
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022

Present: Councillor Elwyn Jones (Chair)
Councillor R. Medwyn Hughes (Vice-chair).

Councillors:- Craig ab Iago, Menna Baines, Beca Brown, Stephen Churchman, Glyn Daniels, Anwen Davies, Dafydd Owen Davies, Elwyn Edwards, Elfed Wyn ap Elwyn, Alan Jones Evans, Dylan Fernley, Delyth Lloyd Griffiths, Jina Gwyrfai, Annwen Hughes, John Brynmor Hughes, Louise Hughes, Iwan Huws, Elin Hywel, Nia Jeffreys, Anne Lloyd Jones, Berwyn Parry Jones, Dawn Lynne Jones, Dewi Jones, Elin Walker Jones, Gwilym Jones, Gareth Tudor Jones, Huw Wyn Jones, Kim Jones, Linda A. Jones, June Jones, Menna Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams, 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, Beca Roberts, Elfed P. Roberts, Gareth A. Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Meryl Roberts, Richard Glyn Roberts, Huw Llwyd Williams, Paul Rowlinson, Angela Russell, Dyfrig Siencyn, Ioan Thomas, Peter Thomas, Rob Triggs, Rhys Tudur, Hefin Underwood, Einir Wyn Williams, Eirwyn Williams, Gareth Williams, Gruffydd Williams and Sasha Williams.

Officers: Dafydd Gibbard (Chief Executive), Morwena Edwards (Corporate Director), Dewi Morgan (Statutory Finance Officer), Iwan Evans (Monitoring Officer), Geraint Owen (Head of Democracy Services), Sion Huws (Senior Solicitor - Corporate), Vera Jones (Democracy and Language Service Manager) and Eirian Roberts (Democracy Services Officer).

1. CHAIR

RESOLVED to elect Councillor Elwyn Jones as Chair for 2022/23.

Councillor Elwyn Jones read and signed the declaration accepting the post of Chair of Gwynedd Council for 2022/23, in the presence of the Chief Executive.

2. VICE-CHAIR

Two names were proposed and seconded for the post of vice-chair, namely Councillor R. Medwyn Jones and Councillor Beth Lawton.

RESOLVED to elect Councillor R. Medwyn Hughes as Vice-chair for 2022/23.

Councillor R. Medwyn Hughes read out a statement accepting the post of Gwynedd Council Vice-chair for 2022/23.

As the Vice-chair was attending remotely, it was noted that arrangements would be put in place for him to sign the statement accepting the post in the presence of the Chief Executive.

3. APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Councillor Elfed Williams.

4. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on 3 March, 2022 as a true record.

5. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

6. THE CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Condolences were extended to the family of the former chair of this Council, Glyn Owen, and Councillor Ioan Thomas paid tribute to him.

Condolences were expressed to Councillor Nia Jeffreys on the recent loss of her father and aunt.

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

The Council stood in silence as a mark of respect and remembrance.

The members were congratulated on their success in the recent election, and new members were welcomed to their first meeting of the Council.

Councillor Louise Hughes was congratulated on receiving the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate of Merit for her enthusiasm and commitment to the Army Cadets.

7. URGENT ITEMS

None to note.

8. QUESTIONS

The Chair explained that this item had been taken off the agenda as the Cabinet Members and committee chairs were not yet in place to respond to any questions. Members would be able to submit a question to the next meeting of the Council on 23 June.

9. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn as Council Leader.

The Leader gave a brief address, informing the Council that he would hold interviews for Cabinet members next week, and that he greatly hoped that there would be a good mix of experience and new blood, and women.

10. THE COUNCIL'S POLITICAL BALANCE

The Head of Democracy Services submitted a report on the annual review of the Council's political balance (published as an additional paper to accompany the original report included on the agenda).

The Head noted further, following discussions between both group leaders earlier in the week, that the chairpersonships of the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee and the Care Scrutiny Committee would be given to the Independent Group, and that

the chairpersonship of the Communities Scrutiny Committee would be given to the Plaid Cymru Group.

Members were given an opportunity to make observations and ask questions.

