

HOLYWELL TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF TREFFYNNON

Minutes of the **Meeting of Holywell Town Council** held in the Council Chamber, Bank Place Offices, Holywell, on Wednesday, 15th November 2023 at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor L. Corbett (Deputy Mayor & Acting Chair).
Councillors: P. Cooper, P. Corbett, I. Hodge, J. Jones, M. Lewis-Jones, E.B. Palmer, S. Rush, B. Scragg, M. Sprake, and D. Thomas.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillors C. Argent, L.A. Carter, P. Curtis, and P.A. Johnson.

IN ATTENDANCE: J. Baker (Clerk), M. Fearnley (Deputy Clerk), and C. Pickstock (Support Officer).

78. **PRESENTATION ON SMART TOWNS AND DIGITAL PLACEMAKING**

Adam Greenwood and Kiki Rees-Stavros attended the meeting and provided an overview to members of the Smart Towns Initiative. A smart town was an urban area that uses different types of electronic methods and sensors to collect data. Insights gained from that data are used to manage assets, resources, and services efficiently. The data was used to improve operations and future prosperity across the town.

RESOLVED:

That the presenters be thanked for their attendance.
The slides from the presentation would be circulated following the meeting.

79. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – MEMBERS’ CODE OF CONDUCT**

Agenda Item	Name of Councillor	Personal	Prejudicial	Nature of Interest
9.1.	All Councillors	✓		Recipients of IRPW Annual Allowances.
9.5.	M. Sprake	✓		MP is Employer.
9.7.	I. Hodge	✓		Member of Rotary Club.
10.	D. Thomas	✓	✓	Director of One Step CIC.

Nb. Those members that declared a prejudicial interest left the meeting room and took no part in the debate of the stated item.

80. MAYOR'S REMARKS (DELIVERED BY THE DEPUTY MAYOR)

The Mayor thanked all members that attended the Remembrance Services at Holywell and Greenfield over last weekend, and thanked all the parties involved in organising the events for their hard work in ensuring the services went smoothly, despite the weather conditions on the Sunday. The Mayor also wished Fr Dominic, Vicar of Holywell, well in his recovery from recent ill-health.

The Mayor was delighted to attend the Mayor of Caerwys' Civic Service on Sunday 5th November at St. Michael's Church.

The Mayor was pleased to judge the Best Halloween Window competition for the businesses and congratulated all that had taken part. The winning entry was Bellas Diner.

Following the recent news of the group's dissolution, The Mayor thanked Gwladys Harrison, Chair, and all members of the Holywell & District Society for their efforts over many years in supporting Holywell, Greenfield and its communities. The Society was formed in 2007, when a group of individuals with similar interests in the local area decided that information on the history and environment was not being shared and recorded. The Society operated from the Council Offices over recent years, and the Mayor wished group members well in their future endeavours.

Finally, the Mayor requested members' support for the Clerk to write a letter to Tesco to request that they review their public Wi-Fi policy. The Wi-Fi connection could be accessed freely from areas around the Tesco building and continued to cause anti-social behaviour issues.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk send a letter to Tesco Head Office raising the Council's concerns over the Wi-Fi.

81. MINUTES & MEETINGS

81.1. Minutes of Meetings

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the following meetings be approved as a correct record.

- Holywell Town Council meeting held on Wednesday 18th October 2023.
- Special Meeting of Holywell Town Council held on Tuesday 31st October 2023.

81.2. Member Request to join Committees

Members considered a request from Cllr P. Cooper to join the Development and Resources Committees.

RESOLVED:

That approval be given. Clerk to note for committee administration purposes.

82. PLANNING

82.1. New Planning Applications

Consideration was given to applications forwarded to the Town Council as part of the County Council's planning consultation.

RESOLVED:

That the following responses be submitted to the County Planning Authority.

Application Number	Proposal Details
FUL/000895/23	PROPOSAL: PROPOSED NEW VEHICLE PARKING AND ENTRANCE ONTO HIGHWAY LOCATION: 6, ST PETERS ESTATE, Coleshill Street, Holywell, CH8 7UW. The Council confirmed their support for this application as long as it meets the necessary planning criteria.

