

CYNGOR CYMUNED GORSLAS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Gorslas Community Council held at Gorslas C.P. School, on Monday, 9th December, 2019, at 7.00 p.m.

96.0 Agenda Item 1: Record of those Present/Apologies

- Members: Tina Butler (Chair), Iestyn Llwyd (Vice Chair) Darren Price, Aled Vaughan Owen, Terry Jones, Janice Price, Andrew King, Linda Williams, Clive Green and Cllr Wyn Edwards.
- Others: Llew Thomas Clerk to the Council and Mr. Hefin Jones, Translator.
- Apologies for absence: Cllrs Simon Martin, Nia Lewis and Anthony Rees. Cllr Wyn Edwards had apologised that he could not be present for the start of the meeting.

96.1 General.

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

97.0 Agenda Item 2 Declaration of Interest

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

Agenda Item	Councillors	Nature of Interest
103.5	Aled Vaughan Owen	Governor Gorslas C.P. School. County Councillor
103.5	Janice Price	Governor Gorslas C.P. School
103.5	Darren Price	County Councillor
101.4	Darren Price	Chair of Cefneithin and Foelgastell Welfare Association
107.2	Darren Price	Eisteddfod: Family Association with Fundraising Cttee.
101.4	Terry Jones	Member Cefneithin and Foelgastell Welfare Association.
101.3/ 102.1	Tina Butler, Wyn Edwards and Clive Green	Member Drefach Welfare Association
107.2	Tina Butler	Family Association with Official of Cwm Gwendraeth Mensshed

- 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.

98.0 Agenda Item 3. Exclusion of Press and Public.

- Proposed that the press and public be excluded from the meeting where necessary and the item be removed as a standing item on the agenda.
- **Resolved:** The motion was agreed unanimously.

99.0 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 November meeting of the Council for accuracy.
- **Resolved:** Proposed by Cllr Andrew King and seconded by Cllr Janice Price, and agreed by all that the minutes be approved and confirmed as an accurate representation of the discussions and decisions made.

100.0 Agenda Item 5. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

- Cllr Wyn Edwards joined the meeting at this point.
- An update was provided for members in relation to the following matters: -

Ref	Item	Update
100.1	Member vacancies Gorslas and Cefneithin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notices Advertising Vacancies published. • Closing Date 06 12 19. No Enquiries rec'd.
100.2	Cefneithin Park Land and Hall Disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Parks and General.
100.3	Gorslas New School Management Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication sent. Matter considered by Governing Body on 04.12.19.
100.4	Remedial Work Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works Progressed
100.5	Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awaiting development.
100.6	Gorslas Park Footpath Excess Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water run- off from land owned by C.C.C. • C.C.C New school Contractor examining
100.7	Gorslas Park- Replacement Equipment Tenders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awaiting progression.
100.8	Cefneithin MUGA - Rust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awaiting progression.
100.9	Parks Tree Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed 19 11 .19.
100.10	Gorslas P Conv Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter of congratulations sent to Contractor.
100.11	Gorslas. Land slippage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No further communication
100.12	Wayside Seats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linked with Cwm Gwendraeth Mensshed
100.13	Notice Boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linked with Cwm Gwendraeth Mensshed
100.14	Brynlluan Bus Stop Sign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC advise that the shelter is not in use as no public service buses pass the stop.
100.15	Section 106 Drefach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Members in correspondence with County Council. See Parks and General.
100.16	Atkins Cross Hands Pensarn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration as Stakeholder Sent.
100.17	Capel Hebron	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response Sent
100.18	Cwm Gwendraeth Mensshed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter of Support/ grant application form sent.

100.19	Pwyllgor Apel Eisteddfod Yr Urdd 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application Form for financial support sent.
100.20	Financial Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External Auditor acknowledges issues raised. • Regulations revised as per Standing Orders.

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

101.0 Agenda Item 6. General and Park Matters.

101.1 General: Member Vacancies. Gorslas and Cefneithin Wards.

- Notices inviting applications for co-option had been placed in the respective noticeboards. The closing date had passed without any enquiries having been received.
- **Resolved:** To re-publish the notices and for the vacancies to be advertised on the Community Council's website, Facebook site and, if possible as an item local news in the local papers.

101.2 General: LED Community Lighting Conversion Programme.

- Works had taken place at Gorslas Park and surrounds relating to the conversion of 54 units from sodium lights to LED.
- Issues relating to the work undertaken had been identified and relayed to the County Council.
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the actions taken.

101.3 General Tree Planting.

- Details were provided in relation to options for planting trees in the park.
- Concern was raised regarding the considerable number of trees on and near roads in the County which had been marked for felling.
- Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen advised that the County Council was undertaking a major review of a programme of planting trees, on the basis of two new trees for every one cut down.
- **Resolved:** To seek the views of each of the local Welfare Organisations regarding the possibility of a tree replacement programme in the park in each of their respective areas.

