

CYNGOR CYMUNED GORSLAS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Gorslas Community Council held at Drefach Welfare Hall, on
Monday, 14th October, 2019, at 7.00 p.m.

70.0 Agenda Item 1: Record of those Present/Apologies

- Members: Tina Butler (Chair), Simon Martin, Iestyn Llwyd (Vice Chair) Darren Price, Anthony Rees, Nia Lewis, Aled Vaughan Owen and Terry Jones.
- Others: Llew Thomas Clerk to the Council and Mr. Martin Davies, Translator.
- Apologies for absence: Cllrs Wyn Edwards, Andrew King, Clive Green, Janice Price, Linda Williams, Wynne Jones and David Evans.
- **Resolved:** To accept the apologies for absences.

70.1 General.

- The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting which was declared open at 7.00p.m.

71.0 Agenda Item 2 Declaration of Interest

- Declarations of a personal, but not prejudicial interest, were declared by Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen, as a Governor of Gorslas C.P. School in relation to agenda items relating to the school.
- Cllr Darren Price declared a personal and prejudicial interest, as Chair of the Welfare Association, in relation to the agenda item relating to the leasing of land at Cefneithin Park to the Cefneithin and Foelgastell Welfare Association.
- Cllr Terry Jones declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in the same item as a member of the Cefneithin and Foelgastell Welfare Association.
- The Clerk advised that there was a dispensation for Cllrs, who were not office holders within the Association to speak and vote on a matter related to the Association.
- Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in item relating to the agenda items relating to Gorslas Welfare Association as a member of Gorslas Welfare Association.
- The Clerk advised that there was a dispensation for Cllrs, who were not office holders within the Association to speak and vote on a matter related to the Association.
- **Resolved:** To note and record the declarations of interest from members.

72.0 Agenda Item 3. Exclusion of Press and Public.

- It was proposed by Cllr Simon Martin and seconded by Cllr Iestyn Llwyd, that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and the public be excluded from discussion relating to items 75.5 and 75.7 as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.
- **Resolved:** The motion was agreed unanimously.

73.0 Agenda Item 4. Consider the Minutes of the Previous Meetings.

- Members proceeded, under the direction of the Chair, to examine each page of the minutes of the September meeting for accuracy.

- **Resolved:** Proposed by Cllr Anthony Rees and seconded by Cllr Simon Martin, and agreed by all that the minutes be approved and confirmed as an accurate representation of the discussions and decisions made.

74.0 Agenda Item 5. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

- An update was provided for members in relation to the following matters: -

Ref	Item	Update
74.1	Members- Long Term Absence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Parks and General.
74.2	Cefneithin Hall Lease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub Cttee Meeting held with solicitor/ Association 24.09.19. See Parks and General
74.3	Cefneithin Injury Claim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referred to insurer. Details provided state injury occurred at Llyn Llech Owain Park.
74.4	Gorslas Park. Land Transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed. See Parks and General.
74.5	Future Joint Training Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awaiting revised date from C.C.C.
74.6	Remedial Work Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works Progressed
74.7	Gorslas Park- Replacement Equipment Tenders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awaiting progression.
74.8	Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awaiting development.
74.9	Gorslas Welfare Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flowerbeds. Further Info sought from C.C.C • Concern over broken noticeboard Gorslas.
74.10	Cefneithin MUGA - Rust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awaiting progression.
74.11	Parks Tree Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Parks and General
74.12	Footpaths- Morfa Melyn and Morfa Isaf.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C.C.C are progressing and seeking to establish a date for a site meeting with the landowners.
74.13	Clarification Planning Term Discharge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC advise that when planning permission is granted it may be subject to the applicant meeting specific conditions e.g. colour of roof tile. The applicant then sends in details of how they will meet that condition i.e. discharge the requirements of the condition.
74.14.	Cefneithin Treventy Bench	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works Completed.
74.15	Gorslas. Land slippage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No further communication
74.16	Cefneithin Proposed Removal Telephone Kiosk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response sent to Carns C.C.
74.17	External Auditor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for clarification on report sent.

- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided and that the issues arising from the update be considered under the relevant agenda heading.

75.0 Agenda Item 6. General and Park Matters.

75.1 Bio Diversity Policy and Report

- Members considered the draft documentation which had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- **Resolved:** To approve the draft policy and to review the policy as required.

