

CYNGOR CYMUNED GORSLAS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of an online meeting of the Gorslas Community Council

held on Monday, 11th January, 2021, at 19.00 hrs.

105.0 Agenda Item 1: Record of those Present/Apologies

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

105.1 General.

- The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting which was declared open at 19:00hrs.
- The Chair advised that it was his sad duty to inform members that Mr David Evans had sadly passed away. Mr Evans had served as an active member of the Council for a number of years representing the Cefneithin Ward. The Council's thoughts and prayers were with his family.
- **Resolved:**
 - i) To write to Mr Evans's widow extending the Council's sympathy to her and the family.
 - ii) To accept the apology for absence from Cllr Brian Kirby.

106.0 Agenda Item 2 Declaration of Interest

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

Agenda Item	Councillors	Nature of Interest
109.4	Darren Price	Has family ties to the Complainant.
109.4	Janice Price	Partner of the complainant.

- **Resolved:** To note and record the declarations of interest from members.

107.0 Agenda Item 3 Consider the Minutes of the previous Meetings of the Council.

- Members, under the direction of the Chair, examined in detail each page of the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council for accuracy.
- **Resolved:** Proposed by Cllr W Edwards and seconded by Cllr Clive Green, and agreed by all that the minutes were a true and accurate record of discussions and the decisions made.

108.0 Agenda Item 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

Ref	Issue	Details
108.1.1	New School Management Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carms C.C Seeking to progress meeting.
108.1.2	Cefneithin Dev Plan Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Awaiting Contractor.• Y Glyn: Awaiting Meeting with Carms C.C. Officers

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108.1.3	Cefneithin: Park Gates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awaiting contractor.
108.1.4	Cefneithin: MUGA Rust Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplier contacted. Reminder to be sent.
104.1.5	Cefneithin: Park Weld Repairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awaiting actioning by contractor
108.1.6	Cefneithin: Park Drainage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Corporate Matters.
108.1.7	Drefach: Park New Fencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notified of delay in supply
108.1.8	Drefach: Request Park Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the enquiry had been responded to.
108.1.9	Drefach: Bus Stop Heol Cwmmawr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen arranging meeting with Officers but delayed by Covid restrictions.
108.1.10	Drefach: Excess water Heol Blaenhirwaun/Parc Y Dai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awaiting update.
108.1.11	Drefach: Damaged Pedestrian Railings B4310	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carms C.C have investigated and will provide 2 replacement panels.
108.1.12	Drefach: Toll Bar Roofing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No further communication from contractor. Chase.
108.1.13	Gorslas: Park Bench Repair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awaiting actioning by contractor
108.1.14	Gorslas: P Conv Damage 14.12.20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Police have advised they have been unable to identify the culprits. Patrols covering the park area will continue.
108.1.15	Gorslas: Condition of Highway Cefneithin Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns regarding holes in the highway were reported to Carms C.C. • The County Council have responded to the effect that repairs will be undertaken shortly.
108.1.16	Gorslas: Excess Water Cefneithin Rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No further information.
108.1.17	Footpaths FP31/7 and FP31/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carms C.C advise that due to Covid restrictions and the prioritisation of grant applications it will not be possible to arrange a meeting before March/April • Any works necessary would be undertaken during 21/22 financial year • Morfa Bach. It was understood that the owner had suffered a period of ill health – which had delayed a meeting.
108.1.18	Communications Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being Progressed.
108.1.19	Park New Equipment Consideration of Allocation to parks from Reserves.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be considered at next meeting of Sub Cttee
108.1.20	Play Equipment Grant Funding Carms C.C.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No further communication received.
108.1.21	Member Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr N Beckett booked to attend two free online courses. L.G. Finance and Understanding Law.
108.1.22	Tier 4 Restrictions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cefneithin MUGA locked Sunday 20.12.20. • Parks and Play Areas remain open. • Gorslas P Conv locked as from 20.12.20

108.1.23	Clerking Services Cover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification/views on proposed arrangements sought from other Councils. No response to date.
108.1.24	Footpaths Park - Cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awaiting response from contractor

- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided and for any further discussion to be undertaken under the appropriate agenda heading.

