NORTH AND MID WALES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS
CYMDEITHAS CYNGHORAU TREFI A CHYMDEITHASAU MWYAF GOGLEDD CYMRU

AGENDA

For the Quarterly Meeting of the Association to be held on Friday 22nd January 2016 at 10.30am at Llandudno

1. Welcome by Mayor of Llandudno Town Council
To receive a welcome from the Mayor of Llandudno.

2. Notice of the meeting
The accept the notice of the meeting.

3. Attendance
The complete a register of attendance with apologies for absence.

3. Minutes of the last meeting
The approve the Minutes of the quarterly meeting held in October 2015 as per appendix A.

4. Actions taken since the last meeting
To consider a report on actions taken since the last meeting:

i) Responses to consultations
ii) Letter to Welsh Government regarding General Practice Doctors.
iii) Meeting the Minister for Local Government.
iv) Letter to remind Clerks of the need for a new Secretary from July 2017.

5. Financial Report
To consider the financial report as per appendix B.

6. Executive
To consider the minutes of the Executive Meeting as per appendix C.

7. Local Government Re-organisation
To receive an update on local government re-oganisation as follows:

i) Consultation response from Welsh Government.
ii) Bill proposed for Autumn 2016. (see appendix D)

8. Experiences from the Local Council

To receive and discuss three services taken over by Local Councils, what they cost, how they run them, what are the issues and how has it worked for them:

1. Introduction to 'knowing your town or community' – Robert Robinson
2. A Case study - Public Toilets – Cllr B Bertola
3. A Case study - Street Cleaning and Litter Bins – Robert Robinson
4. A Case study - Recreation Grounds –
5. The consultation on public services – Robert Robinson

9. Health Study

To receive an update on the Health Studies and any actions taken:

Mid Wales – Ian Jones
North Wales – Robert Robinson

10. Conference and Annual Meeting 2016

To consider a speaker and main subject for the July Annual and Quarterly Meeting to be held at Connah's Quay.

10. Any other business

To consider any other business notified to the Chair or Secretary prior to the start of the meeting.

11. Freedom of Information Act

To consider a proposal introduced by Cllr B Bertola of Llandudno Town Council.

12. Dates for meetings 2015-2016

To note the following meeting dates for the ensuing year:

Quarterly Meetings

22nd April 2016 Welshpool
15th July 2016 (annual meeting) – Connah's Quay.

10.30am start in all cases.

Executive Meetings

11th March 2016
10th June 2016

10.30am start in all cases. Meetings held at Rhyl Town Council Offices.

APPENDIX A

MINUTES

Of the Quarterly Meeting of the Association held on Friday 23rd October 2015 at 10.30am at Flint Town Hall

Welcome by Mayor of Flint Town Council
The meeting was welcomed by Cllr Terry Renshaw Mayor of Flint Town Council.

The record of attendance is:

Council	Present	Apologies
Officers	Cllr B C Roberts (Vice Chair) Robert Robinson (Secretary & Treasurer) Cllr Joan Butterfield (President)	Cllr Eve Butler (Chair)
ABERGELE TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr R Waters	Cllr John A MacLennan
ARGOED COMMUNITY COUNCIL	R Hampton Jones Cllr J Taylor Cllr J Holiday	
BANGOR CITY COUNCIL	Cllr Derek Hainge	
BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL		Cllr C R Williams
BAY OF COLWYN TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr Mrs H Meredith	Tina Earley Clerk Cllr Lindsay Griffiths Cllr Mrs Roy
BUCKLEY TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr A Woolley	Cllr J Woolley Cllr A Williams
CAERWYS TOWN COUNCIL		Cllr J Webb
CAIA PARK COMMUNITY CONCIL		
CONNAH'S QUAY TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr P Attridge Cllr R Hill Cllr C Grainger S Goodrum (Clerk)	
CONWY TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr H Roberts Cllr R Parker	
DENBIGH TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr R Bartley	

