

THE COUNCIL THURSDAY, 6 OCTOBER 2016

Present: Councillor Eric Merfyn Jones (Chairman);
Councillor Annwen Daniels (Vice Chair)

Councillors: Stephen Churchman, Lesley Day, Gwynfor Edwards, Dyfed Edwards, Elwyn Edwards, Thomas Ellis, Alan Jones Evans, Dylan Fernley, Jean Forsyth, Gareth Wyn Griffith, Gwen Griffith, Selwyn Griffiths, Alwyn Gruffydd, Annwen Hughes, John Brynmor Hughes, Louise Hughes, Sian Wyn Hughes, Jason Humphreys, Peredur Jenkins, Aeron M. Jones, Aled Wyn Jones, Brian Jones, Charles W. Jones, Elin Walker Jones, John Wynn Jones, Sion Wyn Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams, Beth Lawton, Dilwyn Lloyd, June Marshall, Dafydd Meurig, Dilwyn Morgan, Linda Morgan, Dewi Owen, Edgar Wyn Owen, Michael Sol Owen, William Tudor Owen, Nigel Pickavance, Caerwyn Roberts, Gareth A. Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, W. Gareth Roberts, Mair Rowlands, Angela Russell, Dyfrig Siencyn, Mike Stevens, Gareth Thomas, Ioan Thomas, Hefin Underwood, Ann Williams, Eirwyn Williams, Elfed Williams, Gethin Glyn Williams, Gruffydd Williams, Owain Williams, R. H. Wyn Williams and Mandy Williams-Davies.

Officers present:

Dilwyn Williams (Chief Executive), Iwan Trefor Jones (Corporate Director), Dafydd Edwards (Head of Finance Department), Geraint Owen (Head of Corporate Support), Iwan Evans (Head of Legal Service / Monitoring Officer), Rhun ap Gareth (Senior Solicitor – Services / Deputy Monitoring Officer), Vera Jones (Democratic Services Manager), Anthony Williams (Strategic Planning and Performance Manager) (for item 9 on the agenda), Gareth James (Member Support and Scrutiny Officer) (for item 10 on the agenda) and Eirian Roberts (Member Support Officer).

Also present:- Dr Einir Young (Chair of the Standards Committee) (for item 11 on the agenda)

Apologies: Councillors Endaf Cooke, Craig ab Iago, Anwen Davies, Trevor Edwards, Aled Evans, Gweno Glyn, Simon Glyn, Chris Hughes, Anne Lloyd Jones, Dyfrig Jones, Linda A.W. Jones, W. Roy Owen, Peter Read, Glyn Thomas, Hefin Williams and John Wyn Williams.

1. MINUTES

The Chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on 30 June, 2016, as a true record.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

The following members declared a personal interest in item 15(a) on the agenda – Notice of Motion from Councillor Owain Williams, for the reasons noted:-

- Councillor Elwyn Edwards - because he is a member of the Gorsedd.
- Councillor Aeron M. Jones - because the motion discusses an individual who works with him.

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

3. THE CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome

Three new members, namely Councillors Dylan Fernley, Gareth Griffith and Edgar Owen, were welcomed to their first meeting of the full Council.
Congratulations

- The Wales football team on reaching the semi-final round of Euro 2016.
- Everyone from Gwynedd who had been successful at this year's National Eisteddfod in Abergavenny.
- Meirion Committee on their organisation of this year's Royal Welsh and to everyone from Gwynedd who had been successful there.
- The organisers of the International Sheep Dog Trials held at Sandilands, Tywyn in September. The Welsh Team, with their Captain, Medwyn Evans from Llanfachreth, Dolgellau, won this year's five nations championship.

Also, the following world champions from the Corris / Mawddwy Ward:-

- Elfyn Evans on winning the British Rallying championship, twenty years after his father, Gwyndaf Evans, won the same championship. It was also noted that Elfyn was currently in the lead at the R2 Championship in the World Championships.
- Osian Pryce on winning the World Championship for young drivers.
- Rachel Atherton for winning the mountain biking World Championship.

