

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2017

- PRESENT:** Councillor Richard Owain Jones (Chair)
Councillor Dylan Rees (Vice-Chair)
- Councillors Lewis Davies, R Dew, John Griffith, Richard Griffiths, Glyn Haynes, K P Hughes, T LI Hughes MBE, Vaughan Hughes, Llinos Medi Huws, A M Jones, Carwyn Jones, Eric Wyn Jones, G O Jones, R.Meirion Jones, Alun W Mummery, Bryan Owen, R G Parry OBE, Shaun James Redmond, Alun Roberts, Dafydd Roberts, J A Roberts, Nicola Roberts, P S Rogers, Dafydd Rhys Thomas and Robin Williams.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive,
Assistant Chief Executive (Partnerships, Community & Service Improvements),
Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Business Process Transformation),
Head of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer,
Head of Democratic Services,
Head of Corporate Transformation,
Legal Services Manager (RJ),
Committee Officer (MEH).
- ALSO PRESENT:** None
- APOLOGIES:** Councillors R LI Jones, Margaret Murley Roberts and Ieuan Williams.

The meeting was opened by a prayer offered by Councillor G.O. Jones

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the following meetings of the Isle of Anglesey County Council were submitted and confirmed :-

- 23rd May, 2017 (Ordinary Meeting)(11.00 a.m.), subject to an amendment that the Leader of the Council said that there be one additional member on the Executive (already a place for 8 Members on the Executive);
- 23rd May, 2017 (First Annual Meeting), subject to an amendment that the Opposition Group had expressed that no elected member from the opposition group had been included within the membership of the Standards Committee;
- 31st May, 2017 (Adjourned Annual Meeting)
- 6th July, 2017 (Extraordinary Meeting), subject to the inclusion of the Deputy Leader of the Council's responsibilities (Major Developments and the Welsh Language) being recorded within the minutes;
- 31st July, 2017

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

3. TO RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chair made the following announcements :-

- He thanked the residents of the Island who had contributed to the successful arrangements of the National Eisteddfod held in Bodedern recently. He congratulated all those from the Anglesey who had been successful at the Eisteddfod. He further said that it was an honour as Chair of the Isle of Anglesey County to be able to officially open the County Council's pavilion on the Eisteddfod field;
- Congratulations to competitors from Anglesey who enjoyed success at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show and the Anglesey Agricultural Show recently;
- Congratulations to those secondary school pupils who had succeeded in their GCSE's and A Levels.

Congratulations extended to Mr. Tom Jones, Maes Mawr, Llanfechell, on his appointment as President of the Anglesey Young Farmers Federation and to Councillor Aled Morris Jones on his appointment as Vice-President of the Anglesey Young Farmers Federation.

The Chair announced that the Chairman's Sunday will be held at St Eleth Church, Amlwch, on Sunday, 8 October, 2017 at 2.00 p.m., and to follow at Lastra Hotel.

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The Chair extended his deepest sympathy to the former elected member Mr. Glyn Jones on the loss of his wife recently.

Condolences were extended to any Member of the Council or staff who had suffered bereavement. Members and Officer stood in silent tribute as a mark of their respect and sympathy.

4. QUESTIONS RECEIVED PURSUANT TO RULE 4.1.12.4 OF THE CONSTITUTION

No questions received pursuant to rule 4.1.12.4 of the Constitution.

5. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

The Chair reported that he had received 2 petitions from the following :-

Petition with 93 names received by Councillor R.LI. Jones from residents who wish to keep the playing field at Ysgol y Parc, Holyhead for the children of the area following closure of the school.

Petition with 272 names received by Councillor Lewis Davies from supporters who wish to safeguard Ysgol Gynradd Beaumaris from closing.

The Chair said that the petitions will be referred to the relevant departments of the Council.

It was RESOLVED that the petitions be referred to the relevant departments.

6. COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2022

Submitted – a report of the Head of Corporate Transformation as presented to the Executive on 18 September, 2017.

The Opposition Group referred to the heading of Education and Skills of the report which notes '*possibility of 3-18 learning campuses in specific locations*'; clarification was sought as to where the specific locations are to be located. The Chief Executive responded that the modernisation of schools programme incorporated the future of secondary schools on the Island and specific sites locations will need to be considered in the future.

It was RESOLVED to adopt the Council Plan 2017-2022.

7. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2016/17 AND ISA 260 REPORT

Submitted – a report by the Head of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer as presented to the Audit and Governance Committee on 21st September, 2017.

It was RESOLVED :-

- **To accept the Statement of Accounts 2016/17;**
- **To note the acceptance of the Annual Governance Statement 2016/17 by the Audit and Governance Committee and refer the document to the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive for signature.**

8. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW FOR 2016/17

Submitted – a report by the Head of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer as presented to the Executive on 18th September, 2017.

