

CYNGOR CYMUNED GORSLAS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Gorslas Community Council held at Ysgol Gorslas C.P. School on Wednesday, 28th September, 2016, at 7.00.p.m.

80.0. Item 1: Record of those Present/Apologies

- **Members Present:** Cllrs: Wyn Edwards (Chair), Huw Davies (Vice Chair), Terry Davies, Darren Price, Nia Lewis, Tina Jukes, Simon Martin, Terry Jones, Brian Kirby, Gavin Griffiths, Ellis Davies, Anthony Rees and Aled Owen.
- **Others:** Simon Davies, Andrew Tidy, Sara Griffiths, Carmarthenshire County Council, and Llew Thomas Clerk to the Community Council.
- Apologies for absence: Cllr Clive Green.

80.1. Welcome

- The Chair introduced the three officers from the County Council and welcomed them, and the members of the Council to the meeting.

81.0. Item 2 Declaration of Interest.

- Cllrs T Davies and D Price declared a personal, but not prejudicial, interest as members of Carmarthenshire County Council and could therefore participate fully in proceedings.
- Cllrs T Davies, Ellis Davies, Janice Price, Huw Davies and Gavin Griffiths declared an interest as Governors of Gorslas C.P. School. It was noted that an exemption had been approved by the County Council in respect of a school Governor being able to speak on school related matters as detailed in the schedule 2 of the application.
- Cllr N Lewis indicated that it could be considered that she had a personal interest in the matter due to the property interests of close family members in the areas adjacent to the park. Following discussion, and the provision of further information, it was not considered that it was correct to declare a personal interest but that the interest was not prejudicial. Cllr Lewis could therefore participate in the proceedings.

82.0. Item 3 Exclusion of Press and Public.

- It was proposed by Cllr W. Edwards and seconded by Cllr T Davies that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and the public be excluded from the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.'
- **Resolved:** The motion being agreed unanimously.

83.0 Item 4 Minutes

- It was noted that the minutes in respect of the meeting of the Council held on the 12th September, 2016, would be considered at the October meeting.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

84.0 Consider County Council Proposal relating to land at Gorslas Park.

84.1 Background

- Mr Simon Davies, Carmarthenshire's School Modernisation Manager outlined for members the details which led the County Council to the conclusion that there was an urgent need to replace the existing Gorslas CP school buildings.

- The main the issues related to the shortfall between current provision and those necessary to deliver the modern curriculum, the consistent and evidential growth in pupil numbers over a sustained period.
- Mr Andrew Tidy provided members with details of the alternative sites which had been considered and provided details of the reasoning which had led to the siting of the school at the Gorslas park site as being the preferred option.
- To assist the discussion Mr Tidy had prepared an initial outline drawing showing the location, extent and infrastructure for the proposed school.
- Members noted and enquired as to the location and availability of community facilities within the grounds of the new school. Mr Tidy highlighted the relevant areas on the sketch plan but stressed that the department would be prepared to consider any suggestions for improvements which could be beneficial for the school and community.
- It was also stated that the Education Department was keen to promote the Community Use of the school and grounds and would seek to ensure that such use was included and protected in any agreement.
- Discussion also extended to the access and egress arrangements for parents picking up or dropping off their children and the need was highlighted to ensure that the layout did not lead to vehicles backing up and parking on the school access road or Church Road.
- In response to an enquiry it was stated that the pupil capacity for the new school building had been designed to meet solely the growth in pupil numbers from within the existing Gorslas CP catchment area.
- Officers indicated that, as the scheme was being funded jointly by Welsh Government and the County Council there were several key stages which the proposal would have to go through prior to a final determination which was expected in May or June of 2017.If approval for the proposal was gained then it was anticipated that the new school would open and receive children in September 2019.
- There being no further questions the Chair thanked the Officers from the County Council for their attendance and they left the meeting at 8.00p.m.

84.2 Discussion

- Following the departure of the Officers from the County Council members proceeded to discuss and consider the impact of the proposal both for the wider community, for the users of the park , the Community Council's overall aims and objectives and alternative options for delivering those objectives.
- Resolved:
 - (i) That the Community Council support and agree in principle to the County Council's proposal that Gorslas Primary School being re-located to new buildings on the site of Gorslas Park.
 - (ii) Discussion be entered into with the County Council in relation to the detail of the proposal and on how the matter may be progressed to ensure that the benefits to all parties are maximised and their interests protected.

84.3. Item 6 Date and Location of Next Meeting.

- The next meeting of the Community Council be held at 7.00 p.m. on Monday 10th October, 2016, at Drefach C.P. School.