

CYNGOR CYMUNED GORSLAS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Gorslas Community Council held at Gorslas C.P. School on Monday 8th February,2016, at 7.00.p.m.

Present:

Councillors: Terry Davies (Chair), Clive Green, Darren Price, Nia Lewis, A Rees, Aled Owen, Brian Kirby, S. Martin and Terry Jones.

Clerks to the Council: Mr E Williams and Llew Thomas. Hefin Jones (Translator)

Apologies for absence: Cllrs Wyn Edwards, Ellis Davies, Tina Jukes and Janice Price.

Introductory Remarks

- The meeting was called to order at 7.00 p.m.
- The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

Item 1: Declaration of Interest.

117.01 Planning.

- Cllr Terry Davies declared an interest with regard to the agenda item on planning matters and took no part in discussions or decisions relating to those items.

Item 2: To consider and accept the Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 11th January, 2016.

118.01 Resolved

- Under the direction of the Chair members proceeded to consider each individual page of the minutes in turn for accuracy.
- The Clerk was grateful to Cllr Clive Green for amendments to the format and numbering of the minutes and amendments in text of the draft minutes. The final copy of the minutes had been revised accordingly and an updated version presented to the Chair for signature.
- It was subsequently proposed by Cllr N Lewis, seconded by Cllr Clive Green and agreed by all present that, subject to the amendments highlighted above, the minutes were a true and accurate record of proceedings and decisions.

Item 3: General and Park - Previously reported items and current update.

119.01 Precept 2016/17

- In accordance with the Council's resolution the Sub-Committee had met on the 18th January,2016, to consider the matter. Their recommendation would be considered under agenda item 7.

119.02 Gorslas Park.

- Damaged Equipment.
Members were advised that replacement posts had been provided. The inclement weather had delayed the work to the rubberised matting. The contractor was also awaiting the return of the ironworks from Tumble Forge.

- Boundary Fence Glyn Mair:
A response received from Mary Evans Solicitors highlights that in essence it is a matter for Mr Jones to provide evidence to the Council in relation to any perceived liability associated with the proposed work.

To progress the matter however Cllr Clive Green had, following discussion with fellow Drefach Councillors, prepared a form of words which summarised the position and which would provide a way forward. The Clerk subsequently proceeded to read the suggested text to members. Following discussion, it was resolved that: -

- (i) The Clerk write to Mr Jones to incorporate the issues in the suggested text and to indicate that whilst it was the Council's preference that the hedge be retained Mr Jones's intention to replace the hedge with a fence was noted. The Council had decided not to object to the proposal.
- (ii) The Council would not however contribute financially towards the cost of the works.

119.03 Complaints:

- Cwmbach Road. A very useful site meeting had taken place between members and Mr John McEvoy from the County Council's Traffic Management Division. The scheme was due for completion by 31st March, 2016.
- Heol Blaenhirwaun. The scheme is out to consultation and will provide for a raised platform at the point currently being used. Clarification has been sought from the Council on the provision of red and white bollards, their location and the removal of the current road markings.
- School Crossing Patrol: Members drew attention to the fact that there was not currently a school crossing patrol at Drefach school and they were therefore anxious that the road safety measures proposed for the area be implemented as a matter of urgency.

119.04 Road Safety Measures Cefneithin.

- Members sought clarification as to the basis of the decision not to provide a platform type restriction at Cefneithin. It was indicated that the type of provision was governed by regulation and this had determined the provision at Cefneithin.

119.05 Schedule of Meetings for 2016/17

- The schedule of meetings for 2016/17 had been forwarded to members as part of the papers for the meeting. Letting applications would be submitted in the coming week.

119.06 Contingency Clerking Arrangements.

- It was anticipated that contact would be made with the new Clerk during February.

Item 4: Urgent Local Issues.

