

# CYNGOR CYMUNED GORSLAS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of an online meeting of the Gorslas Community Council

held on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2021, at 19.00 hrs.

## 132.0 Agenda Item 1: Record of those Present/Apologies

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

## 132.1 General.

- The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting which was declared open at 19:00hrs.
- **Resolved:** To approve and accept the reasons for non-attendance.

## 133.0 Agenda Item 2 Declaration of Interest

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

Agenda Item	Councillors	Nature of Interest
136.2	Darren Price	Member of the County Council who are one of the other parties in the negotiation

- It was noted that the County Councillor had a personal but not prejudicial interest in matters regarding the new school and thus could join in discussions and vote on such matters.
- **Resolved:** To note and record the declarations of interest from members.

## 134.0 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.
- It was noted that in relation to note 130.1 i.e., the setting of the budget and precept for the 2021/22 financial it had not been an easy decision for the Council. It was felt that it would aid transparency and understanding by the public of the matter if greater detail regarding the proposal, amendment and the decision being carried by a majority vote would be helpful.
- **Resolved:** Proposed by Cllr Nick Beckett and seconded by Cllr Terry Jones, and agreed by all that the minutes were a true and accurate record of discussions and decisions subject to revisions relating to the wording of item 130.01.

## 135.0 Agenda Item 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

- Members considered the updated information provided with the papers for the meeting.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided and for any discussion relating to the matter to be undertaken under the appropriate agenda heading.

## 136.0 Agenda Item 5: Corporate Matters

### 136.1 Grass and Hedge Cutting Contract.

- Members were advised that unfortunately complaints had been received from residents at Drefach and a resident at Cefneithin following the cutting of boundary hedges on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2021.
- The complainants were spoken to with Cllr T Jones visiting the property at Cefneithin and the Clerk assessing the damage at Drefach.
- The contractor was duly advised and remedial action agreed. Cllr Edwards advised that he had visited the site earlier in the day and the contractor had indeed attended to the matter.
- It was also noted that in relation to Cefneithin thanks had been received for the work undertaken.
- In both instances it was noted that the work was being undertaken by the Council on a voluntary basis as a result of requests from residents.
- Accordingly, the option was open to the Council not to proceed with the works in future.
- **Resolved:**
  - (i) To continue with the arrangement for the Autumn cut and review the position then.
  - (ii) To ask the contractor to liaise with the resident at Cefneithin regarding the Autumn cut.

### 136.2 Draft Management Agreement Community Use New Gorslas School.

- Members were advised that a Sub Committee of the School Governing Body had met on the 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2021, to discuss the draft agreement.
- It was confirmed by the Headteacher that the meeting had taken place and the Sub Committee had decided as follows: -
  - That it be agreed in principle to having a Management Agreement and to working with the Community Council to come to an agreement.
  - The Sub Cttee will be looking at some points in greater detail which will need to be altered or changed.
  - Next action is to have further guidance from the County Council and look at other Management Agreement system which have been drawn up for other schools in the County.
- **Resolved:** To write to the Governing Body and
  - (i) thank them for progressing the matter.
  - (ii) request a meeting with the Sub Committee to determine timeline and discuss any concerns they may have and to progress matters such as CCTV coverage of the MUGA.
  - (iii) accept Cllr Darren Price's offer to write to the County Council to support the urgent provision of information to the school on any similar existing agreements in the county.

### 136.3 IRPW Annual Report. Payments for the 2021/22 year

- Under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, members of a community council are entitled to receive payments as determined by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.
- A community council member wishing to decline payments must themselves write to their proper officer to do so.
- Members considered the report and the items which were mandatory and those which were not.
- **Resolved:**

- (i) Mandatory Elements: To adopt the mandatory elements as outlined in the IRPW report.
- (ii) Non-Mandatory: To adopt the same policies and practices as applied for 2020/21 subject to any variations in eligibility, rates or amounts as specified in the IRPW report for 2021/22.
- (iii) Compliance Requirements: To comply with the requirements specified in the report.

**136.4 Local Govt and Elections (Wales) Act 2021**

- A brief overview of the Act and its implications was provided.
- A more detailed report would be presented at a future meeting.
- **Resolved To:**
  - (i) Note the requirement to produce an annual report from 2022.
  - (ii) Obtain templates/examples of such reports from O.V.W and Carmarthen Town Council.
  - (iii) Link the Annual Report to the Community Council’s objective of producing a newsletter.
  - (iv) Require members to forward issues/ items of interest which could be included in the newsletter as soon as possible to the Clerk.
  - (v) Request that members interested in serving on the Working Groups advise the Clerk by 15.03.21.
  - (vi) Facilitate the Governance and Communications Groups ability to work together to produce the newsletter.