83. ACCOUNTS

83.1. Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED:

That payment of the following accounts be approved.

SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS – OCTOBER 2023

Voucher Number	Payment Method	Creditor Name	Payment Details	Amount £	Power Key
9752	BP	Philip Jones Computers	ICT Support Costs Q2	135.00	****
9753	BP	Flintshire County Council	CCTV Charges Oct-Dec 2023	3,864.73	*****
9754	BP	Chubb Fire & Security Ltd	Fit Device to Intruder Alarm	420.00	****
9755	BP	Society of Local Council Clerks	Attend SLCC/OVW Joint Conference - Clerk	72.00	****
9756	BP	Media Man Productions	Stage Management Well Inn Festival	500.00	^^
9757	BP	Viking	Mineral Water	44.38	****
9758	BP	Viking	Stationery	28.19	****
9759	BP	Npower	Electric Events Hub Aug23	38.04	****
9760	BP	Flintshire County Council	Loan Repayment (1 of 2 for 2023/24)	7,000.00	^
9761	BP	Handy Labels	Inventory Labels	35.80	****
9762	BP	Tadmark Ltd	Supply Banner	41.10	^^
9763	BP	St Johns Ambulance	First Aid Services at the Well Inn Music Festival	187.20	^^
9764	BP	Viking	First Aid Kit	22.13	****
9765	BP	Flintshire County Council	Business Rates 2023/24 2 of 2	3,630.64	****
9766 - 9768	BP	Council Staff	Staff Salaries - Oct 23	5,478.27	***
9769	BP	HMRC	Staff PAYE/NI - Oct 23	1,837.61	***
9770	BP	Clwyd Pension Fund	Staff Pension Costs - Oct 23	2,022.67	***
9771	BP	Delyn Press	Business Cards - Cllr L. Carter	67.20	****
9772	BP	Viking	First Aid Items	48.86	****
9773	BP	Paul Broadbent	Binding of Two Sets of Minute Books	240.00	^^
9774	BP	Holywell Garden Centre	Operate Parasols	160.00	^^
9775	BP	Holywell Garden Centre	Brackets Events Hub	60.00	^^
9776	BP	Holywell Garden Centre	Watering Baskets - Sept	436.50	^^
9777	BP	J. Baker	Reimbursement - VDU Screen Glasses	44.50	***
9778	BP	NW Association of Local Councils	Lunches for Two Delegates - 20/10/23	44.00	^^**
9779	BP	Holywell Market Group	Financial Assistance Donation	500.00	^^
9780	BP	Cllr L.A. Carter	Civic Expenses Sep 23	63.25	***^
9781	BP	C. Pickstock	Travelling Costs Sep 23	14.85	***
9782	BP	Ysgol Maesglas	Eco Uniform Donation	100.00	^^

9783	BP	Ysgol Maes y Felin	Eco Uniform Donation	100.00	^^
9784	BP	Npower	Electric Events Hub Sep23	42.43	****
9785	BP	Cllr E.B. Palmer	Travelling Costs Manchester Seminar	53.00	^^**
9786	BP	Viking	Cleaning Consumables	61.45	****
9787	BP	Viking	Consumables	41.86	****
9788	BP	Heritage Trust Network	Rethinking High Streets Seminar - Cllr D. Thomas	80.00	****
9789	BP	Daydream Designs	Website Tech Support - Oct23	94.80	****
9790	BP	Cllr E.B. Palmer	Travelling Costs - Association Meeting 20/10/23	24.00	^^**
9791	BP	T.J. Dykes	Update Honours Board - Mayor L.A. Carter	55.00	****
9792	BP	NW Association of Local Councils	Annual Membership Fee 2023/24	100.00	****
9793	BP	BKB Solutions Ltd	Installation 5 Extra Double Sockets - Bank Place Offices	234.00	****
9794	DD	Opus Energy	Gas Bank Place 16/8-14/9	32.77	****
9795	DD	Plusnet	Phone & Broadband Oct23	47.88	****
9796	DD	BNP Paribas	Copier Lease 16/10-15/1	154.80	****
9797	DD	EDF Energy	Electric 12/13 Bank Place Sep23	101.47	****
9798	DD	EDF Energy	Electric 14 Bank Place Sep23	17.82	****
9799	DD	BT	Phone & Broadband Oct23	85.36	****
9800	DD	Opus Energy	Gas Bank Place 15/9-15/10	128.45	****
9801	DC	Poppy Shop	Supply Wreaths	42.49	****
9802	DC	Tesco	Refreshments	1.20	****
9803	DC	Amazon	Pedal Bin	18.95	****
9804	DC	Amazon	2 Pedal Waste Bins	28.00	****
9805	DC	1&1 Internet Ltd	Office Premium/Mail Pro	100.59	****
9806	DC	Tesco	Refreshments	1.20	****
9807	DC	Tesco	Refreshments	1.20	****
9808	DC	Amazon	Double Sided Tape	9.43	****
9809	DC	Amazon	BT Connection Switch/Port	55.99	****
9810	DC	Tesco	Refreshments	9.20	****
9811	DC	Zoom	Zoom Pro Subscription	15.59	****
9812	DC	Amazon	Christmas Stage Lighting	175.00	^^
9813	DC	Amazon	Christmas Stage Lighting (2)	99.87	^^
9814	DC	Tesco	Stamps/Postages	60.00	***
9815	DC	Tesco	Refreshments	1.20	****
9816	DR	HSBC Bank	Bank Charge Sep23	8.00	****
TOTAL				29,219.92	