Other Matters

All Council staff who responded to the Festival Number 6 parking difficulties were thanked. It was noted that there had been special efforts made by the Council workforce, the local community, and other agencies such as the Red Cross, in offering practical assistance to a great number of people; and each staff member who helped mitigate the impact of the inclement weather on festivalgoers was thanked.

Following a pre-Council presentation to acknowledge 90 years since the Peace March through Caernarfon, it was noted that the Great War Memorial Garden, which opened in July in Caernarfon Castle, would remain open throughout the time the poppies were on display at the Castle. There would also be a Remembrance for Peace exhibition, where a remembrance book with the names of 35,000 soldiers of Welsh descent or who served in the Welsh regiment and were killed during the First World War, would be on display.

4. QUESTIONS

(1) Question from Councillor Sian Wyn Hughes -

"Recently, I attended an excellent course for councillors on the new Well-being Act. The course was outstanding, but it was disappointing to see so few members present.

I would like to ask the Cabinet Member, on average, how many councillors attend courses that are arranged for us on days that are in the meetings calendar; and, has any consideration been given to making some courses mandatory, for example, those involving important legislation, in order to ensure Members' attendance?"

Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn, Deputy Leader, responded

(The Cabinet Member's written response was distributed to the members in advance).

"A written response has been prepared, and we have received figures via email showing the percentages for two types of training the Council offers members.

Those figures show that, in some circumstances, it is a very low percentage of councillors who take advantage of training. I was present at the training Sian refers to and it was quite special, and each member who came out of that meeting had been inspired, and the standard of the presentations were very high indeed. And there are elements of this kind of training that provide councillors with vital information for making informed decisions, and, as such, councillors are encouraged to attend these sessions. The only thing I would add, as one who worked full time up until some time ago at the far end of this county, is that I sympathise with those who cannot attend training meetings. In fact, I had a rule, if training was held further afield than Porthmadog, I would not attend. But, fair play, the Council does also offer training in Penrhyndeudraeth in order to make the training more accessible to members. I also believe that there is room for us to look at the way in which we provide training. It is possible for us to do much more on the Internet and we can follow and track that work and I believe that we will have to develop this further. I also believe, as I've said many times in the past, that there is room for us to consider holding training sessions at our area fora - small half hour, yet relevant, tidbits perhaps, and we would, therefore, have the opportunity to hold other discussions at the same time."

Supplementary question from Councillor Sian Wyn Hughes -

"Would the Cabinet Member agree that these percentages are very disappointing and would he be willing to ask the Democratic Services Committee look at ways to increase Members' attendance at training sessions, including making some courses mandatory and publish a record of members' attendance at training courses on the Council website?"

Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn, Deputy Leader, responded

"I fully agree, and I believe that it is an issue to which the Democratic Services Committee must give serious consideration. The difficulty with the word '*mandatory*' is how do you punish a member if he/she does not attend that training? That is rather difficult, but I certainly believe that introducing training in different ways should be considered, so that it is available to members anywhere, and that they can record whether they've undergone that training online. But, certainly, I'm very willing for the Democratic Services Committee to thoroughly consider the issue once again."

(2) Question from Councillor Sion Jones

"Is it possible for the cabinet member for Regeneration to explain the future of Cist Gwynedd?"

Councillor Mandy Williams-Davies, Cabinet Member for Economy and Community responded

(The Cabinet Member's written response was distributed to the members in advance).

"Cist Gwynedd is a range of grants which are delivered by the Economy and Community Department. It is a very valuable package which supports community work. The answer has been circulated, explaining that the sum of money comes from various directions - from the Council, from Welsh Government, from private companies and renewable energy and also, increasingly, from community benefit clauses that are submitted. So, it is funded through a number of sources. One of the most popular funds is the Voluntary Development Fund and, this year, £80,000 of capital and £46,000 of revenue funds are available for distribution. This capital is an annual bidding procedure, so it is perhaps difficult to warrant its continuation

in future other than with regard to the sum that's currently available. The revenue fund, however, will continue in 2017/18 as it currently stands."

A supplementary question by Councillor Sion Jones

"Is it possible for the member to confirm that there will be an increase in the Cist Gwynedd expenditure next year and could she perhaps sit with me to discuss the importance of this funding for the communities of Gwynedd?"

