

CYNGOR CYMUNED GORSLAS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of the Gorslas Community Council held at CEFNEITHIN
C.P. School on Monday 11th January,2016, at 7.00.p.m.**

Present:

Cllrs: Terry Davies (Chair), Clive Green, Darren Price, Wyn Edwards (Vice Chair), Janice Price, Ellis Davies, Tina Jukes, Nia Lewis, A Rees, Aled Owen, Brian Kirby and Gavin Griffiths.

Officers: Clerk to the Council: Mr E Williams. **Observer** Mr Llew Thomas

Apologies for absence: Cllrs: S. Martin, Huw Davies and Terry Jones.

Introductory Remarks

- The meeting was called to order at 7.00 p.m.
- The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting including Mr Llew Thomas who was in attendance as an observer and who will be commencing duties as Clerk to the Council on the 2nd February, 2016.
- The Council noted its appreciation to Mr Elfryn Williams for his agreeing to remain in post until the 29th February,2016, to facilitate the handover arrangements.
- To assist in the future running of the Council it was agreed that it would be beneficial to establish a generic e-mail address for the Council and also that the contact details for the new Clerk be provided to members.

101.0 Declaration of Interest.

- Cllrs Terry Davies and Gavin Griffiths declared an interest with regard to the agenda item on planning matters.
- Neither member took part in the discussion or decisions relating to these matters.

102.0 To accept the Minutes of the last Meeting of the Council held on the 14th December, 2015.

- Mr Elfryn Williams advised that minor amendments to the minutes had been received from Cllr Green prior to the meeting and had been corrected. The revisions included a statement that the fireworks event at Gorslas had been cancelled and thus the Chair did not attend. The minutes also now recorded that the Chair had attended the Ffair Nadolig at Drefach which had not been noted previously.
- Under the direction of the Chair members proceeded to consider each page of the minutes individually for accuracy. At the end of that process it was proposed by Cllr Clive Green and seconded by Cllr Nia Lewis and agreed by all present that, subject to the amendments highlighted above, the minutes were a true and accurate record of both the proceedings and the decisions made.

103.0 Matters Arising, Update on Park and General Matters received during month.

103.01 Budget 2016/17

- The Sub-Committee is to meet on Monday 18th January,2016,to consider and make a recommendation on the budget and precept requirements. The recommendation will be considered by the Council at its meeting on the 8th February,2016.

103.02. Staffing

- Following discussions with the Chair, Cllr Wyn Edwards and Mr Elfryn Williams a Contract of Employment had been prepared, based on NALC conditions, in respect of the new post of Clerk to the Council.
- Confirmation of acceptance of the contract had been received from Mr Llew Thomas.

103.03 Gorslas Park.

- Shelter: Members were advised that during the month the shelter in the play area had been demolished for safety reasons, as requested. The table and bench seats remain.
- Damaged Equipment: Members were advised that work was in hand to address the issues identified.

103.04 Drefach Park: Boundary Fence Glyn Mair.

- Reference was made to a previous correspondence relating to a request from Mr S. Jones of Glyn Mair enquiring as to the possibility of the Council contributing to the cost of removing a section of an existing hedgerow which Mr Jones maintains forms the boundary between the park and his property, and its replacement with a fence.
- Cllr Green advised, as a matter of information, that the merits or otherwise of the possible removal of the hedgerow had been discussed by the Drefach Welfare Association however opinions were divided with no clear preference emerging. Clarification on the location and ownership of the boundary was felt important.
- **Resolved:** Following a broad based discussion and in the interests of fairness to other owners whose property also abut the park it was resolved that: -
 - (i) the Clerk write to Mary Evans, Solicitors, Carmarthen to obtain an estimate of costs for establishing the Council's obligations in this matter in relation to the boundary to the park.
 - (ii) The Clerk write to Mr S Jones to advise him of progress.

103.05 Complaints:

- Dan Yr Allt Road Drefach: A complaint had been received with regard to the state of the road which has some rather large and deep potholes.
- Banc Y Mansel: The issue of placing reflectors on the wooden posts outside Banc Y Mansel had been raised once again.
- Heol Blaenhirwaun: The area in question is just past Cwm Mawr Lodge on the right hand side when travelling towards Cross Hands and is in urgent need of cutting back as the growth is forcing pedestrians into the road to avoid being whipped in the face by the overgrowth.
- The Clerk advised that the County Council had been made aware of the issues and an response was awaited.

104.0 Urgent Local Issues

- No items arising for discussion under this heading.

105.0 Members Report

- The Chair reported that he had intended a very enjoyable and instructive meeting at Llanelli House hosted by Cymdeithas y Dynion Gorslas.

106.0 PACT Meeting

106.01 PACT.

- It was reported that no meeting had taken place in December. The next meeting was scheduled for the 28/01/16.

107.0 Parking Arrangements Cefneithin.

- Discussion also took place on a related road safety matter namely the concerns expressed over the lack of parking facilities when Council meetings are held at Cefneithin school as well as the lack of disabled friendly access to the building.
- **Resolved:** Following discussion on the possible use of alternative venues and parking arrangements it was resolved as follows: -
 - (i) that members were committed to continue to hold meetings at Cefneithin.
 - (ii) that the meetings continue to be held at the school with use being made of the additional car parking facilities available at Cefneithin Hall.
 - (iii) That the Clerk provide a schedule of the meetings and venues for the forthcoming year following confirmation of arrangements with the relevant schools.

