

CYNGOR CYMUNED GORSLAS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Gorslas Community Council held at Cefneithin C.P. School, on Monday, 10th February, 2020 at 7.00 p.m.

121.0 Agenda Item 1: Record of those Present/Apologies

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

121.1 General.

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

122.0 Agenda Item 2 Declaration of Interest

- The following declarations of interests were declared by members: -

| Agenda Item | Councillors | Nature of Interest |
|-------------|--|--|
| 125.1.3 | Darren Price | Personal not prejudicial. County Councillor. The County Council being a party to the Management Agreement. |
| 125.1.2 | Darren Price | Personal and Prejudicial. Office Holder (Chair) of Cefneithin and Foelgastell Welfare Association – the party with whom the negotiations are being undertaken. |
| 126.1 | Wyn Edwards | Corresponded in a personal capacity regarding the matter. Proximity of incident to own residence. |
| 125.2.2 | Tina Butler, Wyn Edwards Nia Lewis, Anthony Rees, and Clive Green. | Members of Drefach Welfare Association. The Welfare Hall makes use of the entrance to the right of way. |
| 131.3 | Cllr Clive Green | Chair of the organisation seeking financial assistance. |

- The Clerk advised that there was a dispensation for Councillors who were not office holders within the Welfare 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.

123.0 Agenda Item 3 Consider the Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

- Members proceeded, under the direction of the Chair, to examine each page of the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council for accuracy.
- It was noted that in relation to item 114.2 the speed restriction sign was stated in the draft minutes as being 30m.p.h when it should read 20m.p.h.

- **Resolved:** Proposed by Cllr Clive Green and seconded by Cllr Anthony Rees that, subject to the amendment to item 114.2, the minutes were a true and accurate record of the discussions and decisions made at the previous meeting of the Council.

124.0 Agenda Item 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

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

| Ref No | Item | Agenda Item |
|--------|--|---|
| 124.1 | Member vacancies Gorslas and Cefneithin. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notices published. Closing 06.03.20. • No new enquiries rec'd to date. |
| 124.2 | Cefneithin Park Land and Hall Disposal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valuer Engaged. Site visit took place 28.01.20. • Valuation within limits for Council to decide. |
| 124.3 | Gorslas New School Management Agreement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC advise that:- (i) New school contractor on site March 2020 (ii) School and Governing Body have been notified. (iii) C.C.C. to convene a meeting of all parties to progress Management Agreement. |
| 124.4 | Replacement Equipment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Cllrs meeting planning officers on 12.02.20 re Section 106 monies. |
| 124.5 | Website | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awaiting development. |
| 124.6 | Gorslas Park Footpath Excess Water | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matter with C.C.C. contractor. |
| 124.7 | Cefneithin MUGA - Rust | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awaiting progression. |
| 124.8 | Damaged Wall Drefach Park Entrance. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Price obtained for repair. • Invoice for Protection Barriers received. |
| 124.9 | Parks Tree Planting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awaiting responses from Associations. |
| 124.10 | Gorslas P Conv Award | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photograph taken. Preparing Press release. |
| 124.11 | Gorslas. Land slippage. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No further communication |
| 124.12 | Wayside Seats | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linked with Mensshed Drefach. |
| 124.13 | Notice Boards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linked with Mensshed Drefach. |
| 124.14 | Graffiti Gorslas Bus Shelter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blocking agent applied. Awaiting completion. |
| 124.15 | Drefach Malfunctioning 20m.p.h sign | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported to CCC who will investigate. |
| 124.16 | Drefach. Parking Issues Opposite Hebron Vestry | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported to C.C.C. |
| 124.17 | Finance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Financial Examiners Report 2019/20 • Precept 2020/21: Documentation completed and returned to CCC. by deadline date. |

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

125.0 Agenda Item 5. General and Park Matters.

125.1 General

125.1.1 Member Vacancies Cefneithin and Gorslas Wards.

- The public notices had been displayed in the local notice boards and in the local news columns of the Carmarthen Journal and Llanelli Star. The information had also been forwarded as a news article to the South Wales Guardian.
- One enquiry had been received in relation to the vacancy at Cefneithin however the individual had since advised that they had to withdraw due to personal circumstances.
- Members advised that an individual had expressed interest in the vacancy at Gorslas and would contact the Clerk if they wished to take the matter further.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided and to seek to have the vacancies included as a news article in the next edition of Papur y Cwm.

125.1.2 Prospective Disposal of Land: Cefneithin Park.

- A valuation report had been received following a site visit by the surveyor on the 28.01.20.
- The report confirms the value as being within the range where the decision to dispose of the land could lawfully be taken by the Community Council.
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) To receive and note the information provided.
 - (ii) The Council's solicitors prepare draft terms relating to any possible disposal of the land.

