

# Petitions Committee

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Meeting Venue: **Committee Room 1 – Senedd**

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Meeting date: **Tuesday, 24 September 2013**

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Meeting time: **09:00 – 10:40**

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Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru

National  
Assembly for  
Wales



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## Concise Minutes:

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Assembly Members:

**William Powell (Chair)**  
**Russell George**  
**Bethan Jenkins**  
**Joyce Watson**

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Witnesses:

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Committee Staff:

**Steve George (Clerk)**  
**Kayleigh Driscoll (Deputy Clerk)**  
**Kath Thomas (Deputy Clerk)**  
**Helen Roberts (Legal Advisor)**

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## 1 Introduction, apologies and substitutions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Committee. Steve George was welcomed as the new Clerk to the Committee and Kath Thomas as an additional member of the Clerking team. There were no apologies.

## 2 New petitions

### 2.1P-04-496 Through Schools

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to write to the Minister for Education and Skills seeking his views on the petition.

### 2.2P-04-497 National Graduate Housing Scheme

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to;

- write to the Minister for Housing and Regeneration seeking his views on the petition; and
- seek further clarification from the Petitioner on the aims of the petition.

### **2.3P-04-498 To get Wales educated**

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to write to the Minister for Education and Skills seeking his views on the petition.

### **2.4P-04-499 Kick Start The Welsh Language Curriculum**

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to write to the Minister for Education and Skills seeking his views on the petition.

### **2.5P-04-500 Call For Regulation of Animal Welfare Establishments in Wales**

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to;

- write to the Minister for Natural Resources and Food seeking his views on the petition;
- seek further clarification from the petitioner on the aims of the petition; and
- circulate a note on the legal advice given in Committee.

### **2.6P-04-501 Day Centres for the elderly in Wales to be made statutory**

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to write to the Minister for Health and Social Services seeking his views on the petition.

### **2.7P-04-502 Wellbeing Centre for Wales**

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to write to the Minister for Health and Social Services seeking his views on the petition.

### **2.8P-04-503 Regeneration of Ton and Pentre**

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to write to the Minister for Housing and Regeneration seeking his views on the petition.

## **3 Updates to previous petitions**

### **3.1P-03-240 Road safety on the A40 in Llanddewi Velfrey**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to note the Minister's response and ask her to keep the Committee up to date with a timeframe for consideration and any further developments on the issues raised in the petitioners' comments.

### **3.2P-04-363 Town Centre Improvement Scheme for Fishguard**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to write to SWWITCH copying in Pembrokeshire County Council asking them to;

- monitor the position and let the Committee know of any developments nearer the new financial year; and
- consider how the scheme could be brought more fully within the criteria the Vibrant and Viable Places Scheme.

### **3.3P-04-406 Against Proposed MCZ zones in North Wales**

### **3.4P-04-411 Petition Against Marine Conservation Zones in Pembrokeshire**

### **3.5P-04-415 Support for Designation of Highly Protected Marine Conservation Zones**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to close P-04-406 and P-04-411 in light of the Minister's recent statement; but keep P-04-415 open until Members have had a chance to consider recent correspondence provided by the petitioner.

### **3.6P-04-426 Introduce a mandatory 40mph speed limit on the A487 at Blaenporth Ceredigion**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to close the petition in light of the Minister's positive response to implement a 40 mph speed limit.

### **3.7P-04-435 Wales & Border Railways Franchise 2018 to be Operated on a Not-for-Dividend Basis**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to close the petition in light of the Minister's agreement to include the petitioner in future consultations.

### **3.8P-04-486 Act Now and Help Save the High Street Shops**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to;

- take oral evidence on the petition;
- request a research brief on the current approach elsewhere in the UK particularly in Scotland;
- attend a site visit in due course;
- circulate to Members a copy of the Enterprise and Business Committee's report on the Regeneration of Town Centres;
- notify the Cross Party Group on Small Shops about the petition; and
- write to the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport asking when the task and finish group will be providing a full analysis on Business Rates.