108.0 Contingency Clerking Arrangements.

- The need to make contingency arrangements in the event of the unavoidable absence of the Clerk to the Council had been identified as part of a Risk Assessment process.
- **Resolved:** That the Clerk contact Llanddarog Community Council to ascertain the possibility of establishing a reciprocal temporary cover Clerking arrangement for Council meetings in emergency situations.

109.0 Correspondence

109.01. Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995.

- **Background:** In accordance with the regulations C.C.C. is required to inform Community Councils of the Tax Base for their area. This figure allows the Council to translate the precept requirements into the Council Tax charge for a Band D property as well as the other property bands.
- **Tax Base:** The Clerk advised that the relevant figure for Gorslas Community Council for 2016/17 is 1,810.87.
- **Return of Information:** To assist in the budgeting process, the County Council has asked that they be notified of the precept requirement for the Community Council by the 31st January, 2016, rather than 1st March, 2016, deadline allowed by legislation.
- **Precept Requirement 2016/17:** The Clerk advised that a Sub-Committee meeting had been scheduled for the 18th January, 2016 to consider the matter. The recommendation would be considered and decided upon by the full Council on the 8th February, 2016.

109.02 Welsh Government Consultation Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill

- **Background:** The objective of the Bill is to complete the programme of Local Authority mergers and set out a new and reformed legislative framework for Local

Authority democracy, accountability, performance and elements of finance. It will also establish a statutory Public Services Staff Commission.

- Details: Explanatory notes and guidance available on Welsh Government website.
- Consultation Process: To put into context how the proposals will affect community and Town Council's two events have been arranged to provide opportunity for comment and questions: -
 - Tuesday 2nd February – Liberty Stadium, Swansea. (10.30 to 13.30)
 - Thursday 4th February, 2016, Venue Cymru, Llandudno. (10.30-13.30)
 - Attendees to confirm places by the 15th January, 2016.
- Closing Date: Responses to be submitted by the 15th February, 2016.
- **Resolved:** Councillor Wyn Edwards had attended a meeting a One Voice Wales meeting recently which highlighted the importance of the proposed changes for Community Councils. He also provided an overview of the proposed timetable for implementation. Given the importance of the matter the Council resolved that: -
 - (i) An urgent report summarising the proposals be prepared by Mr Llew Thomas.

110.0 Planning

- Cllr Terry Davies and Cllr Gavin Griffiths both declared a personal interest in these matters. Accordingly, neither participated or took part in the discussion or decisions related to the applications. Cllr Gavin Griffiths left the room prior to discussion commencing and did not return to the meeting thereafter.
- The Council proceeded to consider the following applications: -

110.01 Application W33124

- Demolition Teen Challenge Building and construction of 9 dwellings and access road to land at 52 Penygroes Road.
- **Resolved:** That there was no objection to the application.

110.02 Application W33164

- Application for removal of conditions.
- **Resolved:** Following discussion it was resolved that the Clerk write seeking clarification from the Planning Department as to the basis for the inclusion of the requirements in the original planning approval and to seek clarity on the basis for considering their subsequent removal.

110.03 Welsh Government writes with regard to its Road Safety Review across the Trunk Roads in Wales.

- Following completion of the initial review in January, the Minister continued to receive correspondence regarding speed limits and road safety more broadly. As such they have updated the findings of the review. The findings are on their website www.traffic-wales.com/Trunkroadssafetyreview.aspx
- The schemes have been prioritised on an all Wales basis and the web site provides information on the earliest start dates.

110.04 CCC inform of imposition and removal of road humps at Drefach and Cefneithin.

- The road hump will be placed outside Drefach CP school and outside Cefneithin Hall.
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) Council requested that the road hump should be a platform type.
 - (ii) The clerk sends a letter of support re the Drefach proposal.
 - (iii) The communities two county councillors will contact the officers involved to get a better understanding of the Cefneithin proposals as road humps are already located outside the Hall in Cefneithin.

111.0 One Voice Wales

- An update on the issue had been provided by Cllr Wyn Edwards under item 107.02.

112.0 Payments

- Phillip Mann: Christmas Tree and installation at Gorslas = £462.00
- Jeff Tipper Hire: Litter Picking November = £260.00
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- Cllr Clive Green: Travelling Costs = £ 26.10
- Cllr Wyn Edwards: Travelling Costs = £ 67.95

113.0 Receipts

- Carmarthenshire C.C. (Final precept for 2015-16) = £ 22,483.00
- Gorslas Welfare = £ 250.00

113.01 Funding: Christmas Tree Arrangements 2016.

- An explanation of the arrangements, costs and safety issues related to the provision of Christmas Trees at the three villages was provided by the Chair.
- **Resolved:** That, at the appropriate time, the Council contact the relevant organisations in the area to ascertain their interest in establishing a co-ordinated approach to the procurement of the Christmas Tree arrangements for 2016.

114.0 Date and Location of Next Meeting.

- **Monday 8th February, 2016, at 7.00p.m. at Gorslas C.P. School.**

115.0 Closure of Meeting

- The business of the Council having been completed the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.00p.m.