

# CYNGOR TREF FFESTINIOG

Swyddfa'r Cyngor 5 Stryd Fawr  
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## **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL** **HELD ON THURSDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2006** **HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 7.00 P.M.**

CHAIRMAN: Councillor. Dafydd Lloyd Hughes

PRESENT: Councillors: H. Emyr Jones, Arwel Jones, Adelyn Ellis, Rhian Williams, Mel Goch ap Meirion, Arthur H. Williams, Dafydd G. Dafis, Margaretta Young-Jones, Agnes Edwards, Morfydd Lloyd, Mohammad Tahla, Eddie Roberts and George Hughes.

APOLOGIES: Councillors: Linda A.W.Jones.

The Chairman conveyed the opening prayer.

The Chairman welcomed the members to the final meeting of 2006. The Chairman thanked the British Legion for their invitation to attend the Remembrance Sunday services and also to the Vicar for the services at Saint David's and Saint Michaels' Churches. The Chairman thanked Tommy and Peter Roberts for their work in fitting the Christmas lights and to Mr Chris Joyce and Mr Rhodri ap Dafydd, of Huws Gray-Fitlock for their assistance with installing the Christmas tree. Radio Cymru, Radio Bro Blaenau and Blaenau Bendigedig were also thanked for their work. He read out a letter from Blaenau Bendigedig thanking the Town Council for their cooperation in ensuring first class lights for the town this year. He also thanked the male voice choirs, the mixed choir and the choirs from the local primary schools and the Royal Oakley band and all who participated on the evening.

6929/12/06 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Arwel Jones	-	Planning, YPI
Councillor Rhian Williams	-	Ysgol Manod
Councillor George Hughes	-	Police, YPI and Planning Application No. NP5/59/524B

6930/12/06 MATTERS OF URGENCY

A letter was received, written in Welsh, from Councillor Mohammad Tahla, declaring his resignation from the Town Council as he will be moving to the Cei Newydd, Ceredigion area shortly. Councillor Tahla thanked the Town Councillors for the pleasure of their company and he hoped that the Council had also found some benefit from his attendance at meetings. Councillor Tahla was congratulated by the Chairman for the standard of his Welsh and he thanked him for his work as a member of the Town Council. Councillor Tahla was wished happiness for himself and his family in their new home.

DECISION: To accept the information

6931/12/06 POLICE MATTERS

The Community Beat Manager, PC Dewi Wynne and Miss Irene Thomas, a voluntary worker with the police were present at the meeting.

PC Wynne informed the Council that the police at Blaenau Ffestiniog were performing well with a reduction of 9.6% in the number of crimes committed in comparison with last year. The detection rate for Blaenau Ffestiniog is 60.6%.

At present the number of policemen stationed in the town is to remain as it is, however there are changes planned for the future. There have been warnings in the local press that cuts are imminent within the North Wales Police Authority. There have been threats that unless there is an increase in the council rate, cuts in the number employed by the Authority will be inevitable. There was an enthusiastic debate regarding this topic and a councillor stated that it was very unfortunate that each time he faced financial cuts was to threaten to increase the council rate. It was stated that it was difficult to balance the cuts in service or staffing levels with an increase in costs, however it is reasonable of the Town Council to state that it does not wish to see a cut in staffing levels. The Chairman stated that he would be drawing Mr Brunstroms' attention to this fact when he attends a public meeting which will be addressed by Mr Brunstrom in the near future. A councillor made the proposal that the Town Council object to these cuts and writes to the National Assembly regarding this matter and this matter was seconded by the council.

PC Wynne advised the Council that a crossing will be placed on the A496 at point between Fron Fawr and the Skateboard Park in January. A councillor said that the Town Council had been pressing for several years for a crossing to be placed at this point and he hoped that it would be installed before the A396 is upgraded. PC Wynne stated that he would be pressing for this crossing to be upgraded to a Puffin crossing.

The police said that only one person was arrested for breaking a window at the Queens Hotel on Noson Goleuo 'Stiniog. It was said that a local person has been jailed for crimes associated with drugs. It is hoped that some of the monies confiscated at his property will be used towards the cost of installing a CCTV camera in the town.

