

CYNGOR TREF ABERMAW | BARMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Swyddfa'r Cyngor | Council Offices

Theatr y Ddraig | Dragon Theatre

Abermaw | Barmouth

Gwynedd

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A meeting of the Barmouth Town Council was held at 7pm on Tuesday 28th March 2023 in Parlwr Mawr, Dragon Theatre, Jubilee Road, Barmouth.

Minutes - 28th March 2023

Present: Cllr Trevor Roberts (Chair), Cllr Wendy Cleaver, Cllr Jamie Brooks, Cllr Matt Harris, Cllr Phil Hill, Cllr Adam Hills, Cllr Katie Price, Cllr Owain Pritchard, Cllr Dylan Roberts, Cllr Rob C Williams, Cllr Damian Williams, Cllr Rob A Williams, Heather Brown (clerk)

In Attendance:

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr Rob Triggs
2. Declaration of financial, personal or prejudicial interest
- 4.5.1 Cllr. Jamie Brookes, Cllr. Phil Hill.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28th February 2023
Proposed Cllr. Owain Pritchard, Seconded Cllr. Katie Price. All agreed.

4. Finance

4.1. To receive monthly finance management reports

4.1.1. Audit Update

- Audit has passed with a single comment regarding Register of Interests. The Audit Completion notice needs to be displayed on the noticeboard for 2 weeks.
- The Register of Interests was discussed. A template will be sent to all councillors for them to complete.

4.1.2. VAT

No response received from HMRC.

4.1.3. Regular Payments: - Noted

Payment	Payment Method
Clerk's Salary	Standing Order
Clerk's Phone	Direct Debit
Tanio Bermo Rent	Standing Order

4.1.4. Income received since last meeting: £23005.48 Car Park Money June - Dec 2022. This is close to what was expected.

4.2. Record of previously agreed payments made since the last meeting - none made

4.3. To approve payment of accounts

Payee	Item	Invoice #	Amount
Councillors	Councillor Allowances		£156 each
Heather Brown	Reimburse plants for Ty Crwn Gardens		£224.94
Heather Brown	Reimburse for printer ink		£35.67
Dragon Theatre	Room Hire	Inv 132	£92.00
Evergreen	March Gardening	Inv 653	£679.96
AN4 Group Ltd	PCs for Tanio Bermo	AN4012870	£2948.21
Four Corners Print	Equipment for Tanio Bermo	8614	£2064.45
Gwynedd Council	Tom Keys Memorial Bench Contribution	008008B007 7778J	£320.28
Four Corners Print	Material for Tanio Bermo	8615	£280.11

Motion to pay above invoices: Proposed: Cllr. Katie Price Seconded: Cllr Owain Pritchard, all approved.

4.4. Upcoming Expense (for information) - Noted

Item	Amount	Due
Training for Clerk	£750	Spring 2023
Dragon Theatre - Catrin Finch	£1500 max	Feb 2023
Dragon Theatre underwriting Comedy Festival	unknown	April 2023
"Down with the Arts". Committed to support, paid £1102 so far	£1898	
Hafan Deg Age Concern	£500	
History Project	£1250	Mar 2023?
Tanio Bermo start up	£5000	March 2023 onwards

4.5. To receive any requests for financial support

4.5.1. Dragon Theatre Kitchen Refurbishment

Motion to give the money to the Dragon Theatre for the kitchen refurbishment as 2 years worth of support budgeted for in the precept. Proposed: Cllr. Rob A Williams, Seconded: Cllr Wendy Cleaver, all agreed.

4.5.2. Harlech & Arduwy Leisure

The ongoing support for Harlech & Arduwy Leisure was discussed.

- The main concern from the councillors was to support Ysgol y Traeth in meeting their curriculum commitment to provide swimming lessons for school children.
- No letters or email of support for the pool were received from local residents. An email had been received from the school.
- The Council was concerned that there had been no joint meeting between the HAL directors and the community councils. This needs to be discussed and worked through as a team of supporters rather than individually between HAL and each council.
- Whilst acknowledging the impact of Covid, the Council was concerned that previous schemes proposed in the last 5 years (supported by the previous payments) to update the heating system, and set the centre up for a more sustainable future have not been carried out.

