

**COUNCIL DECISION NOTICE
GWYNEDD COUNCIL**

(Section 100C of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020)

2 December 2021

Virtual Meeting

Present:

Councillors: Elwyn Jones (Vice-chairman in the chair)

Craig ab Iago, Stephen Churchman, R. Glyn Daniels, Anwen Davies, Elwyn Edwards, Alan Jones Evans, Aled Evans, Peter Antony Garlick, Gareth Wyn Griffith, Selwyn Griffiths, Alwyn Gruffydd, Annwen Hughes, John Brynmor Hughes, Louise Hughes, Judith Humphreys, Nia Jeffreys, Peredur Jenkins, Aeron M. Jones, Aled Wyn Jones, Anne Lloyd Jones, Berwyn Parry Jones, Elin Walker Jones, Eric Merfyn Jones, Gareth Tudor Morris Jones, Huw Wyn Jones, Kevin Morris Jones, Linda A. Jones, Sion Wyn Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams, Beth Lawton, Dilwyn Lloyd, Dafydd Meurig, Dilwyn Morgan, Linda Morgan, Dafydd Owen, Dewi Owen, Edgar Wyn Owen, Gwynfor Owen, W. Roy Owen, Nigel Pickavance, Rheinallt Puw, Peter Read, Dewi Wyn Roberts, Gareth A. Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Mair Rowlands, Paul Rowlinson, Angela Russell, Dyfrig Siencyn, Mike Stevens, Gareth Thomas, Ioan Thomas, Hefin Underwood, Catrin Wager, Cemlyn Williams, Eirwyn Williams, Elfed Williams, Gareth Williams, Gethin Glyn Williams, Gruffydd Williams and Owain Williams.

Officers:

Dafydd Gibbard (Chief Executive), Morwena Edwards (Corporate Director), Iwan Evans (Monitoring Officer), Dafydd Edwards (Statutory Finance Officer), Geraint Owen (Head of Democracy Services), Carys Fon Williams (Head of Property and Housing), Sioned Williams (Head of Economy and Community), Dewi Morgan (Assistant Head – Revenue and Risk), Sion Huws (Senior Solicitor - Corporate) and Eirian Roberts (Democracy Services Officer).

Apologies:

Councillors: Menna Baines, Beca Brown, Dylan Bullard, Annwen Daniels, Simon Glyn, R. Medwyn Hughes, Keith Jones, Cai Larsen, Jason Parry and Elfed Roberts.

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SUBJECT

Item 7: COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2022/23

DECISION

- To continue the Council's Local Scheme for the year commencing 1 April 2022 as it was in 2021/22. Therefore, the following conditions (a - c below) regarding the continuation of the discretionary elements would apply:
 - a) To apply a 100% disregard for war disablement pensions, war widows' pensions and war widowers' pensions, for both pensioners and working age claimants.
 - b) Not to increase the extended reduction periods for pensioners and working age claimants from the standard four weeks in the Prescribed Scheme.
 - c) Not to increase the backdate period for pensioners and working age claimants from the standard three months contained within the Prescribed Scheme.
 - Where appropriate, to delegate powers to the Head of Finance Department, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, to make minor amendments to the scheme for 2022/23, provided that it will not change the substance of the scheme.
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THE RESULT OF THE VOTE

In favour	49
Against	0
Abstentions	2

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS

- Councillor Stephen Churchman as he was in receipt of Council Tax benefit.
- Councillor Gareth A. Roberts because a close member of family has been awarded a Council Tax discount.

The members were not of the opinion that they were prejudicial interests, and they did not withdraw

from the meeting during the discussion on the item.

