

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BEAUMARIS TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 7 JANUARY 2019 AT 7.00 PM IN THE TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: The Town Mayor Councillor J P Zalot
Councillor D T Evans
Councillor A J V Grant
Councillor K M Jones
Councillor R A Jones
Councillor H Mattocks
Councillor D R Owen
Councillor L J Roberts
Councillor J A Rowlands
Councillor M G Sarsfield
Councillor S Zalot

The Town Clerk was in attendance

APOLOGIES: The Deputy Mayor Councillor C J Theakston
Councillor D W Gallichan

The Town Mayor took the Chair

94.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor D R Owen declared a prejudicial interest in item 96 Food Festival as his business participates in the festival.

Councillor L J Roberts declared an interest in item 95 discussion of primary education as a Governor of Ysgol Beaumaris

Councillor J A Rowlands declared an interest in item 96 Food Festival he is chair of the main recipient of financial support from the Festival.

95.0 VISIT BY COUNTY COUNCILLORS CARWYN JONES, LEWIS DAVIES AND ALUN ROBERTS TO DISCUSS PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Resolved unanimously to go into Committee

Councillor Carwyn Jones stated that he had an interest as his cousin works at Ysgol Beaumaris but has dispensation to participate in discussions but not to vote. All three Councillors are Governors at Ysgol David Hughes. Councillor Alun Roberts is also a Governor at Ysgol Beaumaris.

The three County Councillors outlined their positions. All three wanted the school in Beaumaris to remain open. Councillors Roberts and Jones stated that they had submitted responses to the statutory notice opposing closure. Disappointment was expressed that the Scrutiny Committee did not fully consider all the options, in particular use of the Laird's site. It is clear that the situation has changed since the first round of consultation. For example there are now rising pupil numbers at Beaumaris. Closure of one school would not necessarily secure the future of other schools and there is a risk that in five or six years time another school could be under threat of closure.

In relation to post-16 education, the non-statutory consultation addresses the situation that there are currently more empty spaces in sixth forms than there are in all the primary schools on the island. As a result pupils are not getting the full range of options to study and many have to travel to other schools to study the subjects that they want to follow. The sixth form at Ysgol David Hughes is the biggest on the island. If it closed it is clear that many pupils would go to Bangor which would have serious implications for education funding on the island. Concern was expressed that the consultation was very open ended and as a result parents were not engaging with it. The view was expressed that the County Council will have to go back and refine the options and encourage parents of pre-sixth form pupils (i.e. those directly affected) to engage. Already there are signs

that some parents are not sending their children into year seven at David Hughes because of the threat to the sixth form. Sixth forms are just part of the post-16 education system and there is a need to make sure that sixth forms and Coleg Menai work together to provide opportunities to suit all pupils on the island.

In response Town Councillors felt that once again Seiriol ward was being sacrificed and not being treated on a par with other parts of the island. It was reported that over 50 responses from Beaumaris had been delivered to the County Council (including 27 from the community and 23 from pupils). County Councillors were reminded of the County Council's obligation under the Schools Organisation Code to conscientiously consider all the responses and provide a full response report (which they had not done in the past). It is not too late for the County Council to reconsider its approach to education in Seiriol Ward. The process has been flawed from the beginning, Seiriol Ward should be treated the same as other areas and there should be a new 21st Century school.

Councillors expressed the view that a sixth form at David Hughes was essential for the retention of pupils in the area. Loss of pupils will accelerate rate at which the population is aging, which is not good for the long term sustainability of communities.

Town Councillors were keen to involve Welsh Government so that Beaumaris does not become the only town in Wales without a school. It was pointed out that since 2013 there has been no appeal to ministers against a local authority's decision to close a school. The implications of this should be explored.

County Councillors were told that the Town Council will fight a closure all the way. Funds have been made available for legal challenge if need be.

Recommendation to Council (unanimous):

To write to the Assembly Member to ask him to host a meeting with the minister in Cardiff.

Recommendation to Council (unanimous):

To respond to the non-statutory consultation on post 16 education stating the importance of keeping the sixth form at David Hughes open.

