
THE COUNCIL, 4.12.14

Present: Councillor Dewi Owen (Chairman);
Councillor Dilwyn Morgan (Vice-chairman).

Councillors: Stephen Churchman, Annwen Daniels, Anwen Davies, Edward Dogan, Dyfed Edwards, Elwyn Edwards, Thomas Ellis, Alan Jones Evans, Aled Evans, Jean Forsyth, Gweno Glyn, Simon Glyn, Gwen Griffith, Selwyn Griffiths, Alwyn Gruffydd, Siân Gwenllian, Annwen Hughes, John Brynmor Hughes, Louise Hughes, Jason Humphreys, Peredur Jenkins, Aeron Jones, Anne Lloyd Jones, Brian Jones, Charles W.Jones, Dyfrig Jones, Elin Walker Jones, Eric Merfyn Jones, John Wynn Jones, Linda Wyn Jones, Llywarch Bowen Jones, Sion Wyn Jones, Dilwyn Lloyd, June E.Marshall, Dafydd Meurig, Michael Sol Owen, W.Roy Owen, Peter Read, E.Caerwyn Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Liz Saville Roberts, W.Gareth Roberts, Mair Rowlands, Angela Russell, Mike Stevens, Gareth Thomas, Ioan Thomas, Ann Williams, Eirwyn Williams, Elfed Williams, Gethin Glyn Williams, Gruffydd Williams, Hefin Williams, John Wyn Williams, Owain Williams, R.H.Wyn Williams, Mandy Williams-Davies, Robert J.Wright and Eurig Wyn.

Also in attendance: Dilwyn Williams (Chief Executive), Iwan Trefor Jones (Corporate Director), Dafydd Edwards (Head of Finance Department), Geraint George (Head of Strategic and Improvement Department), Iwan Evans (Head of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer), Aled Davies (Head of Regulatory Department), Rhun ap Gareth (Senior Solicitor/Deputy Monitoring Officer), Arwel E. Jones (Senior Manager - Corporate Commissioning Service), Dafydd Gibbard (Senior Corporate Property Manager), Dewi Morgan (Senior Manager Audit and Risk), Nia Davies (Planning Manager), Eirian Roberts and Lowri Haf Evans (Member Support and Scrutiny Officers).

Apologies: Councillors Craig ab Iago, Endaf Cooke, Lesley Day, Gwynfor Edwards, Huw Edwards, Trevor Edwards, Eryl Jones-Williams, Beth Lawton, Linda Morgan, W.Tudor Owen, Nigel Pickavance, Dyfrig Siencyn.

The meeting was opened with a prayer from Councillor Thomas Ellis.

1. MINUTES

The Chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on 9 October 2014 as a true record.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Members had received a briefing note from the Monitoring Officer in advance regarding the following matters:-

Council Tax Reduction Scheme (item 11 on the agenda)
Council Tax: Discretion to allow discounts (item 12 on the agenda)

- Councillor Liz Saville Roberts declared a personal interest in item 11 on the agenda as a close family member received a reduction in Council Tax.

The member was of the opinion that it was not a prejudicial interest and she participated fully in the discussion on the item.

- Councillors Anwen Davies, Thomas Ellis, Eirwyn Williams and Owain Williams declared a personal interest in item 12 on the agenda as they owned empty houses.
- Councillor Dilwyn Lloyd declared a personal interest in item 12 on the agenda as he had recently sold an empty house.
- Councillor Mandy Williams-Davies declared a personal interest in item 12 on the agenda as her husband had inherited a house, which was currently empty.
- Councillor Llywarch Bowen Jones declared a personal interest in item 12 on the agenda as his daughter had a holiday home.
- Councillor Gethin Williams declared a personal interest in item 12 on the agenda as a family member had a close personal connection.

The members were of the opinion that they were prejudicial interests, and they withdrew from the meeting during the discussions on those items.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Welcome

A welcome was extended to the new member for the Bowydd a Rhiw Ward, Councillor Annwen Daniels.

(a) Condolences

The Chairman paid tribute to the late Arwel Jones, former Chairman of the Council who had represented the Diffwys a Maenofferen Ward until 2008, and condolences were extended to his family in their loss.

Condolences were expressed to the following:-

Councillor Stephen Churchman on the loss of his father.

Councillor Dafydd Meurig on the loss of his father.

