

**CYNGOR GWYNEDD
COUNCIL DECISION NOTICE**

(Section 100C of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020)

7 December 2023

Hybrid Meeting

Present:

Councillors: R. Medwyn Hughes (Chair)
Beca Roberts (Vice-chair)

Craig ab Iago, Menna Baines, Beca Brown, Glyn Daniels, Anwen J Davies, Dafydd Davies, Elwyn Edwards, Elfed Wyn ap Elwyn, Alan Jones Evans, Dylan Fernley, Delyth Lloyd Griffiths, Jina Gwyrfai, John Brynmor Hughes, Louise Hughes, Iwan Huws, Elin Hywel, Nia Wyn Jeffreys, Anne Lloyd Jones, Berwyn Parry Jones, Dawn Lynne Jones, Dewi Jones, Elin Walker Jones, Elwyn Jones, Gwilym Jones, Gareth Tudor Jones, Huw Wyn Jones, Kim Jones, June Jones, Cai Larsen, Beth Lawton, Dafydd Meurig, Dilwyn Morgan, Linda Morgan, Dewi Owen, Edgar Wyn Owen, Gwynfor Owen, Llio Elenid Owen, Gareth Coj Parry, Nigel Pickavance, John Pughe, Rheinallt Puw, Arwyn Herald Roberts, Elfed P Roberts, Gareth A.Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Meryl Roberts, Richard Glyn Roberts, Huw Llwyd Rowlands, Paul Rowlinson, Angela Russell, Dyfrig Siencyn, Ioan Thomas, Peter Thomas, Menna Trenholme, Rob Triggs, Rhys Tudur, Hefin Underwood, Elfed Williams, Gareth Williams, Gruffydd Williams and Sasha Williams.

Officers:

Dafydd Gibbard (Chief Executive), Dylan Owen and Geraint Owen (Corporate Directors), Dewi Morgan (Head of Finance), Iwan Evans (Monitoring Officer), Ian Jones (Head of Democracy Services), Carys Fon Williams (Head of Housing and Property Department), Vera Jones (Democracy and Language Service Manager), Sion Huws (Propriety and Elections Manager), Debbie Anne Jones (Assistant Head: Education Corporate Services), Llywela Haf Owain (Senior Language and Scrutiny Advisor) and Eirian Roberts (Democracy Services Officer).

Also in Attendance:

Dyfed Edwards and Carys Norgain (Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board) (item 6)

Apologies:

Councillors:- Stephen Churchman, Annwen Hughes, Linda Ann Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams and Einir Wyn Williams.

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SUBJECT

Item 8: COUNCIL TAX – DISCRETIONARY POWERS TO ALLOW DISCOUNTS AND/OR RAISE A PREMIUM 2024/25

DECISION

That the Council makes no change to the Council Tax Premium for 2024/25. That is, for the financial Year 2024/25:-

- **Cyngor Gwynedd allows NO discount on class A second homes, under Section 12 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992;**
- **Cyngor Gwynedd allows NO discount and RAISES A PREMIUM OF 150% on class B second homes, under Section 12B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.**
- **Cyngor Gwynedd allows NO discount on homes that have been empty for 6 months or more and RAISES A PREMIUM OF 100% on homes that have been empty for 12 months or more, under Section 12A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.**

THE RESULT OF THE VOTE

In favour	43
Against	3
Abstentions	4

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS

- Councillor Dewi Jones as a member of the family had inherited a house that continued to be in their possession.
 - Councillor Cai Larsen as he had inherited a house that had not yet been sold, and was empty.
 - Councillor Huw Rowlands as a close family member had a house that fell into one of the categories.
 - Councillor Gareth A. Roberts as he had a house which was empty and unoccupied and had no Council Tax payable for 6 months.
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- Councillor Menna Baines as a close family member came into one of the categories.

The members were of the opinion that they were prejudicial interests, and they withdrew from the meeting during the discussion on the item.

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SUBJECT

Item 9: COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2024-25

DECISION

1. That Cyngor Gwynedd's Local Scheme for the year commencing 1 April 2024 continues as it was during 2023/24. Therefore, the following conditions (a - c below) regarding the continuation of the discretionary elements would continue:
 - a) To apply a 100% disregard for war disablement pensions, war widows' pensions and war widowers' pensions, for both pensioners and working age claimants.
 - b) Not to increase the extended reduction periods for pensioners and working age claimants from the standard four weeks in the Prescribed Scheme.
 - c) Not to increase the backdate period for pensioners and working age claimants from the standard three months contained within the Prescribed Scheme.
 2. Where appropriate, to delegate powers to the Head of Finance Department, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, to make minor amendments to the scheme for 2024/25, on condition that it will not change the substance of the scheme.
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THE RESULT OF THE VOTE

In favour	52
Against	0
Abstentions	2

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS

Councillor Gareth A. Roberts as a close family member had received Council Tax discount.

The member was not of the opinion that it was a prejudicial interest, and he did not withdraw from the meeting during the discussion on the item.

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SUBJECT

Item 10: GWYNEDD LANGUAGE STRATEGY 2023-2033

DECISION

To adopt the Language Strategy 2023-2033.

THE RESULT OF THE VOTE

In favour	41
Against	10
Abstentions	5

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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SUBJECT

Item 11: LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021 – OPTION TO ADOPT SINGLE TRANSFERABLE VOTE SYSTEM FOR CYNGOR GWYNEDD ELECTIONS

DECISION

That the Council instigates a process which could lead to the adoption of a Single Transferable Vote System for Cyngor Gwynedd elections.

THE RESULT OF THE VOTE

In favour	43
Against	8
Abstentions	2

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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SUBJECT

Item 13a: NOTICE OF MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN PUGHE ROBERTS

DECISION

Considering the impact of discovering tuberculosis on a farm and the importance of infection control, that the Council calls on the Welsh Government to ensure that wild animals who could be transferring the infection in rural areas in the vicinity of an affected farm are tested as a matter of course in order to ascertain whether they are carrying tuberculosis and to permit control measures.

THE RESULT OF THE VOTE

In favour	43
Against	0
Abstentions	0

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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SUBJECT

Item 13b: NOTICE OF MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR ELIN HYWEL

DECISION

1. That the Council recognises our responsibility to protect the wellbeing and community cohesion of Gwynedd. That we want to see the communities and residents of Gwynedd living together in peace, through mutual respect and support. We see that recent events in Palestine and in Israel have a negative impact on our ability to be successful in fulfilling this responsibility. We see that wars have heart-breaking and disastrous effects here in Gwynedd. We reach out to the residents of Gwynedd at this time. We sympathise and mourn together.
2. The Council notes our responsibility according to the Well-being of Future Generations Act to play our part to ensure that Wales is welcoming, safe and fair for everyone.
3. As representatives of the residents of Gwynedd, we call for a peaceful response from the Welsh Government. We call on the Welsh Government, as our representatives on the international stage, to facilitate the establishment and immediate implementation of a humanitarian aid plan for the people of Gaza.
4. That this motion declares that violence and acts of war against civilians cannot be justified. That this includes the violent actions of Hamas and their refusal to immediately release their hostages, together with Israel's disproportionate actions against the Palestinian people, which are in violation of international law.
5. That we, Cyngor Gwynedd, call for a permanent and irreversible ceasefire in Gaza. We call on the Welsh Government, the UK and the international community to ensure a return to the negotiating table, and a fair and just solution for all the residents of Palestine and Israel, many who have settled, have family and loved ones here in Gwynedd.

THE RESULT OF THE VOTE

In favour	40
Against	2
Abstentions	1

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.
