

MEETING OF THE ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 8th December, 2011

- PRESENT:** Councillor G.O.Jones – Chairman
Councillor R.L.I.Jones - Vice-Chair (Chair)
- Councillors W.J.Chorlton, E.G.Davies; Jim Evans; K.Evans;
Lewis Davies; R.Anthony Dew; B.Durkin; R.L.I.Hughes;
W.I.Hughes; T.L.I.Hughes; W.T.Hughes; K.P.Hughes; Aled M
Jones; Eric Jones; H.Eifion Jones; O.Glyn Jones; Raymond
Jones; R.Dylan Jones; T.H.Jones; Rhian Medi; C.McGregor;;
Bryan Owen; R.L.Owen; J.V.Owen; Bob Parry OBE; G.O. Parry
MBE; Eric Roberts; P.S. Rogers; Ieuan Williams; H.W.Thomas;
J.P. Williams; S.Williams.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive;
Director of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer
Head of Service (Policy)
Head of Service (Finance)
Head of Service (Planning and Public Protection)
Solicitor to the Monitoring Officer
Planning Policy Manager
Committee Services Manager.
Communications Officer.
- Commissioners Alex Aldridge, M.Giannasi and Gareth Jones
- APOLOGY:** Councillors C.L.I.Everett, Ff.M.Hughes, J.Arwel Roberts,
G.W.Roberts,OBE, E.Schofield.

The meeting was opened with a prayer offered by Councillor E.G.Davies

PRESENTATIONS

The Chair of the County Council presented the Anglesey Annual Sports Awards for 2011 to the following categories:-

- Girl of the Year – Cari Llyr Hughes
- Boy of the Year – Connor Laverty
- Team of the Year – Ynys Môn Sailing Team
- Sports person of the Year – Gareth Evans
- Young Volunteer of the Year – Sacha Jones
- Joint Volunteers of the Year – Liz Williams and Darren Owen

The Chair took the opportunity of referring to the fact that Mr.Aled Roberts, Head of Service Leisure and Communities would be retiring shortly having worked for this Authority since 1998. He paid tribute to his work and thanked him on behalf of the Council for his much valued contribution to raising the profile of the Youth Service on Anglesey.On behalf of the Council he wished him a long and happy retirement.

The Chair also took the opportunity of thanking Sian Mai Jones, Principal Officer, Sports Development for her work in organising the Awards Ceremony.

1. MINUTES

Submitted and confirmed as a true record, the minutes of the meetings of the County Council held on the following dates:-

- 13th September, 2011
- 26th September, 2011 (Extraordinary)
(subject to the name of Councillor Rhian Medi being included in the list of those Members present)

Councillor Rhian Medi enquired as to whether the declaration of interest made by the Energy Island Programme Director had been made at the meeting or by means of filling out the relevant form after the meeting. The reason she was asking was because she had not heard what that particular interest was.

The Chief Executive in response stated that he did not have the information to hand but would ascertain the information the Councillor was seeking.

- 17th October, 2011 (Extraordinary)

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The Chief Executive on behalf of the members of the Strategic Leadership Group declared an interest in Item 16 of these minutes and stated that if the matter went to discussion they would not remain at the meeting.

Although not present at Council today, the Corporate Director (Environment and Technical Services) had declared an interest in Items 9 and 16 of these minutes.

3. TO RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OR THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE.

The Chair congratulated Councillor John Arwel Roberts on his recent wedding. Best wishes were extended to him and to his wife Sioned for the future.

Congratulations were extended to all those involved with the Youth Awards Evening held in the Council offices on the evening of 3rd November, 2011. It proved to be an extremely successful evening and as Mr. Richard Parry Jones said on the evening, Anglesey now had the strongest Youth Service in Wales. Thanks were extended to everybody for their hard work and congratulations to the young people for their valuable contribution.

Congratulations were also extended to all those involved in the Anglesey Healthy Schools Awards Evening held at Tre-Ysgawen Hall on 9 November, 2011.

Congratulations also to all schools and pre-school organisations that had contributed to the Healthy Schools Initiatives, including pupils, staff, caretakers, governors, parents and friends. Congratulations were extended to all the schools that received awards.

