

CYNGOR CYMUNED GORSLAS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Gorslas Community Council held at Cefneithin C.P. School, on Monday, 11th November, 2019, at 7.00 p.m.

83.0 Agenda Item 1: Record of those Present/Apologies

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

83.1 General.

- The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting which was declared open at 7.00p.m.
- **Resolved:** To accept the apologies for absences.

84.0 Agenda Item 2 Declaration of Interest

- Declarations of a personal, but not prejudicial interest, were declared as follows: -

Member	Agenda Item	Nature of Interest
Aled Vaughan Owen	88.2	Governor Gorslas C.P. School
Aled Vaughan Owen	89.1	Member Gorslas Welfare Association
Janice Price	88.2	Governor Gorslas C.P. School
Darren Price	88.3	Chair of Cefneithin and Foelgastell Welfare Association
Terry Jones	88.3	Member Cefneithin and Foelgastell Welfare Association.

- The Clerk advised that there was a dispensation for Councillors who were not office holders within the Association to speak and vote on a matter related to the Association.
- Members took no part in the discussion and decisions relating to the above items other than where a dispensation had been received.
- **Resolved:** To note and record the declarations of interest from members.

85.0 Agenda Item 3. Exclusion of Press and Public.

- Proposed that the press and public be excluded from the meeting where necessary.
- **Resolved:** The motion was agreed unanimously.

86.0 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 October meeting for accuracy.
- **Resolved:** Proposed by Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen and seconded by Cllr Nia Lewis, and agreed by all that the minutes be approved and confirmed as an accurate representation of the discussions and decisions made.

87.0 Agenda Item 5. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

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

Ref	Item	Update
87.1	Member vacancies Gorslas and Cefneithin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Termination of office letters issued. • Public Notice to Request Election published. • C.C.C. confirm that no requests were received by the closing date.
87.2	Cefneithin Hall Lease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Parks and General.
87.3	Gorslas New School Management Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awaiting response.
87.4	Gorslas New School. Lessons Learned Questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questionnaires to be received at the meeting.
87.5	Future Joint Training Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awaiting revised date from C.C.C.
87.6	Remedial Work Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works Progressed.
87.7	Gorslas Park- Replacement Equipment Tenders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awaiting progression.
87.8	Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awaiting development.
87.9	Gorslas Welfare Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flowerbeds/ Noticeboards • See Urgent Local Matters.
87.10	Cefneithin MUGA - Rust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awaiting progression.
87.11	Parks Tree Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tender awarded and accepted. • Works to be completed by December. • Tree Planting- see Parks and General.
87.12	Mens Sheds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clerk, and Chair visited the Association on 15/10/19 and discussed areas of possible mutual co-operation.
87.13	Gorslas. Land slippage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No further communication
87.14	Wayside Seats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance with minor small-scale maintenance issues could be provided. By Men's Sheds volunteers.
87.15	C.C.C. Highway Verge Assessment of Ash Dieback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A survey of trees in the Gorslas C.C area on A and B roads has been undertaken on 18.10.19. • Trees displaying 50% or greater will be marked and landowners notified.

87.16	C.C.C. Excess Water on Highway B4310 Llwyn Y Brain, Heol Blaenhirwaun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC have instructed works to clear the gully and make sure that the roadside drainage is working correctly.
87.17	Cefneithin – Y Fron Parking Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC Housing Department have been made aware of the situation and asked to persue.
87.18	Uwch Gwendraeth Road Adoption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC advise that the developer has been informed of the works necessary to facilitate adoption of the road. • Developer has advised they are aware of works required and it is their intention to have the roads and drainage adopted. • Developer acknowledges duty to maintain street lighting.
87.19	Maesybont – Tree Works Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC advised of concerns regarding work undertaken by BT contractors.
87.20	Section 106 Drefach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total sum of £10,000 available from development for the Community Council to bid for.
87.21	External Auditor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Finance
87.22	IRPW Allowance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notifications to be presented at meeting.
87.23	Unpaid Cheques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written off and provision made in reserves.
87.24	Community Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheques issued to the Welfare Associations

