

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the hybrid meeting held on 3 December 2024

PRESENT: Councillor Glyn Haynes (Chair)
Councillor Non Dafydd (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Geraint Bebb, Jeff Evans, Neville Evans, Douglas M Fowlie, Kenneth P Hughes, Trefor LI Hughes MBE, Aled M Jones, Dyfed W Jones, Gwilym O Jones, John Ifan Jones, Robert LI Jones, Euryrn Morris, Jackie Lewis, Pip O'Neill, Derek Owen, Llio A Owen, Gary Pritchard, Dylan Rees, Alun Roberts, Dafydd Roberts, Keith Roberts, Margaret M Roberts, Ken Taylor, Dafydd R Thomas, Ieuan Williams, Robin Williams, Sonia Williams, Arfon Wyn

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive,
Deputy Chief Executive,
Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer,
Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer,
Director of Social Services,
Director of Education, Skills and Young People,
Head of Profession (Human Resources) and Transformation,
Head of Adults' Services,
Head of Highways, Property and Waste,
Head of Regulation and Economic Development,
Head of Housing Services,
Head of Democracy,
Corporate Planning, Performance and Programme Manager (GP),
Communications Officer (GJ),
Committee Officer (MEH),
Webcasting Committee Services Officer (FT).

APOLOGIES: Councillors Paul Ellis, Carwyn Jones, Nicola Roberts, Alwen Watkin and Liz Wood.

The start of the meeting was delayed until 2.20 p.m., due to technical difficulties.

1. MINUTES

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

- 26 September, 2024
- 6 November, 2024 (Extraordinary)

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Derek Owen declared a personal interest in Item 4 – Notice of Motion – Smallholdings as his brother is a tenant of a smallholding.

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

The Chair made the following announcements:-

- Congratulations were extended to Lucas Williams from Holyhead who recently won a Commonwealth title for weightlifting in South Africa. He won two gold medals and a silver medal and took the overall championship title as best junior lifter.
- Congratulations were extended to Bleddyn Môn originally from Llaneilian who was chosen to be part of the British Inneos Team in the prestigious America's Cup Sailing event in Barcelona in October. Bleddyn has been representing Great Britain in sailing events since he was 13, and this was the third time he has been part of the British America's Cup campaign.
- Congratulations were extended to Gail Manning, from Holyhead who was recently awarded official caps for representing Wales at football in a special ceremony in Cardiff. The ceremony awarded caps to all the women who represented Wales between 1973 and 1993. Gail played for Liverpool and Bangor City, and she was still playing until recently for Amlwch and Trearddur Bay.
- Congratulations were extended to the Holyhead Hotspurs Football Club on reaching the third round of the Welsh Cup.
- It was good to see Cor Meibion Goronwy representing the Island by singing before the Wales v South Africa rugby match in Cardiff last month. The choir was formed in Benllech in 2016 with the intention of renewing an interest in local male choir singing.
- Congratulations were extended to Dylan Jones of Castellior, Menai Bridge who was recently awarded the Farmers Weekly Beef Farmer of the Year for 2024.
- Congratulations were extended to Tecwyn Jones from Anglesey who won the Supreme Beef Competition at the Winter Fair in Builth Wells recently.
- Congratulations were also extended to Rhys Owen from Llanerchymedd who won the Champion Baby Beef Competition at the Winter Fair in Builth Wells recently.
- The Chair said that it was with great pleasure to pay tribute to 14-year-old Poppy Roberts from Anglesey, who recently won the Exceptional Young Carer award for 2024 at the Child of Wales ceremony in Swansea.
- Congratulations extended to Daisy Richards, who works at Fairways Newydd Nursing and Dementia Care Home in Llanfairpwll and was recently awarded the gold Dignity in Care Award at the Wales Care Awards ceremony in Cardiff. She also received a bronze Outstanding Service Award at the event.

- Best wishes were extended to Councillors Carwyn Jones and Ken Taylor for a speedy recovery following recent hospitalisation.
- Congratulations were extended to the Holyhead Round Table and other festive activities across the Island which was undertaken during the Christmas period.

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Condolences were extended to any Member or Staff who had suffered a bereavement.

Members and Officers stood as silent tribute.

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

- Submitted – a Notice of Motion by Councillor Kenneth P Hughes :-

‘We call on Anglesey County Council to adopt a blanket policy of objection to the development of solar farms in the countryside of Ynys Môn.’

The Motion was withdrawn.

