

HOLYHEAD TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 15 JULY 2019 6.00 p.m.
IN PUBLIC

Councillors present: Alan Williams (Mayor), Richard Parry, Keith Thomas, Hywel Williams, Glyn Haynes, W J Chorlton, Trefor Lloyd Hughes MBE, Keith R Roberts, Jennifer Saboor, Ken Tatlock, Adrienne Edwards, Mrs Ailia Lewis MBE and Mrs Ann Kennedy

In attendance: Robert Henderson, Town Clerk/Financial Officer
Mrs P R Scott (Clerk/Typist)

1. To ask the question – “Is any member of the public or any member making a recording of this meeting?”

No one was recording the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Vaughan Williams and Councillor Raymond Jones

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY ANY COUNCILLOR OR OFFICER:

Councillor Trefor Lloyd Hughes MBE in correspondence item no (A) re: Treseifion play park – request for assistance for up-grading the play field as he is the Chairman of the organisation. Councillor Hughes left the Council Chamber when this item of correspondence was being discussed and voted upon.

4. APPOINTMENT OF TOWN CLERK:

Robert thanked the members of the Town Council for appointing him as Town Clerk/Financial Officer and he said he would do his best in his duties as Town Clerk and he looked forward to working with the members of the Town Council.

5. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Mayor stated that he had been busy since becoming the Mayor and had attended the following:- D Day Remembrance at the Holyhead Cenotaph, attended the Holyhead Leisure Centre for the official opening of the Island Games football matches, a beach cleaning event, attended a local 5 a side competition, attended at the Town Hall to discuss various matters with the Acting Town Clerk and the Deputy Clerk. Members were also informed that there was a Plaque being erected in Morrisons Supermarket to commemorate the official opening of the store by Councillor Mrs Ailia Lewis MBE who was the Town Mayor between 2008 and 2009 when the store opened. Councillor Williams extended to Councillor Mrs Ann Kennedy best wishes as her daughter was currently a patient at Ysbyty Gwynedd.

Councillor Mrs Ailia Lewis MBE was wished well after serving 44 years as a “Lolli-pop lady”.

Councillor Tatlock voiced his concern that no prior consultation was made before termination of their employment which was made by the Anglesey County Council.

6. PRESENTATION FROM DEWI LLOYD OFFICER OF THE ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL:

Dewi Lloyd distributed a briefing document regarding the regeneration proposals to the members of the Town Council. It included details of the Market Hall building currently being finalised in readiness for opening to the public during the month of August 2019 when the contents of the Library building would be relocated to this site, as well as offices on the first floor. Re-development of the old Park School and Library building was not known at this time but could be of mixed use in the future i.e. commercial/and or housing.

Ten new business units were to be erected at the heli-port site next to Morrisons supermarket funded by European funding and a loan from the Welsh Government. Works would commence in August 2019 and hopefully finalised in May of next year. Similar units erected in Llangefnï are all now occupied.

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The cruise ship visits were increasing year by year and 40 cruise ships were due to visit the port this year and visitors were welcomed to the town and visited the Ucheldre Centre, St Cybi's Church and the town centre. A new Cruise Ship Project officer would be appointed soon.

Works had commenced on clearing ivy from St Cybi's Churchyard, extra CCTV had been erected to try and curb anti-social behaviour and phase II works were due to be carried out on the car parking spaces at Swift Square car park away from the Roman wall as it had historical importance in the town due to its age. Improvement works would also be carried out on the St Cybi's Church in early 2020 following consultation consents. New signage was required in the town centre and in the ferry terminal.

A three and a half year project was due to commence in September 2019 "Holy Island Landscape Partnership" this would deal with "Japanese knotweed" and dry stone walling and volunteers would be assisting, funding had just been awarded for £1.1m from the National Lottery and this would cover the whole of Holy Island and not just Holyhead.

Phase II Townscape Heritage initiative would also look at derelict buildings near to the Market Hall, plus the fish shop near to Market Square. Councillors stated that the façade of the Conservative Club was in desperate need of up-grading, the Plas Alltran building was an eye-sore and the Railway Station had been left neglected for a long time. Dewi replied by saying that plans were afoot for the Conservative Club, but that the Plas Alltran building which was a listed building was in private ownership. Works were due to "spruce up" the Railway Station but that there were different organisations involved and part of the Station was listed. The site of the old Crown café was in private ownership but the Anglesey County Council had purchased the site where the Ex-Servicemen's Club used to be.