INCOME/VAT/REFUNDS/BANK TRANSFERS SCHEDULE – OCTOBER 2023

Date	Category	Name	Payment Details	Amount £
10/10/23	REFUND	Plusnet	Contract Termination	6.10
13/10/23	INCOME	Various	Eco Uniform Donation	200.00
29/09/23	INCOME	Power Portal Ltd	Car Charge Point	14.75
			TOTAL	220.85

Powers to Make Payments:

- * The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) Regulations for the remuneration of members and co-opted members of relevant authorities – Part 5 Community/Town Councils
- // Local Government Act 1948 S.33
- /// Local Government Act 1972 S.34
- ** Local Government Act 1972 S.137
- *** Local Government Act 1972 S.112, 151
- **** Local Government Act 1972 S.133
- ^ Local Government Act 1972 S.111
- ^^ Local Government Act 1972 S.144, S.145
- ^^^ Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 S.19
- ^^^^ Local Government Act 1972 S.143
- *^ Local Government Act 1972 S.140
- **^ Local Government Act 1972 S.176
- ***^ Local Government Act 1972 S.13
- ****^ Local Government Act 1972 S.34
- ***** Local Government (Misc. Provisions) Act 1953 S.4
- ^^** Local Government Act 1972 S.173, S.174
- ^^^* Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 S.4
- < Local Government Act 1972 S.124
- # Local Government Act 1972 S.142
- ## Representation of the People Act 1983 S.34 (repealed by Representation of the People Act 1985)
- ### War Memorials (Local Authorities' Powers) Act 1923 - maintain war memorials
- #### Litter Act 1983 S.5-6
- ***** Local Government & Rating Act 1997 S.31

84. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

84.1. Monthly Report

Members considered this month's report from the Deputy Clerk. There were action points that covered the Christmas programme of activity.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That Cllrs E.B. Palmer, D. Thomas, B. Scragg and P. Cooper provide assistance with the Christmas Activity letters and flyers delivery to businesses.
- 2) That Cllrs L.A. Carter, P. Cooper, J. Jones, L. Corbett, S. Rush, B. Scragg, D. Thomas, E.B. Palmer, and I. Hodge provide assistance at the Christmas Lights Switch On Event.

84.2. Community Endeavour Awards 2023

Members considered this year's award format and forms were handed out to all members. One collective nomination was required from each ward that was to be submitted to the Support Officer by Wednesday 29th November 2023.

RESOLVED:

That one Under 18 award is presented this year representing the whole of the area covered by the Council.

85. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

85.1. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Draft Report 2024/25

Members considered the draft report and the consultation questionnaire.

RESOLVED:

That the draft report be noted as received. That the Clerk submits a general comment highlighting caution with any uplift to the rates of payment.

