

# **Y FELINHELI COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Y Felinheli is a coastal village, located on the Menai Strait between Caernarfon and Bangor in Gwynedd. Historically the village origin is the merging of two hamlets, Aberpwll, where the Heilyn River meets the strait and Tafarnygrisiau, the area around St. Mary's Church. The village name came into being due to the Mill (Felin) on the mouth of the river Heilyn.

With the coming of the slate industry, Lord Assheton-Smith changed it to Port Dinorwic, the name was changed to its original name by the Community Council following the closure of the quarry.

The population of Y Felinheli is 2330 (Census 2021) with 78.6 % of people 3+ years old having one or more Welsh language skills.

In accordance with The Local Government and Elections Act 2021 Community Councils are required to provide an annual report as soon as reasonably practical following the end of the financial year.

This is the first annual report for Y Felinheli Community Council, and it aims to show that the Council plays an important role within the community to making it a pleasant place for its residents to live by contributing to its economic, social, environmental, and cultural wellbeing.

### **2.0 COUNCIL**

In May 2022, local elections were held in Gwynedd which included Community Council elections; however, no election was held in Y Felinheli and 8 Councillors returned leaving the Council with 5 vacant seats. Following a recruiting campaign at the Gŵyl y Felin we were able to recruit the required 5. Unfortunately, during the year two councillors have resigned. The following are in office at the end of the year.

Councillor Iwan Huws (Chairman)  
Councillor Eifion Williams (Vice Chairman)  
Councillor Daniel Williams  
Councillor Emyr Gareth  
Councillor Llŷr Evans  
Councillor Cynog Prys  
Councillor Dafydd Huws  
Councillor Nel Huws  
Councillor Meleri Jones  
Councillor Elenid Glyn  
Councillor Eleri Wyn Thomas

There are at present two vacant seat and it is hoped that a further recruiting campaign can take place at the Gŵyl y Felin in July 2023 to try and fill the vacancies.

The Council has four working committees:

- Finance, employment, policies, and website
- Assets
- Public footpaths, Lon Las, and Highways
- Memorial Hall and Clock

The Councillors are members of two of the above committees.

The Community Council has one Clerk/Financial Officer Heather Jones who can be contacted via email [clercfelinheli@aol.com](mailto:clercfelinheli@aol.com) or by phone 07867 982518.

The Community Council also employs a Caretaker for the Memorial Hall, contact with the caretaker is via the Clerk.

### **3.0 FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

Income and expenditure in the financial year which ended on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2023 was as follows:

Balance brought forward from 2021-2021	36768.40	
Income from local taxation	46000.00	
Other income	14534.11	
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>97302.51</b>	
Staff Costs	13215.18	
Payments	55219.22	
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>68434.40</b>	
<b>Balance to carry forward</b>	<b>to 2023-2024</b>	<b>28868.11</b>

The accounts will be submitted to Gwynedd council for internal auditing purposes before being submitted to Audit Wales for an external audit. The accounts are regarded as "not yet audited".

### **4.0 RELATIONSHIP WITH GWYNEDD COUNCIL**

Felinheli is in the same ward as Bethel and the ward is represented by two Councillors, Ms Sasha Williams and Iwan Huws, who is also the chair for the Community Council. Councillor Sasha Williams will participate in the Council Meetings by invitation only. The Community Council will be

updated on Gwynedd Council matters by Councillor Iwan Huws if appropriate.

## **5.0 COMPLAINTS**

No complaints on the work of the Community Council were received during the year.

## **6.0 INDUCTION TRAINING**

The Council has its own induction training program that is delivered by a long-standing councillor and the Clerk. The new co-opted Councillors were provided with an induction within three months of their co-option. Part of the induction is providing an explanation on the Code of Conduct which is provided to them at their signing of the acceptance of the role of councillor pro-forma at their first meeting.

## **7.0 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

During the year approximately 23 planning applications were received for consideration.

## **8.0 BEACH ROAD PLAYING FIELD**

The Council project of installing new equipment for older children of primary school age at the playing field was finally completed. The project has not been without its challenges, but this is now behind us and evidence suggests that the new equipment is to the children's liking.

The Council is at present working in partnership with Bwyd Bendigedig and Gwynedd Council to install a picnic table within the playing field that is accessible for people using wheelchairs, it is expected that this project will be completed in 2023.