Plans were also being drawn up to finalise the exit route out of the port to alleviate port traffic. These would take about 18 months to complete as there were different Agencies involved in this. Any proposed schemes would need consent from stakeholders before any schemes could commence thereafter. Councillor Ken Tatlock asked if a study had been carried out re: traffic emissions/air pollution at Blackbridge where vehicle traffic left the Port. Dewi replied by saying that surveys had been carried out in the past.

Several Councillors asked questions to Dewi Lloyd and he stated that the County Council budget had been significantly reduced and there was a total team of 3 officers who dealt with Regeneration but they were doing their best in the circumstances.

Councillor Kennedy stated that the Business Forum Group had produced a leaflet which advertised all the local businesses in the town. Regarding the Railway Station, Dewi Lloyd suggested that the Town Council write officially to Transport for Wales to try and speed up the "sprucing up" of the Railway Station. Councillor Mrs Ailia Lewis MBE had been concerned for many years regarding the state of the Railway Station and she had tried to assist by buying plants and placing them at the Station herself.

Councillor Mrs Ailia Lewis MBE stated that a lot of cruise ship passengers visited St Cybi's Church and Councillor Richard Parry stated that local Choirs regularly sang to welcome the visitors. Councillor Keith Thomas stated that he was glad to see that the Market Hall would be open to the public very soon as an important community facility in a prominent part of the town centre.

Councillors wished to see improvements made to the shelters at the Newry Beach in the future as they did not want to lose these shelters as they had been in situ for a long time.

Dewi was thanked for his informative Presentation and he subsequently, left the Council Chamber.

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7. RE-STRUCTURE OF SUB-COMMITTEES:

Rob Henderson informed Councillors that he had received completed forms from Councillors of their first choice preference of sitting on Sub-Committees. Some Councillors had not handed forms in, but were all given the opportunity to sit on any Committee of their choosing:-

Minute no. 5427/19

Staffing/Audit Sub-Committee (With Powers to Act) – Mayor Councillor Alan Williams and Deputy Mayor Councillor Richard Parry both ex-officio, and Councillors Keith Thomas, Keith R Roberts, Ken Tatlock, Adrienne Edwards, W J Chorlton, Mrs Ann Kennedy and Councillor Mrs B Warner (9 members)

Finance and Property Sub-Committee:

Councillors Mrs Ann Kennedy, Hywel Williams, Jennifer Saboor, Ken Tatlock, Keith Thomas, Mayor (Cllr Alan Williams Ex officio, Deputy Mayor Cllr Richard Parry Ex officio, Chairman of Finance (Cllr Keith Roberts), Ex officio and Deputy Chair of Finance (Councillor Adrienne Edwards) Ex-officio (9 members)

Communities and Leisure Sub-Committee:

Councillors W J Chorlton, Raymond Jones, Mrs Ailia Lewis MBE, Adrienne Edwards, Hywel Williams and Mayor Councillor Alan Williams (Ex-officio) and Deputy Mayor Councillor Richard Parry (Ex-officio)

(7 members)

Public Relations/Website/Events:

Councillors W J Chorlton, Ken Tatlock, Vaughan Williams, Mrs Ailia Lewis MBE, Adrienne Edwards and Mayor Councillor Alan Williams (Ex-officio) and Councillor Richard Parry Deputy Mayor (Ex-officio)

(7 members)

8. To make a decision on the solar panels for the Empire building:

Following a discussion, it was resolved, proposed and seconded to defer making a decision on this at the present time.

Minute no. 5428/19

9. To receive the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 1st April 2019:

It was resolved, proposed and seconded to receive the Minutes as a true record.

Minute no. 5429/19

10. To receive the Minutes of the Communities/Leisure Sub-Committee meeting held on Wednesday 3rd April 2019

It was resolved, proposed and seconded to receive the Minutes as a true record.

Minute no. 5430/19

11. To receive the Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Council Meeting held on Monday 15 April 2019:

It was resolved, proposed and seconded to receive the Minutes as a true record.

Minute no. 5431/19

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12. To receive the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 30 May 2019:
It was resolved, proposed and seconded to receive the Minutes as a true record.
Minute no. 5432/19

13. To approve the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 17 June 2019:
It was resolved, proposed and seconded to approve the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting.
Minute no. 5433/19

14. To approve the Minutes of the Finance/Property Sub-Committee meeting held on Monday 24 June 2019:

Minute no. 5434/19

Councillor Hywel Williams was requested to contact a representative of Bangor City Council as that Authority had been granted funds to up-grade businesses in the town centre of Bangor.

