

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2018

- PRESENT:** Councillor Dylan Rees (Chair)
Councillor Margaret Murley Roberts (Vice-Chair)
- Councillors Lewis Davies, John Griffith, 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 LI Jones, R.Meirion Jones, R O Jones, Alun W Mummery, Bryan Owen, Shaun James Redmond, Alun Roberts, Dafydd Roberts, Nicola Roberts, P S Rogers, Dafydd Rhys Thomas and Ieuan Williams.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive,
Assistant Chief Executive (Partnerships, Community & Service Improvements),
Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Business Process Transformation),
Head of Function (Council Business/Monitoring Officer),
Head of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer,
Head of Democratic Services,
Principal Valuation Officer (TDE),
Committee Officer (MEH).
- ALSO PRESENT:** None
- APOLOGIES:** Councillors Richard A Dew, Richard Griffiths, Bob Parry OBE FRAGS, J Arwel Roberts, Robin Williams.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings of the Isle of Anglesey County Council were confirmed as correct :-

- 15 May, 2018
- 15 May, 2018 (Annual Meeting)
- 7 June, 2018 (Extraordinary)
- 16 July, 2018 (Extraordinary)

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Llinos M Huws declared a personal interest in respect of Item 13 – Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2018 -2028.

Councillor Eric W Jones declared a personal interest in respect of Item 4 – North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority : 2019-20 Financial Update and Consultation.

Councillor Dylan Rees declared a personal interest in respect of Item 4 – North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority : 2019–20 Financial Update and Consultation.

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

The Chair made the following announcements :-

- Congratulations to those who were successful at the National Eisteddfod, Royal 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 to the pupils from Year 11 at Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni who have recently been competing in the 'Formula 1 for Schools' competition in Singapore. The Chair was pleased to report that Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni have won the 'Ferrari Best Team Identity' award;
- Congratulations to Mr Pete Roberts and Cai Roberts, the husband and son of Councillor Nicola Roberts, who have been representing Wales recently in a shooting competition;
- Congratulations to Councillor Robert LI Jones and his wife Mrs Gillian Jones who will be celebrating their Golden Wedding on the 30th September;
- Congratulations to Councillor Aled M Jones on his appointment as President of the Anglesey Young Farmers Federation.

The Chair announced that the Chairman's Sunday will be held at Moreia Chapel, Llangefni on 14 October, 2018.

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Condolences were extended to Councillor Robin Williams on the recent loss of his father.

Condolences were extended to Councillor Alun Mummery who has lost his brother-in-law recently.

Condolences were extended to the families of the former Councillors Mr Gwyn Jones, Dwyran, Mr John Meirion Davies, Menai Bridge, Mr J V Owen, Holyhead and Mr Barrie Durkin who represented the Benllech area.

Condolences were extended to any Member of the Council or staff who had suffered bereavement.

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

4. NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY: 2019-20 FINANCIAL UPDATE AND CONSULTATION

The Chair welcomed Councillor Meurig LI Davies, Chairman of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority, Ms Helen McArthur, Assistant Chief Officer (Resources) and Ms Sian Morris , Assistant Chief Officer (Policy and Corporate Plan) to give a presentation as regards to the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority 2019/20 Financial Update and Consultation.

The representatives of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service gave a brief outline of the public consultation that is taking place which is encouraging people to have their say on ensuring affordable fire and rescue services, before the draft budget for 2019/20 is set in December 2018. Each County Council in North Wales contributes towards the cost of providing fire and rescue service and the gap between the Authority's estimated costs in 2019/20 and the level of financial contributions made by Councils in 2018/19 has reached almost £1.9m. Whilst all public services are facing difficult financial decisions the Fire and Rescue Authority has a duty to ensure it remains as efficient as possible and to make sure it provides the level and quality of fire and rescue services expected by the public without introducing an unacceptable level of risk. It was reported that efficiency savings have been undertaken to change the policy with regard to responding to automatic fire alarms and large animal rescue together with continued emphasis on reducing prevention of fire. The Officers noted that the contribution to the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority by the Isle of Anglesey County Council in 2018/19 was £3,356,175 which is a percentage allocation of 10.02%. It is anticipated that an additional £190,272 contribution by this Authority is expected which would be an increase of £6.53 per average Band D dwelling Council Tax.