120.01. Footpath Diversion Order FP31/14 Diversion Heol Y Parc, Cross Hands.

- The concerns raised by the Council related to: -
 - (i) Lighting: the route was lit before and thus the new route should be lit.
 - (ii) Gradient: the path is steep in parts and a reduction in gradient was sought.
 - (iii) Demarcation. Clear separation between Horse riders and walkers sought.
- Summary of the response to concerns raised by Council
 - (i) Gradient: within British Standards. Present embankment accentuates steepness.
 - (ii) Lighting: No requirement in guidance for lighting. Path provides good visibility and no blind spots. Path at top of embankment would have lighting from school bus bays/playing fields and roadways. Other non-scheme parts have no lighting.
 - (iii) Demarcation: The bridleway is different in appearance to the footpath with a strip between the two providing a clear demarcation. The width of the path and bridleway is sufficient to allow the use of both without conflict.
- The Chair advised that there was no legal requirement upon the developer to provide lighting even though the scheme had removed street lighting in parts.
- The meeting was also advised that the Chair had walked the path during the hours of darkness and had noted the degree to which the path benefitted from the lighting emanating from the Ysgol Maes Y Gwendraeth bus bays.
- Members also raised concerns in relation to the provision and servicing of litter bins.

Resolved: To monitor and review the adequacy of the lighting provision.

120.02 Off Road Parking - Y Fron, Cefneithin.

- Members enquired as to the possibility of, in the future, using the area currently being used to accommodate the temporary offices of building contractors, to provide an off road parking facility together with an adjoining grassed area.
- **Resolved:** The County Councillors agreed to pursue the option with the contractor.

120.03 School Crossing Patrol Drefach. Members drew attention to and were concerned that the priority for the safety of the pupils was the provision of a school crossing patrol.

Item 5: Members Report

121.01 - There were no items for discussion under this heading.

Item 6: Cariad Defibrillators

122.01 Provision of Defibrillators

- A communication has been received from Cllr Ellis Davies in relation to the possibility of a provisional discussion as to whether or not the Council would be prepared to consider providing 3 Cariad Defibrillators- one for each village.
- To assist members, the following information was provided: -
 - (i) It is estimated that some 8,000 people in Wales have a heart attack each year outside of a hospital environment.
 - (ii) The device checks a person's heart and rhythm and shocks a person's heart rhythm and shocks the patient's heart if necessary.
 - (iii) Cariad are a registered Charity.
 - (iv) Cariad will continue to provide maintenance and training for the community defibrillator during the 7 years' warranty period. The service includes:
 - Replacing pads and batteries, following defibrillator use or pads/battery expiry.
 - Monthly safety checks.
 - Annual refresher training.
 - 24 hour call out.
- Further information was available on the Cariad website <http://www.mycariad.org>.
- Gorslas School has been presented with a defibrillator by a parent and one is also available to the public on the external wall at the entrance to Tumble Welfare Hall.
- Members discussed at length the nature of the assistance which the defibrillators provided, the training required to give individuals the confidence to use the equipment and where they could be located within the area to obtain the maximum benefit for residents. Additionally, it was noted that there may be the possibility of financial assistance from the British Heart Foundation towards the purchase costs.
- **Resolved:** That the Clerk obtain further information relating to the issues raised and invite a representative to the next meeting of the Council to demonstrate their use and facilitate progression of the matter.

Item 7: Sub Committee Report – Decide Upon Precept for 2016/17

123.01 Sub-Committee Report and Recommendation.

- In accordance with the decision of the Council the Sub -Committee met on the 18th January,2016, at Gorslas Church Hall to consider the budget plan for 2016/17 and how that impacts on the precept requirements for the 2016/17 financial year.
- The Sub-Committee had examined the budget plan carefully in respect of both income and expenditure and the impact of known commitments.

- Following consideration and discussion the sub-committee had decided to recommend to the full Council that there be a 1% increase in the Band D rate for the 2016/17 year which represents a precept of £70,099.
- A copy of the budget plan and the recommendation from the Sub-Committee had been circulated to members of the full Council with the agenda for this meeting.
- Members discussed the sub-committee's recommendation as well as the budget preparation and setting process. It was felt that the process could be improved through engaging and consulting with the community to identify their aspirations and priorities for the area with the outcome feeding into the budget setting process and also to the development of a strategic vision and plan for the area.
- **Resolved: -**
 - (i) That the Sub-Committees recommendation in relation to the setting of the precept be accepted representing an annual precept of £70,099. This would represent an increase of 1% in the band D charge.
 - (ii) That the Sub-committee meet to examine the development of a consultative model for both the budgetary and strategic planning element. Due to his expertise in the particular area of public consultation it was agreed that Mr Aled Owen would be asked to join the sub-committee in undertaking this task.

