

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**TALSARNAU**  
**COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**2025/2026**

## **A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN – CLLR. LISA BIRKS**

As Chair of the Talsarnau Community Council for the past two years, it gives me great pleasure to present the Council's fourth annual report to you. This report gives you an insight to the work that has been undertaken in 2025/26 and how we are working as a Council with the community which stretches from Ynys to Llandecwyn with various partners to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being to make the community an even better place to live and visit. Talsarnau is fairly a small village in itself and the vision we have as Members of the Council is to make sure that the village and the surrounding area continues to be a pleasant and welcoming place for people of all ages to live because they will feel safe, have opportunities to be physically and mentally healthy and to socialise and work in a quality environment. Talsarnau and the surrounding area is a place which welcomes and lives with them easily. The aim of this report is to give a taste of the work of the Community Council during the last year and how the Council promotes life for residents of all ages, business owners, societies and visitors to the village. We acknowledge that this has not been easy in a challenging environment for everyone and we try our best and are committed to work together with the community to achieve the vision. Although there are plenty of challenges for us as a Community Council, we have managed to carry out a number of exciting projects during the last year and the aim is to succeed to achieve more exciting projects during this coming year . It is a privilege to be Chair of the Community Council.

## **Membership**

Cllr. Lisa Birks (Chairman)

Cllr. Dewi Tudur Lewis (Vice Chairman)

Cllr. Sian Mai Ephraim

Cllr. Ann Jones

Cllr. John Richards (retired January 2026)

Cllr. Owen Lloyd Roberts

Cllr. Margaret Roberts

Cllr. Eifion Williams

Cllr. Eluned Williams

Cllr. Ffion Williams

Two Councillors represent the area on Gwynedd Council namely Cllr. Annwen Hughes and Cllr. Gwynfor Owen.

In January Cllr. John Richards retired as a Member of the Community Council and because there was no election going to be held the Council are still in the process of co-opting a new Member to the Council.

## **Staff**

The Council has one member of staff, Annwen Hughes, who is the Clerk and Finance Officer. She works part-time. The Clerk may be contacted by e-mail [annwen@btconnect.com](mailto:annwen@btconnect.com), letter to Crafnant, Llanbedr, Gwynedd LL45 2PH or phone 01341241613/07919582741.

## **Meetings**

Normal meetings of the Council are held every other month except for August at the village hall in Talsarnau on the third Monday of the month.

## **Website**

By now the Council has it's own website and information about the Community Council including agenda for meetings, policies and news is available on the Community Council's website

[www.cyngortalsarnau.co.uk](http://www.cyngortalsarnau.co.uk)

## **EXTERNAL MEMBERSHIP**

The Community Council is a member of One Voice Wales, which is the main representative body for Community and Town councils in Wales. The Community Council elect Members to other external bodies i.e village hall committee and Talsarnau Primary School Governing Body which is part of the Afon Dwyryd Governing Body Federation.

## **ACCOUNTABILITY**

The Community Council has adopted a Member's Code of Conduct and a register of interests is kept for each member. Each Councillor has to declare any interest they have in items to be discussed at the start of each meeting and these are noted in the minutes. The Community Council is audited by internal and external auditors annually. The internal audit is undertaken by the Audit Department of Gwynedd Council and the External Audit by the Wales Audit Office.

## **FINANCE AND EXPENDITURE**

The Community Council sets a budget annually and monitors expenditure against budget throughout the financial year by receiving a regular report from the Clerk. The main source of income for the Community Council is the precept which is set annually and presented to Gwynedd Council in January for the following financial year. The precept is collected on behalf of the Community Council by Gwynedd Council and is the only source of tax revenue available to Town and Community Councils. The process of deciding on the level of precept includes the preparation of a draft budget on the basis of the financial situation of the Community Council by considering the likely

costs, plans for projects, setting an amount for contributions - within the guidelines published annually - and any other financial matters. Consideration is also given to the reserves held by the Community Council to ensure an appropriate precept is set. The level of precept was raised from £22,000 to £34,000 for 2025/26.

Income & Expenditure 2025/26	Income £	Expenditure £
Bank Interest	393.90	
Precept	34,000.00	
Cemetery Income	247.00	
Capel y Graig Garage Rent	300.00	
V.A.T reimbursement	1,392.00	
Reimbursement Footpaths Cutting	479.95	
Mantell Gwynedd Grant	6,015.00	
Gwynedd Ni Grant	4,664.00	
Cut Grass on Footpaths		825.00
Cut Grass in Cemetery		2,220.00
Cemetery Expenditure		150.00
Install new fence in Llandecwyn cemetery		1,105.00
Up Keep of Gardd y Rhiw		400.00
Petrol to cut play park and car park grass		80.00
Purchase and empty bin in playing field		350.38
“Wet Pour” by two entrances to the playing field		7,218.00
New benches by Cilfor junction		4,620.00
Sign on the new benches		52.80
Clerk’s Wages		1,903.90
Clerk’s Costs for the year		526.57
Office Costs		500.00
Tax on Clerk’s Wages		475.80
P.A.Y.E on line		228.00
Hire of meeting room		210.00
Councillors’ Allowance		780.00

Donations	900.00
Village Hall Committee	2,000.00
Council's Insurance	1,116.76
Membership One Voice Wales	147.00
Inspection of play equipment	360.00
Internal Auditor 2024/25	408.00
External Auditor 2021/22	200.00
New pads for the defibs	147.60
Sunderies	40.00
Bank Charges	38.00
	£47,491.85
	£27,002.81

## **BUDGET**

The Council's budget is £34,000 and is earmarked as follows:-

The Council is responsible for cutting the grass of various public footpaths in the area at least twice a year and also is responsible for cutting the grass and look after the cemeteries that is near Llanfihangel y Traethau Church and Llandecwyn Church. Also the Council pays for the upkeep of Gardd y Rhiw. The cost of carrying out this work during this financial year was £3,445.

Donates to various various organizations in the area annually and has donated £200 to Meirionnydd YFC, £200 to the Purple Plaque Fund in memory of Gwyneth Vaughan. £2,000 is donated annually to keep the Village Hall as the Community Council is Trustees and because the Talsarnau Cylch Meithrin has closed the Council does not donate to them anymore. The donation to the Village Hall is included in the Council's precept.

This year the Council have completed the work of laying down “wet pour” at the two entrances of the play park that they have developed some years ago now as this stops the entrances getting muddy and getting the children’s shoes wet when they are playing there. Because this work has been done more use is made of the play park. A grant was had from Mantell Gwynedd of £6,015 towards carrying out this work.

Also the Council has obtained a grant from the Gwynedd NI fund of £4,644 to carry out the work of installing new benches together with two flower planters by the Cilfor junction and also the Council are in the process of installing a new noticeboard in this location. The two benches that were previously at this location have been renovated by Hochtief and reinstalled in new locations in the area.

## **Council work and responsibilities**

### **Property management**

1 play park that is known as “Cae Gwynfor John”

Llanfihangel y Traethau Church Cemetery

Llandecwyn Church Cemetery

The Public Footpaths

Gardd y Rhiw

Bus shelters in the area

Public Seats

Notice Boards

## **Administration**

Gwynedd Council appointed as Internal Auditors 2025/26

Allowances – review six Councillors claimed allowances of £156

Council website

Keep a risk assessment.

Keeping a record of interest