75.2 Members Long Term Sickness Absence.

- As agreed at the September meeting of the Council the Clerk had written to Cllrs Wynne Jones and David Evans, who had not been able to attend meetings due to long term sickness, enquiring as to the possibility of their being in a position to resume duties in the near future.
- A response had been received from Cllr Wynne Jones indicating that, due to ongoing medical issues, he would be unable to resume duties and therefore wished to tender his resignation.
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) To accept the resignation of Cllr Wynne Jones with regret.
 - (ii) That, given the period of Cllr Evan's enforced absence now extended over 12 months, and with no indication of a possible date of return, to ensure equality of representation for the Cefneithin Ward the period of approved absence would not be extended further and regretfully Cllr D Evans's period of office terminate on the 31st October,2019.
 - (iii) To write thanking both members for their services
 - (iv) To begin the process of seeking new members for both positions immediately.

75.3 Transfer of land for New School at Gorslas Park.

- An update was provided for members which included the following information: -
 - (i) The Transfer of land and ownership to the County Council took place on 17/09/19
 - (ii) Copy Documentation received by Clerk. Originals and park deeds retained by UTK solicitors.
 - (iii) Refund of the costs incurred by the Community Council in commissioning an Independent Valuation Report and Publication of Notice of Intended Disposal had been received.
 - (iv) The commuted sum payment of £13,400 for future maintenance work at Gorslas Park Car Park had been received from the County Council and transferred to reserves.
 - (v) A request had been sent for a meeting, as soon as possible, with the Governing Body of Gorslas C.P. School to progress a management agreement in respect of the community facilities at the new school.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided and that the Local Member make enquiries of the Headteacher as to progressing the matter.

75.4 Transfer of Land at Gorslas Park. Lessons Learned.

- The process of donating the land and reaching agreement with the County Council had taken three years.
- As part of a review of effectiveness, and to help provide guidance to any other Community Council in a similar position, a questionnaire seeking members views on the lessons which had been learned during the process had been circulated prior to the meeting.

- **Resolved:** That the period for the return of the questionnaires be extended to coincide with the November meeting of the Council.

75.5 Lease of Land and Building at Cefneithin Park

- Sub Committee Recommendation: Based on the legal advice provided to the Sub Cttee recommendation is that the land be leased to the Welfare Association for a period to be determined by the full Council
- Cllr Darren Price addressed the meeting in his capacity as Chair of the Cefneithin and Foelgastell Welfare Association but took no further part in the discussion or decision.
- A communication had been received from the Vice Chair of the Association expressing disappointment at the recommendation the Sub Committee were making on the preferred way forward following the meeting with the Association on the 24th September,2019.
- Based on the fact the Association funded the building their preference remained that the land and building be gifted to them.
- The Council then proceeded to discuss carefully, and at length, the recommendation of the sub-committee, the legal advice provided and the implications on the Council and the community of the various options relating to the future ownership of the land.
- **Resolved:** Subject to agreement being reached on the area of land, the terms of transfer and any legal or procedural requirement that: -
 - (i) The agreed area of land and the existing building be transferred free of charge to the ownership of the Cefneithin and Foelgastell Welfare Association
 - (ii) The transfer includes a legal covenant to the effect that the land would return to the Community Council should the building and/ or land cease to be used as a community hall or that the Cefneithin and Foelgastell Welfare Association cease to exist.
 - (iii) That the legal and audit procedures relating to the transfer are satisfied and complied with.

75.6 Minor Authority School Governor Vacancy at Gorslas School Governing Body.

- CCC have advised that the Community Council's nomination for the position of Minor Authority Governor on the school's Governing Body had not been accepted.
- The Governing Body had accepted the nomination put forward by Llandybie Community Council, which also serves the school's catchment area.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

75.7 Tree Maintenance Works at the Three Parks.

- The tree risk assessment report and recommendations had been received and the trees requiring attention marked with paint markings to denote the different type of work required.
- Replanting was also proposed in respect of the trees which would be cut down.
- Tenders had been invited from 5 suitable contractors to undertake the work required.
- Anonymised information was provided to members regarding the three tender prices received.

- Members were also advised that the report had included recommendations that some of the current trees were unsuitable whilst others had been damaged by strimming and that these should be looked at in the future.
- Members attention was also drawn to a scheme, run by the Woodland Trust, whereby free trees for planting could be provide for certain organisations.
- **Resolved:** -
 - (i) Award the tree works contract to tenderer B- The Arb Team at a price of £2,200.
 - (ii) Not to award the tree re-planting contract.
 - (iii) To seek further information regarding the Woodland Trust Scheme.