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

88.0 Agenda Item 6. General and Park Matters.

88.1 General Matters. General Election 12th December 2019. Purdah.

- The term purdah refers to the period of time between the dissolution of parliament on the 6th November,2019, and the General Election taking place on the 12th December,2019.
- During this period of time it is a requirement that Councils do not do anything to influence the outcome of an election.
- It can continue to make decisions relating to normal Council business and publish any factual information to counteract misleading, controversial or extremist information.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

88.2 Draft Management Agreement Community Use of Facilities at New Gorslas C.P. School.

- Members were disappointed that a response had not been received from the Governing Body in respect of the request to discuss and meet to agree a management agreement for the community use of certain of the school's facilities.

- **Resolved:** To send a further communication to the Governing Body conveying the Council's disappointment at the lack of a response and requesting a meeting to progress matters.

88.3 Disposal of Land and Village Hall at Cefneithin Park.

- Meeting held with surveyor and Welfare Association representatives on 23rd October, 2019.
- Agreement was reached in principle on areas to be included in the disposal.
- Surveyor recommended and commissioned a topographical survey to identify exactly the area to be disposed of.
- Cllr Darren Price advised that the Welfare Association had confirmed that the Association would meet the cost of the topographical survey. Cllr Price took no further part in the discussion or decision.
- **Resolved:** That following receipt of survey and draft plan the Sub-Committee meet with the surveyor and representatives of the Welfare Association to confirm the accuracy of the plan.

88.4 Member Vacancies. Gorslas and Cefneithin Wards.

- The notices inviting requests for an election to be held in respect of the vacancies was published. No such request had been received by the closing date.
- **Resolved:** To proceed to fill the vacancies by co-option and to publish the required notices.

88.5 Tree Planting.

- Details were provided of the criteria for the receipt of free trees for planting in the parks.
- **Resolved:** For the purposes of comparison to seek further information from the successful tree maintenance contractor regarding the option for the provision of replacement trees.

88.6 Mens Shed. Letter of Support.

- Details of the membership, the aims and the contribution which the organisation would make were included in previous discussions.
- The organisation was established but was currently awaiting confirmation of the letting arrangements for premises on the site of the former Ysgol Y Gwendraeth.
- Members advised that the organisation was seeking funding from outside agencies and had asked if the Community Council would be prepared to provide a letter of support.
- **Resolved:** To note the information provided and that a letter of support be forwarded.

88.7 Cefneithin Park Lighting Unit 711-50

- The unit has been reported to the County Council as not working and in need of repair.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

88.8 Gorslas Park. Excess Water on Footpath.

- Reports had been received that there was an excess of water flowing from land near the North West part of the park on to an adjacent footpath.
- The flow had been constant for a number of days and showed no sign of abating. Concern was expressed over the possibility of injury should the flow continue and the water freeze.
- Following discussion, it was established that the water was emanating from the area of land now owned by the County Council for the purposes of building a new school.
- **Resolved:** That the concerns be referred to the County Council/ contractor for action.

88.9 Gorslas Public Conveniences Award and Useage

- Notification has been received that the facility has been awarded, for the second successive year, a Gold Standard by the inspector for the “Loo of the Year”.
- Oct Useage: Total of 222 individuals.
- **Resolved:** To forward a letter of thanks to the contractor thanking them for the work they do.

88.10 Drefach. Section 106 Funds Cae Coch.

- The County Council have advised that the total sum available to bid for under the development was £10k. Members felt that the amount was low for such a high value development.
- **Resolved:** That Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen seek clarification from the County Council Planning Department regarding the basis of the calculation of the amount due.

89.0 Urgent Local Matters.

89.1 Gorslas Raised Beds.

- Information was provided in relation to schemes where roadside verges or roundabouts were maintained by Community or Town Councils.
- In response to further enquiries the County Council had advised that the Gorslas Welfare Association could undertake certain works on the facilities this summer under the supervision of a Street Works Operator /Supervisor licence.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

89.2 Notice Board Gorslas

- Notification received that the Perspex covering of the noticeboard had been broken.
- To prevent injury Perspex was removed the following Monday morning and arrangements made for replacement Perspex to be fitted to include the units at Cefneithin and Drefach.
- The item is one which can be repaired by the Mens Shed project however the matter was currently being delayed whilst a formal lease of the accommodation at the former Ysgol Y Gwendraeth was being prepared.
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the actions taken.