85.2. Welsh Government Democratic Health Task and Finish Group

Members considered appointing a working group to respond to the consultation on the above matter and complete the survey.

RESOLVED:

That Cllrs I. Hodge, E.B. Palmer and S. Rush be appointed to the working group. Clerk to make arrangements.

85.3. Flintshire's Local Area Energy Planning Workshop

Members considered any nominations to attend the above workshop on Wednesday 29th November. Cllr I. Hodge had already attended a similar workshop.

RESOLVED:

That the Council note this correspondence as received.

85.4. Clwyd Pension Fund: Annual Employer Meeting

Members considered any nominations to attend the meeting on Thursday 7th December.

RESOLVED:

That the Council note this correspondence as received.

85.5. Climate and Ecology Motion

Members received an update from the appointed working group, that recommended to the Council the passing of the following motion.

Climate & Ecology Bill motion

Preamble

Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt in the UK, and across the world. The average global temperature has already increased by 1.2°C above pre-industrial levels and—alongside this—the natural world has reached crisis point, with 28% of plants and animals threatened with extinction. In addition, the UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world as more than one in seven of our plants and animals face extinction, and more than 40% are in decline.

Climate change remains a major concern for UK voters with 66% of people (according to YouGov) expressing they are 'worried about climate change and its effects'. Alongside this, the popularity of Sir David Attenborough's *Save Our Wild Isles* initiative demonstrates public concern that UK wildlife is being destroyed at a terrifying speed.

Climate & Ecology Bill

The Climate & Ecology Bill, a private member's bill currently before the House of Commons, seeks to address the challenges that this situation poses by creating a whole-of-government approach to deliver a net zero and nature positive future.

Based on the latest science, the CE Bill aims to align current UK environmental policy with the need to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030, which was goal agreed to at COP15, via the *Kunming-Montreal Framework* (22 December 2022); and reduce greenhouse gas emissions

in line with the UK's fair share of the remaining global carbon budget to give the strongest chance of limiting global heating to 1.5°C, which was the goal agreed to at COP21, via the *Paris Agreement* (12 December 2015).

By bridging the gap between the UK Government's current delivery, and what has been agreed at international levels, Britain has a chance to be a world leader on climate and the environment; seizing the opportunities of the clean energy transition, including green jobs and skills; reduced energy bills; and boosting the UK's food and energy security.

Holywell Town Council notes that:

The Climate and Ecology Bill has been introduced in the UK Parliament on four occasions since 2020, including most recently in the House of Commons 10 May 2023. The Bill is backed by cross-party MPs and Peers, local authorities, alongside the support of eminent scientists, such as Sir David King; NGOs, such as the Wildlife Trusts, the Doctors' Association, Oxfam, the W.I. and CPRE; businesses, such as The Co-operative Bank, Riverford and The Body Shop; and 42,000 members of the public.

The CE Bill would require the UK Government to develop and achieve a new environmental strategy, which would include:

1. Delivering a joined-up environmental plan, as the crises in climate and nature are deeply intertwined, and require a plan that considers both together;
2. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with 1.5°C to ensure emissions are reduced in line with the best chance of meeting the UK's Paris Agreement obligations;
3. Not only halting, but also reversing the decline in nature, setting nature measurably on the path to recovery by 2030;
4. Taking responsibility for our overseas footprint, both emissions and ecological;
5. Prioritising nature in decision-making, and ending fossil fuel production and imports as rapidly as possible;
6. Providing for re-training for those people currently working in fossil fuel industries; and
7. Giving the British people a say in finding a fair way forward via a temporary, independent and representative *Climate & Nature Assembly*, as part of creating consensus and ensuring that no one and no community is left behind.

Local Impact & Action Taken

Holywell Town Council have for the last fourteen years campaigned for the reopening of the railway station at Greenfield, which would stimulate a public transport system for the local community. This transport system should include all modes of transport i.e., bus, train. There is an urgency about this matter and new build properties should have a policy driven programme of home insulation, solar panels, and heat pumps. Existing homeowners should have access to grant aided schemes to insulate their homes.