- Submitted – a Notice of Motion by Councillor Kenneth P Hughes :-

‘We call on Anglesey County Council in view of the uncertainty in the agricultural industry to reaffirm its commitment to Ynys Môn agriculture by ensuring that all repairs to agricultural buildings in the smallholdings estate of the County Council are carried out as a matter of urgency. Also, a review of the funding formula for the smallholding’s estate is instigated’.

Councillor Aled Morris Jones seconded the Motion.

Councillor Kenneth P Hughes said that the Council were previously selling smallholdings to fund maintenance of other smallholdings on the estate. The selling of smallholdings reduces the opportunities for people, with an interest in agriculture, to be able to be a tenant within the smallholding’s estate. He noted that half of the rental income from the smallholding’s estate goes into the central fund of the Council; whilst previously all the rental income went into the central fund. The tenants are waiting for months and some for over a year for repairs and maintenance to be undertaken on their smallholding. He further referred that one smallholding has been empty for a year and a half.

The Leader of the Council said this Council is proud to be the owners of the second largest proportion of smallholdings in Wales. He noted the importance of the smallholding’s estate who contribution to the economy which is paramount to the Island’s prosperity. There is a challenge to fund capital funding for maintenance to the estate as there is no specific funding available from Welsh Government. He said that a Strategic Plan is to be established within the Council as regards to the smallholding’s estates and as Leader of the Council he would write to the Cabinet

Member for Finance and the Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs in the Senedd, to request the release of capital funding from the current budget to be utilised for funding the maintenance of dwellings and buildings within the smallholding's estate and to enable the Council's zero net vision for 2030 to be realised.

The Portfolio Member for Highways, Property and Waste said there are 92 tenants within the smallholding's estate on Anglesey which covers over 6,000 acres of land. He noted the commitment of the Council to the smallholdings estate and the agricultural industry on the Island which contributes to the rural economy and supports young people to be able to be a tenant on the estate. He further referred that currently, £300k is invested for the maintenance and to improve the standards of the estate. The Smallholding's Strategic Policy if to be undertaken for the period of ten years has been undertaken and a cross-party Working Group is to be established to see as to how the estate can be modernised and to address the financial issue to ensure the future of the smallholdings estate.

Councillor Aled Morris Jones said that agriculture is important for the economy of the Island, and he welcomed that a Working Group was to be established to discuss the smallholding's estate and noted that Councillor Kenneth P Hughes would be the Anglesey Independents Group representative on this group as he has the highest proportion of smallholdings within the Talybolion Ward. He questioned as to the current backlog in the maintenance of the smallholding's estate at present. The Portfolio Member for Highways, Property and Waste responded that the details would be forwarded to Members in due course.

Councillor Douglas M Fowlie said that the Council's Smallholdings serve as an entry point into the agricultural industry for young people. He referred to the Welsh Government's controversial environmental policies with farmers and smallholding tenants facing stringent regulations with regards to the storage of dirty water and manure on their farms. He questioned whether the Council has carried out its own compliance audit to determine if farms meet/do not meet the Government's criteria and what financial support can the Council provide to its tenants. He further asked as to whom will be liable for any fines imposed by Natural Resources Wales if the Council's smallholding farms do not meet the stringent environmental regulations. The Portfolio Member for Highways, Property and Waste responded that he did not have the exact figures available, but he was sure that the Council is working to a plan to meet the environmental regulations which will need to be adhered to, and details will be afforded in due course. The Chief Executive said that written response will be afforded as regards to the responsibilities/liabilities on the storage of dirty water and manure on farms. He further referred that the Council is not able to be offering financial support to the smallholding tenants, but the matter could be raised within the letter the Leader of the Council is intending to write to Welsh Government as mentioned previously.

Councillor Aled Morris Jones requested that a Recorded Vote be undertaken. In accordance with Paragraph 4.1.18.5 of the Council's Constitution the requires 9 Members of the Council Meeting to request a Recorded Vote was not achieved, therefore there was no recorded vote undertaken.

Following a unanimous vote:-

The Motion was carried.

- Submitted – a Notice of Motion by Councillor Derek Owen :-

'We call on Anglesey County Council to seek an urgent meeting with the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, Ed Milliband, to enable him to confirm the start date for the Wylfa Newydd project on the Wylfa site, Cemaes Bay.

The Wylfa site is the best site in Europe to host nuclear power station or stations.

This follows on from the letter sent from the Llanbadrig Community Council seeking answers recently.'

Councillor Aled Morris Jones seconded the Motion.

The Leader of the Council assured the Council of his commitment to attract a development at the Wylfa site. He noted that since becoming the Leader he has met with Lord Hunt and has invited him to Anglesey together with an invitation to Mr Michael Shanks MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero. The Leader assured the Council that he would write to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, Mr Ed Milliband MP inviting him also to Anglesey to view the excellent site at Wylfa.