75.8 Mens Sheds Association Drefach.

- Members were advised that a branch of the organisation had recently been established in Drefach and had offered their assistance to the Community Council in respect of any minor community-based works which they could undertake for the Council on a voluntary basis.
- **Resolved:** That the Council appreciated the contribution which the association would undoubtedly make to the residents of the area and that the possibility of their working on a voluntary basis on minor maintenance works which would benefit the community be examined.

75.9 Gorslas Public Conveniences. Monthly Useage

- Sept Useage: Total individuals. 328.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

75.10 Drefach. Section 106 Funds Cae Coch.

- It is understood that all properties are now occupied.
- Request sent to the County Council for an update on the section 106 position.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

76.0 Agenda Item 7 Urgent Local Matters.

76.1 Refuse Collection Heol Yr Ysgol

- Complaint received of non-collection of refuse on several occasions causing a public health issue with bags being left out for days uncollected.
- CCC advise that the arrangements had been changed to accommodate an increase in volume and lack of access at Heol Yr Ysgol due to vehicle parking.
- CCC have arranged for a Community Recycling Team member to visit Heol Yr Ysgol to explain the new arrangements.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

76.2 Drefach. Uwch Gwendraeth. Public Lighting Units Not Working.

- It was reported to the County Council that two lighting units at the site were not working.
- The County Council have responded indicating that the site had not been adopted and the residents would need to take the matter up with the developer.
- The County Councillor members advised that they had been informed by officers that the County Council were still awaiting action by the developer to complete the necessary work.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided and to accept the offer by the County Council members to seek a further update on the position.

76.3 Drefach. Footpath Mansel Arms to Quarry.

- A report had been received that wheelchair users were still experiencing difficulties in using the path as the overgrowth was growing back.
- The matter was taken up with the County Council and the pathway cleaned of overgrowth.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

76.4 Gorslas Lighting Units Not working

- Unit 711-21, 711-27 and 711-28 at Gorslas Park have been reported to C.C.C. as not working.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

76.5 Gorslas Raised Flower Beds Gorslas Square.

- The County Council have responded to the enquiry regarding the decision not to grant a licence to the Welfare Association to maintain the flowerbeds at Gorslas Square as follows: --
 - (i) The lack of guaranteed continuity of the Welfare Association formed the basis of the decision not to grant a licence.
 - (ii) A licence would be granted to the Community Council as it was a statutory body and there was therefore a guarantee of succession.
 - (iii) Notice Period for Termination of any agreement: Three months.
 - (iv) Liability Structures: For existing faults they would rest with the owner/ provider of the structure.
 - (v) Liability General: The responsibility for claims arising from works undertaken or injuries associated with the provision would rest with the licence holder.
 - (vi) Charges: There would be no charges payable to the County Council under the agreement.
 - (vii) Contact details were provided of other Authorities in the County operating under licence Request for details of their experience under such arrangements have been sought.
- A response has been sent to the County Council explaining the legal position regarding Community Councils and highlighting the expertise and ability of the Welfare Association in holding, and funding, major community events in the area.
- The Council have been asked to re-consider their decision.
- The Clerk would seek details from the other Authorities which the County Council indicated were operating similar schemes under a licence agreement.

- Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen also indicated that the possibility of including the maintenance of the flowerbeds under the “Pride in your Patch” was being pursued by the relevant Officers.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided and await a further update.

76.6 Notice Boards Gorslas

- Complaint received that due to the Perspex covering having been damaged water was entering the noticeboard.
- It was noted that the Perspex was also damaged at Cefneithin and Drefach.
- Cost were being obtained for replacement Perspex for the three noticeboards.
- **Resolved:** To note and approve the actions taken.

76.7 Wayside Seats.

- A request had been received for the Council to undertake further repairs to wayside seats up to the limit of the budget for 2019/20.
- **Resolved:** To examine the possibility of work on the seats being undertaken by the Mens Sheds voluntary association with the Community Council supplying the materials.