The Committee considered the information presented and made the following points :-

- Clarification was sought as to the work carried out by the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service as regards to the home visits in respect of the installation of fire alarms. The Assistant Chief Officer (Policy and Corporate Plan) responded that preventative work in respect of home visits is paramount and if the Fire Service was to attend incident on the level before the preventative home visit the Fire Service the financial costs will be on a much high level. She emphasised that each household should have a fire alarm and North Wales Fire and Rescue Service is on the forefront in installing alarms in households. Reference was also made to the collaboration working with the Police Authority. The Assistant Chief Officer gave examples of collaboration working with the Police Authority i.e. helping with searching for vulnerable missing persons, prevention of arson. She noted that collaboration working with the Police Authority can result in bringing financial costs to a lower level for both services;
- Clarification was sought that a suggestion was made during previous consultation on the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service budget that one of the two fire engines in Wrexham be taken out of service. The Assistant Chief Officer (Policy and Corporate Plan) responded that there are 2 fire engines in Wrexham and 1 retained and an opportunity arose two years ago to reduce one of the fire engines. However, due to strong public opinions within the Wrexham area the reduction in the fire engines at Wrexham did not materialise;

- Reference was made that whilst the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority has made efficiency savings over the years questions were raised whether the Authority was able to make further possible savings as local authorities are also having to find savings within their own budgets. The Assistant Chief Officer (Resources) responded that whilst it is accepted that the public sectors are having to make immense savings but all the service of the Fire and Rescue Authority is statutory and all possible savings have been looked upon. She gave examples of collaboration working with other public services. Questions were further raised whether buildings within the ownership of the Fire & Rescue Service could be sold or shared with other public services. The Assistant Chief Officer (Resources) responded that the Fire & Rescue Service share an Estate Management Officer with the North Wales Police and a facility in Prestatyn is used jointly by both services. She further gave an example of joint working with the Police Authority that a training centre in Dolgellau needs to be upgraded which can be utilised by both services;
- Clarification was sought whether lessons have been learnt as regard to the Grenfell Tower tragedy in London and whether financial restraints could have been a factor which now equates to a financial burden on Fire Authorities. The Assistant Chief Officer (Resources) responded that North Wales do not have high rise flats on the scale of London. North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority resources as regards to concerns of flats is minimal compared to other areas. However, she noted that regulatory changes in terms of fire inspections will result from the enquire as regard to the tragedy at Grenfell Tower but at present it is uncertain as to the source of financial resources as regards to these possible changes.

The Chair thanked representatives of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority for attending the meeting.

5. QUESTIONS RECEIVED PURSUANT TO RULE 4.1.12.4 OF THE CONSTITUTION

- Submitted – the following question on notice by Councillor Peter Rogers to Councillor Robin Williams, the Portfolio Holder for Finance :-

‘The late Mr David Hughes who died in 1609 left a legacy of over 1,200 acres of land to support Education on the Island. In 1887 this endowment was contributing £1,400 per annum. How much did Education benefit on the Island last year?’

The Leader of the Council responded, in the absence of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, that most of the expenditure incurred in 2016/17 as regards to the David Hughes Smallholdings Estate has been used to improve the buildings of the estate. The David Hughes Smallholding Estate Trust Deed stipulates that the resource generated from the estate cannot be used to support education in general on the Island. In 2017/18 a contribution of £1,000 was afforded to pupils or former pupils as stipulated within the criteria of the David Hughes Estate.

Councillor Peter Rogers questioned whether the contribution of £1,000 in 2017/18 was a one-off payment or per year. The Leader responded that the contribution was paid in accordance with the terms of the David Hughes Trust

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

- Submitted – the following Notices of Motion by Councillor Aled M Jones, Kenneth P Hughes and Robert Llewelyn Jones :-
- Councillor Aled M Jones submitted the following Notice of Motion :-

“The Constitution of Anglesey County Council should be amended to allow individuals of the public and interest parties i.e., Governors of a school to address The Executive Committee or Cabinet of the County Council.”

Councillor K P Hughes seconded the motion.

Councillor Dafydd R Thomas, the Portfolio Holder for Corporate said that the County Council does not have the authority as regard to this matter. The Head of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer said that the Leader of Council has authority to allow members of the public to address the Executive and the full Council is unable to constrain the Leader of the Council in the exercise of that discretion.

The Leader said that she was satisfied that the voice of local people has been heard within recent meetings of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee. She noted that there is an opportunity for any Elected Member to ask to speak at the Executive on behalf of their local communities.

Clarification was sought by Councillor Shaun Redmond as to whether it is the Leader’s discretion to allow public speaking at the Executive and Full Council. The Head of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer responded that the Leader has discretion to allow public speaking at the Executive only but not the full Council. The full Council may adopt a public speaking scheme but the Executive cannot be compelled to adopt such a scheme.

