

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BEAUMARIS TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 4 MARCH 2019 AT 7.00 PM IN THE TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: The Town Mayor Councillor J P Zalot
The Deputy Mayor Councillor C J Theakston
Councillor D T Evans
Councillor A N Gough
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

The Town Clerk was in attendance

APOLOGIES: Councillor D W Gallichan
Councillor S Zalot

The Town Mayor took the Chair

110.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Deputy Mayor declared a prejudicial interest in item 117.1 Planning Application 47 Wexham Street as he has a financial interest in a neighbouring property (49 Wexham Street).

111.0 VISIT BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARWYN JONES TO GIVE AN UPDATE ON LOCAL ISSUES

Councillor Alun Roberts was unfortunately unavailable and Councillor Carwyn Jones attended instead.

Resolved (unanimous) to go into Committee.

Councillor Carwyn Jones stated that he had interests to declare. As a parent of a pupil in school and a relative of a teacher he has a prejudicial interest in Beaumaris School but has a dispensation to participate but not vote. He also has an interest in the future of post-16 education as a governor of Ysgol David Hughes, a parent of a pupil at Ysgol David Hughes and an employee of Coleg Menai.

The objection report arising from the issuing of the statutory notice to close Beaumaris School will be considered by the Executive on 7 March. Councillor Jones has yet to review the report. Fifty objections were submitted. The review of post 16 education has been delayed as the volume of responses was greater than expected. Councillor Jones said that he is keen that pupils have a range of education options available to them at age 16 so that they can follow the route that is best for them.

Councillor Jones referred to the flood alleviation works and complimented the Town Council on the meeting in February that reached agreement on temporary arrangements for coach parking.

Councillor Jones thanked the Council for their suggestions about repainting the pier. The work can be done because reserves have been built up in the maritime budget. This will not be as easy to do in future and other ways of raising funds for maintenance work will have to be explored. The work is expected to be started in June.

Councillor Jones acknowledged traffic issues in the town and has asked the traffic officers to look at the parking issues in New Street. He would like to see proposals for a

pedestrian crossing in Castle Street progressed and is concerned about safety issues at the junction of Church Street and Castle Street.

Councillor Jones made reference to work to make Beaumaris 'single-use plastic free' and by the Seiriol Alliance to promote dementia friendliness.

Councillor Jones emphasised the importance of securing development of the Laird's site. It is a priority site for economic development. Work is progressing to establish the degree of potential contamination which will enable a way ahead to be planned.

The Councillor thanked the Town Council for their expression of support about Wylfa. He gave an update on the present position. He explained the business rationale for Hitachi's decision. Work will continue to secure the Development Consent Order (which is granted by the UK Government) and alternative funding arrangements will be explored. If the DCO is secured there is five years to secure an alternative developer/operator though it will still be the case that Hitachi will provide the reactors.

Councillor Jones gave a briefing on his recent meeting with Mark Drakeford (First Minister) and Ken Skates (Minister for Economic Development) and the support they expressed for the third crossing, a Thermal Hydraulic Research and Test facility at MSparc, Mor Lais and Bluestone.

Councillor Jones said that he was pleased that the Town Council was going to take on the running of the Gaol and Courthouse and offered his help if the Town Council would like it.

Town Councillors challenged Councillor Jones on the closure of Beaumaris School. The objection report referred to is superficial and repeats half truths and inaccuracies. Its analysis of the social impact of school closure is contemptuous of the need for a demographically mixed community (it refers to residents who would appreciate the peace that not having a local school brings). The community have taken every opportunity to engage with the consultation process but it has made no difference. Anglesey County Council have stuck by their original intention to close the school. No effort has been made to establish the cost of closing the school (it is a listed building) and no effort has been made to consult with providers of pre-school provision that use the school. Councillors expressed the view that this was just another failure to invest in the South East of Anglesey and demonstrated that the County Council were happy to see Beaumaris become a retirement village.

Councillor Jones was asked about the 10% increase in Council Tax. He referred to the cuts in Welsh Government funding and the pressures on budgets particularly child social services and adult social services. Without an increase in council tax the education budget would have had to find cuts of £1.7 million. As it is £600,000 of cuts in education will have to be found.

112.0 VISIT BY DANI ROBERTSON, DARK SKY OFFICER FOR THE DARK SKY PARTNERSHIP TO DISCUSS THE NEED TO CONSERVE THE DARK SKIES OF NORTH WALES

The Dark Sky Partnership is collaboration between Snowdonia National Park and the Areas of Outstanding National Beauty. Snowdonia National Park has dark Sky status. Anglesey will be seeking to attain the status of 'Dark Sky Island'.

Dani Robertson explained the background to the initiative and the importance of dark skies and a good distinction between daylight and night. The importance embraces ecological, conservation and cultural benefits such as maintaining links to traditional 'constellation stories'.

There is evidence that dark skies bring additional tourism. Five years after attaining dark Sky status Northumberland reported more tourism in January (which is prime season for stargazing) than in August. The first year alone saw a £1 million increase in tourism. Anglesey is already building a reputation for 'astro-tourism'. Penmon Point is widely recognised as a prime spot for astro-photography and for watching the Aurora Borealis. Anglesey is already relatively dark and as a result has more nocturnal species (e.g. owls) which attracts additional visits by birdwatchers etc.