109.0 Agenda Item 5: Corporate Matters

109.1 Draft Strategic Document.

- The Chair advised that, as agreed at the last meeting, the draft document had been placed on the Council's website for public comment and publicised on the Council's Facebook page.
- No observations or comments had been received.
- Members re-visited the document and considered the aims and objectives in the context of the policy, financial and resource implications for the Council
- **Resolved:** -
 - i) The Sub Committee consider the element relating to the cost of translation.
 - ii) An ongoing review be undertaken, over the next five years, to align the different elements of the policies, financial regulations/ standing orders with those set out in the strategic document.

109.2 Discussion Options for Alternative Operational Structure.

- Members had been provided with a document regarding the above in advance of the meeting.
- To aid consideration the meeting was suspended with members attending sub group meetings, structured by wards to discuss and feedback their findings on the matter to the full Council.
- The Council then re-convened and considered the feedback from each ward group. In summary the review was welcomed by all wards and agreement that the option for ward members to meet and discuss local matters prior to the main Council meeting being the preferred option.
- **Resolved:**
 - i) The Sub Committee examine how best to implement the proposal.
 - ii) Members e mail the Clerk with any further suggestions they may have regarding the proposal or to highlight an area of the Council's work in which they have a particular interest, knowledge or skill which could be used for the benefit of the Council.

109.3 Cefneithin Park: Excess Water Concerns.

- Following consultation with Sub-Committee members work to improve the effectiveness of the drainage system in the wooded area of the park had been undertaken.
- The works were checked, following a subsequent period of heavy rain, and found to be working. Certain elements of the work remained for discussion with the contractor.
- It was noted during the visit that a ditch on the Heol Yr Ysgol side of the park was blocked and discharging water across the footpath.
- The Clerk also advised that the County Council Flood Defence Team had been in contact to enquire about the incident. The County Council had received a formal complaint from a householder on the 18th December, 2020. The Officer was advised of the actions taken and was content to close the file.
- **Resolved:**
 - i) To note, record and approve the actions taken.

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- ii) To continue discussions with the contractor regarding certain elements of the work.
- iii) To obtain a quotation for the clearance of the blocked ditch

109.4 Gorslas Park. Alleged Damage to Tree.

- A complaint had been received on the 18th December,2020, that the root system of a tree had been damaged as part of emergency drainage work at the park.
- The concern was that the damage to the tree presented a risk to public safety, given its proximity to a footpath, and would lead to the possible demise of the tree.
- A visual inspection was undertaken by the Clerk and contractor on the 18th December,2020, with no immediate danger identifiable.
- Following discussions with the Chair, with safety being the over-riding priority, the services of a specialist Arboriculturist was engaged.
- The Arboriculturist visited site on the 24th December with an initial appraisal indicating that there was no identifiable danger to the public. Further details and recommendations to be provided.
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the actions taken and that any remedial action to safeguard, or replace the tree be authorised following consultation with the Sub Committee Members.

109.5 Requirement for Tree Works.

- It was proposed by Cllr Tina Butler and seconded by Cllr Andrew King, that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and the public be excluded from discussion relating to the award of the contract as it would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.
- Anonymised details of the tenders submitted by contractors in respect of the specified works had been forwarded to members prior to the meeting.
- **Resolved:**
 - i) That the proposal to exclude the public and press from the meeting be adopted.
 - ii) That the contract be awarded to Contractor B – Extreme Tree Services at a cost of £1,400.
 - iii) That the contractor be contacted asap to arrange a meeting with Gorslas and Cefneithin Ward Members regarding the planting of replacement trees.
 - iv) That the contractor be commissioned to undertake additional work on a tree in Gorslas Park at a cost of £ 195.00.

109.6 Tenders for Grass Cutting 1st April 2021 to 31st March, 2026.

- It was proposed by Cllr Tina Butler and seconded by Cllr Andrew King, that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and the public be excluded from discussion relating to the award of the contract as it would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.
- Anonymised details of the tenders submitted by contractors in respect of the specified works had been forwarded to members prior to the meeting.
- **Resolved:**
 - i) That the proposal to exclude the public and press from the meeting be adopted.
 - ii) That further information be obtained in relation to the lowest price tender and that the matter be further considered at the February meeting of the Council.

