



# MINUTES

Of the Quarterly meeting held on  
Friday 17th July 2015 at 10.30am  
at The Civic Halls Connah's Quay

## 1. Welcome by the Chair

Cllr E Butler (newly elected Chair) welcomed the delegates to the meeting.

## 2. Notice of the meeting

The meeting received the notice of the meeting.

## 3. Attendance and apologies list

The following is a record of attendance:

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

<b>CONWY TOWN COUNCIL</b>	Cllr H Roberts Cllr R Parker	
<b>DENBIGH TOWN COUNCIL</b>	Cllr R Bartley	
<b>FLINT TOWN COUNCIL</b>	Cllr Terry Renshaw Cllr David Cox	Cllr L Jones A Loveridge Town Clerk
<b>HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL</b>		
<b>HOLYWELL TOWN COUNCIL</b>	Cllr P York Cllr P Curtiss	C Pierce Clerk Cllr Karin Davies
<b>LLANFAIR CAEREINION TOWN COUNCIL</b>		Viki Griffiths Clerk Cllr K Astley
<b>LLANDUDNO TOWN COUNCIL</b>	Cllr B Bertola	
<b>LLANASA TOWN COUNCIL</b>		
<b>LLANFAIRFECHAN TOWN COUNCIL</b>	Cllr C Gell Mayor	
<b>LLANDRINO &amp; ARDLEEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL</b>		C Davies (Clerk)
<b>LLANDYSILIO COMMUNITY COUNCIL</b>		C Davies (Clerk) Cllr Frances Buckingham
<b>LLANGOLLEN TOWN COUNCIL</b>		
<b>MEINAI BRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL</b>		Cllr M Davies Cllr H Hunt
<b>PENMAENMAWR TOWN COUNCIL</b>	Cllr M Baines Mel Ab-Owain Town Clerk	
<b>PRESTATYN TOWN COUNCIL</b>	Cllr J Szabo N Acott Clerk	
<b>RHUDDLAN TOWN COUNCIL</b>	Cllr M Kermode Cllr J T Jones	
<b>RHYL TOWN COUNCIL</b>	Cllr D Simmons	Cllr J Chamberlain-Jones G Nickels Clerk
<b>RUTHIN TOWN COUNCIL</b>	Cllr E Wynnie Cllr A Roberts	
<b>SHOTTON TOWN COUNCIL</b>		
<b>ST ASAPH CITY COUNCIL</b>	Cllr Barbara Rust Cllr P G Morton Helen Stewart Clerk	Cllr Elsie Powell
<b>TOWYN AND KINMELL BAY TOWN COUNCIL</b>	Cllr B McLaughlin	Cllr M Roberts Cllr K Stone
<b>WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL</b>	Cllr Ann Holloway Cllr Estelle Bleivas Cllr Hazel Evans	

#### **4. Minutes of the last meeting**

To meeting approved the minutes of the last meeting subject to two alterations to the attendance list.

## **5. Actions taken since the last meeting**

The Secretary gave a report on actions taken since the last meeting not included on the agenda:

- a) Administration charges to be considered at AGM
- b) Marketing leaflets distribution to be completed
- c) Complete consultation on Local Government and:
  - i) Post on web site
  - ii) By 28<sup>th</sup> April present to Welsh Government

## **5. Financial Report**

The meeting received the accounts for the period up to 31.3.2015.

## **5. Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

The meeting received the minutes of the above meeting.

## **6. Business Rates and Council Tax**

The meeting considered a paper on Business Rates which was discussed.

The meeting **AGREED** that the Secretary should respond to the Welsh Government Consultation as follows:

Rates on businesses should be divorced from its relationship with rents.

A corporation tax style of system is preferred.

Rate liability should remain with the occupier at the time and not passed on  
Reform is urgent as the revaluation has been delayed.

A review of Charity Shop rate relief is needed.

There should be no rates on pop up shops or Charity advertising in windows.

The current empty rates policy should change back so that if a property is  
empty but can prove it is being actively marketed at a realistic rent then  
no rates apply.

Too little and too late.

## **7. Local Government Reform**

The meeting considered an update on Local Government Reform.

After detailed discussion the Secretary was asked to prepare a paper for all Councils who are members to consider based upon the following:

The need for an early reform of Town and Community Councils.

The reforms of County Councils and Town Councils should run in tandem.

The effect of service delivery without Town Council reform is serious.

The need to see how the expected cost of re-organisation is made up.

The need for the Welsh Government to pay for any re-organisation.

Funding needs for Town and Community Councils.

The cost of the local government pension scheme and cost of Town Clerks  
extra hours was highlighted.

A meeting is to be arranged with Senior Welsh Government Officials following the October meeting when the paper can be fully discussed.

## **8. North and Mid Wales Health Studies**

The meeting considered an update on matters relating to both North and Mid Wales Health Studies.

## **9. Public Toilet Strategy Consultation**

The meeting considered the above consultation and the Secretary was asked to respond as follows:

The toilet provision in Wales is a fundamental issue.

Welsh Government should consider direct payments to Town and Community Councils with regard to toilet provision.

The Association supports the community toilet scheme with better information. There is a need to have a planning policy in LDP's for larger developments to have public toilets maintained within them.

## **10. Strategic Planning**

The meeting considered the above consultation and the Secretary was asked to respond as follows:

The Association does not accept the principle of strategic schemes not being decided by County Councils in the first instance.

Concern was expressed over a lack of appeal process.

There needs to be a full consultation with local communities.

## **11. Community Asset Transfer**

The meeting considered the above consultation and the Secretary was asked to respond as follows:

The Association accepts the principle as it relates to private community Assets.

Community Assets held by public authorities should be transferred at nil value as they have been paid for by the public already. (with restrictions)

The Association feels it is wrong that County Councils are trying to ask for Town Councils to purchase assets which have been paid for by the public already.

A local register of Community Assets was accepted.

## **12. Dates for next meetings**

To note the dates of the next meetings as follows:

### **Quarterly Meetings**

23rd October 2015 in Flint

22nd January 2016 in Llandudno

22nd April 2016 in Welshpool

15th July 2016 (annual meeting) – Connah's Quay.

10.30am start in all cases.

### **Executive Meetings**

11th September 2015

10th December 2015

11th March 2016

10th June 2016

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

It was suggested that a loop system for hearing should be sought in venues where possible.

## **13. Actions to be taken forward:**

The following actions are taken forward:

- i) Council Tax consultation to be included on next agenda.
- ii) Accounts to be passed to auditors.
- iii) Consultation responses to be sent to the Welsh Government as follows:
  - i. Public Toilet Strategy
  - ii. Community Asset Transfer
  - iii. Strategic Planning
  - iv. Business Rates
- iv) Paper on Local Government reform