Item 8: PACT Report.

124.01 Meeting 28th January,2016 at Cross Hands Hall.

Present: 25 members of the Public. PCSO Jonathan Crayford.

Crimes last month: 16 in total, with a 25% detection rate. Location:

Pontyberem Council area	= 3 (2 in Pontyberem + 1 in Bancffosfelen)
Llanarthne Council area	= 1
Llanddarog Council area	= 1 (in Mynyddcerrig)
Llandybie Council area	= 2 (both in Penygoes)
Llannon Council area	= 7 (4 in Cross Hands + 3 in Tumble)
Gorslas Council area	= 2 (1 criminal damage to door Drefach,1 assault Cefneithin)

Issues Raised

Lack of police patrols through Cross Hands Business Park, particularly at night.

Cars parked on the pavement of Black Lion Road, Gorslas, especially near the primary school.

Many incidents of speeding along Black Lion Road, Gorslas, from the six-way junction through to Capel Hendre. It was highlighted that vehicles travelling east along Black Lion Road wishing to turn right down the new link road to Cross Hands Business Park cannot be clearly seen by vehicles travelling west from Capel Hendre. This is because of the dips in the road and the speed of vehicles.

There was a need for 30mph repeater signs along the entire length of Black Lion Road.

Vast amount of litter along the new link road and also speeding first thing in the morning and around 5-6 pm.

Diesel leaking onto the highway at the Cross Hands end of the new link road.

Agricultural vehicle (tractors, earth movers, etc.) parked awkwardly on the link road.

Problems entering and exiting KFC at Cross Hands. Vehicles travelling from Gorslas crossing double white lines to enter KFC and vehicles travelling out of KFC wishing to go east along the dual carriageway are also crossing the double white lines.

A solution of placing barrier poles into the cats eyes in the middle of the road directly outside the entrance to KFC will be raised by the police with the County Highways.

Increase in litter from the fast food outlets in Cross Hands.

Posters (A4) showing who's who in the Cross Hands Neighbourhood Policing Team are well out of date. New ones have been prepared and copies will be brought to the next PACT meeting.

Action.

Residents of Black Lion Road, Gorslas, were asked if they would be interested in establishing a Community Speedwatch. This is where volunteer members of the public work with the Police to monitor speeds of vehicles using a speed camera. As there were many expressions of support. the appropriate paperwork will be brought along to the next PACT meeting.

Next Meeting.

25 February 2016 in Cross Hands Hall.

Item 9: Correspondence

125.01 Section 137 Expenditure Limit For 2016-17

A letter had been received from Welsh Government on the 18th January,2016, advising that the appropriate sum for the purposes of section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 (the 1972 Act) for Community and Town Councils in Wales for 2016-17 is £7.42.

Section 137(1) of the 1972 Act permits a Community Council to spend on activities for which it has no other specific powers if the Council considers that the expenditure is in the interests of and will bring direct benefit to the area or any part of it or all of some of its inhabitants, providing that the benefit is commensurate with the expenditure. Community Councils are also permitted under section 137(3) to incur expenditure for certain charitable and other purposes. The maximum expenditure that can be incurred under both section 137(1) and (3) for the financial year 2016-17 will be £7.42 per elector.

For the financial year 2016-17, the appropriate sum for the purposes of section 137(4) is calculated by applying the formula $(A \times B) / C$ as set out in Schedule 12B to the 1972 Act. The Retail Price Index increased by 0.8% between September 2014 and September 2015. This means that, by application of the above formula, the maximum sum for 2016-17 increases from £7.36 to £7.42 per elector.

Resolved: That the provision be noted.

125.02 Carmarthenshire Destination Partnership 2nd February,2016

As a member of the Carmarthenshire Destination Partnership, an invitation had been received to attend the very first Partnership Forum meeting on 2nd February 2016 from 13.30pm to 16.00pm in the Ivy Bush Hotel in Carmarthen. In 2015, a Destination Management Plan (DMP) was developed for Carmarthenshire with the aim of providing clarity and purpose to growing the visitor economy, to shape policy and priorities, to steer resources and to form the basis for people, businesses and organisations to work together to achieve common goals. For Carmarthenshire to be successful it is essential that the DMP is constantly discussed with key stakeholders. It is felt that it is important to build a consensus view of the most effective way to move forward and the partnership would value the Council's help with this.

