St Asaph City Council Full Council Meeting 8th April 2026

Please note:

1. All Full Council and Committee minutes are published on the City Council website once they have been approved by the Council or relevant committee. A summary of decisions will be published on the website within seven working days of the meeting.
2. For planning applications, please visit the Denbighshire County Council planning portal to view the application and documents. https://developments.denbighshire.gov.uk/planning/index.html?fa=search&language=en
3. Papers will be redacted to ensure that personal or confidential items are not disclosed.

Agenda Items:

15) Correspondence

a)

Good morning,

In 2013 St Asaph City Council commissioned HistoryPoints to provide QR codes at numerous sites along with corresponding web pages on the HistoryPoints.org website. The QR code at each site enabled residents and visitors to receive on-the-spot history of each place or object on their smartphones, and/or to discover the information when browsing the internet at home.

The city council had a grant from Cadwyn Clwyd to provide the QR codes and blue plaques at various sites.

In the intervening 13 years, we have replaced (at our own cost) QR codes as and when the originals needed updating or had gone missing. These included the QR codes for the cathedral, Bible translators' memorial, the Song School, the old sluice gate, the Dean's Library, Dic Aberdaron's grave, the black poplars and the Elwy riverbank.

I checked the QR-code locations last weekend and noticed that quite a few of the original QR codes are now badly faded and some are missing. We would like to reprint these, to ensure that access to the information remains available.

Would the city council be happy to make a small donation please towards the costs of producing the new QR codes and maintaining the information on the website?

One location where the original QR code is missing is the HM Stanley memorial sculpture. I suggest that we place the new QR code on the nearby flower planter. Please confirm that this would be acceptable.

b)

This is excellent news, thank you very much. Please give our thanks to the City council for their generous donation. We will be sure to credit them when publicising our events.

Many thanks,

c)

Good afternoon

Thank you very much for your email and confirmation letter. Delighted that the festival has been awarded a grant of £1000 this year, wonderful news. Please pass on our thanks to all at the City Council for their support.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Many thanks and best wishes,

e)

Dear XXXXXX

I'd like to thank you and XXXXXX for submitting this petition on behalf of all the people who took the trouble to sign it. It is clear from the number of signatories that this is an important issue for many people, both in the local community and further afield. This reinforces the view that we had already formed by undertaking engagement and consultation with local residents and stakeholders.

I need to make it clear that the Council always wanted to re-build Pont Llannerch. That is why we spent such a long time, and invested considerable money, looking for a design that was possible to build without creating a risk to the aquifer which supplies water for around 85,000 homes. Designing a replacement bridge was never the problem, but constructing a durable replacement bridge without creating a risk of compromising the aquifer was the problem. I must stress that a large team of very experienced engineers explored many design and construction options in order to try to find a suitable option that would not present a risk to the aquifer. However, despite all reasonable efforts, no design solution was found that removed the risk to the aquifer.

The Detailed Design Stage concluded that it was not possible to construct a new bridge without the required foundations penetrating the weathered section of sandstone containing the freshwater aquifer. The likelihood of construction causing a fissure and compromising the assets cannot be known with any certainty. However, what is known, is that the impact if this was to occur would be very high indeed. Dwr Cymru / Welsh Water have stated that drilling into the aquifer would ultimately create

a pathway for the risk of water supply contamination, and that compromising the aquifer local to the abstraction point could lead to several factors related to risk and safeguarding for their customers. An introduction of significant risk associated to the water supply has the potential to introduce a public health risk with wide reaching consequences.

DCWW have also stated that, should the risk come to fruition, rectifying an issue created by drilling into the ground will not be straight forward and it would be extremely costly to resolve. In fact, DCWW have stated that it may not even be feasible to repair it if we were to drill a physical pathway into the aquifer. For these reasons, Dwr Cymru / Welsh Water have assessed construction of the bridge to be a high-risk activity.

Furthermore, the view of our Insurance & Risk Manager (who has had discussions with insurers) is that it would not be possible to obtain a policy to insure DCC against the risk of compromising these Dwr Cymru / Welsh Water assets. That is why, having considered all the evidence, our Cabinet reluctantly decided on 27th May 2025, to support the conclusions of our Partnerships Scrutiny Committee, and to end the project aiming to replace Pont Llanerch.

The Leader and I met with Councillors James Elson and Chris Evans on 14th October to discuss the decision to end the project to re-build the bridge. In that meeting, Councillors Elson and Evans both agreed that the bridge that had been designed could not be built due to the technical advice that clearly highlighted the risk to the aquifer and the supply of water for around 85,000 properties in North Wales. However, Councillors Elson and Evans made it clear to us that they were working on an alternative proposal for a bridge that they believed could be built without presenting a risk to the aquifer. The Leader and I agreed at the meeting that the Council would consider that proposal once it had been submitted by Councillors Elson and Evans. I can confirm that this offer remains on the table, and I look forward to receiving the technical details relating that proposal from Councillors Elson and Evans.

Kind Regards

Cyng/Cllr Barry Mellor

f)

Hi Jill

As promised, here are the photographs from the prestation of XXXXXXXX's voucher and certificate.

He was really happy to receive the gift as a token of thanks from St Asaph City Council. He loves his job, takes it very seriously and is grateful for the recognition of his long standing service from you all.