96.0 VISIT BY REPRESENTATIVES OF BEAUMARIS FOOD FESTIVAL TO DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS FOR AN EVENT IN 2019

Councillors D R Owen and J A Rowlands left the meeting.

The Mayor welcomed Mr Hefin Thomas and Mr Merfyn Jones to the meeting.

Mr Thomas reported that last year's event went well and was well supported by volunteers. He thanked Beaumaris Town Council for their assistance in making sure that the proper Health And Safety arrangements were in place. The next Festival will be on 31 August and 1 September and is 80% booked.

Councillors stated that there had been agreement by the Food Festival to share its accounts with the Town Council but this had not happened yet. Also they were not aware that formal agreement to use the Green had been given. In response Mr Thomas stated that there were accounts which could be presented. The Town Council had been told of the date soon after the last event and he had assumed that if there had been a problem with the date they would have been told. Councillors understood that the Food Festival now had commitments with exhibitors but were disappointed that the Food Festival had gone ahead in making those commitments without pressing the Town Council for a decision. This put the Town Council in a difficult position at a time when the Food Festival and Town Council should have been working together.

Councillors shared their concerns at the proposed dates. It is a busy period. Based on last year's takings loss of income from parking will be about £10,000 (which should be considered as support in kind). Councillors reported mixed opinions from businesses in town. The Chamber of Trade were reported to be of the opinion that the town was already busy at the end of August and that a Festival at this time would not boost business. However Councillors recognised that there was a balance to be struck between using the Festival as a means of extending the season and the need to generate a surplus for the benefit of the Canolfan.

Councillors felt that having a known fixed date for the Festival would help avoid future problems and would benefit both parties. They suggested that the second weekend of September would strike a good balance.

The dates of the Festival coincide with the biggest tides of 2019. The Mayor highlighted this to the Food Festival and impressed on them that it was their responsibility to manage the implications of this for the Health And Safety implications of their exhibitors and visitors. Mr Thomas thanked the Mayor for raising the issue and stated that the Food Festival understood the risks and would take responsibility for the health and safety implications.

Recommendation to Council (by majority 7 for 1 against):

1. To give permission for the Food Festival to be held on the Green on 31 August and 1 September using the same area and arrangements as 2018.
2. That the Food Festival will provide the Town Council with information on the dates and timings for set up and break down and will agree formal hand over procedures (using the arrangements developed in 2018).
3. That the Food Festival accept (and confirm in writing) responsibility for managing the risks of flooding from the sea.
4. There will be a meeting with officers approximately two months before the event to check planning and other arrangements. A further meeting will be held approximately two weeks before the event to confirm arrangements and to resolve any last issues.

Mr Thomas and Mr Jones thanked the Town Council and expressed agreement with the proposals. They undertook to consider the Town Council's suggestion to fix a consistent date for the festival.

Councillors D R Owen and J A Rowlands rejoined the meeting.

Resolved (unanimous): To go back into Council.

Resolved (unanimous): To adopt the recommendations of the Committee.

97.0 TO CONFIRM AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BEAUMARIS TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 3 DECEMBER 2018

Resolved (unanimous): To confirm the minutes as a true and correct record.

98.0 TO ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE OF BEAUMARIS TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 17 DECEMBER 2018

Resolved (nem con): To adopt the recommendations of the Committee

99.0 EXTRA BILLS FOR PAYMENT

5423	Mr Roger Vincent – Wood for T I P tables	16.36
5424	F E Roberts – Fuel, December	18.00
5425	Huws Gray – Ply for Happy Valley toilets	21.82
5426	C E F – Bulbs for decorative lights	45.04
5427	Anglesey Fabrication Ltd – Marquee peg removal tool	62.34
5428	Alpha Business Centre – Stationery	122.56
5429	Ace Lifts – Maintenance visit	165.00
5430	Cynan Electrical – Circuit Testing	1,105.80
5431	Merlin Fireworks – New Year's Eve display	3,720.00
5432	SSE Swalec – Exit barrier bill	37.97
5433	Mr David Huntington – Hon Burgess Framed Scroll	395.00

Total **£5,709.89**

Resolved (unanimous): That the bills be paid.