In the ensuing vote it was RESOLVED that the motion shall not be carried.

(Councillors Glyn Haynes and Shaun Redmond abstained from voting).

- Councillor A M Jones submitted the following Notice of Motion :-

“The Constitution of Anglesey County Council should be amended to allow webcasting of both Scrutiny Committees.”

Councillor Shaun Redmond seconded the motion.

Councillor Dafydd R Thomas, the Portfolio Holder for Corporate said that he supported the motion but wished to make an amendment that the matter be referred to the Democratic Services Committee for consideration and report back to the full Council.

Councillor R LI Jones as Chair of the Democratic Services Committee seconded the amendment.

In the ensuing vote it was RESOLVED that the amended motion be carried.

- Councillor A M Jones submitted the following Notice

‘The Constitution of Anglesey County Council should be amended to allow motions to be discussed at full Council meetings that have been proposed by members of the public and supported by the signatures of 50 individuals who live on the Isle of Anglesey.’

Councillor K P Hughes seconded the motion.

Councillor Dafydd R Thomas, the Portfolio Holder for Corporate said that he wished to make an amendment to the motion that the matter be referred to the Democratic Services Committee for consideration and report back to the full Council at its December meeting.

Councillor A M Jones said that he would withdraw his notice of motion if the matter is considered by the full Council in December.

In the ensuing vote it was RESOLVED that the amended motion be carried.

- Submitted – the following Notice of Motion by Councillors Robert Llewelyn Jones and Bryan Owen :-

“In view of the imminent changes that will come about as a result of Brexit, that a Panel be set up to obtain information on possible problems and to press home to the Welsh and British Governments the need for a sound approach to support these industries on Ynys Môn in all ways possible.

- (1) The farming industry which is a very important employer on Ynys Môn.*
- (2) The port of Holyhead, again a large employer that will be in the frontline of changes.*
- (3) Wylfa Newydd, the pylons, and what the withdrawal from the E.E.C., will mean to the funding and feasibility of the project.*

We represent the people of Ynys Môn and we need to show that we understand their concerns and support them in every way possible.

We are entering into uncharted waters and need to be seen to be working as an elected body doing all we can to assist these very important industries on Ynys Môn to survive and prosper after we leave the E.E.C. It is too important to

leave it to other government departments to look after our Island economy in these uncertain times.

Councillor R LI Jones said that he firstly wished to thank the representation from this Council who visited Dublin in June, 2018 to meet officials from Dublin City Council in respect of possible problems to the ports as a result of Brexit. He noted that there are concerns that the traffic travelling to and from the Welsh Ports needs to be able to travel freely without the need for customs checks. Councillor Jones expressed that without a Brexit deal it could result into extreme tariffs for local business who export goods over the Irish Sea and shortages of basic goods may arise.

Councillor Jones proposed that a Panel be established with a cross party membership, Economic Development Department together with outside agencies to make sure that this Council has a contingency plan to deal with all eventualities that may result from a no Brexit deal.

Councillor Bryan Owen seconded the motion.

Councillor Carwyn Jones, the Portfolio Holder for Major Projects and Economic Development said that the meeting held in Dublin with representatives of Dublin City Council in June 2018 was very informative and both parties shared their concerns as to the possibility of a no Brexit deal and the consequences resulting from a no deal. He said that the relationship between Ireland and Anglesey is important especially with tourism links and agricultural businesses. Councillor Jones also referred that the Welsh Government have announced recently that many Civil Servants will need to be employed to address issues as regards to the possibility of a no Brexit deal and the problems that will result from such a no deal. He further noted that negotiations are taking place with the WLGA in respect of this matter. Whilst sharing the concerns of the Members who have submitted the notice of motion to the full Council he considered that establishing a Panel to discuss the issues of a no Brexit deal be rejected due to the lack of resources and that the Council does not have any influence over the UK Government nor Welsh Government. However, the Portfolio Holder proposed the following :-

- That at the appropriate time, an information link should be provided for members allowing access to documents from UK Government, Welsh Government, WLGA, EU internal file notes.
- When appropriate, internal briefing sessions should be held to share any information which comes to hand and should include updates from the portfolio holders on any meetings where any issues relating to Brexit have been discussed.
- Any official issue which arises as the process develops should, when appropriate, be referred to the regeneration scrutiny committee.
- That a letter be sent to Prime Minister, Mrs Theresa May noting the main concerns and Anglesey's position with regard to port of Holyhead, the

agricultural sector, Objective 1 funding, euratom, energy island etc and request that all the government's departmental information and analyses with regard to the effect of the UK's withdrawal from the EU on our communities and businesses be shared with this authority.

