

CYNGOR CYMUNED GORS-LAS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of an online meeting of the Gors-las Community Council

held on Monday, 12th July, 2021, at 19.00 hrs.

56.0 Agenda Item 1: Record of those Present/Apologies

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

56.1 General.

- Members were advised that the Chair was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting.
- In his absence Cllr Nia Lewis chaired the meeting.
- Cllr Lewis welcomed everyone and declared the meeting open at 19:00 hrs.
- **Resolved to:** Approve and accept the reasons for non-attendance by members.

57.0 Agenda Item 2 Declaration of Interest

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

Agenda Item	Councillors	Nature of Interest
61.4	Darren Price	Personal not Prejudicial: New School: Member of County Council which is party to negotiation
68.1	Darren Price	Personal and Prejudicial. Holder of Official Post within the body seeking financial assistance.
61.16	Darren Price	Personal but not prejudicial: Member of the organisation referred to in the item.
68.1	T Jones	Personal not prejudicial. Member of body being considered for financial assistance.
61.4	Aled Vaughan Owen	Personal but not Prejudicial. Member of Governing Body and County Council who are party to negotiation.
68.1	Aled Vaughan Owen	Personal but not prejudicial. Member of body being considered for financial assistance.
61.16	Aled Vaughan Owen	Personal but not prejudicial. Member of the organisation referred to in the item.
64.3	Nia Lewis	Personal and Prejudicial: The issue relates to matters in the area where Cllr Lewis owns a property.
67.0	N Beckett	Personal and Prejudicial. The member is in the employment of the applicant.

- 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.

Chair: _____ Date:.....

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- **Resolved to:** Note and record the declarations of interest from members.

58.0 Agenda Item 3 Consider the Minutes of the previous Meeting of the Council.

- Members, under the direction of the Chair, examined in detail each page of the minutes of the June meeting of the Council.
- **Resolved:** The notes of the meeting be confirmed as accurate and a true record of the discussions and decisions.

59.0 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.

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

- The Chair welcomed the member of the public to the meeting and acknowledged that he had requested to be allowed to address the meeting.
- The individual was advised of the procedures for doing so and that it should be noted that the Council could only receive and note any information provided.
- The individual stated that they wished to address the Council in relation to local concerns which they had become aware of in relation to the future use of Compton House, Drefach.
- It was stated that the individual was a partner in a business which had purchased the property. The aim was to provide residential care for up to four children aged from 8 to 18 years of age.
- The children would be those, who for one reason or another, were not able to live with their parents. Placements at the facility would be via referral from a Local Authority in Wales.
- Details were provided of how the proposed facility would operate including the regulatory inspection/monitoring framework, the processes for ensuring the compatibility of residents, provision for education, the staffing arrangements, business model and viability for the future.
- The owners advised that, as soon as building works allowed, invite the local community in to see the facility and to discuss any concerns they may have. They would also be happy to take part in an online meeting to explain the proposals to the community if required.
- **Resolved to:**
 - (i) Thank the individual for their attendance.
 - (ii) Receive and note the information provided.
 - (iii) Publish a summary of the information provided on the Council's social media platform.
- Attendance: The member of the public left the meeting at this point.

61.0 Agenda Item 6: Corporate Matters.

61.1 General Update.

- An update regarding Council decisions and actions was provided and considered.
- **Resolved:** To note the information provided.

61.2. Local Democracy and Boundary Commission Ward Name Change.

- The Commission advise that the official name for the Ward had been changed to Gors-Las.
- **Resolved:** To implement the alteration as soon as practicable.

61.3 Strategic Review- Quarterly.

- A copy of the document had been provided with the papers for the meeting.
- Within the document was a proposal for the Council to make a “Community Award” to individuals who had provided a service of benefit to the community. It had come to the attention of the Council that an individual was regularly collecting litter at Gorslas Park.
- **Resolved that:**
 - (i) Members consider the strategic document over the summer period.
 - (ii) That a letter of thanks be sent to the individual collecting the litter in the park.

61.4 New School Management Agreement.

- The Clerk advised that he had spoken directly with the Headteacher of Gorslas C.P. School who indicated that the school had experienced certain difficulties which had delayed progress.
- Those issues had now been addressed and the school would seek a meeting in September.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

61.5 Tenders: Play Equipment

- Members were advised that an application had been submitted to Carmarthenshire County Council for the release of section 106 monies to fund the purchase of play equipment.
- Cllr Iestyn Llwyd had placed details of the preferred option for the purchase of play equipment on the Council’s website and Facebook pages. Members of the public had been provided with an opportunity to submit comments via the Clerk. To date no observations had been received.
- **Resolved To:** Confirm the award of the contract to Sutcliff Play as per tender immediately following confirmation of the award of the section 106 funds by the County Council.