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

- Members were advised that the County Council had now informed the school and Governors officially that the build for the new school was to commence. The official notification by the County Council would allow discussions to take place relating to a draft Management Agreement.
- It was also stated that they would be convening shortly a meeting of Officers, Governors, the two County Councillors for the area and the Community Council representatives to progress matters.
- It was noted that the anticipated start date for the building works would be March 2020.
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) The Sub-committee be authorised to attend meetings and negotiate the terms of a draft agreement on behalf of the Community Council.
 - (ii) The final Management Agreement to be considered and approved by the full Council.

125.1.4 Section 106 Monies relating to Recreational Parks.

- Cllr Darren Price advised that he and Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen were due to meet on the 12.02.20 with the Director of Planning to clarify the position in relation to the funds available to Gorslas Community Council as well as the general process of how section 106 funds are allocated.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

125.2 Parks.

125.2.1 Cefneithin Park Footpath Wooded Area.

- It was noted that over the winter period vegetation in the wooded area and surrounds had grown considerably and was covering parts of the footpath through, and adjacent to, the wooded area.
- The issue was also raised in relation to the possibility of cutting back the growth on the land which had been levelled within the wooded area however members were aware that work in that area was restricted to allow treatment of certain species.
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) The work relating to the clearance of the footpaths be undertaken during April.
 - (ii) Enquiries be made as to the possibility of undertaking work in the area currently being treated.

125.2.2 Drefach Park: Repair to Wall at Entrance to Park.

- Cllrs Tina Butler, Wyn Edwards, Clive Green and Anthony Rees declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in the matter as members of the Drefach Welfare Association.
- The Clerk confirmed that dispensations had been received for the members to speak and participate in matters relating to the Drefach Welfare Association.
- Members were provided with details of the cost of re-instating the wall together with the provision of an additional concrete bollard to protect the wall. Details of costs for providing the temporary barrier were also provided.
- **Resolved:** To instruct the contractor to proceed with the works as soon as possible and to meet the cost of providing the temporary barrier.

125.2.3 Gorslas Public Conveniences.

- Monthly Use 420 individuals.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

126.0 Agenda Item 6 Urgent Local Matters.

126.1 Drefach Ward: Incident at Property Heol Blaenhirwaun

- Concerns had been conveyed to members regarding a number of incidents at a local property when the Dyfed Powys Police's Armed Response Unit Officers had been required to attend.
- The nature and frequency of these incidents had caused worry and distress to local residents who were, in particular, concerned for the safety of children.
- Cllr Wyn Edwards had contacted the Housing Association, in a personal capacity, regarding the matter and had received a response indicating that the position was being monitored and actions taken where appropriate.
- The meeting was advised that Cllr Darren Price had also contacted the Association to relay the concerns of residents and had received a similar response.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided and thank members for their actions.

126.2 Gorslas Ward: Safety of Pupils making use of Black Lion Road to access Gorslas School.

- A communication had been received from an individual relaying their concern that vehicles using Black Lion Road were travelling in excess of the speed limit representing a possibility of their being an accident involving an injury to a child attending Gorslas C.P. School.
- The concerns had been relayed by the Clerk to the school, the County Council, and to Go Safe Wales (Joint Police and Local Authority Organisation dealing with enforcement of speeding and mobile speed checks).
- The individual had been advised to also report the matters to the same organisations and provide details regarding the speeding vehicles to the Police direct.
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the actions taken.

127.0 Members Reports

127.1 Gorslas Public Conveniences Gold Award: Chair Cllr Tina Butler.

- The Chair, and Clerk, attended a meeting with a representative of the cleaning contractor Danfo to accept the Gold Award Certificate on behalf of the Council.
- Preliminary discussions had also taken place in relation to options for changing the current operational arrangements to cater for the facilities which the Community Council would be responsible for following the establishment of the new school.
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) To receive and note the information provided.
 - (ii) To prepare and forward a press release in relation to the presentation of the Award.

127.2 County Council Update: Cllr Darren Price.

- Cllr Price briefed members in relation to a number of County Council matters which were relevant to the communities and residents of the area. In summary they included:
 - (i) Education: Rural schools were experiencing ever increasing pressure in relation to both financial matters, service delivery and falling pupil numbers. The option of Federating with other schools was increasingly being explored in such cases.
 - (ii) Local Development Plan: Cllr Price wished, on behalf of himself and Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen conveyed their appreciation to the Drefach Welfare Association for arranging an event on 29.02.20 at the Welfare Hall where residents could view the updated plans.
 - (iii) Pride in Your Patch Scheme: The County Council scheme had seen successful litter collecting events in both the Cefneithin and Gorslas wards. It was intended that the next event would focus on the Drefach Ward. Members were asked to forward details of anyone wishing to participate in the event to Cllr Darren Price.
 - (iv) Housing/ Planning. A number of individual issues and difficulties had been dealt with during this period. In particular difficulties with the condition of the old pop factory at Heol Treventy which had forced the County Council to intervene to make the building safe.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