### **3.9P-04-343 Prevent the destruction of amenities on common land – Anglesey**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to;

- invite the petitioners to speak to the Committee at its proposed meeting in North Wales in November; and
- circulate a note on the legal advice given in Committee.

### **3.10 P-04-399 Slaughter Practices**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to await the Statutory Instrument implementing the new EC regulations and return to the matter once this has been introduced.

### **3.11 P-04-433 CCTV in Slaughterhouses**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to await a further update from the Minister.

### **3.12 P-04-439 Ancient veteran and heritage trees of Wales to be given greater protection**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to;

- consider the matter further following the Committee's visit to a woodland near Gregynog during its autumn outreach programme; and
- await publication of the draft Planning (Wales) Bill.

### **3.13 P-04-465 Save Welsh Milk, its infrastructure & its jobs**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to close the petition in light of the company going into administration.

### **3.14 P-04-366 Closure of Aberystwyth Day Centre**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to close the petition as the issues concerned are now essentially an operational matter for the local council.

### **3.15 P-04-440 Say NO to Asset Stripping Bronllys Hospital**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to await the Business case for the Health Board's preferred vision, which the Chief Executive has agreed to provide to the Committee when available.

### **3.16 P-04-456 Dementia – This Could Happen to you**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to

- seek the petitioner's views on the Ministerial correspondence; and
- await the consultation on the review of the framework.

### **3.17 P-04-463 Reduction of Salt Levels in Food**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to offer the petitioner a further opportunity to see if he is satisfied with the Minister's response.

### **3.18 P-04-466 Medical Emergency – Preventing the introduction of a poorer Health Service for North Wales**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to invite the petitioners to speak to the Committee along with the petitioners for P-04-476 at its proposed meeting in North Wales in November.

### **3.19 P-04-479 Tywyn Memorial Hospital X-ray & Minor Injuries Unit Petition**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to invite the petitioners to speak to the Committee along with the petitioners for P-04-466 at its proposed meeting in North Wales in November.

### **3.20 P-04-492 Diagnosis of autism in children**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to write to the Deputy Minister asking her to provide an update on the position, six months after the implementation of the action plan.

### **3.21 P-04-419 Wind Farm Moratorium**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to;

- ask the petitioner to forward a copy of the Chief Executive of Natural Resources Wales' response to his letter in due course; and
- seek further information from the Minister on the new information presented by the petitioner.

### **3.22 P-04-423 Brooklands Nursing Home**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to await the views of the petitioner on the latest position as outlined by the Council.

### **3.23 P-04-493 Moratorium on Local Development Plans (LDPs)**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to close the petition in light of the Welsh Government ruling out the approach the petitioner is seeking.

### **3.24 P-04-436 Government Expenditure and Revenue Wales**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to ask the Minister to respond to the further points raised by the petitioner.

### **3.25 P-04-441 Gwaith i Gymru – Work for Wales**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to await the views of the petitioner and Colegau Cymru.

### **3.26 P-04-488 The right to decide: an end to the compulsory study of Welsh to GCSE**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to await the publication of the review into the teaching of Welsh as a second language at KS 3 and 4.

### **3.27 P-04-447 Campaign for Statue of Henry VII in Pembroke**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to seek responses from Pembroke Castle Trust and Pembroke Town Council.

### **3.28 P-04-476 Restructuring in National Museum Wales**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to;

- await the views of the petitioners on the correspondence from the Minister and the National Museum Wales; and
- seek a further update from the National Museum Wales.

### **3.29 P-04-397 Living Wage**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to seek more information, as requested, on the Welsh Government Advisory Group on the living wage.

## **4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the following business:**

The motion was agreed.

## **5 P-03-262 Academi Heddwch Cymru / Wales Peace Institute: Draft report**

The draft report was agreed.