Councillor Tudor Owen on the loss of his mother.

Councillor Anwen Hughes on the loss of her mother.

The family of Meinir Wyn Jones, former Head Teacher of Ysgol Dyffryn Nantlle and Ysgol Brithdir and a national winner in the field of *cerdd dant* and folk singing.

It was also noted that the Council wished to remember others within the county's communities who had lost loved ones recently.

The Council members stood as a mark of respect.

(b) Best Wishes

Reference was made to Councillor Huw Edwards's illness and it was noted that members sent him their best wishes.

(c) Congratulations

The following were congratulated:-

Snowdonia National Park Authority on being successful in two National Award ceremonies in the previous week:-

- At a ceremony in London on 27 November, the Authority and Harrison Design Ltd. were 'Highly Commended' by the Landscape Institute in the category of Medium Scale Public Developments for the Lôn Gwyrfaï project.
- The following day, the Authority was successful in the awards evening of the Royal Town Planning Institute Cymru, when they won the principal award for the Ysgol Llanegryn project.

Elfyn Evans from Dinas Mawddwy, the first Welshman to participate in the World Rallying Championships and he came eighth in his first year and he was fifth in the Wales Rally.

Elen Evans from Dinas Mawddwy for winning over fifty caps playing rugby for Wales Women.

Elain Llwyd from Cwmtirmynach for winning the chair at the Wales Young Farmers' Eisteddfod.

4. QUESTIONS

(The Cabinet Members' written answers had been distributed to the members in the group meetings on the morning of the Council meeting.)

(1) A question from Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd

"Why did the Gwynedd Council Leader refuse an invitation to join the leaders of Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Conwy, Anglesey, Bridgend and Wrexham Councils to sign a letter calling for the Welsh Government's Minister for Natural Resources, Carl Sargeant, AM, to take advantage of the current Planning Bill to protect and promote the Welsh language?"

Answer- Councillor Dyfed Edwards, Council Leader

"I wish to thank Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd for the question.

"We are at present in a period of consultation on the content of the Planning Bill. The relevant Cabinet Member, Councillor John Wyn Williams, will present a full and comprehensive response to the contents of the Bill and submit the response for the Cabinet to consider this month and the response will then be sent in full to the Minister. This is the appropriate manner to respond to the Planning Bill during the consultation period."

A supplementary question from Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd

"Taking into account that he had refused to join the other leaders, Plaid Cymru issued a press statement some two weeks after it became apparent that the Gwynedd Leader had not joined the other leaders which stated that the Gwynedd Plaid Cymru Group was pressing the Welsh Government to ensure that the Welsh language was included in any new legislation when examining planning matters and went on to say that Plaid Cymru stated clearly and unequivocally that the Gwynedd Plaid Cymru Team had led on the work of pressing and lobbying for the

amendments to the new Planning Bill. Accepting these words, and they are to be commended, where does the refusal to sign a simple letter approving these principles leave the Plaid Cymru Group? As far as I can see, the Leader and the Group are not singing from the same hymn sheet. It also raises questions regarding the credibility of this if the group agrees with refusing to sign the letter and it raises a basic question regarding the future of the leadership of the group. Does the Leader see his future as Leader of the Plaid Cymru Group and Leader of this Council, as he obviously does not satisfy the aspirations of his own group or of this Council or the people of Gwynedd as a whole?"

Answer - Councillor Dyfed Edwards, Council Leader

"I am nearly of a mind to offer the member a leaflet to re-join Plaid Cymru because it appears that he is taking more of an interest in this Group than his own Group and he wishes to influence what is happening in this Group. The only way of achieving this constitutionally is to join a political party. This again highlights a matter where there is a difference of opinion between myself and Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd. Alwyn Gruffydd believes that the way to influence and to achieve goals is to make as much noise as you can, by kicking and screaming and having as much public attention as possible. This is the path that Alwyn Gruffydd is going to follow. It is all well and good if Alwyn Gruffydd wishes to follow this path. As the Plaid Cymru statement highlights, it shows very clearly that we as politicians in Plaid Cymru have held a series of meetings with Ministers, with the First Minister, via our representatives on the relevant committee in the Senedd in Cardiff, in an attempt to influence this Bill. Kicking and screaming will not have any influence. It is extremely difficult to have an influence unless, of course, you are in government and we are trying our best to do that. This is the way we operate and this is the most effective way of representing our aspirations and also to represent this Council. I am glad that these are the principles that we adhere to."

