



MINUTES

of the Quarterly Meeting of the Association held on Friday 25th October 2019 at 10.30am at The Stamford Gate Hotel, Holywell

1. Welcome from the Mayor of Holywell

Mayor Paul Johnson welcomed all present to the meeting and provided a brief summary of some of the current developments in and around Holywell, which included the adjacent Llesty Hospital housing re-development and the de-pedestrianisation works currently underway in the High Street.

2. Obituary

The Chair paid tribute to Evelyn Butler, former city councillor and also Mayor of Bangor on two separate occasions, who had sadly passed away recently. Evelyn was a very proactive member of our Association, and members recalled her significant involvement in the launch of the Association and its meetings. Evelyn would be sadly missed but not forgotten.

3. Homeless Issues in Wales

Ann Lloyd and Claire Owens, Denbighshire County Council, attended the meeting and gave a presentation to members that outlined a number of issues. The main points noted were as follows:

- Legislative requirements – Housing Act (Wales) 2014
- Number of people presenting as homeless and recognising homeless citizens
- Prevention and intervention
- Welfare reform and the impact of Universal Credit
- Shortage in the supply line of council houses and temporary accommodation
- Future challenges – temporary accommodation, housing support grant, austerity, early intervention

The meeting asked a number of questions that included open case numbers, housing needs surveys, the requirement for future strategic planning, social factors, closure orders, partnership working with relevant agencies, affordable housing and the compatibility of the model implemented by Denbighshire County Council across other Counties.



Denbighshire County Council had restructured their homeless team, and the resources now allocated, and savings made had not affected front line services.

4. Address by the President

The President advised the meeting on the current position related to the governance of the Association, and provided the following statement:

- Since the last meeting a number of issues had arisen which required urgent determination in order for the business of the Association to proceed.
- As it stood the Association was without a Secretary, facilitating Council, Treasurer and Chair. This had been a difficult time for the Association.
- The Executive needed to resolve the issues in accordance with the rules contained in the Association constitution and standing orders.
- When the Association was formed a member council volunteered to take on the role of Secretariat and provided the Secretary and a formal address for correspondence. There was no supporting documents or rules to this effect but was custom and practice for past Secretaries. All costs were met by the member council; if this was an issue a one-off payment was made for services from the Association.
- Welshpool Town Council, the current facilitating member council, had tendered their resignation from the Association with immediate effect; this also meant the Secretary was also lost by default.
- All paperwork had been recovered and was now temporarily stored in Rhyl Town Council until a new Secretary could be appointed.
- The Secretary and Treasurer roles at some point had been merged; under standing orders these roles are subject to appointment and re-appointment at the Association's annual meeting. The standing orders also provided for a special meeting to be called to determine urgent business.
- It had been suggested that Mr Robert Robinson had offered his services to continue in the role of Secretary and Treasurer, in return for a set fee to cover expenses. This approach should be welcomed and was recommended to the meeting.
- In the event no council volunteers to take on the role an arrangement could be entered into with Mr Robinson; this would however require a change to the constitution and standing orders.
- The Vice Chair was to move to Chair of the Association by natural progression.
- The appointment of a new Vice Chair would be taken to the next quarterly meeting of the Association. Nominations were to be forwarded to the new Secretary.



- The meeting was then asked to consider if they wished to mandate the Executive to change its standing orders and constitution to accommodate a change to buy in the Secretariat service, and to appoint to the position of Secretary and Treasurer.

It was further stated that the accounts and bookkeeping records of the Association had been audited and were found to be in a very good order.

The meeting agreed to the proposals and mandated the Executive to move forward, make the appointment and change any policies accordingly, and thanked the President for her work on this important matter.

5. Record of attendance

Council	Attending	Apologies received
Officers	Cllr P Morton Vice Chair Cllr J Butterfield President	
Abergele Town Council	Cllr B Roberts Cllr S Jones-Roberts	Cllr R Waters
Amlwch Town Council		
Argoed Community Council		
Bagillt Community Council		
Bangor City Council	Cllr D Hainge Cllr J Martin Ian Jones (Clerk)	
Bay of Colwyn Town Council	Cllr B Barton	Cllr H Meredith Tina Earley (Clerk)
Broughton Community Council	Cllr P Griffiths	
Buckley Town Council	Cllr V Blondek Cllr A Wooley	
Caerwys Town Council	Cllr L Edwards	
Caia Park Community Council		
Connah's Quay Town Council	Cllr E Faulkner Cllr G Faulkner Steve Goodrum (Clerk)	Cllr P Davies