128.0 Agenda Item 8. Correspondence.

| Ref | From | Details |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Consultation | | |
| 128.1 | Carms C.C. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised LDP Plan published. Consultation events to be held at a number of locations (Detail online or available electronically from Clerk) Closing date for observations 13.03.20. |
| 128.2 | Auditor General for Wales | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeking views regarding a proposal to extend the audit regime to include a transactional audit every three years. |
| General Correspondence | | |
| 128.3 | S Jones | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relating to Duke of Edinburgh Scheme and verification of Volunteering work undertaken at Drefach Park. Activity not under Community Council direction/ supervision thus unable to verify. |
| 128.4 | Carmarthen Town Council | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invitation for Chair to attend St David's Parade, 29th February, 2020, in Carmarthen. |
| 128.5 | Dyfed Pension Fund | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise of availability of their Funding Strategic Statement. |
| 128.6 | Carms CC. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inviting nominations for the Celebration of Culture Awards. Closing date 23.02.20 |
| 128.7 | Carms C.C. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise that the South West Wales Regional Contractor Framework was made operational from 01.02.20 |
| 128.8 | Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electronic copy of the winter 2020 newsletter available from Clerk or on their website. |
| 128.9 | Welsh Govt | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Public Health Minimum price for Alcohol (Wales) Act 2018 comes into force on the 2nd March, 2020. The Act requires minimum prices to be applied for the sale of alcohol by retailers, clubs and organisations. |
| 128.10 | Hywel Dda University Health Board | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise that as from 09.03.20 the "out of hours" GP shift at Prince Phillip Hospital, Llanelli will be undertaken by the Minor Injuries Unit. The Advanced Paramedic Practitioner Scheme with the Welsh Ambulance Trust has been extended to allow paramedics to undertake home visits within the Board's area. |
| 128.11 | Resident Foelgastell | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conveying concerns regarding safety and noise resulting from both tree works undertaken on land adjoining the Heol Y |

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|--|--|--|
| | | Capel site and the discontinuation of the use of noise reducing tarmac on a section of the nearby A48. |
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- **Resolved:** -
 - (i) To receive and note the information provided.
 - (ii) Item 128.2. A response be provided expressing concern that the proposal would duplicate checks already undertaken as part of the current audit process. Cllr Wyn Edwards would also raise the matter and seek views at the next meeting of One Voice Wales.
 - (iii) Item 128.11. The works and issues were outside the remit of the Community Council however Councillor Darren Price advised that he and Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen would meet with the resident to try and assist the resident in their capacity as the local County Councillors.

129.0 Agenda Item 9 One Voice Wales.

129.1 Newsletter

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

129.2 Formal Response to Consultation on Local Govt and Elections (Wales) Bill.

- A copy of the full response is available online or electronically from the Clerk however some key points affecting Community and Town Councils are outlined below: -

| Issue | Detail of Response |
|--|---|
| Extension of Voting. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports extension for 16-17-year-old to vote in Local Govt Elections. • Supports right of foreign nationals legally resident in UK to vote in Local Govt Elections |
| Voting System: First Past the Post or Single Transferrable Vote. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bill proposes the right for Principal Councils to be able to choose either of the above systems when holding elections. Members felt it would be confusing for electors if the system the Principal Council adopted was different to that for the electing Community/ Town Councillors – especially if the elections were on the same day. |
| Elections Every 5 Years | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal to bring Local Govt Elections in line with Parliamentary Elections was welcomed. |
| Eligibility for Membership of a Local Authority. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal of allowing a citizen of any country to stand in an election is supported. • Council Officers and employees, subject to their not holding apolitically sensitive post, should be able to stand in Local Govt Elections and if elected allowed to resign. The implications for those individuals whose post requires impartiality and how have supported particular policies during the election to be examined. |
| General Power of Competence. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is included, and welcomed in the Bill and is not limited by any other power of a qualifying Authority. Will make the devolution of services to Community Council easier and clearer. |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Eligible Community Councils. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OVW supports the criteria for qualifying and the inclusion of CiLCA as a requirement. Alternative qualifications should also be considered. |
| Annual Report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislation will require Community Councils to produce Annual Reports on its activities. |
| Training of Members and Staff. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Association supports the requirement for Councils to review the training needs of members and staff and for mandatory training in certain key subjects to be introduced. |
| Funding for Church Building Work. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Act does not include this provision. OVW ask that it be included |