(2) A Question from Councillor Craig ab Iago (and asked by Councillor Selwyn Griffiths in the absence of the member)

"What steps have been taken by the Council to ensure that the Welsh language is central to the new Planning Bill?"

Answer - Councillor John Wyn Williams, Cabinet Member for Planning

"We are continuously lobbying with officers and the Assembly Members and the Welsh Government on language matters. We responded to the draft Bill and now we are in the process of responding to the Bill itself and we will have done this before the end of the year. Council officers, myself as Cabinet Member, the Leader and the Assembly Members have been lobbying for a long time on the language issue and the Planning Bill. On the 27th of last month I was before the Assembly's Communities Scrutiny Committee that was examining the Planning Bill. There were four councillors there from the whole of Wales and they had received an invitation to attend and there were a few officers being questioned separately from us. Aled Davies was there. We used this opportunity also to discuss what we wanted in the Bill regarding the Welsh language. Council officers have put together the legal wording to the relevant clauses in the Bill that would give legislative power to the Welsh language, i.e. providing rights for the language that would influence everything else that they do from that time onwards as a National strategic framework and local strategy etc. This was the way forward and the Scrutiny Committee has requested that we send these clauses to them because they have a great interest in them and other councils have asked in the meantime to see the

clause because they also are very willing to support the clause. This is the type of work that we do and will continue to do, namely to lobby continuously regarding the Welsh language and the Planning Bill.

A Supplementary Question from Councillor Selwyn Griffiths

“Can you provide assurance that the officers will continue with this lobbying work?”

Answer - Councillor John Wyn Williams, Cabinet Member for Planning

“Yes.”

(3) Question – from Councillor Sion Jones

“How did the Cabinet Member for the Economy decide on the best candidate to be the Gwynedd Business Champion?”

Answer – Councillor John Wynn Jones, Cabinet Member for the Economy

“We have a Small Businesses Champion which does not mean businesses in general and that is important. In these challenging economic times, I decided that Gwynedd Council should show its support to the 12,000 plus small businesses in the County, those which employ fewer than ten people, by appointing a Champion. When looking for an enthusiastic person who could identify with the predicament of these businesses, I decided that Siân Gwenllian was that person as she had worked for a small business for seven years and had worked freelance for long periods over the last 25 years. During her time with the Council, Siân has shown that she has a genuine interest in this field. Having worked with Sian on the Cabinet, I know that she is hard-working, will listen carefully to what the small business sector has to say and will be willing to look for the answers to any obstacles which could arise in their involvement with the Council. I look forward to working with her and to building on the work which the Council already has underway in this field.”

A supplementary question by Councillor Sion Jones

“Would the Cabinet Member be willing to look at the matter again and examine the options further?”

Answer – Councillor John Wynn Jones, Cabinet Member for the Economy.

“It is the questioner’s prerogative to have his own opinion about whom he believes is worthy and it is also my prerogative at present to decide. He will also be able to make decisions when he is a member of the Cabinet”.

5. A PRESENTATION BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CUSTOMER CARE

Submitted – a presentation by Councillor Ioan Thomas, Cabinet Member for Customer Care providing details of developments in the fields of customer care, democracy and legal, language, property, information technology, the website, services for residents (Siop Gwynedd and Galw Gwynedd) and libraries.

The Cabinet Member responded to a series of questions/observations by members regarding:-

- The launch of the Hunaniaith Language Strategy. The Cabinet Member was asked to arrange a presentation on the Strategy at the next meeting.
- According to the Office of National Statistics, it was predicted that Welsh would be a minority language in Gwynedd by 2026.
- The cost of the new website.
- The latest in terms of developing community and town council websites. The Cabinet Member agreed to make further enquiries and to come back to the member.
- Finding savings by reducing the number of photocopying machines across the Council.
- Difficulties in contacting planning officers through Galw Gwynedd. The Cabinet Member noted that he had been given to understand that this problem had been resolved now but that he would be happy to deal with any cases of failing to be able to access officers.
- Problems relating to disabled access to Porthmadog Library because of the height of the curbs. The Cabinet Member agreed to make further enquiries and to come back to the member.
- Disappointment that Gwynedd had not received any proportion of the financial package of £1 million that was recently allocated by the Government to various language schemes across Wales.