89.3 Drefach. B4310 Blaenhirwaun Excessive Water.

- It was reported that drainage issues remained on that section of road with water on occasions blocking the footpaths.
- Members noted that the County Council had taken action to clean the existing gullies and that additional works to the infrastructure were currently taking place.
- **Resolved:** To monitor the position following completion of the works.

89.4 Bus Shelter Brynlluan.

- Members advised, and expressed concern that a notice had been placed on the bus shelter indicating that it was not for use as a local bus services.
- **Resolved:** To seek clarification from the County Council on the matter.

90.0 Agenda Item 8. Members Reports.

90.1. Remembrance Service Gorslas Church. Chair.

- The Chair advised that she had attended the service at Gorslas Church on Sunday 10th November,2019, which had been well attended and very respectful.
- A letter had been received from the Church thanking the Chair and the other Community Councillors who had attended the service. Their presence had been greatly appreciated by the local community.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

90.2 One Voice Wales Area Committee Meeting. Cllr Wyn Edwards.

- Cllr Edwards had attended the event on the 2nd October,2019, on behalf of the Council and provided feedback for members on the subjects covered by the speakers.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

90.3 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.

91.0 Agenda Item 9. Correspondence.

Consultation		
Ref	From	Details
91.1	W.S Atkins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A48 Cross Hands to Pensarn Improvements. Requesting registration by the Community Council as a stakeholder.
91.2	Board of Community Health Councils in Wales.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forward Questionnaire seeking the Council's views on what their priorities should be for 2020/21 and on any areas where there could be a sharing of information or data.
General Correspondence		
91.3	Carms C.C.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter from Chair seeking donations towards the Chair's participation in this year's Walrus Dip with the proceeds going to support foodbanks at Ammanford, Carmarthen and Llanelli.
91.4	Carms C.C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toy Box Appeal. Request from Cllr Mair Stephens for support or donations from Community and Town Councils. Closing date 10.12.19.
91.5	Gorslas Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation for Chair to turn on the Christmas Lights on 05/12/19
91.6	Gorslas Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation to attend Coffee Evening and fund-raising event 28/11/19
91.7	Gorslas Brownies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation for Chair to attend bring and buy event.

91.8	Carms C.C.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dyfed Pension Fund Meeting Theatr Y Ffwrnnes 27/11/19 Employers Forum 9.30 a.m. Consultative Meeting Start 11.30a.m.
91.9	Gwendraeth Group of Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting 11.11.19 at 7.00p.m at MGCE Pontyberem.
91.10	David Rayner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requesting suggestions for a location for textile recycling bank connected with the SCOPE charity.
91.11	Carms C.C.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaflet available on the Older People's Commissioner for Wales's website providing useful advice on how to claim pension credit.
91.12	Gorslas Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invitation to Chair to participate in the Remembrance Sunday Service.
91.13	Gorslas Old Age Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invitation for Chair to attend Christmas Dinner event on 18.12.19
91.14	Robin Road App	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobile app platform to assist in better community engagement. £150.
91.15	Mid and West Wales Fire 7 Rescue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Autumn edition of newsletter available electronically from Clerk.
91.16	Welsh Govt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter from Chief Planning reminding Councils of the duty to maintain and enhance bio-diversity. Advises Heads of Planning that where bio-diversity is not proposed as part of an application, unless there are other significant material considerations, it would be necessary to refuse permission.
91.17	Capel Hebron Steering Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeking letter of support for Lottery Grant Application as well as community needs questionnaire.
91.18	Welsh Govt. Sustainable Drainage (SUDS) Amendment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welsh Govt advise of minor amendment to Article 21 of the 2018 Enforcement Order bringing it in line with other similar legislation by changing the £20k limit on a fine to an unspecified amount. I.e. without limit.