The Leader of the Independent Group noted that she was satisfied that the group had been allocated the chairpersonship of two of the scrutiny committees, as well as the chairpersonship of the Council. She also noted, when considering the report, that there was a need to bear in mind that there had been a reduction from 75 to 69 in the number of Council members.

RESOLVED

- 1. To adopt the list of committees and sub-committees to be established for the 2022/23 municipal year, as noted in Appendix A (below), and to adopt the allocation of seats as noted in the appendix.**
- 2. To delegate the authority to the Head of Democratic Services to make appointments to the committees on the basis of political balance, and in accordance with the wishes of the political groups.**
- 3. To adopt the chairpersonships of scrutiny committees on the basis of political balance, as follows:**

Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee - Independent Group
Communities Scrutiny Committee – Plaid Cymru Group
Care Scrutiny Committee - Independent Group
- 4. To adopt the higher salaries for 2022/23, and to ask the Democratic Services Committee to review the list for 2023/24.**
- 5. To confirm the allocation of the political groups support officers' posts and hours for the duration of this Council term unless a substantial change takes place in the political balance of the Council or that a political group has fewer than 10% of members.**
- 6. To adopt the seat allocation for the Snowdonia National Park Authority and the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority for the term of this Council unless a review is required because of changes in the political balance or a lack of commitment from an individual member.**

11. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report, recommending that the Council adopts amendments to the Constitution to allow for the appointment of assistants to the Cabinet Members and the Leader and make arrangements to enable job sharing in the posts of Cabinet Members and Cabinet Leader, in accordance with Sections 57 and 58 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

Members were given an opportunity to make observations and ask questions.

- On a point of accuracy, it was noted that there was a need to amend the English version of Section 5.9.7 of the appendix to the report to read "*For the avoidance of doubt presence shall presence will include presence through electronic means which allow the member to hear and speak at the meeting.*" It was suggested

that the Democratic Services Committee had been given the opportunity to look at editorial matters like this before the matter was brought before the Full Council.

- In response to a question, the Monitoring Officer confirmed that there would be no additional salary deriving from the establishment of a Cabinet Member and Cabinet Leader job-sharing arrangement.
1. **To adopt the amendments to the Constitution (Appendix 1 of the report) to allow for the implementation of Section 57 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.**
 2. **To accept for information the amendments made to the Constitution (Appendix 1) by the Monitoring Officer to incorporate the provisions of Section 58 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.**
 3. **To authorises the Monitoring Officer to make the further amendments to the Constitution that derive directly as a result of this change.**

12. RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS NOTICES OF MOTION

Submitted for information:-

- (a) Letters from S4C, Sports Wales and Welsh Government, in response to former Councillor Judith Humphreys's notice of motion to the Council meeting held on 3 March, 2022 in relation to women in sport.
- (b) A letter from Welsh Government in response to Councillor Beca Brown's notice of motion to the Council meeting held on 3 March, 2022, regarding FareShare.

The meeting commenced at 1.00pm and concluded at 2.20pm.

CHAIR

APPENDIX - ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

A	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Individual Member	Total
Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee	12	6	0	18
Communities Scrutiny Committee	11	6	1	18
Care Scrutiny Committee	11	6	1	18
Governance and Audit	8	4	0	12

B	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Individual Member	Total
Democratic Services	9	5	1	15
Planning	9	5	1	15
Central/General Licensing	10	5	0	15
Language	10	5	0	15
Chief Officers Appointment	10	5	0	15
Employment Appeals	5	2	0	7

Number of seats	95	49	4	148
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C	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Individual Member	Total
Pensions	4	2	1	7
Local Joint Consultative Committee	7	4	0	11
SACRE	4	3	0	7
Joint Planning Policy Committee	5	2	0	7

Total seats	115	60	5	180
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Note that the 17 higher salaries allocated for the 2022/23 financial year are as follows:

- Leader
- Deputy Leader
- Up to 8 other Cabinet members
- The Leader of the largest Opposition*
- Committee Chairs
 - Scrutiny Committees (x3)
 - Planning Committee
 - Licensing Committee (the Central and General Licensing committees count as one Committee)
 - Pensions Committee