It is hoped that the Council can send a representative. A link to the DMP is provided with page 33 providing a list of the organisations who play a key role in the county's tourism industry and visitor economy, and who also have been invited to be part of the Partnership. <http://discovercarmarthenshire.com/business/destination-management-plan.html>.

Resolved: That the invitation be noted.

125.03 Proposed Site Meeting – Safety Issues, Heol Cwmbach.

- At a meeting with Officers from the County Council in 2013/14 agreement had been reached on a range of improvements to address the concerns relating to road safety.
- A recent update from the County Council advised that the scheme was to progress and be delivered by the 31st March,2016, and will include the re-alignment of the existing kerb lines to narrow the width of the entry mouth. It was noted that a central refuge was not feasible as it would be subject to damage by long vehicles.
- Mr McEvoy from the Council had invited representatives from the Council to meet on site to explain the solution on Monday 8th February,2016, at 10.00 a.m.
- The meeting advised that members from the Council had met with Mr McEvoy earlier in the day and had discussed the proposals. It had been a very useful and productive meeting and members were pleased to see the scheme progressing.

Resolved: That the position be noted.

125.04 Carmarthen Town Council St David's Parade, Saturday, 27th February,2016.

- An invitation had been received for the Council to send a representative to the first ever event of its type held by the Town Council. The event starts at 11.00a.m.
- As the individual will be representing the Council they are invited to wear their chain of office.

Resolved: That the Chair or Vice Chair attend if circumstances allow.

125.05 Lease Printer Ricoh

- The company have advised that the current lease arrangement is coming to an end. They have been asked to provide details of the options available.

Resolved: That the Clerk investigate and report on the range of suitable options.

125.06 Newsletter Dyfed Powys Police – Neighbourhood News Aman Towy.

- An electronic copy of the above newsletter had been received by the Clerk with further information being available online at www.police.uk .
- In summary the issues raised in the newsletter were: -
 - (i) Non-Emergency Issues: Campaign launched to remind the public to call 101 in such instances.
 - (ii) British Gas Scam – E-mail in circulation asking for passport and drivers licence.
 - (iii) Pontyberem – Series of incidents of vehicle damage reported in December.
 - (iv) Total number of crime and ASB incidents recorded for Amman Towy November,2015 was 240. The breakdown was as follows:-
 - Public disorder and weapons 4, Burglary 10, Shoplifting 2,
 - Anti-social behaviour 111, Criminal damage and arson 30, Robbery 0,
 - Other theft 17, Vehicle crime 4, Drugs 15, Violent crime 43, Other crime 4

125.07 Gwendraeth Group of Community Councils

- It was noted that the next meeting of the group is at 7.00p.m., on the 10th February,2016, at the Gwenllian Centre, Kidwelly.

Resolved: Cllrs Clive Green and Brian Kirby would attend on behalf of the Council.

125.08 Carmarthen Citizens Advice Bureau – Showcasing Event 09/02/16.

- The Trustees advised that the Bureau was facing a reduction in funding of £100,000 over the next three years in addition to previous budget reductions of £97,000.
- An event to show the services which the Bureau provides has been organized on the 9th February,2016 between 12p.m. and 2.00p.m. at St Peter’s Civic Hall Carmarthen on the 09/02/16. The Council was invited to send a representative.

Resolved: The Chair would attend to represent the Council.

125.09 Keep Wales Tidy - Public Service Project.

- Keep Wales Tidy have invited the Council to put forward a project which Coleg Sir Gar students (20) could undertake for a 2-week period before Easter.
- The students will have transport but there will be minimal support from Keep Wales Tidy. The project proposer will need to provide tools/materials.

Resolved: There were no current suitable schemes. The offer was noted and appreciated.

125.10 Cefneithin C.P. School -Community Governor

- The County Council has written to advise the Council that Cllr Martin’s term of office as the representative of the Community Council comes to an end on the 24th June,2016, and as such a vacancy would arise which would need to be filled.