It was RESOLVED :-

- **To note that the outturn figures contained in the report ;**
- **To note the provisional 2016/17 prudential and treasury indicators in the report.**

9. AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

The Annual Report of the Audit and Governance Committee for 2016/17 was presented by Councillor John Griffith, the former Vice-Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee in the absence of Councillor R.L.I. Jones the former Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee.

It was RESOLVED to receive the report and to note its contents.

10. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATUTORY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR 2016/17

Submitted – the report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Business Process Transformation) as Statutory Director of Social Services.

The Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Business Process Transformation) and designed Director of Social Services reported that following the CSSIW Inspection of Children's Services in November 2016 priorities within the service for improvement has been agreed with the introduction of a Service Improvement Plan which focuses on strengthening the service, and the establishment of a Children's Services Panel which monitors the service and reports back to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee on a regular basis. She noted that she was confident that the foundations for sustainable improvement are now in place within Children's Services. She further reported that Adults' Services have seen a period of stability which has enabled the service to focus on the future and to consolidate progress in relation to the development of Extra Care facilities Hafan Cefni and making improvements at Garreglwyd Residential Home, as well as preparing for the retendering of the Domiciliary Care arrangements.

The aim of Social Services is to work with individuals and listening to their needs, as incorporated within the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014, (focusing on 'What Matters' conversations) and to allow people to live independently for as long as possible within their home environment.

Councillor A.M. Jones, the former Portfolio Holder for Social Services, wished to thank Dr Turner for her work and vision for the improvement of the service.

It was RESOLVED to accept the Annual Report of the Statutory Director of Social Services for 2016/17.

11. NOTICE OF MOTION PURSUANT TO RULE 4.1.13.1 OF THE CONSTITUTION

Submitted – the following Notice of Motion by Councillors Aled M. Jones and Kenneth P. Hughes :-

“We, the undersigned urge the County Council to adopt a policy which confirms a long term commitment to the agricultural small holding estates.

This requires the Authority to cease the disposal of vacant holdings as they become available. No small holdings over 20 acres to be sold without being approved at a meeting of the full Council.”

Councillor Aled M. Jones spoke in support of the Motion and said that the Smallholding Estate must be secured for the future of young people who wish to be able to have a foothold in agriculture on these smallholdings. He noted that the current policy allows the Portfolio Holder (Highways, Property and Waste) and Officers to sell smallholdings up to 20 acres; recently two smallholdings have been sold. The Smallholdings Estate on Anglesey comprises of 98 units which is the second largest estate in Wales with 78 dwellings attached to it with annual rents totally £520k. The Council over recent years have carried out extensive refurbishment on the estate following transfer of the estate, which was in dire state, from Gwynedd County Council in 1996. He reiterated the need to secure the Smallholding Estate but decisions as regard to selling holdings up to 20 acres or dwellings needs to be a decision for the full Council.

Councillor K.P. Hughes wished to second the Motion and said that maybe there was justification in the past to sell a holding due to the dire state of the estate when transferred by Gwynedd Council. He noted that most of the estate has been refurbished and therefore the estate must be secured for the future of young people who wish to earn a living within the agriculture business.

Councillor Peter Rogers stated that he considered that the Smallholdings Estate had been left to deteriorate and the running of the estate is not fit for purpose by the Council.

The Portfolio Holder (Highways, Property and Waste) recommended an amendment to the Notice of Motion put forward and proposed that the Corporate Scrutiny Committee be requested to discuss the aim of the Smallholdings Letting Policy. The Letting Policy needs to be evaluated so as to allow the smallholdings estate to be the most effective and fruitful for young people to have the opportunity to be tenants of a smallholding on the Island and to make a living out of the smallholding and furthermore to have a vision to becoming Managers of Commercial Farming Units in the future to secure financial stability for the estate.

The Leader of the Council seconded the amendment.

Councillor Aled M. Jones said that he was of the opinion that the smallholdings estate has been upgraded and did not agree that the matter should be referred to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee for further deliberations as the annual rents from the estate has been ring-fenced to allow for the maintenance required on the holdings. He was still of the opinion that the Notice of Motion put before the Council was the best for the future of the Smallholding Estate.

Following further deliberations, the full Council voted on the amendment to Notice of Motion put forward by the Portfolio Holder (Highways, Property and Waste) and the amendment was carried.

The amended motion was subsequently put to the vote and passed as the substantive motion.

It was RESOLVED that the Notice of Motion as duly amended be forwarded to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

The meeting concluded at 2.45 pm

**COUNCILLOR RICHARD O JONES
CHAIR**