PC Wynne stated that the company which runs the power station at Trawsfynydd need to be persuaded to donate the land promised for a motor bike club. Letters of support have been received from Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM and Mr Elfyn Llwyd MP and that a feasibility study will be undertaken soon.

The main road at Ffestiniog was closed to through traffic on the day of the fair although there were only three stalls in attendance. The PC felt that it was very dangerous in the village on the day and the PC is not willing to have any through traffic next year. The Chairman asked if it would be possible to undertake a risk assessment in partnership with Cyngor Gwynedd, the Police and the Town Council regarding the situation at Ffestiniog.

The re-surfacing work on the A470 is being completed so far without any problems.

Arrangements are well in hand by Ysgol y Moelwyn as regards to the DVD about the effects of the yellow cards that will be shown Gwynedd's schools. It has been completed apart from the filming.

Information was received about the anxieties of the residents of Manod Road regarding the proposed placement of double yellow lines. It was asked if it would be possible for a parking area to be created to the back of some of the houses that are affected. It was decided to ask for a meeting between the Police, Town Council and the North Wales Highways Agency regarding this after Christmas.

The Council was informed that complaints had been received that cars are being parked by the entrance to the ambulance station creating difficulties when the ambulance is called out. The PC stated that he had contacted the Highways department to see if parking could be prohibited here.

The successful Rat on a Rat campaign will be re-launched in the press during next week and it is hoped that it will have continued success.

Following a meeting about Hafan Deg it was stated that a community flat has been established on the estate and it is hoped to also have a children's' playing field there. A Tenants Association has already been established. The Chairman informed the Council of the problems due to lack of signs relating the numbering of the estate and he stated that this has been reported to Cyngor Gwynedd.

The Chairman thanked PC Wynne and Miss Thomas for attending the meeting and he wished them both a Happy Christmas.

DECISION: To accept the information and to write to the Welsh Assembly regarding the cuts threatened by Mr Brunstrom.

6932/12/06 RECEIVE AND CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2006

DECISION: To receive and accept the minutes with Councillor Mel Goch ap Meirion proposing and Councillor Arthur H Williams seconding the motion with the correction on minute 6910 that the decision was taken as an internal halyard was more suitable to prevent vandalism. On

minute 6905 Councillor Mel Goch ap Meirion confirmed that a feasibility study had already been undertaken and he apologised if he had not made this fact clear during his address to the Council.

6933/12/06 RECEIVE AND CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2006

DECISION: To receive and accept the minutes with Councillor Rhian Williams proposing and Councillor Eddie Roberts seconding the motion

6934/12/06 VACANCY IN BOWYDD A RHIW WARD

An application by letter has been received from Mrs Ceinwen Ll. Humphreys, Machros, Sgwâr Oakley, Blaenau Ffestiniog declaring her interest in representing Bowydd and Rhiw ward on Cyngor Tref Ffestiniog.

DECISION: On a majority decision Mrs Ceinwen Lloyd Humphreys was co-opted as a member to represent Bowydd and Rhiw ward.

6935/12/06 NORTH WALES TRUNK ROAD AGENCY

Copies were received of the plans showing the existing and proposed restrictions regarding the changes to the parking restrictions on the A470 at Blaenau Ffestiniog. The main changes involve replacing sections governed by single yellow lines with 'No waiting at any time' prohibitions (double yellow lines). The limited waiting period is shown on the plan as 45 minutes as opposed to the existing 60 minutes. The purpose of introducing the changes is to improve safety by reducing congestion and facilitating the free flow of traffic through the town

DECISION: To accept the information and to write to the North Wales Trunk Road Agency asking for a meeting to discuss the request by Manod Road residents in the New Year.

