

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary hybrid meeting held on 19 December 2023

PRESENT: Councillor Margaret Murley Roberts (Chair)
Councillor Glyn Haynes (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Geraint Bebb, Non Dafydd, Paul Ellis, Jeff M Evans, Neville Evans, Douglas M Fowle, Trefor LI Hughes MBE, Aled M Jones, Carwyn Jones, Dyfed W Jones, Gwilym O Jones, John Ifan Jones, Robert LI Jones, Llinos Medi, Euryrn Morris, Pip O'Neill, Derek Owen, Llio Angharad Owen, Gary Pritchard, Dylan Rees, Alun Roberts, Dafydd Roberts, Keith Roberts, Ken Taylor, Dafydd R Thomas, Alwen Watkin, Ieuan Williams, Robin Williams, Sonia Williams, Liz Wood, 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 Housing Services,
Head of Highways, Property and Waste,
Head of Profession (Human Resources) & Transformation,
Head of Regulation & Economic Development,
Head of Democracy,
Finance Manager (CK),
Solicitor – Corporate Governance & Contracts (MY),
Chief Waste Management Officer (ME),
Service Strategy & Business Manager (GP),
Communications Officer (GJ),
Committee Officer (MEH).

ALSO PRESENT: None

APOLOGIES: Councillors Nicola Roberts and Jackie Lewis

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the County Council held on 26 October, 2023 were confirmed as correct.

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:-

- The Chair referred to the significant damage due to the fire at the Shire Hall on Sunday evening. She wished to thank the Emergency Services in protecting the residents of Glanhwfa Road and for their work throughout the year.
- Congratulations extended to Mr Paul Woodhouse, Deputy Head Teacher at Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi Secondary School and to Ms Liah Williams, Ysgol Pencarnisiog School on their success at the 2023 North Wales Education Awards.
- Congratulations was extended to PC Lisa Thomas and Ms Angharad Jones from the Council's Social Services team for their work in tackling anti-social behaviour on Anglesey which was recognised at the North Wales Police Problem Solving Partnerships awards.
- The Chair referred that the Anglesey Community Programme also received praise recently at the Safer Communities for Wales Awards for the positive effect that it had on reducing anti-social behaviour in towns across the Island. The project won the "Partnership" category for the inclusive way that it promoted community safety.
- Congratulations extended to Mrs Annwen Morgan who has begun in her role as the new Chair of the Anglesey Welsh Language Forum.
- The Chair referred to the Age Friendly Conference held in Cardiff on the 8th of November. Ms Sioned Young, the Council's Age Friendly Anglesey Community Development Officer spoke at the Conference as did Ms Brenda Roberts, Chair of the Elderly Council on the Island.
- Congratulations extended to Anglesey's girls' netball team who competed at an Islands tournament in the Isle of Man recently.
- The Chair referred that Mr Dafydd Roberts from the Benefits Section has recently released his first Christmas single 'Amser yr Ŵyl'.
- Congratulations extended to everyone who took part in the Winter Fair in Builth Wells this year. A special congratulations to Tony and Iona Ponsonby who are tenants on one of the Council's Farms and it was nice to see the Young Farmers of Anglesey succeeding in the Winter Fair.
- Congratulations was extended to the Young Farmers for holding the National Young Farmers Eisteddfod at Mona recently.

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The Chair wished to praise the contribution of Anglesey residents who have come together to hold community events during December. She thanked all the volunteers for spreading the Christmas spirit across the Island and for their work with those less fortunate in our society.

The Chair also wished to thank those Council staff who will be working over the Christmas period to provide key services.

The Chair also thanked all the school staff and young people who have prepared and taken part in different Christmas shows across the Island.

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The Chair referred that the Christmas period can be very difficult for some families who face challenging circumstances, illness or bereavement.

Condolences were extended to any Member of the County Council or Staff who had suffered a bereavement.

Members and Officer stood as silent tribute.

4. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

None received.

5. STATEMENT OF THE ACCOUNTS 2022/2023 AND ISA 260 REPORT

Submitted – the report of the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer as presented to the Governance and Audit Committee on 7 December, 2023.