76.8 Maesybont Temporary Road Closure C2060 to Junction with C2222.

- Notification received from CCC that a section of the C2060 would be closed for a period of up to 21 days from the 8th October,2019, to allow BT Openreach to undertake work on the overhead cabling.
- It was reported by members that the works had entailed the cutting back of trees by BT to undertake cabling work in such a manner s to cause concern as to the future stability of the tree
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and inform the Highway Authority of the concern.

76.9 Drefach. Ash Dieback in the vicinity of the old Ysgol Y Gwendraeth site.

- Concerns were raised regarding the condition of the trees at the location which was noted had been marked with markings similar to those used to identify work on trees within the Community Council’s parks.
- The County Councillors advised that assessment of tree conditions was currently being undertaken by the County Council at various locations within the area. They would seek an update and report back to the next meeting.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

76.10 Drefach. B4310 Heol Blaenhirwaun Llwyn Y Brain. Excessive Surface Water on the Highway.

- Members were advised that there were concerns relating to the continuous flow of water onto the highway at a point near Llwyn Y Brain Farm.
- The flow was evident during the recent period of heavy rainfall however as the flow of water onto the highway was still continuing there was a concern that issue could be caused by a blocked or damaged drain and with winter approaching could present a danger to vehicles.
- **Resolved:** That the matter be reported to the Highway Authority.

76.11 Cefneithin. Vehicular Parking at Y Fron

- Members relayed the concerns of residents over the parking of a caravan on the site at a location and in a manner, which was giving cause for concern to the residents.
- **Resolved:** That the local members would refer the matter to the County Council’s Housing Officers who had responsibility for the site.

77.0 Agenda Item 8. Members Reports.

77.1 Continuation of County Council Update.

- In response to a request at the last meeting the Clerk had received comments indicating that the information provided was valued and appreciated.
- **Resolved:** To continue to receive the reports

77.2 Monthly Update Report County Council Matters.

- Cllrs Aled Vaughan Owen and Darren Price provided an update on County Council matters which were relevant to the community and area.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided

77.3 Torcoed Quarry Liaison Group.

- Cllr Anthony Rees attended the liaison meeting on behalf of the Community Council and provided an update for members which included the following information: -
 - (i) No registered complaints during the period.
 - (ii) Workings were taking place mostly on the Crwbin side of the quarry.
 - (iii) Volumes of materials being transported had reduced resulting in one plant being closed down.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

77.4 Events attended by the Chair.

- Gorslas Church Fundraising Event at the Church Hall on Thursday 12th September,2019. The event include a showing of an episode of “ Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol” which had been filmed in the village on the 28th January,1990.
- Cefneithin Hall Wild West Saturday 21st September. The event had been a great success and very well attended.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

78.0 Agenda Item 9. Correspondence.

78.1 Consultation.

No	From	Details
78.2	NRW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement Events on Area Statements to be held. Closest event Carmarthen 10/10/19.

78.3 General Correspondence

No	From	Subject
78.4	Drefach Welfare Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise of an increase in the charge for users of the Welfare Hall from £5 to £6 per hour or part thereof. The increase will apply from Jan 2020
78.5	Carms C.C.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural Roads Project A476 Llanelli to Cross Hands and Cross Hands to Ffairfach. Partnership workshop events and guided driving instruction sessions will be held at various location during October and November,2019. Details on the C.C.C. website.
78.6	Fields in Trust Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request the Council to join and register its green spaces under the Fields in Trust scheme which forms a legally enforceable agreement protecting the land for future generations in perpetuity.
78.7	Capel Seion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise they are applying for National Lottery Funding to renovate Hebron- the vestry which is in Drefach. To inform and assist the application the chapel has circulated a questionnaire seeking the views of residents of Drefach and surrounds regarding what they would like to see developed on a personal and collectively basis. The Chapel would wish to receive the views of the Council on the documentation which it proposes to send to residents prior to distribution.
78.8	Welsh Govt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeking Views via questionnaire on the asset transfer process.
78.9	C.C.C.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refuse Collection. Limit of 3 black bags per fortnight as from 7/10/19
78.10	Gorslas Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicating the thanks and appreciation of the local community for the attendance of the Chair at a recent event at the Church.
78.11	C.C.C.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invitation to attend the Pensions Employer Forum will take place at Y Ffwrnnes Theatr on 27/11/19
78.12	C.C.C.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise of Skills for Sports training sessions available for young people within the County. Closing date for applications 18/10/19
78.13	Older People's Commissioner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise that the Commission's "State of the Nation" report s available to view on the Commission's website.

- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided

79.0 Agenda Item 10 One Voice Wales.

79.1 Newsletter

- The latest edition has been circulated electronically to members.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided

80.0 Agenda Item 11 Planning Matters

80.1 Planning Applications.

No /Ref	Type and Description	Location
W/39441	Outline Planning. Proposed Cross Hands Health and Wellbeing Centre.	Unit 1 Parc Maes Yr Eithin, Cross Hands, Llanelli, SA14 6SY
W/39458	Outline. Construction of Detached Dwelling and Garage	Plot 2 Adjacent to 2 Acorns Rise, Heol Y Foel, Foelgastell, SA14 7EL.
W/38689	Appeal Decision. Refused. For Erection of Agricultural Building.	Land Adjacent to Blaenhirwaun Rd, Drefach.
W/39497	Full Planning. Retention of steel shed for domestic use(retrospective).	Neuadd Wen Lodge,78 Black Lion Rd, SA14 6RU
W/39544	Full Planning. First Floor Addition to Existing Ground Floor Extension	Blaenrhyd, Heol Dinefwr, Foelgastell, SA14 7CH.
W/39582	Full Planning. Detached outbuilding for use ancillary to the dwelling house.	Treathro, Capel Seion Rd, Drefach.SA14 7BP.
W/ 36903	Full Planning. Equestrian Menage. Permeable Equestrian Surface	Land at Blaenhirwuan, Cefneithin, SA14 6LT.

- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

81.0 Agenda Item 12 Finance.

81.1 Monthly Income and Expenditure/ Receipts and Payments September.

(i) Payments Made to Creditors.

Expenditure

Paid To	Description	Amount £
Spencer Environmental	Monthly Grass Cutting Part Charge July	1,158.05
Danfo	Monthly Charge – P Conv	630.00
WCVA	Monthly Payroll Charge	20.10
TBM	Charges Parks Aug/Sept	1,080.00
Staff	Monthly Wages/ Travel/ Web Host Fees	1,215.31
HMRC	Qtr 2 Staff and Employer Contributions	1,535.47
Dyfed Pensions	Qtr 2 Staff and Employer Contributions s	1,746.81
Bowen and Weaving	Paper/ Stationary	32.40
SWALEC	Gorslas Toilets Charges	39.45
Chair	Refund Expenditure Donations	120.00
Cllr W Edwards	Refund Travel Exp	81.90
Drefach Welfare Association	Hire Hall 17/09 and 24/09/19	20.00

(ii) Income

Received from	Description	Amount £
Cams C.C.	Refund Costs Independent Report /Press Advert	1,083.20

Carms C.C	* Commuted Sum Maint Gors Park Car Park – Transferred to Reserves	13,400.00
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- **Resolved:** To receive, note and continue to monitor the position.

81.2 Members Expenses 2018/19.

- As required by legislation a return of expenses claimed by members has been sent to the IRPW.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

81.3 Unpaid Cheques.

- As advised by the External Auditor cheques which had not been cashed for a period exceeding 6 months old were scheduled and presented to members for consideration to be written off and provision made within the reserves to meet any claims arising out of the amounts due.
- **Resolved:** To write off the cheques which were over six months old and which had not been presented for payment and to include an allowance within the reserves until the amounts become statute barred.

81.4 Finance Quarterly Update

- Members considered a summary schedule of income and expenditure for the current financial year for each budget heading.
- Income: No remedial action required. Additional income received related to the transfer of land for new school at Gorslas. The amount in respect of the commuted sum for future maintenance works to the park car park had been transferred to earmarked reserves.
- Expenditure: Seat Repairs/ Community Grants/ IRPW Allowances and maintenance to be monitored and kept under review.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

81.5 Community Grants/Donations.

- Members considered and discussed the position in relation to Community grants and donations made by the Community Council.
- Application forms in respect of request for financial assistance had been issued to several organisations but none had been returned.
- **Resolved:**
 - To make donations of £175 to each of the three Welfare Associations in the area in respect of the Christmas Celebrations.
 - To ensure financial propriety and transparency that all applicants be asked to complete the relevant form.

82.0 Agenda Item 13 Next Meeting

- Next Meeting: Monday 11th November, 2019, at Cefneithin C.P. School.
- The business of the meeting being concluded the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.00p.m