**136.5 Ward Member Meetings**

- Feedback on the ward meetings was provided by Cllr Beckett and included the following –

**a) Gorslas Ward Members Meeting 22.02.21.**

- In attendance: Cllrs N Beckett, Linda Williams, Andy King, and Aled Vaughan Owen
  - (i) WhatsApp group established for the ward members.
  - (ii) Cllr N Beckett to act as facilitator.
  - (iii) Meetings: 4th Monday of every month.
  - (iv) Flooding in various parts of the ward was raised as an issue.
  - (v) Re-wilding of part of the park to be discussed at next meeting

**b) Meeting Ward Members with Gorslas Welfare Association 01.03.21.**

- In attendance Cllrs Nick Beckett, Linda Williams, Andy King Aled Owen and Ellis Davies, Angharad Rees representing the Gorslas Welfare Association.
  - (i) Discussion on the condition of equipment at Gorslas Park was discussed.
  - (ii) Representatives advised that the Welfare Association would consider giving a donation towards the current equipment tender depending on scope and cost.
  - (iii) A further joint meeting would be convened once the tenders had been received.
  - (iv) Llyn Llech Owain: Concerns were conveyed regarding a loss of revenue to the County Council as a result of the widespread avoidance of parking charges. The provision of an ANPR camera was suggested as an option. Cllr Owen agreed to make further enquiries.
- **Resolved to:**

- (i) receive and note the information provided.
- (ii) encourage the other ward members to meet before the next full Council meeting and to place items for the newsletter on the ward members meeting agenda.
- (iii) forward a general standard agenda template which could be used as a starting point for ward meetings and discussions.

**136.6 Format of Future Meetings Poll.**

- Members were invited to express a view, via an online electronic poll, as to the preferred format for future meetings.
- The results indicated that some 11% of members would prefer to continue with online meetings, 22% favouring a return to face to face meetings and 67% a mixture of both.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

**136.7 Social Media Platform Information.**

- The Chair sought members views on the placing of information on the Council’s social media platforms relating to the upcoming national Census Day and the Elections to The National Assembly for Wales.
- **Resolved:** That factual information be provided in line with any restriction or legal requirement regarding the publication of information regarding elections.

**136.8 Corporate Matters Update.**

- Members considered the information provided in the update report regarding corporate matters.
- **Resolved:**
  - (i) To receive, note and accept the information provided.
  - (i) Website: Not to approve the application to provide a link on the website.
  - (ii) No Smoking Signs Play Areas. To approve the actions taken and thank Cllr T Jones for his work.
  - (iii) Dog Fouling:
    - a. To provide signage in the parks to try and reduce the number of incidents.
    - b. To ascertain whether or not it is possible to introduce a requirement for dogs to be kept on a lead whilst in the park.
  - (iv) County Council Scrutiny Committee. Propose the Committee include in the programme:
    - a. Section 106 Monies: Relay Experiences, concerns and clarification of processes.
    - b. Dog Fouling. Examine the extent of the issue across the county and what measures can be introduced to reduce the number of incidents.

**137.0 Agenda Item 6: Park Issues.**

**137.1 Cefneithin Park: Drainage.**

- Work had been undertaken previously to improve drainage in the park.
- Given the recent period of heavy rainfall checks were made on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of February, during the periods of heavy rainfall. No issues of concern were observed.
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the actions taken.

**137.2 Cefneithin Park: Drainage Work Wooded Area.**

- As indicated above works to improve drainage had been undertaken in the park. As reported previously it had been evident that water was collecting in another part of the wooded area.
- Accordingly, a contractor was costing options for the works.
- Given the intention to landscape part of the wooded area in the summer it was recommended that any works should be postponed or curtailed severely until that matter had been resolved.
- **Resolved:** Not to proceed with the works for the time being.

**137.3 Cefneithin Park. MUGA**

- It was reported that an individual had raised concerns regarding the fact that they had witnessed young people accessing and playing in the MUGA contrary to the current Covid restrictions.
- The facility had been locked from the beginning of the current restrictions and temporary signage been put in place.
- Members had spoken several times to individuals, and use had been made of social media to advise people that the facility was closed. The Police had also been advised of the situation.
- **Resolved:**
  - (i) To write to the individual concerned explain the actions taken by the Council and what to do if they witnessed such actions again.
  - (ii) To examine the option of obtaining permanent signage to advise the MUGA was closed.

**137.4 Gorslas Park: Damage to Eco Drains**

- Eco drain cover damaged was reported. The Clerk visited site and temporary repairs undertaken by contractor.
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the actions taken.

**137.5 Gorslas Park: Rotating Swing Damage to Safety Surface.**

- Damage to the surface was observed during a site visit. Contractor examining options for repair.
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the actions taken.

**137.6 Gorslas Park: Residents' concerns relating to Water Ingress from Park.**

- The new school contractor advised that they had been contacted by a resident concerned that water from the park/school site would enter their property during the forecasted period of heavy rainfall over the next few days.
- The Clerk visited site and agreed with the contractor to provide two new drains to help matters.
- Site visits were undertaken by the Clerk on the Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The work had been completed as agreed and no water was evidenced as entering the adjoining properties.
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the actions taken.