The Cabinet Member was thanked for his presentation.

6. GWYNEDD CHALLENGE

Submitted – a verbal presentation by the Cabinet Member for Resources, reminding members of the financial challenge facing the Council.

The Cabinet Member thanked the Chief Executive and the Gwynedd Challenge Team for their commitment in getting the message across to the residents of Gwynedd.

It was noted that the reference to a deficit of £50m in the table on page 2 of the presentation should be corrected to read £52m.

Concern was expressed that a letter had been sent to the schools warning them that they would be facing a deficit in their budgets next year which could mean that they would be required to make teachers redundant and that would be prior to the Council allocating its budget for 2015/16.

In response, the Chief Executive provided a full explanation of the cuts to schools and he noted:

- The target of £4.3m given to schools was equal to 6% of the budget, whilst other services, such as the Children Service, had received a much higher target of 16%.
- The Council had to have a balanced budget and not making cuts in schools would mean much heavier cuts in other services.
- No decision had been made to make teachers redundant but rather to ask the schools to consider how best to realise the £4.3m and to consider the implications of that against the other options available to the Council.
- This was not all to do with making teachers redundant and there were other budgets that schools could examine, e.g. reducing the carbon footprint etc.
- The schools had received a warning of possible cuts and it was expected that any prudent and financially-aware head teacher would be making reserve plans to address the worst situation.

- As the process of making teachers redundant took a long time, some schools were planning appropriately by immediately commencing the process by stating that they could be looking for voluntary redundancies, in case this would need to happen later on. It would be too late to do that in February after the budget had been set and the schools would be entering the next financial year with a budget that was illegal. He did not expect any school to make anyone redundant until the financial situation was known for certain.
- It was accepted that mentioning redundancies created instability and concern among staff, but in the current climate, no assurance could be given to anyone that their jobs were safe.
- It was acknowledged that it could appear to be rather odd to warn schools that they would have less money prior to that decision being made, but it had been customary, since the start of the lifetime of the Council, for the Education Service to write to the schools at this time of the year with the latest information available. Every school head should understand that this was a projection of what would happen in future and schools could either ignore the situation or start to plan for it.
- The Cabinet Member for Education had sent a letter to the chairman of every governing body, explaining what had been sent to schools and what they needed to do. The councillors had not received a copy of the letter because the Education Department expected them as governors to be in receipt of the information but it would only be a small matter to circulate information to them at the same time as the schools from now on if they so wished, and the Cabinet Member would take this message back to the department.
- The deficit in schools' budgets would not come entirely from cuts but also as a result of a reduction in the number of children.

The Cabinet Member for Education elaborated on the role and purpose of the Schools Savings Target Working Group that had been established to develop plans for achieving the schools savings target over the next three years.

The following matters were also raised:-

- The importance of ensuring that members received all necessary information with regard to the challenge facing the Council was emphasised.
- Reference was made to the difficulties of attending members' workshops because of other responsibilities.
- It was noted that after Ysgol Rhosgadfan had spent some thousands on upgrading the school's broadband connection, GwE had installed a new system there this year at a cost to the school, and it was emphasised that heads should receive information about such plans beforehand to save them having to spend twice on the same resource.
- It was noted that councillors were criticised for accepting the cuts but their hands were tied and the importance of conveying this message to the public was emphasised.
- In response to an enquiry, Iwan Trefor Jones, Corporate Director, explained that the Twenty First Century Schools Programme was currently being reviewed. The revised guidelines were still awaited from the Government but the Council would be required to review the strategy around spring of next year.
- Disappointment was expressed that so few members of the public had attended meetings of the Gwynedd Challenge and it was suggested that the need to register for the evening meetings had reduced the numbers that had attended. In response, the Cabinet Member noted that he envisaged that more members of the public would participate in the next series of meetings which would be discussing the cuts. Also, in response to a comment that not enough time had been allocated

for a full discussion at the first series of meetings, the Cabinet Member Resources assured members that adequate time would be earmarked for the detailed discussion needed. All members were urged to attend these workshops.

