and costs near Llyn Tegid. It was agreed to apply to the Park to allow free parking for local residents of the LL23 postcode area in order to create goodwill locally.
- iv. Gwynedd Youth Service: It was noted that some holes will be required to maintain the Ffynnon Beuno site, and it was suggested that the use of community garden gardening tools could be made.
- v. Gwynedd Ni Grant: A report was given on the installation of additional bike racks and flower boxes for the town, and a flagpole for the Grin car park. It was noted that the grant was being processed by Gwynedd Council and that

the installation of the equipment needed to proceed. The Assets Committee has been asked to meet to make these arrangements.

- vi. Bala Artwork: Discussions were reported on to relocate the Cywain Centre artwork to a public site in the Bala area. The Assets Committee was asked to discuss the scheme further, and the National Park Community Fund was identified as a potential source of funding.
- vii. Town pavements: Received a response from NMWTRA stating that they are inspecting the condition of pavements near the White Lion, and that they have also sent the council's comments on the general condition of the town's pavements to the relevant department of the Welsh Government.
- viii. Public Toilets: We received a further response from Gwynedd Council to the council's comments on the annual maintenance costs of public toilets, with the response proposing two possible options going forward. Following discussion it was agreed to accept Option A, which is for costs to increase over three financial years – this minimises the impact on the Town Council's annual budget and precept.

5. **Gwynedd Council:** It has been reported that significant improvements are being made to the High Street trees, including the resurfacing of 16 trees and the replacement of a further four that have deteriorated.

6. Sub-committees:

**Assets sub-committee:** It was reported that the kiosk near Canolfan Bro Tegid needed repairs where the deffib is located, and a request has been made to a local builder to carry out this work.

It was agreed that a list of the location of the town's various deffib equipment was required, with details of the body responsible for checking the condition of the equipment.

**Finance Sub-Committee:** Report from the Finance Committee meeting held on 7th January 2026, together with financial recommendations for the 2026/2027 financial year.

It was agreed to adopt the recommendations, namely:

- a) To set the council's net expenditure budget of £34,322.
- b) To set the council's precept of £30,000, this means making use of £4,322 of the council's financial reserves, and means council tax of £37.18 for a Band D home.
- c) To raise the salary of the clerk as per NALC Scale 22 from January 2026 onwards.
- d) To consider making a financial contribution to Theatr Derek Williams equivalent to councillors' allowances which is not claimed – this is to be confirmed at a further meeting.

**Biodiversity Sub-Committee:** The Section 6 Report was reported to have been sent by at the end of December, and Cllr Jacquie Allen was thanked for her work in preparing it. It was reported that Sam Langdon from One Voice Wales gave a recent introduction to Meirionnydd Area Committee, and it was agreed to invite him to make a presentation to the Town Council.

It was agreed to send information about the Asian Hornet to the members of the Biodiversity Committee.

**Sustainable Tourism Sub-Committee:** Information about a Sustainable Tourism workshop was received from the Snowdonia National Park at Plas Tan y Bwlch on January 29th, and it was agreed to forward the information to Bala Business Group.

#### **Representatives on organisations:**

**One Voice Wales:** The Mayor reported on the meeting of the Meirionnydd Committee of One Llais Cymru on January 14th, and it was noted that the Annual Meeting will be held on January 21st.

**Bala and Penllyn Community Association:** No reports of recent meetings.

**Bala Business Group:** There has been no report of a recent meeting.

**Cwmni Pum Plwy Penllyn:** It has been reported that there will be a launch of the Bala and Penllyn Community Car service shortly, when members of the Town Council will be invited to attend.

#### **7. Planning Issues:**

There were no planning issues to discuss.

#### **8. Finance Matters:**

- i. The most recent financial position was considered, with £2,869 in the current account, £30,296 in the savings account and £513 in the Mayor's Fund at the end of December.
- ii. Payments for the cleaning of Bus Shelters, the Clerk's salary, an advertisement invoice in the Cyfnod, Awen Meirion's invoice for flags and the Cwmni Pum Plwy Penllyn invoice for the use of Canolfan Henblas for 2025 were approved.
- iii. It was noted receipt of a payment note for Gwynedd Council's Cronfa Gwynedd Ni grant.
- iv. The information about the council's spending entitlement was noted under Section 137.

#### **9. Correspondence:**

- i) Gwynedd Council: Details of Gwynedd Council's parking charges have been received.
- ii) Gwynedd Council: Information has been received that the Ardal Ni Tidying Team will be in Bala on W/C January 19th.
- iii) Foel Fach Wind Farm Consultation: It was noted that there will be a public consultation at Canolfan Henblas on January 16th.
- iv) Gwynedd Consultancy: Information has been received about the tree protection scheme on the High Street.
- v) Liz Saville Roberts: Information was received about an incident for veterans on February 5th.
- vi) Adra: Information has been received about empty houses in Bala.

vii) Snowdonia National Park: Further information has been received on the review process of the Snowdonia Local Development Plan.

10. **Town Councillors' local affairs:** There has been an explanation as to why the Derek Williams Theatre is not currently showing films. It was noted that Natural Resources Wales needed to be contacted to ensure that the trees near the River Dee are not cut again this year. It was confirmed that arrangements were in place to rewrite the inscription on the War Memorial.

The meeting closed at 9pm and the next meeting will be on Thursday 5 February 2026.