Minute no. 5435/19

It was resolved, proposed and seconded to add to those Minutes that there would be an increase in admission cost per adult to the Cinema by an extra .50 pence with effect from the 1st July 2019. Also, Councillor Richard Parry wished to add to the Minutes that the Committee would need to be very careful and mindful in the future regarding expenditure as funds set aside for the Town Park had already exceeded the budget due to the expansion of the skate-park, CCTV and lighting.

Minute no. 5436/19

15. CORRESPONDENCE:

(a) Mrs Sue Williams, Treseifion Play field Association : Assistance from the Town Council to replace the fence around the small child's play area.

It was resolved, proposed and seconded that the Councillors for that Ward contact Mrs Williams to obtain further information from Mrs Williams on how the Town Council can assist the Treseifion Play field Association, and this will then be reported back to the Town Council in the future.

Minute no. 5437/19

Councillor Trefor Lloyd Hughes MBE left the Council Chamber at 7.15 p.m. when this item was being discussed and voted upon

(b) Veronica Huband and Linda Williams, Gwelfor Community Centre Holyhead : Request for donation of any kind towards the inter-generational project between the MORLO Nursery and the Fairways and Garreglwyd residential homes.

It was resolved, proposed and seconded to make a donation of £60.00 towards this worthy cause.

Minute no. 5438/19

(c) G Hefin Jones MBE on behalf of the Holyhead Male Voice Choir : Visit to Greystones in Eire November 2019. Letter of thanks for donation of £1,000 from the Holyhead Town Council

It was resolved, proposed and seconded to note the contents of the letter.

Minute no. 5439/19

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(d) E mail from Cadi Evanson listing 5 questions to ask the Holyhead Town Council:
as follows:-

Question 1 : When politically affiliated Councillors are voting, do they represent the interest of Holyhead citizens or their political party first?

Answer:

This is forbidden in Community Councils due to the Local Government Act.

Question 2 : The Councillors are mainly members of 3 groups – Plaid Cymru, Labour and Independent. With the “Independent” group in the minority, will they ever get the opportunity to be Mayor of Holyhead?

Answer:

Yes, when voted in. This year’s Deputy Mayor is independent.

Question 3 : In respect of bringing jobs to Holyhead, can you explain the current partnership role of Holyhead Town Council with Isle of Anglesey County Council?

Answer:

We work closely with all local organisations and the County Council in securing the future prospects of the community.

Question 4 : Having frequently attended Holyhead Town Council meetings over the last year, I’ve come to the conclusion that any elected Mayor in any one year, albeit with very good intentions, cannot give Holyhead the big economic change that it requires. As we’re in the 21st century, would Holyhead Town Council ever consider changing this?

Answer:

Holyhead Town Council is only a consultee. All major decisions come from the Anglesey County Council and further afield from the Senedd (Welsh Government).

Question 5 : A few times I have spoken out at the end of meetings to say how disappointed I am about Holyhead Town Council lack of interest in welcoming and informing citizens of Holyhead of their hard voluntary work on their behalf. “It’s all on the website” was the answer given by a few Councillors at the recent Annual General Meeting. Noting that it is the citizens of Holyhead that elected the Councillors in, and the negative comments that are always in circulation and on Facebook etc. I’d like to ask the Council what are their future plans to overcome this?

Answer:

The Holyhead Town Council is aiming to change public perception and allowing members of the public to ask questions at the end of Council meetings. The Town Council will continue to make strides in communicating with members of the local community.

It was resolved, proposed and seconded that should any member of the public wish to ask questions at a Council meeting in the future that they should only be answered by the Mayor who was in office at the time and that a minimum time should be allocated for answering such questions.

Minute no. 5440/19

16. PLANNING APPLICATION(s):

There were no Planning applications to comment upon.

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17. HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT:

Robert Henderson stated that there were no Health & Safety matters to report.

18. Any questions from members of the public?

There were no other questions from members of the public only those already documented in correspondence (d) of the Agenda.

All the members of the public then left the Council Chamber.

It was resolved, proposed and seconded that the meeting revert into Private session for Part B of the Agenda.

Minute no. 5441/19

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HOLYHEAD TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15 JULY 2019 6.00 p.m.

IN PRIVATE

The meeting concluded at 7.55 p.m.

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