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

130.0 Agenda Item 10 Planning Matters

130.1 Planning Applications.

| No /Ref | Type and Description | Location |
|---------|--|---|
| W/40032 | Full Lean To Extension Containing Separate WC, Washbasin and Entrance Porch. | Beaufort House, Heol Ddu, Drefach, SA14 7BL. |
| W/40064 | Full Planning. Proposed Single Storey Extension | 8 Cefneithin Road, Gorslas. SA14 7HT |
| W/40080 | Variation of Planning Condition 2 and removal of planning Condition 6 on W/ 16539 | 78, Heol y Parc, Cefneithin. SA14 7DT |
| W/40086 | Full Planning. Retrospective to retain Dormer Bungalow and Associated Works. Construction new Detached Garage. | Gwernllwyn Care Home, Cross Hands Road, Gorslas. SA14 6RD. |
| W/40140 | Outline Consent. One New Home. All matters reserved. | 112 Carmarthen Road, Cross Hands SA14 6TD. |
| W/40158 | Variation of Condition No2 W/35522 | Land at Rear of, Ty Penybanc, Black Lion Rd, Gorslas, SA14 6RE. |

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

131.0 Finance Agenda Item 11.

131.1 Report by Cllr Clive Green Internal Financial Examination 2019/20.

- I met with the Clerk/RFO on 13th January 2020 in the Drefach Welfare Hall. As in previous years the usual financial checks were undertaken and there was an examination on the financial climate in which the Council has to operate.
- I am able to advise fellow councilors that there were no serious issues which gave me cause for concern.
- Last year I raised the issue of how the Council would undertake forward planning for the next three years. It is acknowledged that extensive work undertaken by the Clerk relating to the

development of a new primary school in Gorslas has to a large extent precluded him being able to assist the three wards in the preparation of their forward plans for the next three years.

- Whilst therefore three-year budgets have been prepared and considered they need to be developed further and allied to developmental plans for the three wards.
- Another factor has been the unplanned departure of community councilors in Cefneithin and Gorslas with the subsequent inability of the Council to get these vacancies filled.
- There is a need to ensure that any local forward plans that are developed must include appropriate details on how the revenue consequences are to be funded.
- It is also vital that the system and access to County Council Section 106 payments needs clarification and transparency. I am appreciative of the work being done in this area by our two county councilors.
- One issue I would like to see discussed and clarified for the next financial year is that of how the allowances claimable by councilors (excluding travel expenses) may be vired, should members indicate they do not wish to claim the allowance for the year, into other budget headings. Guidelines, especially for newer members of the Council would be welcome.
- The Clerk advised that member who did not wish to claim the annual IRPW allowance were required to notify the Clerk in writing of their intention to do so annually.
- Having received members instructions the Council could decide to vire funds from that budget to another budget.
- Concerns were expressed as to the position should a member, having notified the Clerk of their intention not to claim the allowance change their mind during the year and submit a claim.
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) To receive, note and thank Cllr Green for his work and the information provided.
 - (ii) The Clerk seek advice from One Voice Wales to clarify the position in relation to a member, having notified the Council they did not wish to claim the allowance changing their mind.

131.2 Monthly Monitoring Report.

- Members reviewed the overall monthly monitoring budget summary together as well as the report relating to each individual budget heading.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided and to continue to monitor the position.

131.3 Financial Assistance Application Cross Hands Public Hall and Cinema Trust.

- Cllr Clive Green declared an interest in the matter, as Chair of the Trust, and did not take part in the discussion or decision.
- The Clerk indicated that an application had been received from the Trust for financial assistance.
- The Council had set aside specific periods for considering applications for financial assistance however as the issue related to a Health and Safety matter which could prevent disabled people accessing the facilities the matter was brought before members for consideration.
- **Resolved:** That the matter be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Council.

131 .4 Monthly Income and Expenditure/ Receipts and Payments

(i) Payments Made to Creditors.

Expenditure

| Paid To | Description | Amount £ |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Danfo | Charges P Conv Parks Jan | 588.00 |
| Spencers Environ | Monthly Grass Maintenance Charges | 1.058.00 |
| Clerk | Salary and Travel | 1.085.43 |
| Drefach Welfare | Hire Hall 3 occasions | 46.00 |
| TBD | Litter etc Dec and January | 1.080.00 |
| WCVA | Payroll Charges | 24.60 |

(ii) Income

| Received From | Description | Amount £ |
|--|--------------|-----------------|
| Cefneithin & Foelgastell Welfare Association | Donation | 150.00 |
| | Total | £ 150.00 |

132.0 Agenda Item 13 Next Meeting

- Monday 9th March, 2020, at Gorslas C.P. School
- Cllr Clive Green highlighted the fact that April meeting of the Council was scheduled to take place at Drefach Welfare Hall on Easter Monday.
- **Resolved:** The date of the April meeting of the Council be changed to Monday 6th April,2020.
- The business of the meeting concluded the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.30p.m.