101.4 General Matters: Transfer of Land at Cefneithin Park.

- A detailed survey of the site had been completed a draft plan indicating the area of transfer had been prepared by the surveyor.
- To progress matters a meeting had been convened with the Welfare Association, the surveyor, ward members and the Community Council's Sub Committee for Wednesday 11th December, 2019, to formally agree the area for transfer.
- There would then be a requirement to publish a notice in the local press advising the public of the proposal and providing a period for responses to be submitted before a final decision on the matter would be made.

- **Resolved to:**

- (i) Authorise the Sub-Committee to meet with the Welfare Association and agree the area of land which would form part of the agreement.
- (ii) That a public notice be published as soon as possible following the meeting.

101.5 Gorslas Public Conveniences.

- **Lighting Units Not Working:** It was noted that a number of units were not working and an external protective cage removed. Instruction issued to Charles B Sams to inspect the electrical installations for safety and rectify the non-working items.
- **Vandalism.** Report received that the toilet paper holder in the ladies cubicle had been damaged on the evening of 26.11.19.
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the information provided and to write to the contractor thanking them for repairing the damage at no cost to the Council.

102.0 Agenda Item 7 Urgent Local Matters.

102.1 Drefach: Damage to Wall at Entrance to Welfare Hall.

- It was reported that a vehicle had damaged the wall on the Heol Cwmmawr side of the entrance. It was likely the event had taken place on Wednesday 4th December,2019.
- To protect the public, and in view of the fact the hall would be used as a polling station for the General Election on Thursday 12th December,2019, temporary barriers had been put in place.
- Members of the Welfare Association indicated that they were in dialogue with their insurers regarding repair of the wall.
- The possibility was discussed of widening the entrance, and, as the wall was not easily visible to vehicles reversing, placing a suitable reflective bollard of appropriate height to aid drivers.
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the actions taken.

102.2 Cefneithin: Y Glyn Vehicle Traversing Grassed Areas.

- Members reported concern from residents regarding damage being caused to grassed areas by a large HGV goods vehicle regularly accessing the site.
- **Resolved:** The County Councillors contact the individual concerned and seek a resolution.

103.0 Agenda Item 8. Members Reports.

103.1 Events Attended- Chair.

- The Chair provided members with details and feedback regarding a number of local events which she had attended during the month which included the following: -
 - (i) Gorslas Brownies Bring and Buy Saturday 23.11.19
 - (ii) Gorslas Church Fundraising Coffee Evening 28.11.19.
 - (iii) Gorslas: Christmas Tree Lights switch on Celebrations and Fireworks evening 05 12.19.

(iv) Drefach: Christmas Tree Lights Switch on and Fair 06.12.19.

(v) Cefneithin: Craft Fair at the village Hall 08.12.19

• **Resolved:**

(i) To receive and note the information provided.

(ii) To record the thanks of the Welfare Association to Councillor Aled Vaughan Owen who attended the Drefach Christmas Tree Light Switch on. Thanks, were also due to the Cllr Tina Butler for an excellent opening address and also to Cllr Wyn Edwards who stepped in at short notice to undertake the duties of the host for the evening.

103.2 Cross Hands Public Hall and Cinema Trustees. Cllr Clive Green

- Cllr Green provided details for members of the last two meetings of the Trustees which had been held on the 18th July with an A.G.M. being held on the 14th November, 2019.
- A long running dispute with the County Council regarding use of part of the hall had now been concluded with the agreement terminating on the 7th Decmber,2019.
- A temporary mobile library service was being provided by the County Council pending the re-location of the service to the Cross Hands Health and Wellbeing Centre once completed.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

103.3 County Council Matters Monthly Update: Cllrs Aled Vaughan Owen and Darren Price.

- An update was provided on County Council matters which were relevant to the area and residents and which included the following matters: -
 - (i) Local Development Plan – Consultation on revised plan commencing in January,2020.
 - (ii) Scrutiny Cttee: Looking at lessons learnt from the Llangennech C.P. change of language category process to improve processes in future.
 - (iii) School Budgets: Means of addressing a potential £3m overspend were being examined.
 - (iv) Puppy Farming: Members had received a presentation on the number and nature of such establishments in the county and the difficulties in enforcing current welfare legislation.
 - (v) Drefach. Bus route service 166. The County Councillors had received a number of complaints regarding changes to the service which they were persuing with the transport department of the County Council.
- **Resolved to:**
 - (i) Receive and note the information provided.
 - (ii) Include in future minutes a brief headline summary of main issues outlined by the members in their update.