- It was enquired whether the answer was for volunteers to do the work that employed officers usually did. The Cabinet Member replied that it was proposed to examine further collaboration with the third sector.
- More frequent meetings of the Council were called for to enable the Cabinet Members to explain the cuts which will commence in three months time. In response, the Cabinet Member noted that no single cut had yet been planned. A request had been made for departments to submit ideas so that consideration could be given to what cuts are possible and all these options would be presented to all the councillors. A member noted that she had a letter from one unit stating that they were facing cuts of £48,000. In response, the Chief Executive explained that one of the efficiency plans was currently being discussed with the voluntary sector and there may have been some misunderstanding. He agreed to look into the matter on behalf of the member.
- A request was made to look again at the decision to reduce funding for Womens' Aid and Domestic Abuse. In response, the Chief Executive explained that the decision had not yet been made. The Corporate Scrutiny Committee had recommended that the plan to do away with one aspect of the service provided by Womens' Aid should be referred to scrutiny and the Cabinet would consider this at their meeting on 16th December.

The Cabinet Member for Resources was thanked for his presentation.

7. TREASURY MANAGEMENT: AMENDMENT TO THE 2014/15 INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Submitted – the report of the Cabinet Member for Resources, requesting that the Council reviews and updates the approved counterparties schedule, which was part of the Investment Strategy as a result of the changes in regulation for banks.

In response to questions from members:-

- The Head of Finance Department explained that he had no concern with any of the banks on the list and if a concern arose regarding individual banks, the Council would receive daily information and guidance and would act upon those immediately.
- The Cabinet Member noted that the Council did not have any information regarding which banks in this country dealt with Israel and, therefore, the Council had no policy at all regarding the use made of those banks.

RESOLVED to adopt the amendments to the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and the Investment Strategy for 2014/15 (Appendix A of the report) for the three months from 1 January 2015 to 31 March 2015.

8. COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2015/16

Submitted – in the absence of the Cabinet Member for Poverty Prevention, the Leader provided a report requesting the Council to confirm the continuation of the current Local Scheme for providing assistance towards payment of Council Tax for the year beginning 1 April 2015.

RESOLVED

- (a) To continue to implement the Council's Local Scheme for the year commencing 1 April, 2015 as it was during 2014/15. Therefore, the following conditions (i – iii below) will apply regarding the discretionary elements:
- i) To apply a 100% disregard for war disablement pensions, war widows' pensions and war widowers' pensions, for both pensioners and working age claimants.
 - ii) Not to increase the extended reduction periods for pensioners and working age claimants from the standard four weeks in the Prescribed Scheme.
 - iii) Not to increase the backdate period for pensioners and working age claimants from the standard three months contained within the Prescribed Scheme.
- (b) Where appropriate, that the Council delegates powers to the Head of Finance Department, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Poverty Prevention, to make minor amendments to the scheme for 2015/16, on condition that it will not change the substance of the scheme.

9. COUNCIL TAX: DISCRETIONARY POWERS TO ALLOW DISCOUNTS 2015/16

Submitted – the report of the Cabinet Member for Resources, requesting formal confirmation for 2014/15 and thereafter of previous decisions not to allow any discounts for second homes and to disallow discounts on empty properties.

During the discussion:-

- In response to an enquiry, the Head of Finance Department explained that there was no appeal procedure against the six months' rule regarding Class C empty properties and the rule existed as a reasonable time limit to encourage people to bring empty properties back into use.
- Reference was made to the increasing problem of people registering their holiday homes as a business in order to avoid paying the tax and it was suggested that there was a need to establish a sub-committee to examine this or to refer the matter to a scrutiny committee. It was also suggested that it would be a good thing to have a Fair Taxes Champion in the Council. The Cabinet Member responded that the Council was lobbying for a measure in the act to make it obligatory to have planning permission to transfer a second home into a business unit.
- Dissatisfaction was expressed after it was understood that it would take three years before the legislation could be enacted that would allow councils to charge more than the usual 100% Council Tax on second homes. The Cabinet Member responded that this was an observation that should be passed on to the relevant Minister in Cardiff.
- It was suggested that doubling the Council Tax for second homes could put people out of business by undermining the tourist industry that provided work for local people.

RESOLVED

- (a) That Gwynedd Council, for 2015/16, allows **NO** discount under Section 12 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to the two classes of second homes (classes A and B), as defined in the Council Tax (Prescribed Class of Dwellings) (Wales) Regulation 1998.
- (b) That Gwynedd Council, for 2015/16, allows **NO** discount in respect of empty homes (class C).