FLINT TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr Terry Renshaw Cllr David Cox A Loveridge Town Clerk	Cllr L Jones
HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL		
HOLYWELL TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr P York Cllr P Curtiss Delores Phelan (visitor)	C Pierce Clerk Cllr Karin Davies
LLANDUDNO TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr B Bertola	Cllr T Davie
LLANASA TOWN COUNCIL		
LLANFAIRFECHAN TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr C Gell	
LLANDRINO & ARDLEEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL		C Davies (Clerk)
LLANDYSILIO COMMUNITY COUNCIL		C Davies (Clerk) Cllr Frances Buckingham
LLANGOLLEN TOWN COUNCIL		
MENAI BRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr D M Davies Mayor	Cllr H Hunt
PENMAENMAWR TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr M Baines	
PRESTATYN TOWN COUNCIL	N Acott Clerk	Cllr J Szabo Cllr J McLennan
RHUDDLAN TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr M Kermode	Cllr J T Jones
RHYL TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr J Chamberlain-Jones	G Nickels Clerk Cllr D Simmons
RUTHIN TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr A Roberts	Cllr E Wynnie
SHOTTON TOWN COUNCIL		
ST ASAPH CITY COUNCIL		
TOWYN AND KINMELL BAY TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr B McLaughlin	Cllr M Roberts Cllr K Stone Mrs H Parkes Clerk
WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL	Cllr Estelle Bleivas	Cllr Ann Holloway Cllr Hazel Evans

1761. Notice of the meeting
The meeting accepted the notice of the meeting.

1762. Attendance
The register of attendance was circulated and completed.

1763. Minutes of the last meeting
The meeting approved the Minutes of the quarterly meeting held in July 2015.

1764. Actions taken since the last meeting
The secretary reported on actions taken since the last meeting:

a) Accounts were issued to the auditors.
b) Administration charges were considered at AGM
c) Marketing leaflets distribution has been completed
d) The papers were completed for the consultation on Local Government and were Post on web site and were ready for discussion at the meeting.

1765. Financial Report
The meeting consider the financial report issued with the agenda.

1766. Executive
The meeting considered the minutes of the Executive Meeting attached to the agenda.
The meeting **AGREED** that the secretary should write to all Clerks reminding them of the retirement from the secretariat by R A Robinson in July 2015.

1767. Council tax
The meeting considered the paper on a Council Tax consultation as per attached to the agenda.

The following comments were noted:
a) Any system has to be fair.
b) Any system should include the student population in any calculations.
c) An income based system is a fairer system.
d) Monitoring the council tax increases at County level needs to be actioned.
e) The fixed single payment system of Council Tax is an issue.
f) Move away from grant based effects on Council Tax.
g) Any system should take into account those with two homes.

The meeting **AGREED** the following:
'The secretary should respond to the consultation recommending an individual income based option for Council Tax.'
There was a vote of 9 to 4 to support the above.

1768. Conference and Annual Meeting 2016
The meeting considered a plan for a Conference Style layout of the AGM for 2016. as per the paper attached to the agenda.

The meeting **VOTED** on the options put forward as follows:

Option 1 – Leave AGM as it is now.	0 Votes
Option 2 – AGM with 2 speakers	4 votes
Option 3 – AGM with single speaker and debate.	16 votes
Option 4 – AGM with workshops.	9 votes.

The meeting **AGREED** to adopt option 3.

1769. Local Government Review and meeting with Welsh Government

The meeting considered various aspects of the Local Government review as follows:

a)The enclosed document for presentation to the Ministers Office regarding Town and Community Councils as per appendix F to the agenda.

The paper was **AGREED** and is to be sent to the Minister.

A meeting with the Minister is to be arranged with the President, Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary present.

b)The report on the Boundary Commission and new County Council Wards for the new County Councils proposed.