Councillor Mandy Williams-Davies, Cabinet Member for Economy and Community responded

"As has been explained in the answer, Cist Gwynedd is not subject to Her Gwynedd 2017/18 savings or cuts and I would also like to remind the member that we all attended the meeting to decide the very painful cuts and had a choice of what we would be prioritising at the workshops. We as a Council approved the package. One part of the Cist's fund was halved and this was approved because I remember the member voicing his concern at that time. But, perhaps we all understand that there was a choice subsequently: if we made savings in one place, then something else would come back and the member did not suggest bringing anything else back, if I remember rightly. Nevertheless, half the revenue is still available and we have to remember that savings have been made to the regeneration support officers who help attract more grants for communities with the aid of this fund."

(3) Question by Councillor Louise Hughes

"Is it possible to have an update on the current situation regarding the future of public toilets in Gwynedd?"

Response from Councillor John Wynn Jones, Cabinet Member for the Environment

(The Cabinet Member's written response was distributed to the members in advance).

"The question is a little premature. You are aware that we are looking at a cut involving the closure of 50 out of 73 toilets but that, after the decision taken in March, we have come up with an alternative plan and that plan delivers a saving of almost £250,000. We took this to the scrutiny committee before it was taken to Cabinet and the Cabinet approved our pursuit of this alternative plan. The alternative plan requires that community councils contribute to their local toilets and we have been out talking to community councils and we shall continue to do so. They were required to come to a decision by the end of September as to whether they intended to contribute or not. If they said that they did not, they would then have to consider whether those toilets would close. It is premature for us to come to a decision as the end of September was only last week and, as such, work is just starting. We have also had requests to expedite the date so that councils can meet and come to a decision. I'm glad to say that some have been added to those we had at the end of the month. We intend to discuss with these councils who are willing to move forward, to seek to take over the service and we will also look into the community toilets - of which there are 36 in the county at present, but the answer that was distributed is comprehensive."

Supplementary question by Councillor Louise Hughes

"Can you confirm whether the activities of Gwynedd Council are fully legal and whether other local authorities in Wales are doing the same?"

Response from Councillor John Wynn Jones, Cabinet Member for the Environment

"I can confirm that this is entirely legal and that many other authorities are acting in much the same way as we are."

5. SUBMISSION OF A PETITION

Councillor Stephen Churchman submitted a petition to the Chairman on behalf of 62 users of the Pentrefelin Centre requesting that the 40mph / 60mph sign for the village be moved closer toward Porthmadog to, at least, the 'Pentrefelin' sign. This is in order to allow traffic coming from the direction of Porthmadog at speeds of 60mph to have time to slow down before reaching the entrance / exit to the Centre.

The Chairman thanked the member for the petition, noting that he would refer it to the relevant department.

6. GWYNEDD COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2015/16

The Leader submitted a report which recommended that the Council approve the document as a balanced, fair and accurate reflection of the Council's performance in 2015/16, and to adopt the report.

The Leader thanked the Chief Executive and the team of officers involved with the work.

Members were given an opportunity to ask questions or make observations. During the discussion, the following main matters were highlighted:-

- The proprietorial rights in England to turn empty farm buildings into permanent dwellings were referred to and an inquiry made into the possibility of having the same rights in Wales. In response, the Leader noted that the former minister, Jane Davidson, had taken legislation through the Assembly at the time to make it easier for developments, such as residential dwellings, to take place on farms. He suggested that he could undertake some work jointly with the Cabinet Member for Development to see whether that legislation had created opportunities, and if not, this could be submitted to Government as evidence.
- The Council was congratulated on producing a user friendly report, using images to highlight facts.
- Referring to the Opinion of the Residents' Panel (page 21 in the agenda), the importance of concentrating on the negative was emphasised (e.g. the 17% who are of the opinion that the Council does not meet their needs, rather than the 83% who believe the opposite) using any complaints as a resource for improving the service, in accordance with the culture of Ffordd Gwynedd.
- Referring to National Strategic Measures EDU/002i (the percentage of all pupils (including those in local authority care)... who are leaving compulsory education, training or work based learning, without a recognised external qualification) and EDU/002ii (the percentage of pupils in local authority care,... who leave compulsory education, training or work based learning, without a recognised external qualification) (page 41 in the agenda), it was noted that it would be beneficial to obtain a comparative figure in future in order to see whether the situation is deteriorating across the range of all pupils or this group only.
- In response to a query about the impact that losing European funding would have on the Council's budget, it was noted that Gwynedd Council had created an investment of £300,000,000 as a result of European funds over the years in the form of core / match funding or private sector investment and that there was a 'danger' that the county would never see such sums again. There was mention that regions such as north west Wales and the Valleys, who had been in receipt