110.0 Agenda Item 6: Parks.

110.1 Gorslas Public Conveniences December Useage.

- Used by 130 individuals prior to lockdown
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

111.0 Attendance

- Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen tendered his apologies for having to leave the meeting at this point.
- **Resolved:** To note, record and accept the apology.

112.0 Agenda Item 7 Urgent Local Matters.

112.1 Gorslas Square Concrete Bus Shelter.

- It was noted that a considerable amount of debris had gathered in the shelter. Danfo contractors have cleared the debris and washed the floor.
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the actions taken.

113.0 Agenda Item 8. Members Reports.

113.1 County Council Update: Cllrs Aled Vaughan Owen and Darren Price

- Members received a summary report from the two members which included the following: -
 - i) County Council
 - a. Covid 19 issues dominating discussions.
 - b. Education: Broadband speed was an issue in supporting pupils in rural areas.
 - c. Track and Trace: Staff redeployed from other departments to undertake the function.
 - d. Finance: Government funding increased by 3.8%.
 - e. Finance: Discussions on the Council’s budget for 21/22 were being held next week.
 - ii) Local.
 - a. Flooding: Three or four properties had been flooded along Penygroes Road. Discussions with Highways and Welsh Water were underway to identify the problem.
 - b. Drefach: a Sink hole had appeared near Henffordd- caused by water. Awaiting site visit.
 - c. Drefach: Bus Stop Heol Cwmmawr: Meeting with Officers delayed due to Covid 19..
 - d. Salt Boxes: Needed filling due to the expected severe weather.
 - e. Ten Towns Review: The County Councillors were to be interviewed by the consultant.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

114.0 Agenda Item 9. Correspondence.

114.1 Consultation		
Ref	From	Details
114.1.1	Audit Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeking views via online survey on a review of Welsh Towns.

114.2 Correspondence		
Ref	From	Guidance or Information Regarding
114.2.1	Welsh Govt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise of intention to postpone the period for postponed by-elections to the period 1st March, to 6th May,2021.
114.2.2	Pageantmaster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeking Council's involvement in holding an NHS, Social care & Frontline Workers Day 05.05.21. The event will include the raising of a unique flag by Councils, 2-minute silence a ringing of Church Bells at 8.00p.m. The event will raise funds for NHA associated charities. Organisations are asked to register interest
114.2.3	Cylch Yr Iaith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an electronic copy of a paper produced by the organisation regarding Employment and Tourism in Wales.
114.2.4	Golley Slater Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeking the Council's assistance in providing material to the community to help them know how to access healthcare services
114.2.5	Wales Air Ambulance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urgent request for financial Assistance
114.2.6	Carms C.C.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of organisations who can provide help for individuals
114.2.7	Owen Davies Consulting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carmarthenshire 10 Towns- Cross Hands. The company will communicate, in January, present a baseline assessment and SWOT analysis of key issues and opportunities for stakeholders
114.2.8	Lloyd and Gravell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forwarded an electronic copy of a newsletter to pupils, parents and staff in relation to progress on the new school build.
114.2.9	Myles Cadwallader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey of members views on impact of investment at Cross Hands-on communities.
114.2.10	Natural Resources Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend period for submitting observations on Changes to the Countryside code to 11.01.20
114.2.11	Office of National Statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forward copies of press release for distribution by the Council to local residents or on social media regarding the census which is scheduled for 21.03.21.
114.2.12	Carms C.C.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enquiring regarding requirement for "Keep Distance Banners" Seeking good news stories to recognise someone /business or organisation which has gone over and above to help people. Enquiries as to information regarding any new community groups or shops offering food delivery.
114.2.13	WLGA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latest Coronavirus Update Available electronically.
114.2.14	Sustain/ Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January Update available electronically.
114.2.15	Dyfed Powys Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covid-19 Scam alert. Individuals are being texted or e-mailed and asked to click on a link related to the vaccination programme. They are asked to provide bank details etc.