10. JOINT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – REVISED TIMETABLE IN THE DELIVERY AGREEMENT

Submitted – the report by the Cabinet Member for Planning, recommending that the Council approved the revised agenda for preparing the Joint Local Development Plan to reflect the change in circumstances and to conform to statutory requirements.

In response to a question regarding the proposed housing growth level in the draft Deposit Plan and the effect of this on local communities, and an amendment (which was seconded) to reject the timetable, the Monitoring Officer warned that it was only the timetable that was before the Council and that the timetable was bound by legal agreements and a process that had been agreed between both councils and the Welsh Government in 2010 and there would be serious implications of not following that process.

A registered vote was called for on the amendment.

The Monitoring Officer explained that an amendment had to change the wording rather than negate the original proposal and refusing to accept the revised timetable would not lead the Council anywhere. There was a procedure in terms of where and how to contribute to the procedure and the process with a joint-committee of both counties also keeping an overview of the process.

A registered vote was called for on the original proposal.

In accordance with Procedural Rules, the following vote was recorded on the original motion:-

In favour of the motion: (33) Councillors Stephen Churchman, Annwen Daniels, Dyfed Edwards, Thomas Ellis, Alan Jones Evans, Gwen Griffith, Selwyn Griffiths, Siân Gwenllian, Annwen Hughes, John Brynmor Hughes, Peredur Jenkins, Anne Lloyd Jones, Charles W.Jones, Dyfrig Jones, John Wynn Jones, June Marshall, Dafydd Meurig, Dilwyn Morgan, Dewi Owen, Michael Sol Owen, Caerwyn Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Gareth Roberts, Mair Rowlands, Mike Stevens, Gareth Thomas, Ioan Thomas, Gethin Glyn Williams, Hefin Williams, John Wyn Williams, R.H.Wyn Williams, Mandy Williams-Davies and Eurig Wyn.

Abstentions: (1) Councillor Elin Walker Jones.

Against: (18) Councillors Anwen Davies, Elwyn Edwards, Aled Evans, Gweno Glyn, Simon Glyn, Alwyn Gruffydd, Louise Hughes, Jason Humphreys, Eric Merfyn Jones, Llywarch Bowen Jones, Sion Wyn Jones, Liz Saville Roberts, Angela Russell, Ann Williams, Elfed Williams, Gruffydd Williams, Owain Williams and Robert J. Wright.

RESOLVED to approve the revised timetable for the preparation of the Joint Local Development Plan to reflect the change in circumstances and to comply with legislative requirements.

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

- (A) It was reported that a notice of motion had been received, along with a procedural motion, in accordance with the Procedural Rules, from Councillor Elin Walker Jones, requesting that the following proposal be discussed at the full Council instead of being referred to a committee.

RESOLVED to discuss the motion at this meeting.

The following motion was proposed and seconded:-

"Gwynedd Council is stating its absolute objection to the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). The TTIP is a trading agreement between the United States and Europe, which is negotiated behind closed doors and undemocratically. The TTIP is seeking to reduce regulatory barriers for big businesses – things like food safety law and environmental legislation, banking regulations and the powers of individual nations. Services such as the NHS are in danger – the TTIP is a mandate for private companies to take over services. At present, the negotiations still include the NHS. The negotiations are endangering democracy as private companies will be entitled to prosecute governments if those governments' policies cause profit losses. This is a mandate for large companies to take the reins, as opposed to the democratic, elective system we currently have.

We call on the European Union to suspend all negotiations on the TTIP; to publish the negotiating mandate, and to allow an appropriate investigation of the agreement by the European Parliament, National Parliaments and the National Assembly for Wales.

We call on the Council Leader to write to our members of parliament in Europe to express our objection urgently."

During the discussion:-

- The proposer referred to websites and articles that highlighted the objection of several bodies to TTIP.
- The proposal was supported on the basis that this trading agreement was a threat to democracy.

A registered vote was called for on the proposal.