of this core funding, would neither be considered nor be given special designation and that these areas were in need of funds that corresponded to that which Objective One and Convergence funds provided. The question was raised as to what the councillors could do to help the Council. In response, the Leader noted that he intended to write to the leader of the Wales Local Government Association who sits on a committee set up by the First Minister of Wales, requesting that the representative submit a letter to that committee. A letter could also be written to the Prime Minister and to the Secretary of State for Wales and his Vice-secretary. Councillors could also raise awareness of this within their communities, and if correspondence was shared with members, this could form the basis of letters from town councils, groups of community councils, organisations etc. He noted further that he would consider the best way of harnessing this and of including an element of collaboration across the board so that the message was completely clear.

- An observation was made that the percentage of those questioned (page 22 of the agenda) stood at around 1% of the population of Gwynedd and the question was posed as to whether this figure would likely be increased. An enquiry was also made as to the cross-section of men / women and the age of those questioned. In response, the Leader explained that it was the Gwynedd Residents Panel who formed the basis of this questionnaire and the opinion thereupon. He added that research could be conducted into ways of extending the questionnaire on the Performance Report, especially over the internet and twitter, going after specific cohorts, such as young people, as was done with the consultation on Her Gwynedd.
- Concern was expressed about the increasing tendency to remove condition 106 agreements at this Council and at the National Park Authority. In response, the Leader noted that, in order to prevent people from succeeding at appeal, the condition had to be robust in the first place. He added that the Communities Scrutiny Committee had been looking at the 106 conditions and on affordable houses and had concluded that the system worked quite well.
- Schools' staff and the Department of Education were thanked for the great steps taken to improve the standards of education in the schools and reference was made to specific examples of that success, such as the 13.5% improvement in the TL2+ since 2012 and the improvements in pupil attendance. The £56m investment in buildings was also referred to and it was noted that an open day would be held for all members of the new Ysgol Hafod Lon in Penrhyndeudraeth on Saturday, 19 December.

RESOLVED to approve the report as a balanced, fair and accurate reflection of the Council's performance in 2015/16, and to adopt the report.

7. ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES 2015/16

The Deputy Leader made a short presentation to set the context.

Submitted - annual reports of the three scrutiny committees for 2015/16.

The Corporate Scrutiny Committee

The Chairman of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Jason Humphreys, provided details on the terms of reference and work of the committee during 2015/16, and he thanked the former chair, Councillor Dyfrig Jones, members of the committee and officers for their support.

During the discussion the following matters were raised:-

- It was noted that adopting a policy of charging a higher rate of council tax on holiday homes could have a negative effect on the economy as there would be a

number of houses in the county that local people would not wish to purchase. In response, it was noted that this issue would be on the agenda of the next scrutiny committee meeting on 20 October, and the members would doubtlessly look at the issues in detail.

- Concern was expressed at local companies' lack of success in tendering for contracts, such as to provide school meals, etc., and the importance of keeping the benefits local was emphasised. In response, it was agreed that there was a need to keep on top of the situation and confirmation given that the members' observation would be given consideration. Furthermore, the scrutiny committee received regular reports on category management and on keeping the benefits local.
- It was suggested that devolving business rates of county councils in Wales, as had happened in England, would be a grave mistake as a number of places were losing out because of it and Gwynedd received a fair settlement in terms of business rates.

Communities Scrutiny Committee

The former Chair of the Communities Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Angela Russell, discussed the committee's remit in 2015/16 in detail, thanking the current Chairman, Councillor Caerwyn Roberts, committee members and officers for their support.