The meeting considered the consultation with the following comments being put forward:

a) New wards should be population based and not just electorate.
b) New wards of 1:4,000 was considered too big.
c) Naming of wards should be by the local communities.

The secretary is to prepare a response and publish it on the web site for comments before it is sent off to the Commission.

c)The report on the new 'Well-being of future generations Act 2015) and the basic information issued to date.

The secretary explained the proposed changes to the Power of Well Being and the meeting noted the following:

i) The real effect is on Councils with a budget of £200k or more.
ii) The effect after this level is that there will be duty on Town and Community Councils with regards to any plans approved by the County Council.
iii) There is a need for Town and Community Councils to be seriously involved in the any plan preparation by the County Council.
iv) There needs to be resources made available to enable delivery.

The secretary is to inform the Welsh Government of the comments regarding the consultation.

d)Local Government Financial Commission for Wales

Cllr Woolly informed the meeting of the above.

The meeting **AGREED** that there is a need for priorities to be set and duties understood before taking forward any financial basis. This includes sorting out powers and duties.

1770. Any other business

1770.1 Speakers for January 2016 meeting

The meeting considered if they wished to have a speaker at the January meeting and if so who that should be:

The meeting **AGREED** not to have any speakers for the January meeting.

There was a vote with 19 to 4 in favour of the above.

1770.2 Ombudsman Consultation

The meeting considered the Ombudsman consultation and the following was noted:

a) The new guidelines affect Town and Community Council which run services.
b) The new guidelines allow the ombudsman to investigate any matter without a complaint being received.

1770.3 Karen Davies

The meeting was updated on the progress of Karen Davies and it was confirmed that she was improving and feeling a lot better.

The meeting **AGREED** to send a card wishing her well.

1770.4 General Practice Doctors

The meeting was informed of the situation with regards to retiring GP's. This is likely to cause some issues in a few years' time. The level is approx. 25% of GP's will be retiring affecting possibly 21,000 population.

The meeting **AGREED** that the Secretary is to write to Welsh Government seeking some assurance that the matter will be addressed.

1771. Dates for meetings 2015-2016

To note the following meeting dates for the ensuing year:

Quarterly Meetings

22nd January 2016 Llandudno
22nd April 2016 Welshpool
15th July 2016 (annual meeting) – Connah's Quay.

10.30am start in all cases.

APPENDIX B

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

NORTH & MID WALES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS YEAR TO 31.3.2016

		APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
INCOME	Membership & Meals	615.00	75.00	30.00	540.00	185.00	1025.00	535.00	390.00
	Interest								
	Debtors								
	Other								
	TOTAL	615.00	75.00	30.00	540.00	185.00	1025.00	535.00	390.00
COSTS	Meals		660.00			600.00			435.00
	Expenses								
	Administration				400.00				
	Bank charges								
	Gavel				165.00				
	Web hosting								
	Web site								
	Translation								
	Other								
	TOTAL	0.00	660.00	0.00	565.00	600.00	0.00	0.00	435.00
	BALANCE	615.00	-585.00	30.00	-25.00	-415.00	1025.00	535.00	-45.00
BANK	*Start*	*5781.20*	*6396.20*	*5811.20*	*5841.20*	*5816.20*	*5401.20*	*6426.20*	*6961.20*
	End	*6396.20*	*5811.20*	*5841.20*	*5816.20*	*5401.20*	*6426.20*	*6961.20*	*6916.20*
	Balance	*-615.00*	*585.00*	*-30.00*	*25.00*	*415.00*	*-1025.00*	*-535.00*	*45.00*
	TREASURER		*Robert Robinson*						

APPENDIX C

MINUTES

of the Executive meeting held on
Friday 11th December 2015 at 10.30am
at Rhyl Town Council Offices

1. **Present Were**
   Present were: Cllr B Roberts (Vice Chair), Robert Robinson (Secretary), Cllr B Bertola and Cllr H Meredith.

