

CYNGOR CYMUNED GORSLAS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of an online meeting of the Gorslas Community Council

held on Monday, 14th June, 2021, at 19.00 hrs.

42.0 Agenda Item 1: Record of those Present/Apologies

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

42.1 General.

- The Chair welcomed members to the meeting which was declared open at 19:00 hrs.
- It was noted that Cllr B Kirby had made a request that, due to illness, that an extended period of absence be approved by the Council.
- **Resolved to:**
 - (i) Approve and accept the reasons for non-attendance for Cllr A Rees.
 - (ii) Approve the granting of an extended period of approved absence for Cllr B Kirby.

43.0 Agenda Item 2 Declaration of Interest

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

Agenda Item	Councillors	Nature of Interest
47.1	Darren Price	New School: Member of County Council which is party to negotiation
54.3	Darren Price	Member of a body seeking financial assistance.
47.1	Aled Vaughan Owen	Member of Governing Body and County Council who are party to negotiation.
54.3	Aled Vaughan Owen	Member of a body seeking financial assistance.

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

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

- Members, under the direction of the Chair, examined in detail each page of the minutes of each of the following meetings of the Council for accuracy: -
 - (i) Extra Ordinary Meeting 29.04.21.
 - (ii) Annual Meeting 10.05.21.
 - (iii) Ordinary Monthly Meeting 10.05.21.
 - (iv) Extra Ordinary Meeting 17.05.21.
 - (v) Extra Ordinary Meeting 24.05.21.

Chair: _____ Date:.....

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- **Resolved that:** The notes of the above meetings be confirmed as accurate and a true record of the discussions and decisions.

45.0 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 those matters to be undertaken under the appropriate agenda heading.

46.0 Agenda Item 5: Opportunity for the Public to address the Council.

- **Resolved:** As there were no members of the public present to move onto the next agenda item.

47.0 Agenda Item 6: Corporate Matters.

47.1 General Update.

- A report providing information regarding the current position in relation to Council decisions was provided and considered.
- **Resolved:** To note the information provided.

47.2 Clerk's Appraisal Update.

- An update was provided for members in relation to the Appraisal meeting held with the Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

47.3 Tenders: Play Equipment

- Members considered a report regarding the tenders received in respect of the provision of play equipment at Gorslas and Cefneithin Park.
- **Resolved that:**
 - (i) Due to the nature of the discussion to prohibit the press and public.
 - (ii) The proposals by Contractor B i.e., Sutcliff Play for both Cefneithin and Gorslas Parks be the preferred option and that contractors be advised accordingly.
 - (iii) A bid for the release of section 106 funds amounting to £ 93,252 be made to the County Council based on the options put forward by contractor B for both parks.
 - (iv) Subject to confirmation being received from the County Council that the application for release of section 106 funds had been approved and for the relevant amount, the contract be awarded to Sutcliff Play to include the option detailed in (vi) below.
 - (v) The preferred options be displayed on the Council's website and Social Media platforms for comment.
 - (vi) The Gorslas Welfare Association's kind offer to contribute to the costs of the purchase of an additional item over and above those included in the section 106 tender be accepted.

47.4 Anti-Social Behaviour.

- Cefneithin Park: 29.05.21. Notification received that graffiti had been sprayed on concrete bases, trees, signs and footpaths in the park. Matter reported to Police.
- Cefneithin Park: 12.06.21. Complaints of young people entering private properties adjacent to the park to recover footballs a number of times and continuing to do so despite of requests by the householders not to do so. The householder and Clerk reported the matter to the Police.