The Council have been running a successful eco uniform initiative for several years where unwanted clothing is donated and recycled back into the community. Any donations are collected and given to local schools. The Council were the first Town Council in Flintshire to install an Electric Vehicle Charge Point and have also banned the use of single use plastics in the Council offices. The Council manage a seasonal programme of litter picks at strategic points across the local community.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Council support the Climate and Ecology Bill and informs local residents.
- 2) That the Clerk write to Rob Roberts MP to inform him that the motion has been passed and request he signs up to support the bill. That the Clerk writes to Zero Hour to confirm the Council's support.

85.6. Email from Kirstie Dolphin – Llesty Woodland

Members considered the email, which enquired over the maintenance of the woodland, in particular in respect of overhanging trees bordering the Beeches through road. The Clerk also reported a dead tree in the centre of the woodland.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk arrange to meet with Stuart Body, Flintshire County Council to assess the treeline and any dead trees and obtain some technical advice. Clerk to then report back into the Council.

85.7. Email from Paul Islip – Rotary Club of Flint and Holywell

Members considered the email from Mr Islip, that concerned the Tree of Lights project for Holywell. Members noted that the Council had to undertake its own research into the costs involved as these were not made clear from the initial presentation.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk replies to Mr Islip to reiterate the Council's non-financial support for the project.

85.8. Reports Received

Members were informed that the following items had been received and were available for perusal from the Clerk. A copy was at the office where the item is marked *, or ** if already circulated to Members:

Ref	Item	Status	Date Circulated
A	Flintshire County Council Updates	**	Various Dates
B	Welsh Government Updates	**	Various Dates
C	North Wales Police Alerts	**	Various Dates
D	One Voice Wales Updates & Training Courses	**	Various Dates
E	Planning Aid Wales Training Courses	**	Various Dates
F	OPCC Newsletters	**	Various Dates
G	Information on RAAC in buildings	**	17 th Oct 2023
H	Thomas Pennant Society	**	18 th Oct 2023
I	GVT Information Event Invitation	**	19 th Oct 2023
J	GVT Papers – TOR and SPF Grant Detail	**	19 th Oct 2023
K	Playscheme Report	**	23 rd Oct 2023
L	NW Association of Local Councils - Rail Survey Report	**	23 rd Oct 2023
M	Declaration of Poll - Greenfield By Election	**	27 th Oct 2023
N	Active Travel Route Works in Greenfield Valley	**	27 th Oct 2023
O	Councillor Allowances - Homeworking Arrangements and Consumables	**	27 th Oct 2023
P	Holywell & District Society Dissolution	**	6 th Nov 2023
Q	Political Groups/Affiliations - Remembrance Sunday	**	6 th Nov 2023
R	GVT Partnership Minutes 17th October 2023	**	6 th Nov 2023
S	GVT Dee Boat Owner Drop In - 20th Nov, Greenfield	**	7 th Nov 2023

86. MEMBERS AGENDA ITEMS

Councillor	Subject	Motion
D. Thomas	One Step CIC Youth Club	Members to consider a contribution to the lease and running costs of this venture, of £18,200 (£10,000 Lease, £8,200 Running Costs). Members to receive a presentation from Board Members Claire Presford and Cllr Danny Thomas to explain this proposal.

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED:

That the public and press be excluded for the debate and vote on minute 86 on grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted arising from the financial considerations.

Cllr D. Thomas and Claire Presford confirmed that the costs would be £22,000 for year 1, and £12,000 for years 2 and 3. The total funding required from the Council for the initial 3 year period was £46,000. Following the presentation by Cllr D. Thomas and Claire Presford members discussed the financial implications of making such a contribution, and the impact on both the Council's local taxation precept and reserve balances. Members also discussed safeguarding concerns around staffing ratios and training.

RESOLVED:

That the Council note as received this request without financial support being granted on this occasion. That the Deputy Clerk continues to signpost Cllr D. Thomas to applicable grant funding streams to support the initial growth of this venture.

87. REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Cllr I. Hodge updated members on recent discussions with Trains for Wales, and meetings held to discuss rail services on the north coastal line.

88. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cllr I. Hodge updated members on a recent Environment Committee meeting. Risk assessments were being completed on all unadopted roads as a result of vehicle damage.

89. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Mayor closed the meeting at 8.35pm.

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Mayor