103.4 Town and Community Council Forum. Cllr Wyn Edwards.

- Cllr Edwards advised members that the forum was scheduled to meet on the 8th January,2020, at County Hall Carmarthen. The main subject for discussion would be the budget.
- Members were welcome to attend and should contact the Clerk for further details.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

103.5 Gorslas C.P. School. New School Draft Management Agreement.

- Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen had attended his first meeting as a Governor of Gorslas C.P. School on the 4th December,2019.
- In response to the enquiry from the Community Council regarding progressing the Draft Management Agreement the issue was discussed by the Governing Body.
- The Governing Body had resolved “to agree in principle” to the community use of the facilities at the new school at its meeting on the 9th April,2019.
- The transfer of land to the County Council took place on the 17th September,2019, however the County Council had not formally written to the Governing Body advising them that the new school build was to proceed.
- The school would be the first to be constructed under the new re-branding of the MEP programme and the County Council would formally advise the Governing Body that the school build was to proceed.
- The School Governing Body envisaged that they would appoint a small sub-committee or working group to discuss and progress the draft Management Agreement with the Community Council.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

104.0 Agenda Item 9. Correspondence.

Consultation		
Ref	From	Details
104.1	Welsh Govt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equalities Act 2010. Views are sought on the public bodies which should be included in the implementation of Part 1 Section 1 of the Equalities Act 2010. • The Act would require Local Authorities to formally consider how their decisions and strategies could reduce inequalities associated with socio economic disadvantage. • Details on Welsh Govt website. Closing date 17.01.20.
104.2	Dyfed Powys Police Commissioner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeking views on the level of precept increase for 2020/21. Closing date for responses 08.01.20
General Correspondence		
104.3	Gorslas Old Age Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation for Chair to attend Christmas lunch on the 19.12.19.
104.4	Welsh Govt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey regarding Authorities and Allotments. Completed and Returned
104.5	Transport for Wales.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concessionary Travel Pass. Advise that the current travel passes will not be valid after 31.12.19. It is possible to renew online or in paper format.

104.6	Cwmfera Supporting Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer a number of half day training sessions delivered by a provider with 25 years' experience in the voluntary and statutory sectors.
104.7.	Carms C.C.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 08.01.20 Town and Community Council Forum Meeting Carmarthen. • 18.03.20 Town and Community Council Forum Conference. Parc Y Scarlets.
104.8	Dyfed Pensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slides from the Employers Forum are available electronically.
104.9	Power For People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Electricity Bill. Request the Council to sign up to a petition to introduce legislation which will ensure that charges for the initial very high set up costs are reduced and proportionate for small scale generators of renewable electricity for local consumers.

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

105.0 Agenda Item 10 One Voice Wales.

105.1 Newsletter

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

105.2 Training Code of Conduct, St Peters Civic Hall, Carmarthen 02.12.19

- Details circulated prior to closing date.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

105.3 Notes Larger Councils Committee.

- Notes of the meeting which were held on the 16th October, 2019 were available on the Association's website or electronically from the Clerk.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

105.4 Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation.

- The index had been updated and a copy available on Welsh Govt website.
- It was noted that Carmarthenshire County Council provided information relating to the index relevant to the Community Council's area and which would be updated at the next census.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

106.0 Agenda Item 11 Planning Matters

No /Ref	Type and Description	Location
W/39794	Reserved Matters. Approval (Access, Appearance, Landscaping, Layout, Scale) For New Dwelling and Garage (in pursuance of W/34463).	Garden of Llwynderw, 2 Heol Y Foel, Foelgastell, SA14 7ER.
W/39819	Full Planning. Change of use of land to residential. Curtilage and barn conversion to an annex of the main dwelling.	Gelli Drygar, Trawsdre Road, Cefneithin, SA14 7HL.
W/39833	Discharge of planning condition 4 (Foul and Surface Water drainage strategy) and 8 (Geotechnical and Environmental Assessment) of W/37763.	Gwernllwyd Care Home, Cross Hands Road, Gorslas, SA14 6RD.
W/39841	Variation of condition 2 (Approved Plans) of W/36960	Land at Heol Caegwyn, Drefach, SA14 7BB.
W/39843	Full Planning. Proposed conversion of an existing dwelling to young physically disabled care centre and assisted living along with front porch extension, conversion of garage to bedroom and external groundworks to front.	Ynysdawl, Heol Cwmbach, Drefach. SA14 7AD.
W/39921	Discharge of Planning Condition 3 on planning application W/ 39603 (Equestrian Menage, Permeable Equestrian Surface) Materials to be used.	Land at Heol Blaenhirwaun, Cefneithin, Llanelli. SA14 6LT.

