

## ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

### Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 13 July 2011

- PRESENT:** Councillor Gwilym O. Jones - Chair
- Councillors E.G.Davies; Lewis Davies;  
Barrie Durkin; W.T.Hughes; W.I.Hughes; Eric Jones; H.Eifion Jones;  
R.Jones; R.Dylan Jones; R.Ll.Jones; T.H.Jones; A.Morris Jones;  
C.McGregor; Bryan Owen; R.L.Owen; R.G.Parry OBE; Eric Roberts;  
Peter S.Rogers; Elwyn Schofield; J.Penri Williams; Selwyn Williams;
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Interim Managing Director;  
Corporate Director Finance,  
Corporate Director Education & Leisure;  
Corporate Director Environment & Technical Services;  
Acting Corporate Director Housing & Social Services;  
Monitoring Officer;  
Head of Service (Policy),  
Committee Officer (JMA).
- APOLOGY:** Councillor Keith Evans; D.R.Hughes; Rhian Medi; O.Glyn Jones;  
G.O.Parry MBE; G.W.Roberts OBE; Ieuan Williams
- ALSO PRESENT:** Commissioners Alex Aldridge, Maragaret Foster, Gareth Jones.
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The meeting was opened with a Prayer by Councillor Eric Jones.

#### 1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Declaration of non prejudicial interest by Councillor Aled Morris Jones as he is the Secretary of the Royal Welsh Society's Ynys Môn Committee.

Declaration of non prejudicial Interest by Councillor R.G.Parry OBE as he is a Member of the Gorsedd of Bards of Great Britain.

Acting on the advice of the Monitoring Officer, both Members participated in the debate and voted on the issue.

#### 2. TO RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE CHAIRPERSON, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OR THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE.

The Chair extended the Council's warmest congratulations to Councillor John Penri Williams on the occasion of his marriage on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2011 and wished both Councillor and Mrs Williams very best wishes for the future.

The Chair congratulated the Foundation Phase pupils of Ysgol Ffrwd Win, Llanfaethlu who had come joint first in the Competition "Celebrating Religious Education". They had prepared a digital presentation on the theme "Special Places" and the school will be awarded a £200 prize. This was announced at the Wales SACRE meeting which was held in the Council Chamber on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

Congratulations also to Key Stage Pupils of Ysgol Ffrwd Win on becoming national champions in a competition entitled "What kind of decade was the 60's?". They will receive a cheque for £1,000. The Chair requested Councillor K.Hughes to extend the Council's warmest congratulations to the school on their remarkable achievements.

Congratulations to the Ynys Môn Team on their success at the Island Games on the Isle of Wight. They won two gold and two silver medals. The younger athletes also performed very well and they are wished every success for the future.

Congratulations to Meilyr Jones of Llangefni who won the Solo Competition for 15-19 year olds at The Llangollen International Eisteddfod.

Best wishes were extended to the "Gwyl Plant" which was being held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

### **Condolences**

The Chair extended condolences to the following in their recent bereavements:-

Councillor O.Glyn Jones whose brother had passed away;  
Councillor J.Arwel Roberts whose mother had passed away;  
Mr John Gould whose father had passed away;  
Mr T.Gwyn Jones whose sister had passed away.

The Chair also extended sympathy to any Member or Officer of the Council who have suffered a bereavement. Members and Officers stood in silence as a mark of respect.

The Chair concluded by thanking all those who had attended the Chairman's Sunday Service at Hebron MC Chapel, Bryngwran on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2011. He expressed his particular appreciation to Mrs Mary Jones, the Civic Officer for the excellent arrangements.

### **3 W.L.G.A. CONSULTATION - HOSTING THE NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD 2017 - 2022**

A report by the Chief Executive together with correspondence received from the W.L.G.A. Dated 1<sup>st</sup> June 2011 in respect of the above was submitted for consideration.

Members also noted that the report had been considered by the Board of Commissioners at Their meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2011 when the Board had resolved "*to recommend to a special Meeting of the County Council to be held in July that this Authority expresses an interest in hosting The National Eisteddfod in 2017.*"

The Chief Executive said this Extraordinary Meeting of the County Council had been called to consider expressing an interest in Ynys Môn hosting either the Urdd or the National Eisteddfod of Wales on Ynys Môn. He said Anglesey has a long tradition in hosting both the Eisteddfodau successfully with the events having contributed towards maintaining the tradition and heritage associated with these special events.

He acknowledged the financial implications hosting the events had placed on Local Authorities in the past, however, the local authority contribution is now met centrally through the WLGA by the top-slicing mechanism from the rates support grant received by local authorities. Removing the financial cost had naturally increased interest in hosting the Eisteddfod thus achieving the WLGA's intention that both Eisteddfodau should continue to travel across Wales.

