
THE COUNCIL, 14.05.15

Present: Councillor Dilwyn Morgan (Chairman);
Councillor Eric Merfyn Jones (Vice-chairman)

Councillors: Craig ab Iago, Stephen Churchman, Endaf Cooke, Annwen Daniels, Anwen Davies, Lesley Day, Dyfed Edwards, Elwyn Edwards, Trevor Edwards, Thomas Ellis, Alan Jones Evans, Aled Evans, Jean Forsyth, Gwen Griffith, Selwyn Griffiths, Alwyn Gruffydd, Sian Gwenllian, Annwen Hughes, John Brynmor Hughes, Louise Hughes, Jason Humphreys, Peredur Jenkins, Aeron M.Jones, Anne Lloyd Jones, Brian Jones, Charles W.Jones, Elin Walker Jones, John Wynn Jones, Sion Wyn Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams, Beth Lawton, June E.Marshall, Dafydd Meurig, Christopher O'Neal, Dewi Owen, Michael Sol Owen, W.Roy Owen, William Tudor Owen, Nigel Pickavance, Caerwyn Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Liz Saville Roberts, W.Gareth Roberts, Mair Rowlands, Angela Russell, Dyfrig Siencyn, Mike Stevens, Glyn Thomas, Ioan Thomas, Ann Williams, Eirwyn Williams, Elfed Williams, Hefin Williams, John Wyn Williams, Owain Williams, R.H.Wyn Williams, Mandy Williams-Davies and Robert J.Wright.

Also in attendance: Dilwyn Williams (Chief Executive), Iwan Trefor Jones (Corporate Director), Dafydd Edwards (Head of Finance Department), Geraint Owen (Head of Corporate Support Department), Iwan Evans (Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer), Rhun ap Iarthur (Senior Solicitor/Deputy Monitoring Officer), Arwel E. Jones (Senior Manager – Democracy and Delivery) and Eirian Roberts (Member Support and Scrutiny Officer).

Apologies: Councillors: Eddie Dogan, Gwynfor Edwards, Gwyn Glyn, Simon Glyn, Linda Wyn Jones, Llywarch Bowen Jones, Dilwyn Lloyd, Linda Morgan, Peter Read, Gareth Thomas, Gethin Glyn Williams, Gruffydd Williams and Eirwyn Wyn.

The Council was addressed by Councillor Dewi Owen, Chairman 2014/15.

1. CHAIRMAN

Councillor Dilwyn Morgan was elected chairman for 2015/16.

Councillor Dilwyn Morgan signed the declaration accepting the post of the Chairman of Gwynedd Council for 2015/16.

2. VICE-CHAIRMAN

Councillor Eric Merfyn Jones was elected as Vice-chairman for 2015/2016.

Councillor Eric Merfyn Jones signed a declaration accepting the post of the Vice-chairman of Gwynedd Council for 2015/2016.

3. MINUTES

The Chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council, held on 5 March, 2015 as a true record.

4. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

- Councillor Aeron M. Jones declared a personal interest in item 13(a) on the agenda - Notice of Motion from Councillor Sian Gwenllian - because he had offered office space to Trinity Mirror.
- Councillor Eryl Jones-Williams declared a personal interest in item 13(a) on the agenda - Notice of Motion from Councillor Sian Gwenllian - because he worked as a journalist.

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

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1) Welcome

Councillor Glyn Thomas, the new member for Cadnant Ward, was welcomed to his first meeting of the Council.

(2) Congratulations

The following were congratulated:-

- Councillor Liz Saville Roberts and Hywel Williams on being elected as Members of Parliament. As this was her last meeting as a member of this Council, Councillor Liz Saville Roberts gave a short speech and she noted that it had been an honour to be a member of Gwynedd Council over a number of years and that she had learned much from the experience.
- Elfyn Evans from Dinas Mawddwy who came third in the world rallying championships in Argentina and who was currently fourth in the championship. It was noted that this was the first time a Welshman had achieved such a standard.
- The 9bach Folk Group on their recent success in being awarded the album of the year with the *Tincian* album in Radio 2's Folk Awards in the Millennium Stadium.
- Bala Football Club on reaching the Europa Cup competition for the second season in succession.

(3) Condolences

Condolences were expressed to Councillor Glyn Thomas following the loss of his mother.

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

The Council members stood as a mark of respect.

(4) Best Wishes

Best wishes were extended to Councillor Eddie Dogan and Linda Morgan who were currently receiving treatment.

(5) General

Attention was drawn to a letter sent to members regarding the series of members' scrutiny workshops on the cuts and everyone was encouraged to attend these all important sessions.

It was noted that Councillor Aeron M. Jones was looking for 12 councillors or staff members to run or walk for a period of two hours on the Treborth fields, Bangor in June to raise money towards the Macmillan Nurses Appeal in Gwynedd.