- **Resolved to:**

- (i) Receive and note the information provided.
- (ii) W/39843: Submit observation regarding possible issues related to vehicle size and suitability of approach roads.

107.0 Finance Agenda Item 12.

107.1 Monthly Income and Expenditure/ Receipts and Payments

Expenditure

Paid To	Description	Amount £
WCVA	Monthly Payroll Charge	20.10
Staff	Monthly Wages etc	1,103.23
Menter Cwm Gwendraeth	Translation October	99.00
The Arb Team	Tree Works Parks	2,350.00
Gorslas C.P.	Letting Charges 2019/20	65.76
Cefneithin C.P. School	Letting Charges 2019/20	67.16

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

107.2 Applications for Financial Assistance

- Cwm Gwendraeth Mensshed: The Council considered the details of an application for financial assistance by the group which is based at Drefach.
- Eisteddfod Urdd 2021: Cllr Darren Price declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussion. The Council considered the details of an application for financial assistance from the Gorslas Community Council fundraising group for assistance towards the cost of holding the event.
- Members reviewed the application and discussed the benefits which would accrue to the Community Council's area and inhabitants from supporting the work of the groups.
- **Resolved:**
- That the benefit to the community and inhabitants of the area would be commensurate with making the following financial contributions to support the work of the organisations:-
 - (i) Cwm Gwendraeth Mensshed – a donation of £ 700 be made
 - (ii) Eisteddfod – a donation of £700 be made.
 - (iii) On the basis of the information provided to review and consider making a further donation to each of the above organisations in the 2020/21 financial year.

107.3 IRPW Allowance – Virement

- Discussion took place in relation to the possibility of transferring funds from the IRPW budget where members had indicated that they would not be claiming the amount during the year and the funds would not be required to meet possible claims from new members.
- Confirmation had been received via One Voice Wales that such a virement would be lawful.
- Members also considered the issue of making pro rata payment of the Annual IRPW allowance for members not in office for a full 12 months.
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) For 2019/20 financial year to vire a sum of £ 1,050 from the IRPW Allowance budget to the General Donations and Grants budget heading.
 - (ii) That any future payment of the IRPW Annual Allowance, currently £150p.a., to any new member on a pro rata basis to any member joining the Council based on the municipal year. i.e. 1st May to 30th April each year.

107.4 Budget 2020/21. Section 137 Allowance.

- Notification has been received from Welsh Govt that the allowance for the 2020/21 year has been increase by an inflation factor of 2.4% to £8.32 per elector.
- Based on the latest published figures from Carmarthenshire County Council of December 2018 the Community Council may make provision of up to £30,825 in total (i.e.3705 electors x £8.32) on items for which it does not have any other powers available so to do or on certain charitable matters where the benefit to the inhabitants is commensurate with the expenditure.
- **Resolved:** That the information provided be received, noted and included as part of the 2020/21 budget process.

107.5 Budget 2020/21 Increased Costs

- Membership costs for One Voice Wales would increase by 5% for the 2020/21 financial year.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided and to include provision within the 2020/21 accordingly.

107.6 Existing Contracts.

- Members reviewed the current arrangements regarding existing agreements related to Play Equipment Inspection, Public Lighting, Grass Cutting, Public Convenience and Litter picking.
- Note was taken of the issue raised by the External Auditor regarding the difference in wording between the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. The issue had been addressed at the last meeting of the Council with both documents allowing an extension of contracts.
- The Council therefor reviewed the current arrangements, each of which was under the £25k threshold, in terms of whether or not they were satisfactory they represented value for money and that the contract performance was acceptable.
- Furthermore, consideration was given to the unique circumstances which the building of a new school at Gorslas Park and the opportunities for integration and joint provision of services could present. The Governing Body had indicated its agreement in principle to shared provision of community facilities but discussions and negotiations would not commence until probably the Summer Term.
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) Due to the unique circumstances the above contracts, be extended for a period from 1st April,2020 to 31st March,2021, on the same basis as the current contracts.
 - (ii) To approve a variation in specification and contract price for the annual cutting of a section of the boundary hedge adjacent to the Community Hall at Cefneithin Park.

107.7 Barclays Bank Community Account.

- The interest rate paid on the account will reduce from .02% to 0.01% as from January 2020.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

107.8 Budget Preparation and Precept for 2020/21

- Consideration was given to the preparation of a budget and precept for 2020/21.
- **Resolved:** To authorise the Sub Committee to examine and report back with recommendations on a draft budget and precept for the 2020/21 financial year.

108.0 Agenda Item 13 Next Meeting

- Monday 13th January,2020., at Drefach Welfare Hall.
- The Chair took the opportunity to thank members for their work during the year and to wish them and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
- The business of the meeting concluded the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.15p.m.