

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF BEAUMARIS TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD ON MONDAY 8 JUNE 2015 AT 7.00 PM IN THE TOWN HALL**

**PRESENT:** The Town Mayor Councillor J P Zalot  
The Deputy Mayor Councillor G Evans Jones  
Councillor F R Carr  
Councillor J R Carr  
Councillor I Davies  
Councillor D G Jones  
Councillor M Jones  
Councillor D W Gallichan  
Councillor B L Kotkowicz  
Councillor R J Parry  
Councillor C J Theakston  
Councillor S Zalot

**The Town Clerk was in attendance**

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor C M Brimecombe  
Councillor A J V Grant

**The Town Mayor took the Chair**

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The Town Mayor welcomed members of the public who were attending. He reminded everyone that it was not a public meeting but a meeting of the Town Council with officers from Anglesey County Council, thus members of the public would not be able to join in discussions or ask questions.

**23.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**24.0 VISIT BY MR DEWI R WILLIAMS, HEAD OF SERVICE, ENVIRONMENTAL AND TECHNICAL, AND MR R THOMAS, PROJECT OFFICER, ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL TO DISCUSS THE FLOOD DEFENCE WORKS ON A545 NEAR GALLOWS POINT, BEAUMARIS**

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that the meeting should move into Committee to discuss this item.

Mr Williams said that there had been a long period of public consultation and he outlined the meetings that had taken place with the public and the Town Council. He said he understood public feeling concerning the height of the wall and its obstruction of views across the bay. Nonetheless, there was a need to consider the past flooding incidents that had occurred at Beaumaris in recent years. Initially the County Council had obtained a grant for £1.5m to prevent flooding at Mill Lane and Llanfaes. Problems with flooding near Castle Square had been overcome following the discovery of a large disused pipe that had belonged to Welsh Water. This pipe was now being used to divert drainage water away from the town centre. A further grant had been obtained to divert water through Castle Meadow and across the Green.

*7.05 pm Councillor S Zalot arrived*

The Welsh Government had been approached for a further grant to conduct the present works, and it was being funded to approximately 90% of cost. In future schemes would only attract 75% funding, and it would make it difficult for the County Council to carry them out.

Mr Williams said the present scheme consisted of four parts:

One was removal of drainage water from the Maes Hyfryd area. This section of the work was on hold following objections from residents. The sea wall across the Green, a wall adjacent to the A545, and the fourth section was to create a dam in Castle Meadow but this had now been changed to the installation of a grid with drainage pipe. The drainage pipe would then need to go across the Green.

The scheme was designed to protect the town from flooding for the next 50 years, during which sea levels were predicted to rise about 1'

He was aware of concerns about the height of the wall and the sketch that had portrayed it at being about waist height. However, below the sketch there had been a statement of the increases that would be made in the height of the wall. On balance, it was necessary to view the problems created by the wall against the need to protect houses from flooding.

The Town Mayor invited questions from Councillors.

In response to a question about the maximum increase in height of the wall, it was stated that this would not be greater than 700mm (about 2'4")

A member said that whilst people were grateful for the investment in the town, they had not expected the height increase to be so much. Most laymen would not go into technical details but would rely on the image of the lady and man standing next to the wall. He asked if the proposed increase in the height of the wall could be sloped down by 6"-8" from a point near to Allt Goch Bach (Cemetery Hill). He stated that the view was important to the town and to its economy. People would be more likely to accept the structure under these circumstances.

Mr Williams said that it was a 50-year defence plan, and if it was lower in one point then this would be a weak spot.

A member suggested installing rocks on the seaward side of the wall which would reduce wave power.

Mr Thomas said that there was a need to justify the cost benefit of the scheme to the Welsh Government, and rock armour was not cost-effective.

There was a discussion concerning the changes in the extra height to be put on the wall from Gallows Point through into the town. It was suggested that small markers could be put up to demonstrate this to the public.

Mr Williams agreed that this would be possible.

Some members said they were not happy with the appearance of the stone cladding to be used on the wall.

Mr Thomas said that the stone cladding had to be accepted by the Conservation Officer and this had not yet happened. The initial stone cladding that has been applied to a small section of the wall had not been accepted, and a second style was now being put in place in order to obtain approval.

A member said it was important that the town could continue to prosper. Many people were attracted to the town because of the views across to the mainland. Clearly on the approach to the town these views would be less obvious, and this could result in fewer people returning to visit.

Reference was made to an earlier meeting when officers had agreed that the increase in a structure higher than a walking stick. This member was disappointed that when the situation had clearly changed there was no reference back to the Town Council, and he asked if there was any room for manoeuvre on the height of the wall as it continued towards the town. Another member said that if the increased height of the wall had been achieved by placing stone on top of the original stone structure then a lot of the problems would not have arisen.

Mr Williams said that the original stone wall had not been strong enough to take the wave return curve at the top.

A member asked if the height of the road could be increased so as to minimise the effect of the increased height of the wall.

Mr Williams said that this would be a possibility when the road was next resurfaced, but this would not happen quickly because of budget constraints. If the existing surface was not removed, this would result in a 4" increase in the height of the road.

A Councillor circulated pictures of the road when it had been flooded from the sea on the last occasion. He said that people had been worried about emergency services getting through to Llangoed and Llanfaes, and that he had more sympathy for people living in the area threatened by the flooding in recent years.

Another Councillor stated that the Town Council had approved the flood defence scheme and that the Mill Lane project had worked well. He said that sea levels would continue to rise, and the Council had responsibility to defend properties in the town from flooding. There was a need to remember people who were vulnerable and might have problems obtaining insurance for their properties if flooding continued to threaten them.

A member said that whilst he agreed with all the points being raised, he would like an investigation to be conducted to determine the minimum height of the wall that could be installed but still qualify for grant funding. He said that anything that could be done to protect the views would be appreciated, since this would promote the economy of the town. A gradual reduction to reduce the height of the wall by 6" would be appreciated and would be a good compromise.

Mr Williams said they could look at what the effect of a 150mm (6") reduction would have.

It was proposed that officers of the County Council investigate the minimum height of the wall that would be acceptable to the funding authority for the flood defence scheme and for the protection of the town from flooding.

The proposal was seconded and at a vote it was carried unanimously.

A member said that some residents had expressed concern that the pavement width would be reduced by the construction of the new wall.

Mr Williams said that this would not be the case.

It was proposed, seconded and carried unanimously that the meeting move back into Council.

It was proposed, seconded and carried unanimously that Council adopt the recommendations of the Committee that had just sat.

It was proposed, seconded and carried unanimously that a letter of thanks be sent to the officers of Anglesey County Council for the effort that they had put in to resolving the flooding problems of the town.

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**Town Mayor**  
**Councillor J P Zalot**

**Date** .....