- Resolved:**
 - (i) To receive and note the information provided.
 - (ii) Item 91.1. That the Council registers as a stakeholder.
 - (iii) Item 91.17. A letter of support be provided to include the suggestions put forward by members with regard to the future possible use of the venue.

92.0 Agenda Item 10 One Voice Wales.

92.1 Newsletter

- The latest edition has been circulated electronically to members.

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

92.2 Managing Green Spaces for Bio Diversity Report

- Electronic copy of report available to members from Clerk.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

92.3 Conference: Beyond cities: resilient local economies and Communities.

- An invitation has been received from the Bevan Foundation to attend the above conference which will draw speakers for Wales and across the UK.
- The event is to take place between 09:00 and 13:00 hrs. on 28.11.19 at the Orbit Centre Merthyr Tydfil. Cost £79 per delegate.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

92.4 Campaign to raise awareness of Everyday Ageism.

- The Older People’s Commissioner advise that she is launching the above campaign on 22.10.19. Supporters pack available online.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

92.5 Diversity in Democracy Workshop 11.11,19 Liberty Stadium, Swansea.

- The workshop will provide an opportunity for members to meet with stakeholders/partners to share experiences related to the role, value and impact of Councillors and will be input into the Diversity in Democracy Programme.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

92.6 Consultation on Planning Matters – Welsh Govt.

- Revision to the Housing Section of Planning Policy Wales and associated advice and guidance. Details on W.G website. Closing date for comments 20.11.19
- Revision regarding use of Compulsory Purchase Powers and updated guidance on compulsory purchase procedure in Wales. Details on W.G website. Closing date for comments 17.01.20
- Revised Planning Guidance in relation to Coastal Flooding and Erosion. Details on W.G website. Closing date for comments 20.11.19.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

92.7 Website: Understanding Welsh Places

- Advise of a new website- www.understandingwelshplaces.wales provides bilingual information on 300 towns and communities across Wales.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

92.8 VE Day 75 Celebrations 8th to 10th May,2020.

- The weekend 8th to 10th May,2020 will remember the 75th anniversary of the ending of the war in Europe and be an international celebration of peace.

- Local Councils are asked to join with their local SSAFA (armed forces charity) to and register with VE75 to join in the celebrations.
- **Resolved: To receive and note the information provided.**

92.9 Beyond Zero Waste Conference, Principality Stadium Cardiff, November,2019

- An opportunity to meet with and contribute to the circular economy plus+ model to help shape Wales in the future.
- **Resolved: To receive and note the information provided.**

93.0 Agenda Item 11 Planning Matters

93.1 Planning Applications.

No /Ref	Type and Description	Location
W/39664	Full Planning. Drop Access Kerb and Parking Space.	45 Heol Yr Ysgol Cefneithin SA14 7EA
W/39766	Siting of Temporary Static Caravan and demolition of existing farmhouse utility room and conservatory. Existing rear extension to be retained to create a detached storage building. Construction of new dwelling with alteration to ground levels and form adjacent car parking spaces.	Garnfawr, Porthyrhyd.SA32 8BS.

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

94.0 Finance Agenda Item 12.

94.1 Monthly Income and Expenditure/ Receipts and Payments September.

Income From	Description	£
N/A	N/A	Nil
Expenditure Paid To	Description	£
Spencer Environmental	Grass Cutting Sept & Knotweed	1,518.08
Spencer Environmental	Grass Cut June	1,207.80
Danfo	Monthly Charge – P Conv & Litter	651.00
WCVA	Monthly Payroll Charge	20.10
Staff	Monthly Wages etc.	1,076.23
Lampeter Trees	Tree Surveys	780.00
Cefneithin Welfare Assoc	Donation	175.00
Drefach Welfare Assoc	Donation	175.00
Gorslas Welfare Assoc	Donation	175.00
Morgan and Morgan	Toner Cartridges	119.98
Bowen and Weaving	Replacement Noticeboard Magnets	6.93

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

94.2 Auditors Report 2018/19.

- In the light of the Auditors comments regarding the extension of contracts due to the negotiations for the provision of land for the new school it has become apparent that there is a tension between the two statements which it would be prudent to clarify for the effective operation and working of the Council.
- To regularise the position it is recommended that the wording in the Financial Regulations be altered to accord with those in the standing orders that the Council has the right to extend contracts under £25k in value in special circumstances.
- **Resolved:** To regularise the position based on the requirements relating to the award of contracts under £25k in special circumstances as detailed in the Council's Standing Orders.