Resolved: Following discussion that Cllr Martin be re-appointed to fill the vacancy and that the Clerk advise the County Council accordingly.

125.11 Welsh Government Consultation Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill

- As a result of correspondence received at the previous meeting members had requested a summary of the main features of the Draft Bill which were as follows: -

Background

- Summary: The Bill proposes significant changes to Local Government in Wales.
- Structure: Review includes reorganisation of County and Borough Council areas.
- Powers and Duties: A new legislative framework for democracy, accountability, performance and finance.
- Timeline: Shadow Authorities from 1st April 2019 which will become the new Councils on 1st April,2020.
- Consultation: Councils are invited to submit their views using the on-line form by the 15th February,2016.
- Equalities Impact Assessment: Little or no impact for majority of groups. Positive for young people.
- Welsh Language Assessment: Positive effect. A further assessment will take place following consultation.

Structure

- County: Two options being considered reducing the number of Councils to 8 or 9.
- County: Both would merge Carmarthenshire with Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion .
- Community: Requires the LDBCW (Boundary Commission) to review all communities within the new counties. It may merge, dissolve or create a new Community Council. Alter boundaries, the Council's names, number of members or create multiple ward members. A review can start before the 1st April,2020.
- Shadow Authorities: Established 1st April,2019
- New Authorities: Come into being on 1st April,2020.
- Assets/ Staff/Contracts/ Liabilities: Transfer to the new Authorities on 1st April,2020.

Changes in Powers/ Duties /Democracy

- General Competency: This is a major change whereby County and Community Councils will, subject to meeting specific requirements, be given a legal basis to extend their existing powers and areas of operation.
- Community Area Committees: Counties will establish such committees to ensure community interests are being considered and determine the number of members. Community Councils will be invited to nominate their own representative or may decide upon a shared representative with other Community Councils.
- Improvement Requests: Requirement for Counties to enter into discussions with certain community bodies, including Community Councils, for the purpose of improving local outcomes in relation to such requests.
- Training: Counties must consider, and arrange to meet, the training needs of community councillors who will have a legal duty to complete any compulsory training identified for them.

- Elections: Community council elections will be fixed at every five years from 2023.
- Public Access: The Minister may make regulation to allow the recording, filming or reporting of meetings of County and Community Councils. The minister may also make regulations for prohibiting such rights.
- Participation in Community Council Meetings: In a meeting which is open to the public a person must be allowed a reasonable opportunity to make representation in respect of the business being transacted unless to do so would prejudice the effective conduct of the meeting.
- Community Polls: The Bill intends to repeal the requirements relating to Community and County Councils having to bear the cost of such polls. It seeks to replace them with e polls provided by County Council.

Timelines

- Community: Elections 4th May 2017 members elected until May 2023.
- Community: Elections May 2023 onwards every 5 years
- County: Elections May 2017. Members elected for 3 years until May 2020.
- County: Elections May 2019. Members elected until May. 2023 serving on Shadow and New Councils
- County: Elections: May 2023 onwards every 5 years.

Explanatory Note – General Competency.

- Powers: Currently Councils can only do what they are given power to do by legislation. The proposed change will allow qualifying Councils to undertake activities unless a law prevents them from doing so.
- It is not necessary for activities undertaken using the general power to benefit the qualifying local authority itself, its area or residents, however, there is no restriction on the activities doing so. As such the general power can be used by the qualifying local authorities to, for example: act in their own financial interests; undertake commercial activities with or without charging; undertake activities anywhere, i.e., both in and outside of Wales
- Commercial: Prohibits a qualifying local authority from using the general power to carry out an activity for a commercial purpose, unless it is one the authority could also carry out for a non-commercial purpose.
- Competency: The Council will have to resolve that it has general competency and is satisfied it meets the following criteria will also have to satisfy the following criteria:
 - (i) At least two-thirds of its members must have been declared elected at an ordinary election or by-election, even if they stood unopposed, rather than having been co-opted.
 - (ii) The council's clerk must hold one of the professional qualifications specified by the Welsh Ministers.

- (iii) The audit condition which relates to the annual audit of the accounts of a community council.

Resolved: A response would be sent following consideration by the Sub-Committee.

Item 10.0: One Voice Wales

126.01 Sustainable/Future Wellbeing Act - Course Llanerch 16th February,2016

- The Association had written inviting the Council to send a representative.