Councillor Derek Owen said that the North of the Island is in dire need of investment and answers need to be given as to the future of the Wylfa site.

Councillor Aled Morris Jones thanked the Leader for his strong commitment to attract development on the Wylfa site with either a large reactor or smaller Small Modular Reactors (SMR's). He noted that Great British Nuclear has purchased the land at Wylfa and decisions need to be undertaken for the future of the site. During a meeting in the House of Commons when the previous government was in power it was decided that the issue of nuclear would not be politically driven. He referred that the current government's priorities are that the Country is energy secure and carbon targets are met together with the nuclear industry been pivotal energy producer across the UK. The Nuclear Industry Association Conference is to be held on 5 December, 2024 and it is hoped that discussions will be undertaken as regards to the Wylfa site and its future.

Councillor Pip O'Neill said that it must be considered that there is a large proportion of people who oppose nuclear power even though it is accepted that there is a dire need for employment on the Island and especially the North of the Island. Councillor Ken Taylor expressed that his concerns are the contaminated waste from such nuclear facilities for the future generations.

The Leader said that he respected the opinion of those who are against nuclear facilities. As a Council there is a need to engage with people that have different

opinions as regards to nuclear facilities and their opinions are respected to enable the economy of the island to be prosperous for the future generations.

Councillor Pip O'Neill proposed an amendment to the Notice of Motion stating that clarity is required whether the nuclear facility will be built/not built on the Wylfa Site rather than the start date of the nuclear site. Councillor Ken Taylor seconded the proposed amendment.

The Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer said that the amendment to the Notice of Motion is not acceptable as a proposal needs to add or remove words to the Motion.

Councillor Pip O'Neill withdrew his amendment to the Notice of Motion.

Following the vote:-

Councillor Ken Taylor voted against the Motion. Councillor Arfon Wyn abstained from voting.

The Motion was carried.

5. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

No petitions received.

6. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW FOR 2023/24

The report of the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer as presented to the Executive on 22 October, 2024 was presented for the Council's acceptance.

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Member for Finance and Housing Services said that the Council is required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2023 to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2023/2024. He noted that in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, this report was scrutinised by the Governance and Audit Committee on 15 September, 2023 and forwarded to the Executive Committee without comments on 22 October, 2023. The Executive Committee resolved to forward the report to the full Council without any further comments.

It was RESOLVED to note the contents of the Annual Treasury Management Review for 2023/2024 which confirms that the Treasury Management activities undertaken during 2023/2024 were in accordance with the Treasury Management Strategy statement for 2023/2024 and that the limitations set out in the strategy were complied with.

7. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2023/24 AND ISA 260 REPORT

The report of the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer as presented to the Governance and Audit Committee on 27 November, 2024 was presented for the Council's acceptance.

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Member for Finance and Housing Services said that the draft Statement of Accounts 2023/2024 was presented to the Council's external auditors, Audit Wales, for audit on 28 June, 2024. Subject to the confirmation by the Council, the Accounts will be signed by the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer and the Chair of the County Council and will thereafter be published following the receipt of the Auditor's final opinion. The statutory deadline for the completion of the Audited Accounts for the financial year 2023/2024 was extended to 30 November 2024 but due to the timing of the schedule of meetings this is the first opportunity for Council to consider the report and to be signed thereafter.

It was RESOLVED to accept the Statement of Accounts for 2023/2024 and to authorise the Chair of the County Council and the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer to sign the accounts.

8. POLITICAL BALANCE OF COMMITTEES

The report of the Head of Democracy was presented for the Council's acceptance.

The Leader of the Council said that following the result of the Talybolion ward by-election in October, there is a change in the Council's political balance affecting the allocation of seats on some Committees.

It was RESOLVED:-

- **To confirm the political balance arrangements for allocating committee seats.**
- **That Group Leaders advise the Head of Democracy, as soon as possible, of any changes to group membership on Committees.**

9. STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY 2025 – 2028

The Statement of Gambling Policy 2025/2028 was presented for the Council's approval.

The Portfolio Member for Adults' Services and Community Safety in the absence of the Portfolio Member for Planning, Public Protection and Climate Change said that every three years the Gambling Act 2005, requires that the Council adopts a Statement of Gambling Policy. The Policy sets out how the Council will discharge its functions regarding the regulation of gambling premises.

It was RESOLVED to adopt the Statement of Gambling Policy 2025-2028.

The meeting concluded at 3.30 pm

**COUNCILLOR GLYN HAYNES
CHAIR**