The Chief Executive reported he, together with Councillors C.McGregor and R.G.Parry OBE, the then Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council had met with Dr Derec Llwyd Morgan at Dr Morgan's request to seek the Councils' support and to encourage the Council to invite the Eisteddfod to the Island. Both the Leader and Deputy Leader had requested the Chief Executive to contact the WLGA regarding the issue as a result of which he had been informed that the WLGA would be seeking interest from all the Welsh Councils regarding the hosting of the Eisteddfodau in due course.

The Board of Commissioners had indicated their strong belief that it was appropriate and desirable that the Island welcomes the Eisteddfod to Ynys Môn provided Members approved the proposal. The Commissioners had identified the value of hosting such an event so as to raise the profile of the Council and create a shop window to show clearly what the County Council can achieve whilst at the same time boosting the economy of the Island. The Commissioners believed it would be a positive step in working in conjunction with all Communities across the Island. In addition, the proposal would meet the strategic aims of the Council by pulling people together and encouraging joint working between the Council and local communities.

The Chief Executive reminded Members that the National Eisteddfod had not visited Ynys Môn since 1999 whilst the Urdd Eisteddfod had been hosted on the Island in 2004. He believed therefore that the best course of action would be to invite the National Eisteddfod to Ynys Môn in 2017. This would provide a six year period to ensure correct structures are in place and to allow sufficient time for local planning and fundraising. Should the invitation to host the Eisteddfod be unsuccessful the invitation could be extended to 2019 or 2021. He indicated it would be premature to discuss the location of the Eisteddfod until the outcome of the invitation was known, however, his personal view was that, bearing in mind the improvements from an infrastructure perspective since the completion of the A55 across the Island, it would be reasonable and appropriate to consider a site in the North of the Island. He concluded by reminding Members of the two recommendations before them at the meeting.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Brian Owen announced he was pleased to propose the recommendations and that a formal expression of interest be made to the WLGA prior to the closing date of 15<sup>th</sup> July. Councillor Lewis Davies seconded the proposal.

Councillor Eurfryn Davies, whilst fully supporting the proposal, expressed some concerns regarding finding an appropriate site for the Eisteddfod. He did not believe the Llanbedrgoch site to have been appropriate. The Chief Executive explained that the choice of site had been limited at the time as the A55 dual carriageway across the Island had not been completed.

Councillor W.T.Hughes reminded Members that Ynys Môn will be hosting the Royal Welsh Show in 2013 and asked Members to consider whether it may be premature to invite the Eisteddfod in 2017 as this could place communities under pressure in their fund raising efforts. He fully supported the proposal to hold the Eisteddfod on Ynys Môn and welcomed the proposal.

Councillor K.Hughes said he was fortunate in being bi-lingual and welcomed the proposal. He did not believe the Eisteddfod should be invited for the benefit of the Council but rather for the benefit of both young and old as this is a festival which is unique to Wales and one which we should be proud of.

Councillor Aled Morris Jones also supported the proposal and the indication that it may be held in North Anglesey. He shared Councillor W.T.Hughes' concerns, and for the same reason he believed it may be more appropriate to invite the Eisteddfod in 2019. He would also wish to revisit the Armed Forces debate and would hope to see this issue addressed via the WLGA so that a Ceremony could be held on a two yearly basis.

Councillor B.Durkin could see no reason to oppose the suggestion and fully supported the proposal to invite the Eisteddfod in 2017.

Councillor T.H.Jones congratulated the Chair on the Chairman's Sunday Service and in particular referred to the contribution by the young people at the Service. He believed the Eisteddfod offered both

young and not so young the opportunity to perform on stage and fully supported the proposal to invite the Eisteddfod in 2017.

Councillor R.Dylan Jones said that from his own past experiences whilst singing at Eisteddfodau he had been given the opportunity to perform on stage and to make friends from all parts of Wales. He referred to the young people and to the need to ensure they are given the opportunity to enjoy the important aspects of Welsh culture and heritage and emphasized that whilst these are dark times from many aspects he believed inviting the Eisteddfod to Ynys Môn in 2017 would bring light and hope across the Island.

Councillor Elwyn Schofield urged the Council to move swiftly and invite the Eisteddfod here in 2017 and if that invitation was declined then it be made clear that the Island have a strong desire to host the Eisteddfod as soon as possible.

**It was unanimously RESOLVED :-**

- i) that the Isle of Anglesey County Council supports the guidance given by the Board of Commissioners at its meeting held on 20 June 2011 and forwards a formal expression of interest to the WLGA in hosting the National Eisteddfod in the county in 2017 or as soon as possible after this date;**
- ii) following its formal expression of interest that the County Council liaises with the Town and Community Councils on the Island to inform them of the steps taken and invite them to support the application and collaborate with the Council on behalf of the communities to respond to the situation as appropriate.**

**GWILYM O. JONES  
CHAIR**