Congratulations to Debra Roberts and Sian Pritchard who had won major national awards in recognition of their commitment to the health and well-being of pupils at their primary schools. Both worked for Eden Foodservice which ran the school catering contract for the Isle of Anglesey and they scooped the Extra Mile Award which recognised the achievements of people working for Initial Facilities, Eden's parent company. Their awards were made against strong competition from among the 40,000 employees of Initial Facilities throughout the UK. Debra worked at Ysgol Biwmares and Sian at Ysgol Henblas, Llangristiolus.

Congratulations were extended to everybody from Anglesey who were successful in the True Taste Competition recently, the Council were very proud of them for doing so well in a national competition.

Congratulations to Beaumaris Band who came fourth throughout Britain in a competition for brass bands which was held recently at the Royal Albert Hall, London.

The Chair mentioned that this Authority and the Children and Young People's Partnership had agreed to support a nationwide programme to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 and the Olympic games. This Authority had nominated a popular playing field in Thomas Close, Beaumaris to be considered for the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge at a recent meeting. The project headed by its patron the Duke of Cambridge, was a programme to protect 2012 outdoor recreational spaces across the country to mark the two landmark occasions. The project was a modern version of the King George V Memorial Fields project, when 471 fields across the UK were renamed in 1936.

Councillor Trefor Lloyd Hughes who would be retiring from the Ambulance Authority shortly was wished a long and happy retirement.

Councillor W.J.Chorlton was afforded the opportunity of congratulating Councillor Cliff Everett upon becoming a grandfather for the second time

On a sadder note, deepest sympathy was extended to Mr and Mrs Wyn Roberts, Mari and Ffion, the mother and father and sisters of Tomos Roberts, who died in a tragic road accident as a pedestrian in Llangefni recently. The Council's thoughts were with the family and friends in their massive loss. Mari worked with the Children's Team in Social Services and Mrs Lian Roberts, his mother, was a teacher at Llangefni Comprehensive School. As friends and colleagues the Council sent it's deepest condolences.

The Chair referred to the death of Gary Speed, the Manager of the Wales Football Team. As a Nation everyone had been shocked by the sad news. Gary Speed was in Holyhead just a week before his death where he was attending a fundraising event where he volunteered to speak about his work as a manager and to sign football shirts, etc – this was a sign of the kind of man he was. The Council's deepest sympathy was extended to his family and friends and the football world in their massive loss. The Chair mentioned that he had forwarded a letter of sympathy to his family on behalf of the Council and the people of Anglesey.

Sympathy was also extended to Miss Einir Thomas, Head of Service Finance upon the loss of her mother recently.

The Chair also sympathised with any other Member of the Council or staff who had lost a relative.

Members and Officers stood in silent tribute as a mark of their respect.

Reported by the Chief Executive – That owing to the fact that Commissioners Byron Davies, Margaret Foster and the Interim S.151 Officer had not been able to be present today owing to the adverse weather conditions affecting the flight from Cardiff, the meeting of the Appointments Committee held earlier in the day had resolved to adjourn consideration of the report on the Senior Leadership Group and Corporate Services Organisational Arrangements until Monday next at 9:00am. The Chief Executive therefore requested the Council to adjourn this item on the Council agenda and likewise the item relating to the Budget Strategy Statement to an adjourned meeting of this Council Tuesday next, following the extraordinary meeting of the County Council to deal with the review of electoral arrangements for the Isle of Anglesey County Council. A letter would be sent out to all Members tonight regarding the revised arrangements.

RESOLVED to agree to such course of action.

4. COMMISSIONERS 2ND QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

[Note: At the request of the Commissioners this item was dealt with as an exempt item. Please therefore refer to item 15 of these minutes.]

5. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

None received.

6.CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

6.1 Addition to the legislation in the Appendix to the Officers Delegation Scheme at Paragraph 3.5.3.15

Reported - That the Board of Commissioners upon consideration of the above at their meeting on 28th November, 2011, had resolved as follows:-

“To recommend to the County Council and to the Welsh Ministers to amend the Council’s Constitution by adding to the Appendix to the Officers Delegation Scheme at 3.5.3.15, the legislation referred to in CH 1.2 of the report and to authorise Officers to make any consequential amendments to the Constitution.”

6.2 Change to the “Note” referring to the definition of “day” which follows the Index at the beginning of the Constitution.

Reported - That the Board of Commissioners upon consideration of the above at their meeting on 28th November, 2011, had resolved as follows:-

“To recommend to the County Council and to the Welsh Ministers to amend the Council’s Constitution by changing the “Note” to the form in CH 2.3 of the report and to authorise Officers to make any consequential amendments to the Constitution.”