- Leaving the European Union will have an impact on Anglesey. All planning associated with Brexit conforms with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act which involves improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales.
- That nothing should be agreed which would have an adverse effect on any one of the following principles:

A prosperous Wales
A resilient Wales
A healthier Wales
A more equal Wales
A Wales of cohesive communities
A Wales of vibrant Culture where the Welsh Language flourishes
A globally responsible Wales

Councillor Carwyn Jones further said that Mr Albert Owen MP and Mr Rhun ap Iorwerth AM will be attending a workshop arranged on the 25th October, 2018 with an invitation to all elected members to discuss the impacts of a possible no Brexit deal on this Island and to report on the meeting held with Dublin City Council.

Members of the Opposition Group reiterated that a Panel needs to be established within this Authority to discuss the impact of a possible no Brexit Deal. It was suggested that discussions need to take place with Pembrokeshire County Council who will also face similar problems if a no Brexit deal occurs.

In the ensuing vote it was RESOLVED that the motion be not carried.

(Councillors T LI Hughes, Dylan Rees and Nicola Roberts abstained from voting)

7. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

No petitions received.

8. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND ISA 260

Submitted – the following reports by the Head of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer as submitted to the Audit and Governance Committee on 19 September, 2018 :-

- Statement of Accounts for 2017/18;
- The External Auditor's report on the audit of the Financial Statements.

It was RESOLVED :-

- To accept the Statement of Accounts 2017/18;
- 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.

9. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW FOR 2017/18

Submitted – a report by the Head of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer as presented to the Executive on 17 September, 2018.

- To note that the outturn figures contained in the report;
- To note the provisional 2017/18 prudential and treasury indicators in the report.

10. ADOPTION OF POWERS BY COUNCIL AND DELEGATION TO OFFICER

Submitted – a report by the Head of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer and Head of Regulation and Economic Development as presented to the Executive on 21 May, 2018.

It was RESOLVED to :-

- Adopt the powers listed in Section A of Enclosure 1;
- Amend the Scheme of Delegation in the Constitution to delegate the exercise of the powers noted in Section A of Enclosure 1, to the Head of Service (Regulation and Economic Development);
- Remove the powers listed in Section B of Enclosure 1, from the Scheme of Delegation in the Constitution, which delegates these Powers to the Head of Service (Regulation and Economic Development);
- Authorise the Council's Head of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer to make the necessary changes to the Scheme of Delegation, and any consequential amendments, to reflect the adoption, delegation and removal of the said powers;
- Authorise the Council's Head of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer to make any future changes to the Constitution, without requiring Executive or full Council approval, where those changes are as a result of legislative changes where additional/revised delegation to Officers is required in order to execute additional powers or rights granted to the Council by amended or new legislation;
- Amend the Scheme of Delegation in the Constitution to delegate to the Head of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer :-

'To review and update the Council's Constitution from time to time, to include any changes arising from amended, substituted or new legislation; any restructure of the organisation already authorised as required and to include new delegations to Officers, namely the Head of Service with responsibility for the relevant service, to have full delegated authority to

discharge the function on the Council's behalf, unless it is a matter reserved to the Council, Executive or a Committee.'

11. ROLE AND ACCOUNTABILITIES OF THE STATUTORY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Submitted – a report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Business Process Transformation and Statutory Director of Social Services) as presented to the Executive on 17 September, 2018.

It was RESOLVED to :-

- **Adopt the protocol included within Appendix 1 of the report;**
- **Authorise the Council's Head of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer to make the necessary changes to the Scheme of Delegation for the Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Business Process Transformation) in the Constitution, and any consequential amendments, to reflect the adoption of the protocol in Appendix 1.**

12. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATUTORY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES 2017/18

Submitted – a report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Business Process Transformation and Statutory Director of Social Services) as presented to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee on 5 July, 2018 and the Executive on 16 July, 2018.

It was RESOLVED to accept the report.

13. RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2018-2028

Submitted – a report by the Interim Head of Highways, Waste and Property in respect of the new Rights of Way Improvements Plan (2018 – 2028) and revised public rights of way policies.

It was RESOLVED to approve the new Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2018 – 2028 and the revised public rights of way policies.

**COUNCILLOR DYLAN REES
CHAIR**