- The Council expressed a concern that committing over 10% of its budget to the project without further evidence of costed future plans would be an irresponsible use of taxpayers' money.

Motion to pay HAL on a monthly basis as long as the pool is open and children are getting swimming lessons until July 2023. Proposed Cllr. Jamie Brooks, Seconded Cllr. Rob A Williams. All agreed.

- We also require a full meeting with all community councils and a full costed business plan before committing beyond July.

5. Projects

5.1. CCTV

The licence has been signed & returned. Installation work is ongoing.

5.2. Tanio Bermo

Equipment purchase has started, invoices have been sent to Gwynedd Council covering over £5000 that they promised. The current and planned spend is £9,100. Still need to get chairs, sofas, tools & materials. Struggling to get trades in (plumber & electrician). Donations of paint etc received from LL DIY.

The budget doesn't include a laser engraver / cutter. Cheap ones are available for around £500 but these have some safety concerns. Safe ones cost from £2000 plus fume extraction. Arfor project may be able to help.

5.2.1. WiFi: We will need to have a broadband connection. It is easier and cheaper to do a mobile hub rather than install & pay for a landline. £33 per month for unlimited broadband on Vodafone (need to check for best supplier).

Motion to approve setting up a contract for broadband on the best deal going. Proposed Cllr. Jamie Brooks, Seconded: Cllr. Matthew Harris. All approved.

5.3. History Project

7 of 8 panels written in English & photos. Will ask Cymdeithas Gymraeg Y Bermo if they are interested in supporting the translation.

6. Events

6.1. Coronation Event Saturday 6th May. 5pm - 11pm.

- The paperwork has all gone in for the change of location to the prom by lifeboat station, facing out to the beach. Gwynedd Council has agreed in principle. The road closure has been approved by StreetWorks. The Temporary Event Notice has been agreed.
- Cllr. Damian Williams has spoken to the trailer/stage owner, they plan to meet up over Easter to look at the site & make sure he's happy. Sion & Griff will play & Damian will play.

6.2. Food/Craft Festival

- Food: 18 stalls confirmed. Craft: leisure centre booked. enquiries coming in.

7. Reports

7.1. Gwynedd Councillor's report

No update.

7.2. Chairman's report

Attended welcome to new vicar. Good turn out.

7.3. Clerk's report

7.3.1. Tŷ Crwn Gardens: Purchased roses & bedding. Planting has started. Currently spent £263 of £400 received. Some charges for labour expected. Proposed

getting 3 “special” roses named in memory of Sue for the gardens. Proposed Cllr. Katie Price, Seconded Cllr. Wendy Cleaver, all agreed. Cllr. Wendy Cleaver will talk to Deb & Greg.

7.3.2. Printer Ink: Approval requested for monthly subscription to HP for printer ink. Proposed Cllr. Dylan Roberts, Seconded Cllr. Matthew Harris, all agreed.

7.3.3. Insurance - the clerk will be meeting with the broker next week to discuss changing requirements and will raise Tanio Bermo. Check pontoon insurance with Cllr. Rob Triggs.

8. Local Issues

8.1. Gloddfa Road Closure - update received from Gwynedd Council. The contractor is on site to start work and available to help with any issues local residents have as a result of the closure.

8.2. Aros Fan

The response to our response to the planning application for Aros Fan was discussed. The following points were noted:

- The car park is not a nice location, it is exposed & very obtrusive from everywhere in town. Policy TWR5 states that new developments should be in unobtrusive locations.
- Feedback received from Hendre Mynach point out that it will be very difficult and expensive to keep tidy and this will damage the reputation of Barmouth as a whole.
- Residential parking impact - many locals with parking passes park in that part of the car park as it is closest to their homes. The Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Plan has a guiding principle that “advantages to communities outweigh any disadvantage” and it is unclear how this applies in this case.
- It was noted that motorhomes were an issue during the pandemic, and there were not as many last year.
- Many Councillors have had discussions with locals and have not identified anyone who approves it.
- It was not felt that the scheme would be manageable - there is already illegal parking in Barmouth at busy times and the spaces for Motorhomes would not be respected leading to confrontations between visitors.
- Word would get around that there was overnight parking available in Barmouth and more motorhomes would visit. Once the 8 spaces were occupied, any further visitors would be unlikely to pay for a local camp site or drive an hour to another Aros Fan site. This would result in more parking in residential streets and laybys.
- Storage in the fisherman’s compound & boat yard is flammable - it is not appropriate to put overnight sleeping accommodation next to a fuel store.
- The Well-being of Future Generations act 2015 highlights the need for public bodies to work better with people and communities. This project has been running within Gwynedd Council for over 19 months. Consultation with Barmouth Town Council was only started in mid-February with the planning application. Full details of the background and work done was only received on 23rd March, and a response required by 31st March. Earlier consultation would have prevented money being wasted on studies and reports as well as the embarrassment of having to withdraw the planning application.