In response to an observation from a Councillor the Town Mayor stated that complaints about the use of open buckets for the collection at the New Year's Eve fireworks would be referred to the Bonfire Committee.

100.0 CORRESPONDENCE

100.1 Welsh Government: Response to request to meet with Minister for Education

Councillors observed that there were very limited grounds for an appeal against a local authority's decision to close a school.

Resolved (unanimous): To reply to the minister expressing the Council's disappointment that there is no route of appeal to the minister against the local authority's decision.

100.2 Seiriol Alliance: Minutes of September meeting and notice of next meeting on 15 January 2019 at Llansadwrn Church Hall

The date and time were noted.

100.3 Proposed visit by group of young Spaniards

The Town Clerk explained the background to the proposed visit by about 100 18-25 year old 'Yellow Shirts'. The group would like to organise activities with local groups and people and will be looking for somewhere to camp. The Town Clerk will pass details to the Canolfan.

110.4 Medrwn Mon AGM

The AGM will be at 15.00 on 24 January in The Memorial Hall, Llanfairpwll.

110.5 Planning Application. 1A/1B Tros Yr Afon. Application for Certificate of Lawful Use.

Councillors expressed concern that the property had in effect become a holiday complex.

Resolved (unanimous): To recommend approval but with the condition that the flats be used as residential accommodation for local people.

Resolved (unanimous): To exclude the press and public for the next item to allow a confidential discussion of personal matters.

110.6 Councillor G Evans-Jones – Resignation

A letter of resignation from Councillor G Evans-Jones was read out. Councillors expressed their gratitude for the contribution that Councillor Evans-Jones had made to the Council and the community.

Resolved (unanimous): To readmit the press and public.

Resolved (unanimous): To send a letter of thanks for Councillor G Evans-Jones's work on the Council.

101.0 ITEMS REFERRED FROM DECEMBER FINANCE & PLANNING MEETING:

101.1 Anglesey & Gwynedd Joint Planning Policy Unit: Consultation on Supplementary Planning Guidance

Councillors were briefed on the implications of the guidance in particular in relation to the definition of 'local connection' for affordable housing. Councillors observed that the definition of 'local connection' is different for Beaumaris to what it is for Llanddona and Llangoed.

Resolved (unanimous): To respond, requesting that the definition of local connection be retained as a 'connection with the ward' not the whole of Anglesey. Beaumaris is to be treated on a par with other communities in the area.

101.2 Recognition of Sporting Achievement by Wayne Hennessey

Resolved (unanimous): That in view of recent events consideration of this matter be deferred to the April Finance and Planning committee.

102.0 TRANSFER OF GAOL AND COURTHOUSE

There had now been an opportunity for Councillors to visit both the Gaol and Courthouse. There is clearly a lot of work required on the buildings (more so on the Gaol than Courthouse) but they do provide an opportunity. Grants are available for the work but the Town Council may not qualify for some of them. The Town Clerk clarified that the Town Council is seeking an asset transfer but does not want to take on TUPE obligations for staff. It was pointed out that TUPE will not apply for seasonal staff.

It was suggested that the Gaol and Courthouse Sub-Committee meet to carry forward the work need to secure an asset transfer. Concern was expressed that the Town Council needs to act quickly and that the need to have Sub-Committee actions ratified will delay matters.

Resolved (unanimous): To call a Special Council meeting. The business plan and cash flow are to be circulated before the meeting along with a summary of the existing condition report.

103.0 MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 2 December Menai Bridge Mayor’s Sunday
- 6 December Caernarfon Christmas Lights Switch On
- 8 December Conwy Lantern Procession
- 14 December NSPCC Christmas Carols
- 19 December Llanfaes Christmas Fair
- 22 December Castle Players Pantomime
- 23 December Hot Pennies
- Boxing Day Swim
- 31 December New Year’s Eve Fireworks
- 1 January Tug of War and Tractor Pull competitions

Meeting closed at 22.08

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**Town Mayor
Councillor J P Zalot**

Date