

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE OF TYWYN TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24th JUNE 2026 AT 7.00pm AT NEUADD PENDRE

PRESENT: Cllrs. Marisa O'Hara (Chair), Kath Charters, Nancy Clarke, Matthew Cooling, Ron McCoo.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllrs. Anne Lloyd-Jones, John Pughe.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Chris Wood (Clerk).

1. MOTION TO ELECT AN CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE FOR 2026-27

It was **proposed** by Cllr. Nancy Clarke, seconded by Cllr. Kath Charters and **resolved** that Cllr. Marisa O'Hara be elected as Chair of the Environment Committee for 2026-27.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

3. DECLARATIONS OF FINANCIAL INTEREST OR PERSONAL CONNECTION

None received.

4. TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL FUTURE WORKS AT CAMBRIAN ROAD RECREATION GROUND

The Clerk introduced the item, having received a number of submissions from members of the public to make better use of the tarmac area where the old skatepark was sited. Examples of painted roadways, a basketball hoop and a five a side football goal were given.

Councillors discussed the item, commenting that a safe place for young children to be able to learn to ride a bicycle would be a good idea. Other works that were discussed included the installation of solar panels, entry barriers and enhancing the biodiversity of the area in conjunction with the Gwynedd Council Blue and Green Infrastructure Survey.

Following the discussion, it was agreed that a further meeting of the Environment Committee would need to examine the proposals in more detail, before presenting them to an Ordinary Meeting of the Council.

5. TO DISCUSS THE PROMENADE

Cllr. Marisa O'Hara introduced the item, referencing previous discussions held with Gwynedd Council regarding the possible transfer of some of the assets on the Promenade to Tywyn Town Council. Extensive discussions were held regarding the Victorian Shelter, the paddling pool, the raised beds, collaboration with Gwynedd Council and the cost implications for the Council of adopting any additional assets. Following the discussion, it was agreed that further information is required in order for the Environment Committee to make any recommendations.

6. TO DISCUSS TENDERING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GARDENING AND PLANTING CONTRACT

The Clerk introduced the item, referencing that the current gardening and planting contract expires at the end of this year. Councillors discussed the current arrangements and whether to split the contract into different parts such as grass cutting, planting and footpath maintenance. Cllr. Matthew Cooling commented that as the Council has declared a climate emergency, consideration should be made to the ensuring that the contract reflects the declaration. Examples of insisting on the use of electric rechargeable equipment. Councillors discussed the

item in detail, noting Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, which sets out the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty that the Council has to abide by. Following an extensive discussion between Councillors, it was agreed that the Clerk should draw up a tender document, to be agreed ahead of distribution.

7. TO DISCUSS THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON EVENT

Cllr. Marisa O'Hara introduced the item, noting that whilst the current arrangements work well, there should be a discussion on potential improvements and ways that the event could appeal to more people. Suggestions included moving the craft fair to Neuadd Pendre, to enable longer opening hours which would enable those working during the day to attend, and moving the street market to the market field which would avoid any road closures. Concerns were raised that the market field was too distant from the town centre. It was suggested that discussions be held with the leisure centre and that the school hall could be considered as a venue for the craft fair. Discussions were held regarding the desire to support Neuadd Pendre, but whether the Christmas Lights Switch On Event was the right event to do this as well as the benefit that holding the event in the town centre brings to local businesses.

Further discussions were held regarding purchasing new Christmas Lights, as previous years budgets have not been spent. Previous meetings have considered extending the areas of Tywyn where the lights are put up and the cost implications of doing so. Discussions were also held with commissioning a bespoke Nadolig Llawen Tywyn light display, with the Clerk asked to investigate potential contractors and costs. It was noted that a number of the existing lights require repair work to be undertaken this year.

Following the discussions, it was **proposed** by Cllr. Kath Charters, seconded by Cllr. Nancy Clarke and **resolved** that the Clerk investigate purchasing new cross street lights.

8. TO DISCUSS WAYS THAT THE COUNCIL CAN SUPPORT THE WORK OF SIGHT LOSS CYMRU

Cllr. Marisa O'Hara introduced the item, noting that a recent meeting of Sight Loss Cymru had discussed issues raised by members when navigating town centres and what the Town Council could do to help people with sight loss. Examples were given of difficulties caused by branches and hedges overhanging pavements, tactile paving being obstructed by parked vehicles, street furniture, such as advertising boards, outside shops and cafes, together with dog fouling on pavements.

Councillors discussed the item at length, referencing poor behaviour by drivers parking on both tactile paving areas and zig zag lines at pedestrian crossings, considering what the Council is able to do. It was agreed that raising awareness of the issues that people with sight loss experience in the Tywyn is within the remit of the Council and that a discussion should be held with a representative of Sight Loss Cymru.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.25pm.