Motion: to oppose the location of the Aros Fan for above reasons. Proposed Cllr. Matthew Harris, Seconded: Cllr. Katie Price. Unanimously passed.

- 8.3. Use of pavement/public areas for private business use (WC) - defer to April.
- 8.4. Batala Street Closure. No further comments.
- 8.5. Cllr. Katie Price to follow up with water over A496.
- 8.6. Two benches have been removed one at the bottom of 100 steps, and one on prom. Maybe being refurbished but not sure.

9. Notice of and reports from representatives on external organisations

- Youth Club: The manager, Mark is leaving and has asked are we going to carry on funding? When the new manager is appointed will follow up with them to discuss future plans.
- Harbour sub-committee:
 - Online registry of craft and moorings now in use. A few teething problems to start but now overcome
 - A change of legislation has brought a new maritime act governing the legal responsibilities of PWC's. Gwynedd trying to work out what it means to them.
 - Looking to recruit 5 beach wardens for Barmouth again this season. Hoping to have recruitment done before Whit.
 - Agreed that first aid is becoming more prevalent in the Town, especially with long waiting times for ambulances. They are looking to give beach wardens external first aid training, 1 session in the North and 1 in the South
 - Barmouth under budget again this year, makes no difference as surplus is spent elsewhere where there are needs.
 - Boat to be in use this season. Had a new trailer for £4000. Also new engines for 15,000 but that's from a different budget. The boat has also been brought up to spec to comply with safety coding.
 - New doors on Dora building and maintenance undertaken at Tŷ Crwn.
 - Sand clearance on the causeway and prom should be completed before Easter.
 - Signs placed around dune fencing. Beach goers have to take some personal responsibility to keep safe in that area.
- BPA meeting with Council representatives on Thursday to discuss the new information signs for the town. It was suggested they investigate rail-rails as well.
- Dragon Theatre: Comedy Festival. Saturday night was well supported, the magic night not so good.

10. Correspondence

- 10.1. To consider the following planning/licence applications
None received.

10.2. Other correspondence/letters

- 10.2.1. Request to remove "no loading" lines between Tal y Don & Star Barber. recommend keeping them there as it is a safety issue. If there are issues with compliance with the "no loading" restriction then this is for the traffic department to deal with.
- 10.2.2. Update from Sand Management team. Noted.
- 10.2.3. Update from Network Rail on Viaduct closure 2023. Noted

11. Open Actions from previous meetings

Action #	Description	Status	Assignee
2203-01	Gwynedd Council Depot land & allotments	Ongoing.	TR
2203-03	Pontoon, repair or replace?	No update.	RT
2205-05	Disability Access concerns have been raised. GCC are supposed to review dropped kerbs when they renew pavements	Identified places for drop curbs. Need to add to map from Gwynedd	TR
2205-06	Improvements needed to "Pitch & Putt" site - new latch on gate, new "no dogs" sign	No update	JB
2207-02	Refurbish Noticeboard by First Impressions	This work is now planned as the weather has improved.	DW
2209-01	Use of pavements by businesses, potentially causing issues with pedestrians & traffic	Will be followed up in April meeting.	RT/HB
2210-03	Resolving issues around Skate Park & School astroturf	JB following up with contractor to put ramp in rather than steps.	JB/RCW
2211-01	Follow-up regarding buses to Council Estate	Wendy & Trevor discussed and will send a letter to the portfolio holder to raise issues of bus service.	WC
2301-01	Serpentine Benches - some are broken and need fixing	Ongoing	AH/DW

12. Any other business - none

Meeting closed at 9:20pm.

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 25th April 2023 - Full Council Meeting. (apologies JB).

Signed as a true record:



Date: 25/4/23