2. **Apologies for absence**
   Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A Holloway and Cllr T Renshaw.
   Due to the poor attendance and lack of apologies the meeting asked the Secretary remind members of their need to attend or send apologies.

3. **Minutes of the last meeting**
   The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a correct record.

4. **Financial Report**
   The meeting was updated on the financial statement of accounts at the end of November 2015.

5. **Local Government re-organisation**
   The Secretary took the members through the response to the Local Government Consultation and introduce the Local Government (Wales) Bill. (both presentations will be made available at the quarterly meeting).

6. **The Agenda for the next quarterly Meeting**
   The meeting discussed the agenda for the next meeting to be held in January 2016. The agenda was approved subject to adding a further item regarding the 'Freedom of Information Act'.

7. **Date of next meeting**
   The date of the next meeting is to be Friday 11th March 2016 at 10.30am at Rhyl Town Council Offices.

APPENDIX D

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) BILL

Introduction
The notes below are the headlines from the above Bill now published and planned to progress soon after the May 2016 Welsh Government Elections. The Bill regarding Town and Community Councils is due out in the autumn of 2016.

No	Heading	Details
1	**Introduction**	The Bill paves the way for the combining of County Councils reducing the number to 8 or 9. The Bill also makes references to Town and Community Councils.
2	**Overview**	The Welsh Government holds the view that the governance of Local Authorities is too complicated and there are too many organisations involved. Hence the reduction in County Councils and the review of Town and Community Councils.
3	**County Council Elections**	The programme for elections is set out as follows: a) All existing County Councils will have elections in May 2017. b) The existing County Councils will remain in place until May 2020. c) The new Authorities will hold elections in May 2019 and shadow the existing authorities until May 2020 when they take over. d) The next election will then be held in May 2023 and then every 5 years.
4	**Powys County Council**	The programme for elections for Powys County Council is set out as follows: a) Election in May 2017. b) Election in May 2020. c) Election in May 2023. The elections after 2023 will tie in with the other Authorities created.
5	**Town and Community Council Elections**	The programme for Town and Community Council elections is to be: a) May 2017. b) May 2023 and then every 5 years.

6	**Names of new authorities**	The new Authorities will during the period of shadowing the existing Authorities decide upon the name of the newly created County Council.
7	**County Councillor duties**	The County Councillors will in future be under a duty to carry out the following duties: a) Obligation to attend meetings to which they are elected. b) Hold regular Surgeries including meeting individual constituants. c) Provide an annual report. d) Respond to letters within set time limits. e) Obligation to complete training.
8	**Election of County Leader**	Any Councillor putting themselves up for election as Leader shall produce a written manifesto.
9	**Mayors for County Councils**	County Council Chairs may also be called Mayors if the Authority so wishes.
10	**Power of Competance for Town & Community Councils**	Town and Community Councils can be given the power of 'general competance' which is declared at each Annual Meeting confirming that the Council has met the following minimum standards: a) The Clerk must be qualified to a minimum of CILCA. b) Two thirds of the Councillors must have been elected. c) The Accounts of the Council for the previous two years must be unqualified. The Power of General Competance does give the Town and Community Council more power.
11	**Size of Town and Community Councils**	A review of all Town and Community Councils boundaries will be carried out not by the County Councils but by the Boundary Commission.
12	**Community Area Committees**	Each area will have a 'Community Area Committee' hosted by the County Council. Town and Community Councils will be represented on these Committees.
13	**Broadcasting of meetings**	All County Councils meetings open to the public will be broadcast. The Minister has a power to require all or some Town and Community Councils to also broadcast their meetings.
14	**Public participation**	There are to be new rules for both County Councils and Local Councils with regards to public participation.

15	**Staff transfer**	When the Bill is enacted any services taken over by Town and Community Councils will carry an obligation in law to take over the staff on their current terms and conditions including pensions, holidays etc.

R A Robinson FRICS MILCM
Secretary