The Portfolio Member for Finance said that the Statement of the Accounts for 2022/2023 and ISA 260 Report has been discussed through the scrutiny process and was presented to the Governance and Audit Committee. The Wales Audit Office have accepted the reports without the requirement for any amendments.

Councillor Robert LI Jones referred that the Statement of Accounts needed to be available for the residents to view as to how the financial resources of the Council is spent. He referred to the Pensions Scheme of the Council and ascertained whether a separate report could be afforded due to the complexity of the scheme. He further referred that the housing arrears have risen as people are having difficulties due to the cost-of-living crisis. He further referred to environmental issues and ascertained as to how the financial resources addresses the need within each service of the Council. He considered that the Environmental Champion needs to afford an annual report on the environmental strategy of the Council and the other 12 Champions should also afford an annual report on the areas of responsibility they are responsible for to demonstrate their efforts in promoting the services they represent.

In addressing the comments by Councillor R LI Jones, the Portfolio Member for Finance said that Statement of Accounts are available on the Council's website so that residents can view as to how the financial resources of the Council is spent and quarterly reports are submitted to the Executive. He noted that the Pension Scheme is administered by Gwynedd Council and regular reports and webcasting of the Pensions Committee is available on their website and is also open for the public to attend. The Portfolio Member for Children, Youth and Housing Services referred to comment made regards the increase in rent arrears and said that there is a Financial Inclusion Team within Housing Services who are available to provide advice and support to tenants if they are facing financial difficulties. He noted that the matter was discussed recently at the Executive, and it was emphasised as to the importance that tenants who are currently not eligible for housing benefits and financial support should be encouraged to contact the Council if they are suffering any financial hardship. In response to the comments as regards to the environment the Leader of the Council said that the Council has a corporate programme to reduce carbon footprint within each service of the Council and it is reported annually as regards to the progress made. She referred to the services Champions and noted that the work they undertake are included within reports afforded to the Council and she agreed that the role of the services Champions may need to be more apparent within services annual reports.

Councillor Aled M Jones referred that historical anomalies were experienced by some teachers as regards to their Teachers' Pensions fund and he questioned whether this matter has now been resolved. He further referred as to whether Welsh Government will afford financial resources to rectify the RACC concrete issues within two secondary schools on the island. He referred also to the Wales Audit Office fee which has seen a rise of 20% which equates to £75k and he ascertained whether the WLGA could put pressure on Wales Audit Office as all local authorities are facing financial pressures on their budgets. Councillor Jones further ascertained as to whether part of the figure of £625k allocated towards Horizon's archaeological studies within the Wylfa site can be refunded as the studies have now ceased on the site and the resources could be used to promote the site for development.

In response to the comments by Councillor Aled M Jones the Portfolio Member for Finance responded that the Teachers Pension fund is dealt with separately from the Gwynedd Pension Fund and teachers have been advised to view their pension fund and their record of employment. He further responded to the Wales Audit Office fee and noted that the Council is restricted in having to undertake the services of the Wales Audit Office and they can set their fees for the service provided. He said that he agreed with the comments that the WLGA could put pressure on Wales Audit Office and that he would raise the matter when attending future meetings of the WLGA. The Leader of the Council responded to the comments as regards to the RACC concrete issues within the two secondary schools affected and noted that negotiations are still ongoing with Welsh Government as to the financial assistance to rectify the situation. She further responded as to the comments made as to the sum of £625k allocated towards Horizon's archaeological studies within the Wylfa Site and noted that the funding was part of a planning policy agreement with Horizon to develop the site. The Chief Executive said that archaeological items have been found on the site and statutory

duties will need to be conducted to treat those items and thereafter is hoped that they will be able to be displayed locally for public view.

Councillor Derek Owen highlighted that his name had been omitted from the list of Elected Members on the Wylfa Site Stakeholder Group as noted in Appendix 1 (Related Party Disclosure – Stakeholder Representation with Third Party Organisations) within the report.