94.3 IRPW Draft Annual Report 2020/21

- Members considered in detail the report and resolved, subject to their being alteration in the recommendations from the commencement of the new financial year, as follows: -
 - (i) Determination 42 Payments towards costs and expenses.**
 - All community and town councils must make available a payment to each of their members of £150 per year as a contribution to costs and expenses.
 - **Resolved:** To adopt the determination.
 - (ii) Determination 44. Payment for Specific Responsibilities.**
 - Community Councils can make an annual payment of up to £500 each to up to 5 members in recognition of specific responsibilities. This is in addition to the £150 costs/ expenses payment.
 - **Resolved:** Not to adopt the determination.
 - (iii) Determination 45. Refund of Travel Expenses**
 - Community and town councils can make payments to each of their members in respect of travel costs for attending approved duties. Such payments must be the actual costs of travel by public transport or the HMRC mileage allowances as below:
 - 45p per mile up to 10,000 miles in the year.
 - 25p per mile over 10,000 miles.
 - 5p per mile per passenger carried on authority business.
 - 24p per mile for private motor cycles.
 - 20p per mile for bicycles.
 - **Resolved:** To adopt the determination.
 - (iv) Determination 46. Refund of Subsistence Expenses**
 - If a community or town council resolves that a particular duty requires an overnight stay, it can authorise reimbursement of subsistence expenses to its members at the maximum rates set out below on the basis of receipted claims:
 - £28 per 24-hours allowance for meals, including breakfast where not provided.
 - £200 – London overnight.
 - £95 – elsewhere overnight.

- £30 – staying with friends and/or family overnight.
- **Resolved:** To adopt the determination.

(v) **Determination 47. Compensation Financial Loss**

- Community Councils can pay financial loss compensation to each of their members, where such loss has occurred, for attending approved duties as follows:
- Up to £55.50 for each period not exceeding 4 hours
- Up to £110.00 for each period exceeding 4 hours but not exceeding 24 hours
- **Resolved:** Adopt the determination.

(vi) **Determination 48. Re-Imbursement Costs of Care**

- All community and town councils must provide for the reimbursement of necessary costs for the care of dependent children and adults (provided by informal or formal carers) and for personal assistance needs up to a maximum of £403 per month.
- Reimbursement must be for the additional costs incurred by members to enable them to carry out their approved duties. Reimbursement shall only be made on production of receipts from the carer.
- **Resolved:** To adopt the determination.

(vii) **Determination 49. Civic Head Payment**

- Community Councils can provide a payment to the mayor or chair of the council up to a maximum of £1,500. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses and the £500 senior salary if these are claimed.
- **Decision:** Not to adopt the determination.

(viii) **Determination 50. Deputy Civic Head Payment**

- Community Councils can provide a payment to the deputy mayor or deputy chair of the council up to a maximum of £500. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses and the £500 senior salary if these are claimed.
- **Resolved:** Not to adopt the determination.

(ix) **General**

- Members can make an individual decision to forgo all or part of the above payments.
- Members in receipt of a Band1 or 2 senior salary form a Principal Council i.e. Leader, Deputy or Executive Member cannot receive any payments form a Community Council other than travelling, subsistence or care costs.
- The amounts claimed by members must be published by the Council and reported to the IRPW by the 30th September each year.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

95.0 Agenda Item 13 Next Meeting

- Monday 9th December, 2019, at Gorslas C.P. School.
- The business of the meeting having been concluded the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.30p.m.