Submitted - The report of the Solicitor to the Monitoring Officer as submitted to the Board of Commissioners on 28th November, 2011, as regards the above changes.

RESOLVED to endorse the above recommendations of the Commissioners to the Welsh Ministers.

7.APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW STANDARDS COMMITTEE.

Submitted - The report of the Monitoring Officer upon appointments to the new Standards Committee.

Reported (Inter-alia) – That amongst its membership, the Standards Committee currently consisted of 3 County Councillors, namely Councillors T.LI.Hughes, J.Arwel Roberts and Ieuan Williams. As was explained at Para 5 of the report, there was now a requirement to decrease the number of County Councillors from 3 to 2 as from 18th December, 2011 and that it was necessary for the Council today to make those appointments. No other names were forthcoming.

A vote was taken to this effect and the Council resolved to appoint Councillors T.LI.Hughes and Ieuan Williams as its two representatives on the Standards Committee.

(Councillor B.Durkin wished it to be minuted that he had remained at the meeting but had not take part in any discussion or voting thereon)

(Councillor P.S.Rogers wished it to be minuted that he had not taken part in any voting thereon)

(Councillor Rhian Medi wished it to be minuted that she had not voted on the matter as one of the named Independent members was a member of the Medrwn Môn Board)

RESOLVED

●With effect from the 18th December, 2011, until the 17th of December, 2015, the Council appoints the following Independent Members to the Standards Committee:-

**Mrs.Denise Harris-Edwards
Mr.Islwyn Jones
Mr.Leslie Lord
Mrs.Dilys Shaw
Mr.Michael Wilson**

●With effect from the 18th of December, 2011, until the 17th of December 2015, or for the period until the ordinary elections for the Community Council of which the Community Council Member is a member next following the appointment of that person as a Community Council Member of that Community, whichever is the shorter, the Council appoints Councillor W.Raymond Evans of Llanfihangelesceifiog Community Council and Councillor John Roberts of Llanfairpwll Community Copuncil, as the two Town/Community Council representatives of the Standards Committee.

●With effect from 18th December, 2011 until the 17th December 2015 or for the period until the ordinary local government elections for the Isle of Anglesey County Council next following the appointment of that person as a member of this Authority's Standards Committee, whichever is the shorter, the Council appoints County Councillors T.Lloyd Hughes and Ieuan Williams to serve on the Standards Committee.

●The Standards Committee Selection Panel shall remain in place, for the purpose of filling any casual vacancies which may arise, until a new Panel is established in 2015."

8. BUDGET STRATEGY STATEMENT 2012-13

RESOLVED that the matter be adjourned until Tuesday next, following the extraordinary meeting of the County Council to discuss the review of electoral arrangements for the Isle of Anglesey County Council.

9. INTERIM PLANNING POLICY-HOUSING IN RURAL CLUSTERS

Reported - That the Board of Commissioners at their meeting on 28th November, 2011 had resolved as follows:-

"To recommend to the County Council that the Rural Clusters Policy be adopted as an Interim Policy until the Joint Local Development Plan is adopted in 2016."

(b)Submitted - The report of the Head of Service (Planning and Public Protection) as submitted to the Board of Commissioners on 28th November, 2011.

Councillor A.Morris Jones expressed concern as to the policy, in that there was a rule that the general public should be able to reach the major centres of employment on the Island by public transport by 9:00am. He was of the opinion that this should be amended to read 9:15am and that the use of school buses should be considered. In doing so, the Council would ensure that more of these applications were granted. Additionally, where there were clusters, and accepting on which roads they were, any road where the Council's refuse lorries could do down should be accepted as a public highway. Any houses on that road would therefore be deemed to be on a public road.

The Portfolio Holder and the Head of Service stated that the policy had been to the Scrutiny Committee on two occasions, been out to public consultation for a period of 6 weeks and forwarded to the members of the Council.If the policy was now amended, officers would have to go through the whole consultation process again.

Councillor A.Morris Jones queried as to whether the Council had a right or not to discuss policy matters at Council?

The Chief Executive in response stated that the Councillor was correct in that respect, in that matters of strategic policy were decided by Council. However, as regards the two amendments proposed, he would personally not be comfortable seeing the Council adopting these without first having the opportunity to outline in detail what the implication of such changes would be upon the Council. Officers were not in a position today to provide clear and robust guidance to the Council. As regards the proposal in respect of a public highway, there were legal definitions of a public highway and officers would need to consider those definitions before Council made any decision.