During the discussion the following matters were raised:-

- It was noted that the new system of three weekly refuse collection worked well in general, but that there was need to bear in mind the need for flexibility, e.g. in areas where there was a high density of homes.
- The fact that the Cabinet Member had accepted all the recommendations of the Homelessness Scrutiny Investigation.
- The question was posed as to the way the scrutiny committee felt about the changes with the brown bins. In response, it was noted that the results were not yet known, but that the arrangements would have to be put to the test and to wait and see how things developed. The Council would have to maximise the materials that were being recycled to avoid polluting the earth whilst bearing in mind that the Council was facing massive cuts.
- It was noted that the workforce needed to be reminded to close the side flaps on recycling lorries to prevent recyclable materials from falling onto the roadsides. In response, it was noted that new seals had now been put on the lorries.

Services Scrutiny Committee

The Chair of the Services Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Beth Lawton, provided details on the terms of reference and work of the committee during 2015/16, thanking the former chair, Councillor Peter Read, members of the committee, and officers for their support.

During the discussion the following matters were raised:-

- Concern about the implications of Deprivation of Liberty and financial risk to the Council. In response, it was noted that members of the Services Scrutiny Committee had undergone training in the field and had recommended that every councillor be offered the same training. The Council had identified the risk and was currently working on this and the scrutiny committee would also keep an eye on what's going on.
- Concern about the Cabinet's decision to contribute a sum of £750,000 toward area committees in the field of education. In response, it was noted that members would have the opportunity to ask questions about this at the next

Preparatory Meeting and it was believed that there would be representation from the scrutiny committee on the working group in this field.

The Leader thanked the chair persons, vice-chairs, and members of the three scrutiny committees for all their work.

8. ANNUAL REPORT OF GWYNEDD COUNCIL'S STANDARDS COMMITTEE 2015/16

Dr Einir Young, Chair of the Council's Standards Committee, was welcomed to the council to present the Standards Committee's annual report for 2015/16.

Dr Einir Young spoke in detail about the committee's main aim of promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct among councillors and co-opted members of Gwynedd Council and community and town councils in Gwynedd, referring to the committee's membership and the work completed in 2015/16. She thanked the Monitoring Officer and other officers who had supported the committee.

Dr Einir Young was thanked for submitting the report.

9. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014

Submitted – the report of the Monitoring Officer notifying the Council members of changes made to the Constitution Officers Delegation Plan in order to implement the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

10. THE COUNCIL'S POLITICAL BALANCE

The Leader submitted a report reviewing the Council's political balance due to three new members being elected to the Council and two members changing their political groups.

It was explained:-

- That the recommendation did not fully reflect the political balance, and that this was due to previous decisions taken by the Council, based on discussions at the Business Group, to attempt to retain experience and specialty within the different committees with only a few months to go until the local government elections in May.
- In accordance with procedures, members would have to vote for the proposal unanimously.
- That the most recent change to the political balance meant that there was a basis for review that would lead to change in the Council's membership on the Eryri National Park Committee, but as there were only a few months to go until this current Council ended, it was suggested that the distribution set up in May 2012 be retained.

A registered vote was called for on the motion and over a quarter of members voted in favour of that.

Concern was expressed by a member that the Llais Gwynedd Group was losing its only seat on the Local Consultation Joint Committee. That member, who also chaired the Corporate Scrutiny Committee which dealt with staff matters, noted that it was through the Joint Committee that he obtained information as to what went on in the field. In response, the Leader explained that this was mathematics and, as the Llais Gwynedd Group had lost a seat at Council and the Independent Group had gained a seat, this would have to be reflected in the seats that were distributed. He warned that, if a member were to vote against the recommendation, the Llais Gwynedd Group would lose the seat regardless and would also lose a seat on the Eryri National Park Authority. He also noted that there would be no meetings of the Local Consultation Joint Committee between now and the May elections.

Several members expressed their support for the recommendation.