## **9.0 GRASS CUTTING**

The Community Council has a contract with Gwynedd Council to ensure that the grass verges and green spaces are kept neat with grass cutting being carried out 6 times during the growing season. The grass is also collected.

## **10.0 PUBLIC TOILETS**

The Community Council ensures that the public toilets remain open in the village by participating in the scheme with Gwynedd Council by which it pays £4000 annually. During the year a new life buoy was installed on the side of the building, this is in addition to the Deliberator which the Community Council is responsible for.

## **11.0 ASSETS**

The Community Council is responsible for the following assets:

The Memorial Hall  
Memorial Clock

Bench near the primary school  
 Bench near Carreg Goch  
 Bench near Stepiâu Cei  
 Car park to the rear of Bangor Street  
 Moriah Site  
 Bus Shelter Ger y Nant  
 Bus Shelter by the old Menai Garage Site  
 Bus Shelter Halfway – Bangor Side  
 Bus Shelter Halfway – Caernarfon Side  
 Bus Shelter adjacent to Menai Court  
 Bus Shelter Aberpwll – Bangor Side  
 Bus Shelter Aberpwll – Caernarfon Side  
 Bus Shelter adjacent to Cerrig yr Afon  
 Bus Shelter near to Cerrig yr Afon  
 Bus Shelter near the Church Caernarfon Road  
 Bus Shelter adjacent to the Spar  
 Bus Shelter Y Wern  
 Old BT Kiosk Beach Road  
 Community Cemetery  
 ITC equipment

## **12.0 MEMORIAL HALL**

Following the end of the pandemic restrictions it was a pleasure to see the Memorial Hall being used once again. The Hall at present is being used by the Felinheli Badminton Club, Guides and Brownies, Dance Classes, and the Bowling Club. During the year the Hall has been used for children's and adult's birthday parties. The Remembrance Service was held prior the concluding of the service by the Memorial Clock. The Service was conducted by the Reverend Jeffrey Hughes assisted by the Clerk and Councillor Dan Williams.

It was also a pleasure to welcome back the Christmas activities by Gŵyl y Felin and the Felinheli Ysgol Gynradd.

## **13.0 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Annually the Community Council considers application for financial assistance from groups and societies within the village and in 2022-2023 the following received monies for their contribution to the welfare of the community residents and beyond.

Part of the Councils Standing Orders is that the Church Cemetery receives £500 annually for the upkeep of the Church Cemetery.

Y Goraid	£200
Cyfeillion yr Ysgol	£1100
CPD Y Felinheli	£300
CPD Ieuenctid y Felinheli	£2000
PARCH	£500

Gŵyl y Felin	£1000
Pwyllgor Regatta	£500
CIC Bethania	£150
Rainbows	£50
Guides	£200
Brownies	£200
Pwyllgor yr Eisteddfod	£250
Bwyd Bendigedig	£500

#### **14.0 CEMETERY**

The Cemetery received good maintenance throughout the growing season with monthly grass cuts. The Council at its March meeting decided that the fees needed to be reconsidered as they were last considered in 2019. From May the 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 the following charges will be in being.

##### **Plot and Burial**

Residents - £300

Others £550

##### **Reopening of Grave**

Residents - £150

Others- £250

##### **Cremation plot and burial**

Local Resident - £200

Others - £450

##### **Reopening of cremation plot**

Local Resident - £100

Others - £200

##### **Right to erect a headstone**

Residents - £150

Others- £150

Research fee - £75

#### **15.0 MORIAH SITE**

The Community Council is aware of the sorry sight that the Moriah site is in at present and the Council's project for this year is to make some repairs and re-plant the area. Work is expected to commence in early April.

#### **16.0 PUBLIC FOOTPATHS**

The Community Council inspects the Public Footpaths within the village annually. The Council also ensures that they are accessible by receiving maintenance twice within the growing season, a third cut will be carried out on the public footpaths if necessary, following the annual inspection.

#### **17.0 CONCLUSION**

The Council meetings are open to public participation, this can be done either in person or remotely. Persons wishing to participate in any of the monthly meetings which occur on the second Tuesday of each month except for August at 7 p.m. can do so by an open invitation but do let the Clerk know. Persons wishing to participate remotely can do so by requesting a link from the Clerk.

All the minutes and financial reports of the meetings can be found on the Community Council's website <https://www.felinheli.org>