As regards the matter of school transport, he would be uncomfortable to define school transport as public transport because there were CRB screening issues to consider. There was a responsibility to ensure that our schoolchildren were safe.

Councillor B.Durkin requested legal advice in that this particular matter had been referred to the Council by the Commissioners with a recommendation as contained in the papers. However, the call-in period on the Commissioners decision did not expire until 5:00pm tomorrow evening and he questioned whether the Council had breached the Constitution?

The Director of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer in reply stated that she had been advised by the Committee Services Manager that the decision when circulated, should have explained that it was not subject to call-in because it was a matter before full Council. That was an exception to call-in, in that all members could participate in the decision today. It was not therefore a breach of the Constitution.

Councillor A.Morris Jones after hearing the explanation given by the Chief Executive, wished to change his proposal. He wished to withdraw the reference to school buses, but wished to proceed with the amendment to accept that any highway was a public highway if a vehicle similar to the Council's refuse vehicle could go down that road and also that the travel to work time be extended to 9:15am. The amendment was seconded.

Councillor A.Morris Jones sought clarification that he had followed Council procedures in this respect?

The Director of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer confirmed this to be the case.

The proposal was put to the vote but was not carried.

(Councillor Raymond Jones wished it to be minuted that he had not voted on this matter).

RESOLVED to endorse the recommendations of the Commissioners that the Rural Clusters Policy be adopted as an Interim Policy until the Joint Local Development Plan is adopted in 2016.

10. SPG - DESIGN GUIDE FOR THE URBAN AND RURAL ENVIRONMENT

Submitted - The report of the Planning Manager (Policy) seeking approval for the adoption of the Supplementary Planning Guidance that had recently been out for public consultation and had also been scrutinised and approved by the Council's Scrutiny Committee.

Reported – That in May 2008 the Council adopted a new SPG called ‘Design Guide for the Urban and Rural Environment’ which provided concise guidance on various design issues that were commonplace in planning applications.

One of the guidance notes dealt with the conversion of rural outbuildings into residential dwellings and this had been used as a material consideration in determining new applications for conversion schemes. It had come to light over the past 12-18 months that the note should be updated in order to provide more detailed and explicit guidance on what was acceptable in design terms.

The revised Supplementary Planning Guidance would form part of the adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance: ‘Design Guide for the Urban and Rural Environment’ and would supersede the previous guidance note ‘Buildings in the Countryside’. It was felt that the revised version of the guidance note was more robust and informative than its predecessor following the extensive rounds of internal and external consultation.

RESOLVED to adopt the Design Guide for the Urban and Rural Environment as a material consideration in determining planning applications.

11. DELEGATIONS.

Submitted for information, a report setting out any changes to the scheme of delegation relating to Executive functions made by the Commissioners since the last Ordinary meeting (Rule 4.4.1.4 of the Executive Procedure Rules of the Constitution referred).

RESOLVED to note the information

12. NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Submitted - A verbal report from Councillor Aled Morris Jones, one of this Council’s representatives on the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority, on meetings held by that Authority between 1st September, 2011 and 30 November, 2011.

Reported – That the Authority needed to save £2.4m over three years. This year, the Authority had exceeded its target of saving £800,000 by reducing some budget lines, community safety and support staff posts and ceasing some non-statutory duties. The main saving had come from undertaking an officer cover review. One of the outcomes of the review was to reduce the establishment of operational middle managers by 8 posts, making a saving of £450,000. Because of earlier long term planning this was achieved without the need for redundancies. It was pleasing to note that the new structure appeared to be bedding in well.

Another £815,000 would need to be saved in 2012-13. The Authority agreed at the October meeting to review and restructure the rostering system of firefighters. The Authority’s objectives were to ensure that the correct number of skilled firefighters was available at all times to attend incidents whilst still producing the required level of savings.

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer and senior managers had met with representatives from the Fire Brigades Union to discuss this issue on four separate occasions. Both parties recognised the serious nature of the financial situation and were working together to find common ground in order to develop new ways of working. FBU representatives had spoken to firefighters and

reported back their concerns. An alternative rostering system, which resolved those concerns was currently being explored.

At a recent meeting, they discussed legal aspects of redundancy and started developing the criteria for assessing those employees who may be in scope for redundancy. However, it had to be reiterated that redundancy would be the absolute last option and if at all possible would be avoided.