6936/12/06 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**Declaration of Interest Planning Cyngor Gwynedd**

**No local member on Cyngor Gwynedd, Councillor Arwel Jones, was present during the meeting.**

**The following applications were considered between the meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2006 and the meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2006**

a) Application No: CO6M/0206/03/LL

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Old Police Station  | Change of use from police station into a music education centre<br>No objection                |
| b) Application No: CO6M/0203/03/AM<br>Land opposite Madoc Quarry                  | Residential development (4 houses with parking provision)<br>More information required         |
| c) Application No: CO6M/0184/03/AM<br>Plot by Gwilan, Manod<br>Blaenau Ffestiniog | Construction of 2 dwelling houses and garages<br>No objection if restricted to local occupancy |
| d) Application No: CO6M/0191/03/TC<br>18 Stryd yr Eglwys,<br>Blaenau Ffestiniog   | Use of ground floor as hot food take away establishment<br>No objection                        |
| e) Application No: NP5/59/524B<br>Garreg Lwyd,<br>Ffestiniog                      | First floor bedroom extension<br>No objection  |
| f) Application No: NP5/59/677A<br>Pandy<br>Ffestiniog                             | Installation of Klargestar package treatment plant<br>No objection                             |
| f) Application No: CO6M/0199/03/MG<br>Plot by Encil, Manod                        | Detail of two storey house including access<br>No objection                                    |

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS APPROVED BY CYNGOR GWYNEDD**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| a) Application No: - CO6M/0173/03/LL<br>2 Tanygrisiau Terrace | Retrospective application to retain conservatory to front of existing dwelling.<br>- Granted |
| b) Application No: - CO6M/0176/03/LL<br>3 Tanygrisiau Terrace | Conservatory to front of existing building<br>-Granted                                       |
| c) Application No: - CO6M/0175/03/LL<br>Cylch yr Efail,       | Erect extension (Rest Room) on workshop  |

Blaenau Ffestiniog

-Granted

d) Application No: - CO6M/0175/03/LL  
10 Stryd Fawr  
Blaenau Ffestiniog

Change of use from shop and flat to bistro  
- Refused

There followed a discussion regarding the lack of response to the Town Councils comments by the Planning Department, Cyngor Gwynedd and the Planning Department, Y Parc Cenedlaethol. It was felt that the comments offered by the Town Council served no purpose as no heed was taken of them. A councillor proposed that the council invite a senior member of staff from the planning departments of both Cyngor Gwynedd and Y Parc Cenedlaethol to attend a council meeting so that they may explain the process when making a planning decision.

DECISION: Accept the information and to invite a senior member of staff from the planning departments of both Cyngor Gwynedd and Y Parc Cenedlaethol to meet with the Town Council.

6937/12/06 COUNCIL OFFICE BUILDING

The Council was informed that Cymad Cyf., the buildings' owners, had accepted an offer from Cwmni Adwy to purchase the Council Office building. The Town Council had been making enquiries into the possibility of purchasing the building which would then have been used as a centre for the promotion of Blaenau Ffestiniog. The clerk has been led to believe that Cwmni Adwy would be willing to cooperate with the Town Council and it is hoped that further information will be to hand by the January meeting

DECISION: To accept the information.

6938/12/06 YPI

The Town Council has received a reply from Councillor Ernest Williams, Chairman of the YPI to the Town Councils request for repayment of the money given to them. There was further discussion regarding this repayment as the YPI are failing to keep to the condition imposed by the Town Council when this monetary gift was made, a condition which the YPI did not oppose at the time. Councillor Williams extended an invitation to the Town Council and the sub-committee to visit the YPI building.

DECISION: To decline the invitation by Councillor Ernest Williams and to remind him that the Council is not in a position to discuss this further as there is a condition attached to the money. It is imperative that the Council is seen to be fair to others, remembering of course, that it is the ratepayer's money, and to demand repayment of the money and threaten to take the claim to the Small Claims Court if the Town Council does not receive an acceptable reply from the management committee.

6939/12/06 CYNGOR GWYNEDD – ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE

Reply to the Town Councils' letter regarding the dangerous sign by Ffestiniog Cemetery. Cyngor Gwynedd agrees that the turning for the cemetery from the direction of Allt Goch is not ideal as it means that traffic often has to cross onto the other side of the road to manoeuvre the entrance. Due to this difficulty, Cyngor Gwynedd intends to raise a sign 'No left turn' to prevent traffic from turning into the cemetery from the direction of Allt Goch. This means that traffic must turn back at Ffestiniog to enter the cemetery.

DECISION: To accept the information.