- Cefneithin Park: 13.06.21. Reports of young people allegedly taking illegal substances in the park.
- Cefneithin Park: 14.06.21. Reports by different householder of balls from the MUGA continually entering their property and being collected by young people.
- Drefach Park: 04.06.21. Signs removed and dislodged – a considerable volume of litter in one area of the park.
- Drefach Park report received on 04.06.21 that human excrement had been smeared on the inside of a steel tube on an item of play equipment in the park and through which children travel. A site visit was made immediately and it was noted that a member of the public had washed the play equipment item. Further measures were taken and the item cleaned and disinfected by a contractor.
- Drefach Park Toll Bar: 10.06.21 During a site inspection it was noted that the door mechanism for the building was missing and had been replaced by two large screws to secure the door. Cllr A Rees, the Clerk and contractor made entrance when it was noted that there was no damage or vandalism to the building or contents. No items had been removed. The contractor was instructed to fit a new lock.
- **Resolved that:**
 - (i) Cefneithin Ward members together with the Chair, Vice and Clerk meet residents to discuss the matter on Thursday 17.06.21 at 7.00p.m.
 - (ii) Quotations be sought for the provision of CCTV cameras at the three parks.
 - (iii) Members contact the officials of Drefach Football Club who use the Toll Bar to ascertain if they are aware or have any information regarding the matter.

47.5 Suggestions for future consideration from Members

47.5.1 Chair’s Blog

- A suggestion had been made that it might raise the profile of the Council on social media if a “Chair’s blog” highlighting the work of the Council.
- **Resolved:** That, as a first step, the Community Council focus on establishing and promoting use of the current social media platforms as a priority.

47.5.2 Gorslas Planting of Christmas Tree

- A suggestion was made that there might be a benefit in planting a suitable Christmas tree in the brick planter at Gorslas Park which could be used as part of the Christmas celebrations.
- **Resolved to:** Discuss the matter with the Gorslas Welfare Association who arrange the annual Christmas Celebrations.

47.6 Maintenance Parks: Weeds.

- There was a need to treat the weeds on the footpaths and in the car park areas of the three parks. A price being obtained for the works.
- **Resolved:** Proceed subject to price being acceptable.

47.7. Maintenance Parks: Cleaning of Equipment.

- The contractor advised of a delay in undertaking the work due to the presence of large numbers of the public. The issue was also raised as to whether or not water could be obtained from the Cefneithin Village Hall to facilitate the works.
- **Resolved to:**

- (i) Note the information provided
- (ii) Accept the offer from the representatives of the Cefneithin and Foelgastell Welfare Association to bring the request to the attention of its members.

47.8 Maintenance: Repairs to Seats.

- It was noted that there were repairs required to seats at Gorslas and Cefneithin Parks.
- **Resolved:** To ascertain the cost of repairs.

47.9 Maintenance Toll Bar Roof.

- A second contractor had advised that they were now unable to undertake the work.
- The Clerk and Cllr A Rees met with an alternative contractor on site on 08.06.21 and the works were instructed together with repairs to the Toll Bar door lock and park seat.
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the actions taken.

47.10 Works to Facilitate the New School: Gorslas Park Car Park Gates.

- New gates had been provided for the park car park during w/c 07.06.21 as part of the widening of the access road to Cefneithin Road which was required as part of the new school works.
- A concern was received on 10.06.21 that there was no mechanism for securing the gates when open and they could thus damage cars or injure pedestrians using the footpath.
- The Clerk met with Mr Paul Lloyd from Lloyd and Gravell on site at 10.06.21. Temporary securing measures were put in place and the sub-contractor who fitted the installation without advising the main contractor, instructed to remedy the matter immediately.
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the actions taken.

47.11 Ward Members Update.

- Members considered the reports from the three ward meetings which had been held.
- **Resolved to:**
 - (i) Receive and note the information provided.
 - (ii) Review the operation and function of the ward meetings in September.
 - (iii) Provide a breakdown of expenditure on parks for 2019/20 to Drefach Ward members.

48.0 Agenda Item 7: Individual Park Matters:

48.1 Parks: Cefneithin.

- The inspector noted a concern in relation to a bolt missing from the football crossbar.
- **Resolved:** To instruct that the matter be rectified asap.

48.2 Parks: Gorslas Fallen Tree

- It was reported on Saturday 22.05.21 that a tree in the park had fallen over in the high winds and was resting on the graveyard boundary wall with branches protruding into the graveyard.
- The Clerk visited site that morning with a tree surgeon and the tree was cut up and removed from site. There was no visible damage to the wall or gravestones.
- Representatives of the Church were kept informed of the position and asked to check the boundary wall etc and to report any issues of concerns.