Partnership working continued across the Service and over the last week or so the Service had been visiting various parts of Anglesey with the Anglesey neighbourhood Policing Team and members of the Island's Crime Prevention Panel. Staff had been handing out battery-operated candles and issuing a wealth of advice about fire safety including the safe use of Christmas tree lights, candles, and the importance of cooking safely.

Councillor W.J.Chorlton enquired as to whether redundancies would be from the administrative or the operational side of the Service?

Councillor A.Morris Jones stated that he was not in a position to confirm anything at this moment in time since those negotiations were still on-going with the FBU.

Commissioner Alex Aldridge enquired as to whether any cut-backs were envisaged as regards the preventative measure of installing free fire alarms across the 6 constituent North Wales Authorities?

Councillor A.Morris Jones in reply stated that the present Authority had put additional resources into fire safety checks and they were still trying to maintain that important service.

Councillor W.J.Chorlton enquired as to whether or not the Authority had a policy to let people retire and then return to work?

Councillor A.Morris Jones in reply stated that this was a national policy which the Councillor was aware of.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report

13. NORTH WALES POLICE AUTHORITY

Submitted - A verbal report from the Councillor P.S.Rogers, this Council's representative on the North Wales Police Authority, on meetings held by that Authority between 1st September and 30th November, 2011.

Reported – That one of the most positive aspects over the last 3 months had been the announcement that the Police Authority were receiving applications for new recruits and some of those applications would be going before the relevant Panel in the New Year. The Government would also be funding approximately 100 PCSO's into the North Wales region. Some of the work that the PCSO's had done had been very impressive and it was hoped that this would act as a stepping stone for ambitious PCSO's to join the Police Force.

Concern had also been expressed at Scrutiny Committees as regards underage drinking at Holyhead. He appealed to members to make sure that their concerns were made known to the

Licensing Committee when that Committee considered applications for public house and club licences.

He was aware that at the last meeting concern had been expressed as regards the moth-balling of Holyhead Police cells. He had visited Caernarfon Police Station recently where they had upgraded and increased cell capacity in order to meet the Health and Safety requirement of the containment of prisoners. The biggest users of these cells were drug and alcohol cases and those with mental health issues. At the time he had visited Caernarfon those cells were full and some prisoners had been transported to St.Asaph.

The Chief Executive informed members that he and the Leader had yesterday held a meeting with the Deputy Chief Constable as regards proposed changes to policing on the Island. Subject to the agreement of the Chair of the County Council, it was intended to convene a special meeting of the Council in January to discuss matters in detail with North Wales Police.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

14. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, to exclude the press and public from the meeting during discussion on the following item on the grounds that it may involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the said Act and in the attached Public Interest Test.

15. COMMISSIONERS 2ND QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Commissioner Mick Giannasi verbally reported that the Quarter 2 report had been signed off yesterday by Commissioners and that they would be meeting with the Minister mid December to discuss its contents. Thereafter, subject to his agreement the report would be made public and a press release issued. It was therefore not appropriate to discuss the report today in a public forum. He therefore provided members with a broad overview of the contents of the report with the proviso of the need to recognise that the report may be subject to change.

The report covered the period July to September 2011 and was a more objective evidence based report for Quarter 2. The mechanism to enable that to happen had taken some time to develop alongside the emerging performance framework. That mechanism was now in place.

The Chief Executive wished to make it known that it was a technicality that prevented the report from being discussed in open session today. The report was still in draft form but would be available in due course and then open for public scrutiny.

Councillor A.Morris Jones sought an assurance that as the next scheduled meeting of the Council was in March 2012, a special meeting of the Council should be held to discuss the contents of the document as soon as possible.

The Chief Executive in reply stated that there was a distinct possibility that an extraordinary meeting of the County Council would have to be held mid January and that this might be an opportune moment to discuss the Quarter 2 report. He would liaise with the Chair and Vice-Chair in this respect.

RESOLVED to note the information and to also note that the definitive Quarter 2 report would be made available to Members and the public mid December.

16. SENIOR LEADERSHIP GROUP AND CORPORATE SERVICES ORGANISATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

RESOLVED that the matter be adjourned until Tuesday next following the extraordinary meeting of the County Council to discuss the review of electoral arrangements for the Isle of Anglesey County Council.

The meeting concluded at 4:10pm

**COUNCILLOR G.O.JONES
CHAIR**