114.2.16	Owen Davies Consultancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requested an initial 15-minute discussion with the Clerk regarding a 10 towns study that they are undertaking on behalf of the County Council and involving the Cross Hands Area. Wider consultation is planned for later on in the year.
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- Resolved:**
 - To receive and note the information received.
 - 114.2.12 To note that Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen was to collect 5 banners to be placed locally.
 - 114.2.12. That letters of thanks be sent to local suppliers/ organisations which had “gone over and above” to help people during the pandemic. Members to forward details to the Clerk.

115.0 Agenda Item 9 One Voice Wales.

115.1 Online Training Opportunities

- Details of online courses for the month of January had been circulated to members.
- Resolved:** Members interested to forward a request to Chair and Clerk.

116.0 Agenda Item 10 Planning Matters

116.1 Planning Applications.

Ref	Type and Description	Location
PL/00984	Approval of Reserved Matters. Submission of approval of reserved matters for appearance and landscaping pursuant to outline planning application W/34955 for the construction of 9 no dwelling houses and office, with estate road and associated infrastructure.	Land off Heol Y Parc, Cefneithin, Llanelli, SA14 7DS
PL/00838	Full Planning Permission. Proposed replacement dwelling	Haulwen, Heol Caegwyn, Drefach, SA14 7BA

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

117.0 Finance Agenda Item 11.

117.1 External Audit 2019/20.

- Grant Thornton have written to confirm that the Auditor General has issued an unqualified audit approval in respect of the Council’s Annual Return for the 2019/20 financial year.
- Whilst not forming part of the audit response they asked that it be noted that both the Certification and Re Certification boxes had been completed whilst there was only a need to complete one.
- Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided and to action the recommendation.

117.2 Internal Independent Auditor Fees

- The Independent Internal Auditor that, due to additional requirements by Audit Wales the cost of the 2020/21 audit would increase by 20% over those of the previous year.
- Resolved:** To receive, note the information and approve the payment of the increase.

117.3 Precept 2021/22.

- The County Council has asked for the information to be returned to them by 1st February,2021.
- The Sub Committee recommendation relating to the precept will be considered at the meeting of the full Council on the 8th February,2021 and would thus not be provided by the target date.
- **Resolved:** To notify the County Council accordingly

117.4 Financial Monitoring

- Members considered the quarterly financial report including a projection of the total income/expenditure for each budget for the 2020/21 financial year.
- It was noted that the final figures could change depending on Welsh Government regulations/ restrictions regarding the Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Resolved:** To note the information provided and that no remedial action was required at this time however that the position continue to be regularly monitored.

117 .5 Monthly Payments Income Expenditure

Paid /Received	Description	Amount £
Income		
Carms C.C	Final Precept Installment	33,493.00
Expenditure		
Spencer Environmental	Grass Cutting Monthly Charge Sept to Dec.	4,871.60
Wales Audit	Fee Audit 2019/20	426.75
WCVA	Monthly Payroll Charge	15.80
Clerk	Wages	1,152.50
Clerk	Refund Building Supplies/Advertising.	208.21
HMRC	Qtr. 3 Employee/Employer Contributions	1,687.31
Carms C.C.	Qtr. 3 Employee/Employer Contributions	1,869.00
TDP Ltd	1 x Bench Seat	527.83
DR Design	Mapping Services – Grass Tenders	480.00
Danfo	P Conv Nov/Dec	1,050.00
Dwr Cymru	Gorslas P Conv	64.88
SWALEC	Gorslas P Conv	46.43
TBM	Litter Sept/Oct/Nov	1,560.00
Menter Cwm Gwendraeth	Translation Services Oct/Nov/Dec	270.00
Lampeter Trees	Annual Tree Survey	780.00

- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the payments made

118.0 Next Meeting

- The next meeting of the Council would be online at 7.00p.m. on Monday 8th February, 2021.
- Cllr Clive Green expressed his thanks to the Chair for the manner in which the meeting had been managed with so much being achieved within a short period of time.
- There being no further busines to transact the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:55 hrs.