6940/12/06 ANTUR 'STINIOG

Letter received by the Town Council requesting a letter of support for this new group. Antur 'Stiniog is a group which has been formed at Blaenau Ffestiniog with the intention of developing an exciting new plan to form a mountain bike track and outdoor activities at Tanygrisiau with the emphasis on the Moelwynion mountains. The main aims of the plans are:

- ? To develop a mountain bike centre of international standard which will be suitable for both competitions and leisure activities.
- ? To establish a business which will benefit the whole community, by establishing Blaenau Ffestiniog as an important centre for adventure tourism
- ? Provide quality employment with the opportunity for training for local young people
- ? Invest any income received back to further developing the business and to support other local community ventures.
- ? To include the needs of other users of the Moelwynion in the plan, and to work to improve the quality of life for the residents.

DECISION: To accept the information and to send a letter of support for the plan.

6941/12/06 NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE FOR WALES

Report about the cryptosporiosis outbreak in North West Wales in 2005. The report gives a detailed account of the outbreak and how it was managed. The number of confirmed cases associated with the outbreak was 231, making it the largest outbreak of waterborne cryptosporiosis in Wales. The investigation found evidence that linked the outbreak to the mains water supply from Llyn Cwellyn. This report has been written to inform people of what happened in the outbreak. It is intended to be useful for people living in the area affected as well as the offices of the authorities who have responsibility for reducing the impact of cryptosporiosis infection wherever they are. Further details are available from the website [www.nps.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.nps.wales.nhs.uk).

DECISION: To accept the information.

6942/12/06 CYNGOR GWYNEDD - RESOURCES DIRECTORATE

From the beginning of the year, a new arrangement was put in place for dealing with service requests in relation to dogs whereby, instead of wearing two hats (60% pest control 40% dog control) an officer would be dedicated 100% to dog control throughout the county

A work programme was set in place, and one objective was to square the circle whereby on the one hand, we maintained records of numerous patrols, but on the other, Town and Community Councils and other organisations complained that they never saw a Dog Warden.

The intended response to complaints and correspondence from the Town and Community Councils was to be that a joint patrol be arranged with the Clerk and or one or more members of the Council, thereby giving them the opportunity to show the Warden directly the locations and types of problems so that the Warden had a better understanding of them.

The new work programme, for various reasons, has got off to a less than acceptable start. However, an additional Warden has recently been appointed and he will be contacting the Town Council in the near future.

DECISION: To accept the information and agree to cooperate with the new warden so that we may resolve the enormous problem of dog fouling in the area

6943/12/06 THE CLERK

Magazine from the Society of Local Council Clerks

DECISION: To accept the information and to leave the booklet on the table so that any member may borrow it should they wish to do so.

6944/12/06 CLEAR SITE

Magazine about the Trawsfynydd site.

DECISION: To accept the information and to leave the booklet on the table so that any member may borrow it should they wish to do so.

6945/12/06 ACCOUNTS TO BE PAID

PAYE	£ 219.63	Cheque No. 000763
Petty Cash	£ 75.00	Cheque No. 000764
Nefyn Cleaning (bus shelters) 000765	£ 321.82	Cheque No.
Blachere Illumination (Christmas Lights)	£ 6080.63	Cheque No. 000766

Viking Direct (office supplies) 000767	£ 97.03	Cheque No.
Cyngor Gwynedd (Ground Rent)	£ 5.00	Cheque No. 000768
Cyngor Gwynedd (Maintenance work) 000769	£ 61.72	Cheque No.
Cyngor Gwynedd (Removing Christmas strings)	£ 1089.81	Cheque No. 000770
A Hughes (Christmas Lights) 000771	£ 60.00	Cheque No.
Remco Signs (Tree Lights)	£ 471.76	Cheque No. 000772

The clerk was given permission to pay the above.

6946/12/06 MONEY RECEIVED

Zurich

£ 8031.71

The meeting was drawn to a close at 9.30pm

**THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING TO BE HELD ON 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2007  
WILL CLOSE ON 3<sup>RD</sup> OF JANUARY 2007**

**THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE HELD  
AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON  
THURSDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2007  
AT 7.00p**

CHAIRMAN