Ms Robertson outlined some of the work needed to protect and enhance dark skies. Mostly it concentrates on making sure that lighting is used as effectively as possible

which often results in cost savings. She will also be holding events to increase appreciation of the night sky (and therefore the importance of protecting it) and encouraging local businesses to exploit astronomical events (such as meteor showers). She is also working with Gwynedd and Conwy Councils to reduce light pollution from across the Strait

It is early days for the project (Dani Robertson has been in post for one month) there will, in time, be a website and social media presence to promote the project.

Resolved (unanimous) to go back into Council.

113.0 TO CONFIRM AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BEAUMARIS TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2019

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

114.0 TO CONFIRM AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF BEAUMARIS TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2019

It was pointed out that the agreement to park coaches on the Green was a temporary arrangement for the duration of the engineering works.

Resolved (unanimous): That, with the above point, the minutes were a true and correct record.

115.0 TO ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE OF BEAUMARIS TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2019

115.1 Minute 137.2: Street Trading Castle Street.

Anglesey County Council have confirmed that trading on the street in front of a shop does not need additional licences as long as it is in connection with the business

115.2 Minute 139.1.6: Sea Fisheries Order.

A letter has been drafted and will be sent to the Minister shortly.

115.3 Minute 145.0: Big Wheel.

The operator has the opportunity of an alternative booking which means that the wheel will operate in Beaumaris either from 5 April to 6 May or from 30 March to 23 April. The aim is to operate for four weeks with build and dismantling time as an extra period. The operator has offered £1000 per week.

Resolved (unanimous) to secure a visit of three weeks plus one weekend for £3500 or four weeks plus one weekend for £4500

Resolved (nem con one abstention) to adopt the recommendations of the Committee.

116.0 EXTRA BILLS FOR PAYMENT

5476	B Roberts (Paints) Ltd – Preservative for benches etc	424.92
5477	Huws Gray – Pavilion roof repair/Bowling Green fencing	844.79

Total	£1,269.71
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Resolved (unanimous) that the bills be paid.

117.0 CORRESPONDENCE

117.1 LBC/2019/3 47 Wexham Street, Beaumaris

Listed Building Consent for the erection of a detached garden room

The Deputy Mayor left the meeting.

The Town Clerk reported that the full planning application (HHP 2019/58) had now been received.

Resolved (unanimous) to recommend approval

The Deputy Mayor rejoined the meeting

117.2 LBC/2019/4 Tunnel Lodge, Wexham Street, Beaumaris

Listed Building consent for part demolition of existing dwelling together with alternations and extensions

HHP/2019/49 Tunnel Lodge, Wexham Street, Beaumaris

Full application for part demolition of existing dwelling together with alterations and extensions

Councillors expressed the hope that the works would create a home for local people.

Resolved (unanimous) to recommend approval

117.3 Anglesey County Council: Beaumaris Works update

The report from Anglesey County Council had been circulated. In response to a question about the postponement of the works in Wexham Street it was reported that the extra complexity caused by services in Wexham Street had created a potential budget overrun. As a result work to connect surface drains in Maes Hyfryd to the culvert to the sea was being prioritised with the hope that the work in Wexham Street could restart towards the end of the project. It was also reported that the temporary parking in Maes Hyfryd had been provided but there were some practical problems which had been raised with Anglesey County Council.

Resolved (unanimous) to ask for an update when the situation in Wexham Street becomes clearer.

117.4 R Gordon Roberts Laurie & Co: Deed of Grant of Easement relating to the Green

The easement is needed to allow the new culverts to cross the Green road close to the entrance to the old swimming bath site. The Town Council's solicitor has recommended some changes to the draft in order to protect the Town Council's interests e.g. by ensuring that notice has to be given before coming onto Town Council land to do any repairs. In response to concerns about the potential establishment of rights of access over the Green the Town Clerk stated that the easement did not grant general rights of access, simply rights in order to repair the culvert.

118.0 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

23 February Castle Players 'Night at the Movies' Event

Asia to Anglesey Bike Ride: This is raising funds for a new Hospice Unit at Ysbyty Penrhos Stanley.

Resolved (unanimous) to send a letter of support and a donation of £1000 and to publicise the support in the town newsletter.

The Mayors Chaplain is retiring shortly.

Resolved (unanimous) To write to Rev N Fairlamb to thank him for his service to the town.

Resolved (unanimous) to exclude the press and public for a confidential discussion of staff matters.

The Town Mayor referred to an email that had been sent to the office over the weekend. The Town Mayor reminded all Councillors of the importance of following proper procedures in relation to staffing matters.

Resolved (unanimous) to readmit the press and public.

The work on the Boating Pool will be complete soon. An event to mark the reopening of the area to which children could be invited would be appropriate and would provide an opportunity to get publicity for the work of the Town Council

Resolved (unanimous): To hold an event and allocate a budget of £500.

The meeting closed at 21.20.

Date

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**Town Mayor
Councillor J P Zalot**