NORTH AND MID WALES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS



CYMDEITHAS CYNGHORAU TREFI A CHYMDEITHASAU MWYAF GOGLEDD CYMRU



Conwy Town Council	Cllr H Roberts	Natasha Flint (Clerk)
Denbigh Town Council	Cllr R Tickle Cllr D Berry	
Flint Town Council	Cllr S License	
Holywell Town Council	Cllr K Davies Cllr P Johnson Cllr P York Jason Baker (Clerk)	
Llanasa Community Council		
Llandrinio & Arddleen Community Council		
Llandysilio Community Council		
Llandudno Town Council	Cllr B Bertola	Cllr M Lyon
Llanfairfechan Town Council		
Menai Bridge Town Council		
Penmaenmawr Town Council		
Prestatyn Town Council	Cllr B Murray Nigel Acott (Clerk)	
Rhuddlan Town Council		
Rhyl Town Council	Cllr J Chamberlain-Jones Cllr B Mellor Cllr A James Gareth Nickles (Clerk)	
Ruthin Town Council	Cllr K Allsop-Robson Cllr S Beach	
Shotton Town Council		
St Asaph City Council		
Towyn & Kinnel Bay Town Council	Cllr M Jones Cllr B McLoughlin	



6. Members contact details

The meeting was requested to confirm postal and/or email addresses for future contact, and for sending paperwork for meetings, using the circulated yellow forms. These were to be collected in at the conclusion of the meeting.

7. Minutes of the last meeting

The meeting considered and approved the minutes of the last meeting.

8. Declarations of interest

None recorded.

9. Actions from the last meeting

The meeting received a report on actions to be taken forward from the last meeting:

No	Heading	Action	Status
1	Homeless	To invite a senior civil servant or minister to meet with the Association on the subject of homelessness	Completed
2		To post the Sleep Rough Report on the website	Completed
3		To include this item as a standing item on the agenda for the foreseeable future	Completed
4	Archives	Archives to be placed in the Library of Wales	Being arranged
5	Association Membership	Contact to be made with NALC and IESE to seek association membership	Pending
6	Dedicated Minister	Seek a North & Mid Wales Minister dedicated to those areas via an approach to Welsh Government	Letter sent
7	Council Tax	Prepare a paper for the next meeting on Council Tax and the alternatives	Completed

10. Financial Report

The current bank balances were received.



11. Executive Meeting Minutes

The meeting received the minutes from the last meeting of the Executive.

12. Business Rates

The meeting discussed this matter and determined the current system was inequitable and having a detrimental effect on town centres. The meeting agreed that the system needed urgent review. The meeting agreed for this to be a standard agenda item for the foreseeable future.

13. Council Tax

No report was available at the meeting.

14. Consultation on Wind and Solar Farms

The meeting considered the consultation on TAN8 revisions and the supplied map. The meeting agreed that a full report should be prepared for the next meeting.

15. Dates of future meetings

The following dates for future meetings were noted:

Quarterly Meetings

17 th January 2020	Rhyl Town Council
24 th April 2020	Llandudno Town Council
17 th July 2020	Connah's Quay Civic Halls

Executive Meetings

13th December 2019
13th March 2020
12th June 2020

All Executive Meetings are held at Rhyl Town Council Offices

All meetings commence at 10.30am.

16. Any other business

Cllr D. Hainge thanked Ian Jones for his service to Bangor City Council and the Association and wished Ian all the best in his new position as Town Clerk for Mold Town Council.



Cllr E. Faulkner requested a letter of appreciation be sent from the Executive to Welshpool Town Council thanking them for their services to the Association. The meeting agreed to request the Executive consider this matter at their next meeting.

The meeting discussed a recent press article in the Daily Post referring to overcrowding issues on train services affecting passengers on North Wales routes. The meeting requested a Transport for Wales representative attend a future meeting to seek some reassurance on this matter.

The Chair closed the meeting by reciting the following poem as a tribute to the forthcoming Remembrance Sunday services:

*“They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.”*

*“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.”*

17. Actions to be taken forward

The following actions to be taken forward:

Archives to be placed in the Library of Wales	
Contact to be made with NALC and IESE to seek association membership	
Seek a North & Mid Wales Minister dedicated to those areas via an approach to Welsh Government	
Executive to move forward, make the appointment of Secretary/Treasurer and change any policies accordingly	
Business Rates to be a standard agenda item for the foreseeable future	
Report on wind and solar farms should be prepared for the next meeting.	
Letter to be sent from the Executive to Welshpool Town Council thanking them for their services to the Association	
The meeting requested a Transport for Wales representative attend a future meeting	