According to Procedural Rules, the following vote on the motion was recorded:-

In favour of the motion: (54) Councillors:- Stephen Churchman, Annwen Daniels, Lesley Day, Gwynfor Edwards, Dyfed Edwards, Elwyn Edwards, Thomas Ellis, Alan Jones Evans, Dylan Fernley, Jean Forsyth, Gareth Wyn Griffith, Gwen Griffith, Selwyn Griffiths, Alwyn Gruffydd, Annwen Hughes, John Brynmor Hughes, Louise Hughes, Sian Wyn Hughes, Peredur Jenkins, Aeron M.Jones, Aled Wyn Jones, Brian Jones, Charles W. Jones, Elin Walker Jones, Eric Merfyn Jones, John Wynn Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams, Beth Lawton, Dilwyn Lloyd, June Marshall, Dafydd Meurig, Dilwyn Morgan, Linda Morgan, Dewi Owen, Edgar Wyn Owen, Michael Sol Owen, Nigel Pickavance, Caerwyn Roberts, Gareth A.Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, W. Gareth Roberts, Mair Rowlands, Angela Russell, Dyfrig Siencyn, Mike Stevens, Gareth Thomas, Ioan Thomas, Hefin Underwood, Eirwyn Williams, Elfed Williams, Gethin Glyn Williams, Gruffydd Williams, R. H. Wyn Williams and Mandy Williams-Davies.

Abstentions: (0)

Against: (0)

RESOLVED

(a) To adopt the allocation of seats 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	5	2	0	1	1
Communities	10	5	1	1	1	
Services	10	4	2	1		1
Audit	10	5	2	1		

OTHER COMMITTEES

	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Individual Member
Democratic Services	8	5	1	1		
Language	8	4	2	1		
Planning	8	4	1	1	1	
Central Licensing	8	5	2			
Employment Appeals	3	1	1	1		1
Chief Officers	8	4	1	1	1	

THE COUNCIL Thursday, 6 October 2016

Appointment							
Number of seats	82	42	15	8	4	3	154

	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Individual Member
Pensions	3	2	0	1	1	
Local Joint Consultative Committee	6	3	0	1		1
Special Educational Needs Joint Committee	3	2	1			1
Joint Planning Policy Committee	4 (3 seats and one substitute)	2	1	1		
SACRE	4	2	1			

Total seats	102	53	18	11	5	5	194
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APPENDIX B

Corff	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Individual Member
Snowdonia National Park (now)	4	2	2	1	0	0
Change in accordance with the balance	5	2	1	1	0	0
Fire	3	1	1	0	0	0

The Leader asked that the message be conveyed to Raymond Harvey, Registration Officer, and the team, thanking them for their outstanding work over the past few months in administrating three by-elections, an Assembly election and the European Referendum, noting that their contribution had been invaluable.

11. ABSENCE OF A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL

The Leader submitted a report recommending that the Council approve the absence of Councillor Peter Read from meetings of the Council as he had been unwell for some time and was undergoing treatment which affected, and would likely continue to affect, his ability to attend formal meetings of the authority.

It was agreed that the Leader of the Llais Gwynedd Group would send a word to Councillor Peter Read and that the Council would also do so on an official basis.

RESOLVED - to approve the absence of Councillor Peter Read from meetings of the Council because of personal circumstances in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, enabling him to continue to be a member of Gwynedd Council.

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

- (a) Submitted - the following notice of motion by Councillor Owain Williams, in accordance with Section 4.20 of the Constitution, and it was seconded:-

"I propose that we as a Council convey our disappointment to the Gorsedd of the National Eisteddfod for their refusal to honour our national football team for their great contribution toward our identity and self-respect as a nation, by their refusal to acknowledge and honour them during the most recent Eisteddfod at Abergavenny.

For this, I call upon them to reconsider and to give the team all the respect they deserve, and this at the first opportunity."

A member explained that a member of the Gorsedd must nominate / second someone to be received to the Gorsedd by the closing date each year and the fact that no one had yet nominated / seconded the football team was not the same as saying that the Gorsedd had refused to honour them. Also, the Council had no influence over the Gorsedd, which is an independent body. In light of this, an improvement to amend the proposal as follows was proposed and seconded:-

"That the Council congratulates the Wales National Football Team on its recent success in the European Championship. In particular, we are proud of their success in promoting the Welsh language and Welsh identity giving it its rightful place as our national language internationally. Our clear message to them simply, is, thank you. In light of the fact that the Council has no influence over the internal workings of the Gorsedd, we encourage members of the Gorsedd to consider honouring the team or key individuals within the football association when the opportunity arises for them to make a contribution."