- There are a number of other quite large trees in close proximity to the boundary wall and play area and there was concern that a similar incident could occur.
- **Resolved to:**
 - (i) Note and approve the actions taken in respect of the events of Saturday 22.05.21.
 - (ii) To include a requirement for the 2021/22 assessment to include consideration of measures to reduce the height of trees in that area of the park.

49.0 Agenda Item 8: Urgent Local Matters.

49.1 Gorslas Road Closure C 2060.

- The County Council advised of the closure of a section of the road from 15.06.21 to allow the replacement of a telephone pole.
- **Resolved to:** Receive and note the information provided.

49.2 Drefach: Highways/Footpaths: Mansel Arms.

- It was noted that the County Council intended to address issues regarding the overgrowth. The County Council's assertion that fencing in that area did not attract attention was inaccurate.
- **Resolved:** To accept Cllr D Price's offer to take the matter up with County Council officers.

49.3 Drefach: Site of Former Ysgol Y Gwendraeth.

- Members were advised that complaints had been received regarding excess dog mess on the site, dogs not on leads. There was also litter due to the lack of a recycling and ordinary bins.
- **Resolved:** To refer the matter to the County Council who own the property.

49.4 Drefach: Highways Junction B4310 and Heol Cwmmawr Overgrowth.

- Concern was raised that the area adjacent to the bus stop and public seating areas near the junction of the B4310 Heol Blaenhirwaun and Heol Cwmmawr.
- **Resolved:** To draw the attention of the County Council to the matter.

50.0 Agenda Item 9: Members Reports

- **Resolved:** To defer to the next of the Council.

51.0 Agenda Item 10: Consultation/ General Correspondence.

- Consideration was given to the items of consultation as well as the correspondence received.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

52.0 Agenda Item 11 One Voice Wales.

- Cllr W Edwards advised that, for personal reasons, he had been unable to attend the recent meeting of the National Executive of O.V.W.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

53.0 Agenda Item 12 Planning Matters.

- Consideration was given to the schedule of planning applications for the month.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

54.0 Agenda Item 13: Finance

54.1 Annual Audit 2020/21: Independent Auditor Report.

- Members considered the letter from the Auditor summarising the findings of the audit. It was noted that there were no concerns recorded regarding the Annual Return, accountancy or governance elements of the audit.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

54.2 External Audit 2020/21: Annual Return.

- Copies of the Annual Return had been circulated to members as part of the documentation for the meeting.
- The Council must consider and satisfy itself in relation to the Accounting and Governance Statements as well as considering the report by the Independent Auditor.
- Members considered carefully both the accounting statements and the Governance statements contained within the Annual Return for the 2020/21 year.
- **Resolved:**
 - To confirm that they were satisfied that the statements in the return were true and accurate.
 - That the Chair confirm as such and the return be forwarded to Wales Audit as soon as possible.
 - That the required notices be published at the appropriate times.

54.3 Requests for Financial Assistance.

- Following discussion, it was proposed that to enable the matter to be considered properly that consideration of the requests be postponed until the July meeting of the Council.

54.4 Monthly Transactions May

Paid /Received	Description	Amount £
Income	VAT 2019-20 Refund	6,981.53
Expenditure		
WCVA	Monthly Payroll Charge	21.30
Clerk	Wages and Travel	1,172.20
V L Llewellyn	Audit 2020/21	560.00
Danfo	Cleaning April	577.20
Information Commissioner	Registration GDPR 21/22	40.00
BHIB Insurance	Cover 21/22	1,629.29
Wrenvale	Grass Cutting April	1,116.00
Welsh Water	Gors P Conv 20.11.20 to 24 05 21	100.84

55.0 Agenda Item 14 Next Meeting.

- The next meeting of the Council would be on 12.07.21 at 19:00 hrs.
- There being no further matters of business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:15hrs.