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SUBJECT

Item 8: COUNCIL TAX: DISCRETIONARY POWERS TO ALLOW DISCOUNTS AND/OR RAISE A PREMIUM 2022/23

DECISION

That the Council makes no change to the scheme for 2022/23. For 2022/23, that Gwynedd Council:

- Allows **NO** discount on class A second homes, in accordance with Section 12 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- Allows **NO** discount and **RAISES A PREMIUM** of 100% on class B second homes, in accordance with Section 12B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- Allows **NO** discount on homes that have been empty for 6 months or more and **RAISES A PREMIUM** of 100% on homes that have been empty for 12 months or more, in accordance with Section 12A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

THE RESULT OF THE VOTE

In favour	36
Against	5
Abstentions	2

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS

- Councillor Gareth A. Roberts as he had a property which is empty and under reconstruction.
 - Councillor Dewi Roberts as a member of his family had a second home.
 - Councillor Angela Russell because she owned a second home.
 - Councillor Aled Wyn Jones because close relatives of his owned a second home and holiday homes.
 - Councillor Gethin Glyn Williams as close connections of his had empty properties and second homes.
 - Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn because a close relative of his had a second home.
 - Councillor Elwyn Edwards as he was part owner of two flats above Awen Meirion, High Street, Bala.
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- Councillor Peredur Jenkins because he owned a second home.
 - Councillor Linda Morgan because a family member had a second home.

The members were of the opinion that they were prejudicial interests, and they withdrew from the meeting during the discussion on the item.

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SUBJECT

Item 9: GWYNEDD COUNCIL'S DIVERSITY DECLARATION

DECISION

To adopt the work programme to support Gwynedd Council's Diversity Declaration.

THE RESULT OF THE VOTE

In favour	50
Against	0
Abstentions	3

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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SUBJECT

Item 10: LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021 - ARRANGEMENTS FOR FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS

DECISION

- **To adopt the arrangements for future Council meetings in accordance with the principles set out in paragraph 9 of the report to Council, with meetings of the Full Council, Planning Committee and scrutiny committees to be held from a location (hybrid) with the remainder remaining virtual meetings.**
 - **Confirm the responsibility of implementing a start date to the Head of Democracy Services in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, Chair of Democracy Services Committee and Council Chair, following the lifting of the current restrictions.**
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THE RESULT OF THE VOTE

In favour	40
Against	2
Abstentions	5

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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SUBJECT

Item 11: LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021 -GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

DECISION

- **Note the changes to the Constitution made by the Monitoring Officer in Appendix 1 of the report.**
 - **Confirm the recommendation of the Governance and Audit Committee to set the total membership of the Governance and Audit Committee at 12 elected members and 6 Lay Members for May 2022.**
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THE RESULT OF THE VOTE

In favour	36
Against	2
Abstentions	6

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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SUBJECT

Item 12: APPOINTMENT OF NEW SECTION 151 OFFICER

DECISION

That the Council confirms Dewi Aeron Morgan, as prospective holder of the post of the Council's Head of Finance, as the new Section 151 Officer for the Authority from 1 January 2022, in accordance with the requirements of Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.

THE RESULT OF THE VOTE

In favour	46
Against	0
Abstentions	0

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS

Dewi Morgan (Assistant Head of Revenue and Risk) - because the decision confirms his appointment, as prospective holder of the Post of the Council's Head of Finance, as the new Section 151 Officer for the Authority from 1 January 2022, in accordance with the requirements of Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.

He was of the opinion that it was a prejudicial interest, and he withdrew from the meeting during the discussion on the item.

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SUBJECT

Item 13(A): NOTICE OF MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR GETHIN GLYN WILLIAMS

DECISION

To adopt the motion, namely:

Over the centuries the lands and resources of Wales have been used for extraction of all manner of commodities for the benefit of others.

The latest 'commodity' being seized upon from our landscape is the potential in carbon, as investment companies from outside Wales are purchasing farms, gaining large Glastir Woodland Creation (GWC) grants and using the land for afforestation to offset their carbon emissions.

The Council calls on the Welsh Government to:

- Urgently amend the eligibility of their Glastir (GWC) grant so that only active farmers in Wales are able to apply.
- Introduce planning development legislation to enable local planning authorities such as Gwynedd to control afforestation projects.

It is vital the Welsh Government moves to protect Wales' rural environment and resources for the benefit of a new Green circular economy and to strengthen Welsh industries, communities and services.

THE RESULT OF THE VOTE

In favour	45
Against	0
Abstentions	0

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