Several members expressed their support of the principal of honouring the football team in some way for managing to put Wales on the map.

The proposer of the original motion agreed to amend the motion along the lines mentioned with the permission of the Council and the seconder.

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

RESOLVED - That the Council congratulate the Wales National Football Team on its recent success in the European Championship. In particular, we are proud of their success in promoting the Welsh language and Welsh identity giving it its rightful place as our national language internationally. Our clear message to them, simply, is thank you. In light of the fact that the Council has no influence over the internal workings of the Gorsedd, we encourage members of the Gorsedd to consider honouring the team or key individuals within the football association when the opportunity arises for them to make a contribution."

- (b) Submitted - the following notice of motion by Councillor Dyfed Edwards, in accordance with Section 4.20 of the Constitution and it was seconded:-

"Following the recent Referendum on membership of the European Union we as a Council note that the people of Gwynedd voted clearly to remain members of the EU despite the fact that Wales and the rest of the British Isles voted against. Following this result, we as a Council state again that we are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society.

Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in Gwynedd. As a Council, we condemn racism, xenophobia and hate crimes and we will not allow hate to become acceptable.

We will work to ensure that local organisations and schemes receive the assistance they require to fight against and prevent racism and xenophobia. We also give assurances to everyone living in this area that they are valued members of our society."

A registered vote was called for but was not supported by a quarter of the members present.

During the discussion:-

- A recent article in the press was referred to which featured the daylight attack on a woman at a supermarket car park in Bangor. It was emphasised that this Council condemned any kind of xenophobia or crimes against those people whom we welcome into our community, and a call was made to lend every possible support to local agencies and third sector organisations who were helping refugees.
- It was noted that the proposal suggested that everyone who voted to leave the European Union was guilty of racism, xenophobia and hate crime. To the contrary, it was noted that this motion drew attention to the fact that some people had interpreted the result of the vote as a means of expressing racist views.

It was proposed and seconded that an improvement to amend the motion by deleting the first part referring to the result of the vote and beginning with the wording "We restate".

The proposer of the original motion noted that the referendum and the vote to leave had led to attacks on people who had moved in or who were of different racial backgrounds, since some people had assumed that they now had the right to be racist, whereas before, they were not. The motion stated that the result of the referendum in Gwynedd found in favour of remaining members of the communities of Gwynedd, Wales and Europe, and hoped that the majority interpreted the motion in this way.

A vote was taken on the amendment and it fell.

Reference was made to two factual errors in the proposal, namely:-

- '*British Isles*' in the English version - it was noted that this must be corrected to read *UK* as the British Isles included the Republic of Ireland.
- That it was not true to say that the rest of the countries of Britain had voted in favour of leaving the European Union as Scotland and Northern Ireland had voted to remain.

It was proposed and seconded that a further improvement be made to begin the motion with the following sentence:-

"Whilst Gwynedd Council acknowledges and respects the result of the referendum on Europe, we share the concern that a small minority of people have taken this opportunity to express racist standpoints during the discussions. We once more declare..."

A vote was taken on the amendment and it fell.

A vote was taken on the original proposal (with the corrections noted) and it was carried.

RESOLVED - following the recent Referendum on membership of the European Union we as a Council note that the people of Gwynedd voted clearly to remain members of the EU despite the fact that Wales and that some parts of the United Kingdom had voted against. In light of this result, we as a Council state again that we are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society.

Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in Gwynedd. We as a Council condemn racism, xenophobia and hate crimes and we will not allow hate to become acceptable.

We will work to ensure that local organisations and schemes receive the assistance they require to fight against and prevent racism and xenophobia. We also give assurances to everyone living in this area that they are valued members of our society.

The meeting commenced at 1.00 pm and concluded at 3.50 pm

CHAIRMAN