Resolved: Interested parties to advise the Clerk by Tuesday 9th February,2016.

126.02 Subscription for 2016/17.

- A communication enquiring as to whether or not the Council wished to renew its membership for the 2016/17 year at a cost of £569 had been received.

Resolved. Following discussion to instruct the Clerk to renew membership for 2016/17.

Item 11: Planning

- Subject to the members who had expressed a personal interest in the items under discussion not participating or taking part in the discussion the Council considered the following applications: -

127.01 Application: W/33187

Application Type: Variation of Planning Condition(s)

Proposed Development: Variation of Condition 7 on W/30575 (Dwelling Type)

Location: Land adjacent to Waundeg, Heol Dinefwr, Foelgastell, SA14 7EH.

Resolved: That no objection be registered.

127.02 Application: W/33196

Application Type: Non-material Amendment

Proposed Development: Non Material Amendment: Removal of Conditions 14,15 and 16 on W/24390 9 (Code for Sustainable Homes)

Location: Land off Heol Rhosybonwen, Cefneithin, Llanelli, SA14 6TF.

Resolved: That no objection be registered.

127.03 Application W/33197

Application Type: Non-Material Amendment

Description: Non Material Amendment: Removal of Conditions 13,14 and 15 on W/24389(Code for Sustainable Homes)

Location: Land off Heol Rhosybonwen, Cefneithin, Llanelli, SA14 7LB.

Resolved: That no objection be registered.

127.04 Application: W/33230

Application Type: Outline

Description: Outline Application for residential development.

Location: Land at Penygroes Road, Gorslas, Llanelli, SA14 7LB.

Resolved: That no objection be registered.

127.05 Application: W/33164

Application Type: Removal of Planning Condition.

Description: Removal of conditions 4,5,6,10,11 and 12 on W/28946 (Code for sustainable homes and tree works)

Location: Land adjacent to 68,Heol Y Parc, Cefneithin,Llanelli,SA14 7DS.

Resolved: That no objection be registered.

127.06 Application W/33168

Application Type: Discharge of Planning Condition(s)

Description: Discharge of conditions 6&9 on W/28515 (Code Sustainable homes and parking access)

Location: Penlan Cottage, Maesybont, Llanelli, SA14 7HD.

Resolved: That no objection be registered.

127.07 Application W/33308 (Received after papers sent out)

The Clerk read out the details of the application which were as follows: -

Application Type: Full Planning

Description: Two storey extension and detached garage.

Location: 41 Heol Cwmawr, Drefach, Llanelli, SA14 7AA.

Resolved: That the matter be considered and no objection be registered.

Item 12: Finance.

128.01 Finance: Payments

- Jeff Tipper – Litter Picking at the three parks on 5 occasions £ 320.00
- Spencer Environment Grass Cutting £ 772.34
- Drefach Welfare Christmas Tree Grant £ 132.00
- Ricoh Printing £ 58.92
- Menter Cwm Gwendraeth Translation* £ 172.00

(* Additional Bills received for 2014/15 but not paid.)

128.02 Finance: Receipts

128.03 Funding: Christmas Tree Arrangements 2016.

- That the proposed options be actioned at the appropriate time.
- 5 sets of Christmas Tree lights to be purchased for the current year.

Additional Item

129.01. Retirement.

- Mr Elfryn Williams advised members that as he was due to retire from his position as Clerk to the Council at the end of February,2016. Accordingly, this would be the last full meeting of the Council which he would attend. Mr Williams stated that as someone born and bred in the area it had been a matter of great pride to him to have been able to work for the Community Council which served that area and its community. He thanked members for their assistance and co-operation over the years.
- The Chair, on behalf of the Community Council, acknowledged the invaluable service which Mr Williams had provided for the Council over a great number of years and for his commitment to the people and communities which the Council served. He conveyed members very best wishes to Mr Williams and his family for a long and happy retirement.

Item 13: Date and Location of Next Meeting.

130.01 Arrangements

- The Chair confirmed that the next meeting of the Council would be at **7.00 p.m. Monday 14th March,2016 at Drefach C.P. School.**
- The business of the Council having been duly completed the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.00. p.m.