**137.7 Gorslas Public Conveniences.**

- The facility was closed due to the current pandemic.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

## **138.0 Agenda Item 7: Urgent Local Matters.**

### **138.1 Drefach Ward: Damaged Bollards site of former Ysgol Y Gwendraeth.**

- It was highlighted that two bollards in the lay by of the former school had been reported to the County Council as damaged some time ago but no remedial action had been taken
- **Resolved:** To accept Cllr Darren Price's offer to take the matter up with the relevant County Council Department.

### **138.2 Drefach and Gorslas Wards: Damaged Highway Pedestrian Safety Fencing.**

- The County Council had been advised of damage to the pedestrian safety fencing at Drefach, near the Henffordd crossing point and also at Gorslas, near the pedestrian entrance to the park.
- The County Council had advised that they were in the process of replacing the damaged units.
- Members advised that the work had not been undertaken and that some time had elapsed since the undertaking had been given. There were therefore concerns over the safety of pedestrians
- **Resolved:** To accept Cllr Darren Price's offer to take the matter up with the relevant County Council Department.

## **139.0 Agenda Item 8: Members Report**

### **139.1 County Council Update: Cllr Darren Price.**

- Members received a summary update which included the following: -
  - a) County Council
    - Finance: County Council Budget increase of 3.45%.
    - Modernising Education Provision: The consultation period on certain re-organisation proposals had been extended.
  - b) Local.
    - Flooding Penygroes: Welsh Water and the County Council Highways Department had been undertaking investigations during the recent heavy periods of rainfall.
    - Flooding Gorslas Square. Initial work by the County Council had revealed a collapsed drain in the area which had been attended to. Regrettably however during the recent period of heavy rainfall it had become evident that, whilst matters had improved, there remained significant difficulties. Further investigations were being undertaken.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

### **139.2 One Voice Wales Carmarthen Area Committee 09.02.21: Cllr W Edwards.**

- Cllr Edwards summarised the main points of the discussions which included the following matters: -
  - a) Mr Alun Harries the Mid and West Wales Development Officer had taken up post.
  - b) 95% of Councils in Wales were now members.
  - c) Dog Fouling: Councils across Wales were reporting the issue as one of major concern.
  - d) Gorslas New School: Cllr Edwards had outlined the experiences of the Community Council with regard to the matter.
  - e) Policy Executive: A specialist taxation adviser had been engaged by Welsh Government to examine the position in relation to the £150 IRPW members and carers allowance.

- f) Funding had been received to appoint a Digital Officer to advise Town and Community Councils on digitalisation and providing online access to Council meetings.
- g) Membership cost to rise by 3%.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

**140.0 Agenda Item 9: Correspondence.**

- Members considered the items of correspondence detailed in the papers for the meeting.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

**141.0 Agenda Item 10: One Voice Wales.**

- The correspondence from the association was considered by members.
- **Resolved:** To receive the information provided.

**142.0 Agenda Item 11: Planning Matters.**

Ref	Type and Description	Location
PL/01254	Full Planning. New Dwelling with detached garage	Plot 2 adj to Bryn Holfen, Heol Yr Ysgol, Cefneithin, SA14 7ES
PL/01206	Householder Planning Permission. Single storey rear extension and front porch extension	1 Heol Y Parc, Cefneithin, SA14 7DE
PL/01266	Full Planning: Wooden pagoda type structure comprising roof, floor, seating and uprights only. Open sided with just a railing around the side. No ground works required as it will be erected on an existing hardstanding seating area. Structure is 4mx4m. The shelter will be used for businesses/organisations to be able to hold informal meetings in an outdoor space in nature and is part of the Valleys Regional Park Discovery Gateway Programme	Llyn Llech Owain Country Park, Church Road, Gorslas, Llanelli, SA14 7NF
PL/01276	Approval of details of reserved condition. Discharge of condition 6.7.8 and 11 on W/39794(Reserved matters approval (access, appearance, landscaping, layout, scale) for new dwelling and garage (in pursuance of approval W/34463)	Garden 2 of Llwynderw, Heol y Foel, Foelgastell, Llanelli
PL/01254	Full Planning: New Dwelling with detached garage.	Plot 2 adjacent to Bryn Holfen Heol Yr Ysgol, Cefneithin, SA14 7EA

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

**143.0 Agenda Item 12: Finance**

**143.1 Budget and Precept Financial Year 2021/22.**

- The notification of precept form had been returned to, and acknowledged by, the County Council.

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

#### 143.2 Monthly Payments Income/Expenditure

Paid /Received	Description	Amount £
Income	N/A	Nil
<b>Expenditure</b>		
WCVA	Monthly Payroll Charge	21.30
Clerk	Wages	1,171.60

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

#### 144.0 Agenda Item 13: Next Meeting

- The next meeting of the Council would be online at 7.00p.m. on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2021.
- There being no further business to transact the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20.50 hrs.