In accordance with Procedural Rules, the following vote was recorded on the motion:-

In favour of the motion: (47) Stephen Churchman, Annwen Daniels, Anwen Davies, Dyfed Edwards, Elwyn Edwards, Thomas Ellis, Alan Jones Evans, Aled Evans, Gweno Glyn, Simon Glyn, Gwen Griffith, Selwyn Griffiths, Alwyn Gruffydd, Siân Gwenllian, Annwen Hughes, Jason Humphreys, Peredur Jenkins, Anne Lloyd Jones, Charles W.Jones, Dyfrig Jones, Elin Walker Jones, Eric Merfyn Jones, John Wynn Jones, Llywarch Bowen Jones, Sion Wyn Jones, Dafydd Meurig, Dilwyn Morgan, Dewi Owen, W.Roy Owen, E.Caerwyn Roberts, Liz Saville Roberts, W.Gareth Roberts, Mair Rowlands, Mike Stevens, Gareth Thomas, Ioan Thomas, Ann Williams, Elfed Williams, Gethin Glyn Williams, Gruffydd Williams, Hefin Williams, John Wyn Williams, Owain Williams, R.H.Wyn Williams, Mandy Williams-Davies, Robert J.Wright and Eurig Wyn.

Abstentions: (0)

Against: (0)

RESOLVED to accept the motion.

- (B)** It was reported that a notice of motion had been received, along with a procedural motion, in accordance with the Procedural Rules, from Councillor Siân Gwenllian, requesting that the following proposal be discussed at the full Council instead of being referred to a committee.

RESOLVED to discuss the motion at this meeting.

The following motion was proposed and seconded:-

“This Council notes the following:

- **It has been estimated that the UK Treasury loses as much as £12 billion a year to tax avoidance by multinational companies.**
- **The use of tax havens by UK companies is out of control, with 98 of the FTSE 100 companies using tax havens as standard procedure.**
- **Large multinational companies pay as little as 5% in corporate taxes globally, whilst smaller business pay as much as 30%.**

This Council believes:

- **As a local authority, we have a duty to provide the best possible public services.**
- **Our ability to provide high-quality local services would be greatly improved through increased revenue by the government as a result of addressing tax avoidance.**
- **Everyone who profits from public expenditure should contribute their fair share.**
- **The United Kingdom must lead the way in creating a fairer tax system and addressing tax avoidance.**

This Council resolves:

- **To support the campaign for tax justice and supports the proposal below:**

While many ordinary people face a decrease in their household income and an increase in living costs, some multinational companies are avoiding billions of pounds in tax through a tax system that is unable to make them pay their fair share. Local governments in developing countries and the United Kingdom alike would benefit from a fairer tax system where multinational companies pay their fair share, enabling authorities around the world to provide high-quality public services. We call on the United Kingdom government to act and put an end to the injustice of tax avoidance by large multinational companies.”

It was noted that high profile cases of tax avoidance were undermining trust in the taxation system and was hitting businesses which paid fairly and which paid their share and it was proposed and seconded that the following wording be added to the original proposal:-

“This Council calls on the Government of the United Kingdom to:-

- (1) Close gaps such as the Eurobond exemption, namely to prevent companies from moving profits out of the country.*
- (2) To increase transparency in the taxation system.*
- (3) To address the problem of insolvent companies which avoid filing corporate taxes.*
- (4) To ensure that developed countries participate fully in the international efforts to address the problem of tax avoidance.”*

During the discussion:-

- Concern was expressed that 186 of the Council’s employees were on zero hours contracts.
- It was suggested that the original proposal should stand as it was so as not to complicate the matter.
- It was noted that the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum promoted and campaigned for transparency along these lines and wanted to change the situation

in terms of corporate taxation and Gwynedd Council, by being part of this organisation, was collaborating with the pension funds of other authorities to bring pressure and to appropriately influence this important matter.

- A fair and balanced taxation system was called for so that small businesses and ordinary families did not have to make up for the deficit and face cuts in public services.

The proposer of the original motion agreed to amend the proposal on these lines with the consent of the Council and the seconder.

A vote was taken on the amended motion, and it was carried.

RESOLVED to accept the original motion with the following addition:

“This Council calls on the Government of the United Kingdom to:-

- (1) Close gaps such as the Eurobond exemption, namely to prevent companies from moving profits out of the country.**
- (2) To increase transparency in the taxation system.**
- (3) To address insolvent companies which avoid filing corporate taxes.**
- (4) To ensure that developed countries participate fully in the international efforts to address the problem of tax avoidance.”**

The meeting commenced at 1.00pm and concluded at 4.20pm.