Members were reminded that 2016 would be the hundredth anniversary of the Easter Rising in Ireland. It was noted that events would be held around June next year to celebrate the time when the prisoners arrived in the prison-camp in Frongoch, Bala and it was emphasised that it was timely to contact the Irish Government to promote tourism in the area.

6. AMENDING OFFICERS' DELEGATED RIGHTS SCHEME

The Leader submitted a report on the need to adapt the Officers' Delegated Rights Scheme following the restructuring of the Human Resources Department and the Strategic and Improvement Department to form the Corporate Support Department.

RESOLVED to accept the report to amend the Officers' Delegated Rights Scheme in accordance with Appendix 1 of the report and to delegate the right to the Head of Legal Services to make editorial amendments to the Constitution arising from the changes.

7. THE COUNCIL'S POLITICAL BALANCE

The Leader submitted a report reviewing the political balance of the Council and adding that this matter would also be before the next meeting of the Council as a result of developments that morning.

RESOLVED to adopt seat allocation on the Council's committees in accordance with the table below:-

SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Individual Member
Corporate	9	4	3	1	1	
Communities	8	4	3	1	1	1
Services	9	4	3	1		1
Audit	8	5	3	2		

OTHER COMMITTEES

	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Individual Member
Democratic	7	4	3	1		

Services						
Language	7	4	3	1		
Planning	7	3	3	1	1	
Central Licensing	7	4	3			1
Employment Appeals	3	1	1	1		1
Chief Officers Appointment	7	4	2	1	1	

Number of seats	72	37	27	10	4	4	154
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	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Individual Member
Pensions	2	2	1	1	1	
Local Consultative Joint Committee	6	2	2	1		
Special Educational Needs Joint Committee	3	2	1			1
Joint Planning Policy Committee	4 (3 seats and one substitute)	2	1	1		
SACRE	3	2	2			

Total seats	90	47	34	13	5	5	194
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8. ANNUAL REPORT BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE WITH REGARDS TO SUPPORT FOR MEMBERS

- (a) The Chair of the Democratic Services Committee, Councillor Lesley Day, submitted the annual report, updating the members on the support that was available, the developments that had been realised and those which were ongoing.

On a point of accuracy, it was noted that there was a need to include Councillor Beth Lawton, Mental Health Champion, in the English version of the list of champions (paragraph 2 of the report).

Councillor Lesley Day was thanked for her work in progressing this agenda.

During the discussion:-

- Disappointment was expressed that the report of the Scrutiny Investigation From Hospital to Home (part 2) had not been published although it had been submitted in December last year. Members of the investigation had worked

very hard and the report, which was critical of the Health Service and the Social Services Department, had since been diluted.

- It was noted that the personal development interviews had been very useful and other members were encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

- (b) It was reported that there was a need to appoint a Chairman for 2015/16.

RESOLVED to elect Councillor Thomas Ellis as Chairman of the Democratic Services Committee for 2015/16.

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

- (a) The following notice of motion was submitted by Councillor Sian Gwenllian, in accordance with the Procedural Rules, and it was seconded.

“I call on the council to express disappointment regarding the decision of Trinity Mirror, newspaper publishers, to close the Herald office in Caernarfon, putting an end to a presence in the town which extends over 180 years, and to show full support to the journalists and the other staff members who will be affected.

This is the office of the Daily Post, the Caernarfon and Denbigh Herald, the Holyhead and Anglesey Mail, the Bangor and Anglesey Mail and Yr Herald Gymraeg. Caernarfon is the traditional home for the press and it is an important municipal, cultural and historical centre. Caernarfon is home to the crown court, the county court and the magistrates' court, as well as the north-west Wales coroner and Gwynedd Council headquarters.

I also call on the Council to do everything in its power to ensure the continuation of the presence of Trinity Mirror staff in an office in Caernarfon. Reporters work in the communities they serve, from a local news room, creating good journalism - a vital element of local democracy and a valuable source of information for residents of Gwynedd and beyond. I worry that closing the existing office would represent a further decrease in Trinity Mirror's commitment to local journalism in the region, and that it would pave the way towards closing down newspapers that we value and are at the heart of the community.

The proposal was supported unanimously.

RESOLVED to accept the motion.

- (b) Submitted, for information, a letter from the Treasury, in response to Councillor Sian Gwenllian's notice of motion to the December meeting regarding tax avoidance.

RESOLVED to note the letter.

- (c) Submitted, for information, a letter from the First Minister of Wales, in response to Councillor R.H.Wyn Williams's notice of motion to the previous meeting regarding Trident.

RESOLVED to note the letter.

- (ch) Submitted, for information, a letter from the Welsh Government, in response to Councillor Craig ab Iago's notice of motion regarding Traws Link Cymru to re-open the railway between north and south Wales.

RESOLVED to note the letter.

The meeting commenced at 1.00pm and concluded at 2.10pm.