It was RESOLVED:-

- **To accept the Statement of Accounts for 2022/2023 and to authorise the Chair of the County Council and the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer to sign the accounts;**
- **To note the increase in the Council Fund, underspend by £72k for the financial year 2022/2023, due to an amendment made during the audit period which impacted on the Council Fund. This increases the underspend for the year from £1.212m to £1.284m.**

6. AMENDING THE TIME ALLOWED FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK IN THE PLANNING AND ORDERS COMMITTEE

Submitted – the report of the Director of Function (Council Business)/ Monitoring Officer and Head of Regulation and Economic Development as presented to the Planning and Orders Committee held on 4 October, 2023 and thereafter a Portfolio Decision by the Portfolio Member for Planning, Public Protection and Climate Change on 24 November, 2023 was presented for the Council's acceptance.

The Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Customer Service said that the proposal is to increase the time allowed for members of the public to speak from 3 minutes to 5 minutes at the Planning and Orders Committee and the proposal has been supported by the Group Leaders and the Executive.

It was RESOLVED to approve:-

- **To authorise the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer to change to the reference in paragraph 4.6.21.6 of the Constitution from 3 minutes to 5 minutes (that is the time that members of the public are allowed to speak in the Planning Committee);**
- **To authorise the Head of Regulation & Economic Development to change any reference in the guidance relating to the procedure that members of the public are allowed to speak for 5 minutes.**

7. RESOURCES AND RECYCLING STRATEGIC PLAN - 2023-2028

Submitted – the report by the Head of Highways, Property and Waste as presented to the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee held on 22 November, 2023 was presented for the Council's acceptance.

The Portfolio Member for Highways, Waste and Property said that the Resources and Recycling Strategic Plan for 2023-2028 supports the Council's key ambitions in

the Council Plan. The Council Plan states that by 2028 the Council needs to reach a recycling rate of 70% and to reach the target of net zero carbon emissions by 2030. He noted that all residents and tourists have a duty to reduce waste and to increase recycling. He further said that approving the Resources and Recycling Strategic Plan will be an example that the Council is dealing with environmental issues as part of the recycling initiative. Councillor Thomas said that the Council has a good working relationship with partner organisations within the WLGA, Welsh Government and WRAP Cymru to assist in reaching these target rates of recycling of 70% and at present the current recycling rates on Anglesey is 64% (which can vary during different periods within the year). The Portfolio Member referred to the recent six weeks public consultation which took place between 11 September and 20 October, 2023. The consultation was designed to gather feedback on the key work streams to reduce, reuse and recycle more of household waste and nearly 200 responded to the consultation process. He further said that reference has been made that the recycling box to hold cardboard is insufficient and other avenues of affording cardboard collection needs to be considered i.e. affording sacks for additional cardboard. He further noted that there is a need to re-educate people as to importance of recycling and especially the younger generation.

The Leader of the Council endorsed the recommendations within the report but as the Strategic Plan has been presented to the Council at the end of December, she proposed an amendment that the Resources and Recycling Strategic Plan be implemented from 2024-2029.

The Chair of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee highlighted the recommendations of the Committee held on 22 November, 2023 to the Council which included that the Resources and Recycling Strategic Plan on specific actions includes the increase in food recycling rates; that consideration needs to be given when planning applications are submitted for fast food outlets that a waste disposal bin needs to be provided; to note that recycling and waste is a corporate responsibility across a number of Council Services and that Keep Anglesey Tidy campaigns should be afforded to educate children and young people the importance of recycling; Recycling bin waste in our coastal towns and communities is an aspect that needs further attention and is a matter linked to other strategic plans such as the Destination Management Plan, the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan.

Councillors Jeff Evans and Pip O'Neill expressed that there has been an increase in fly-tipping in Holyhead and there is a need to help and support people who may not have the means to take the waste to the recycling facilities. The Leader of the Council responded that there are licenses available for vehicles with trailers and vans through the Waste Management Section. She noted that this process is to stop commercial vehicles from charging people to collect waste.

The Chief Executive said that a campaign has started following the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee by the Waste Management Section and the Communication Team to highlight the concerns of fly-tipping and encourage people to be responsible for recycling waste in the correct manner.

It was RESOLVED to accept the amendment that the Isle of Anglesey Resources and Recycling Strategic Plan be adopted for 2024-2029 (5 year plan).

The meeting concluded at 3.15 pm

**COUNCILLOR MARGARET M ROBERTS
CHAIR**