61.6 Tenders: CCTV Provision for Parks.

- Members considered the three quotations which had been received for the provision of the equipment which had been anonymised.
- Discussion took place in relation to various aspects of the proposals submitted by the contractors and how they would relate and meet the needs at each park.
- It was noted that all submissions required the provision of power for the CCTV units from the existing public lighting units at the parks. Accordingly, enquiries had been made of Carms.C.C.
- Discussion took place in relation to a draft CCTV policy which had been drafted.
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) The provision of CCTV in the three parks would be of benefit.
 - (ii) Having considered the tenders received the tender should be awarded to contractor B. Later identified as Dyfed Alarms.
 - (iii) Subject to technical and site-specific issues the contract be awarded to contractor B either in part or in full. The total value of the contract being £9,112.00.
 - (iv) Prior to the matter being finalised the company be invited to attend site meetings with ward members to discuss any site-specific issues or concerns.
 - (v) The draft CCTV policy be considered further at a future meeting.

61.7 Inspection: Park Equipment.

- The Community Council has taken out an SLA with the County Council in relation to the fortnightly inspection of play equipment.
- The Inspector alerts the Clerk directly in relation to any matters of concern however there is a need to establish a system of regular electronic reporting of the fortnightly, and annual reports.
- **Resolved:** A further request be sent to the Council with copies to the two local members.

61.8 New School: Gorslas Park Car Park Barrier.

- It was reported on 06.07.21 that one of the barriers for the new gate had been dislodged.
- The Clerk had visited the site together with representatives from Lloyd and Gravell who had commissioned the gate as part of the new school works.
- It was found that a fitting had worked loose. Temporary repairs to secure the barrier were made and the sub-contractor instructed to rectify the fault as a matter of urgency.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the actions taken and to undertake a check that a permanent repair had since been undertaken

61.9 Depositing of Hedge Trimmings/Cuttings.

- Reports had been received alleging that cuttings had been deposited in Cefneithin Park by individuals/volunteers undertaking work at the school.
- The Clerk had spoken to the Headteacher and other senior staff regarding the matter and received assurances that the issue would be investigated and, if found to be correct, stopped.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

61.10 Maintenance: Litter Collection.

- An update had been provided by the contractor in relation to litter collection in the parks.
- It was noted from the update that for Gorslas Park 3 full black sacks of rubbish were collected in one day whilst the litter bins were relatively empty. A significant number of glass bottles were being deposited on occasion in the bins rather than being taken to the re-cycling center.
- At the Drefach Park the contractor reported an issue with black bags containing household waste regularly being deposited near the bin at the entrance from Heol Cwmmawr.
- **Resolved:** To note and keep the matters under review.

61.11 Maintenance: Cefneithin/Gorslas Park Benches

- An estimate had been received in relation to the repairs of the benches.
- **Resolved:** That a further quotation be sought.

61.12 Anti-Social Behaviour: Cefneithin Park MUGA.

- Following consideration of the matter at the June meeting the Chair, Vice-Chair, Clerk and four ward members met, on Thursday 17.06.21 at 19:00hrs, with the three residents of Heol Yr Ysgol who had expressed concerns regarding issues arising from the use of the MUGA.
- The residents relayed concerns regarding noise emanating from the users of the MUGA and the fact that MUGA users were frequently entering the rear of their property to recover footballs.

- The meeting had been an useful and positive one with various options for addressing the issues being discussed and which were subsequently summarised in the report to Council.
- **Resolved that:**
 - (i) the possibility of the provision of cricket type netting be examined.
 - (ii) a further meeting of the group with the residents be arranged if necessary.

61.13 Anti-Social Behaviour Cefneithin Park.

- Police Officers had identified the individuals who had sprayed graffiti in the park recently. The option of restorative justice was being examined.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

61.14 Anti-Social Behaviour: Gorslas Park

- A report had been received of an incident on the evening of Saturday 26th June,2021, whereby 30 individuals were allegedly fighting in the park.
- The report was confirmed by PCSO's with the Officers advising that: -
 - (i) Individuals should report incidents themselves rather than through the Council.
 - (ii) Incidents should be reported as they were happening rather than sometime after.
 - (iii) CCTV coverage in the parks would be of great assistance to the Police.
- **Resolved To:** Receive and note the information provided.

61.15 Gorslas Park- Titan Swing.

- The Council had received notification on the afternoon of the 14.06.21 of an incident involving a child using the swing on 06.06.21.
- The Chair and Clerk met the County Council staff on site on the morning of the 15th June,2021. No faults were found on the equipment. A chair fitted to the unit was removed to be kept in storage by the County Council. .
- **Resolved to:** Receive, note and approve the actions taken

61.16 Drefach Toll Bar Door Damage.

- Cllrs D Price and Aled Vaughan Owen declared an interest as members of the association and took no part in the discussion or proceedings.
- Following the meeting last month Drefach Football Club were contacted in relation to the damage to the toll bar door.
- They provided an explanation as to how the door and lock had been damaged details of which had been provided to members.
- To secure the building a contractor had been instructed to fit a new lock and also to repair the door. Cllr T Butler was kind enough to act as temporary holder for the new key.
- It was noted that no formal agreement existed in relation to the use of the building by the Club or any other organisation.
- Members discussed the historic value of the building and the long-standing desire of the Council to see the building used in future as an educational and historical resource.
- **Resolved to:**
 - (i) Note and approve the actions taken.

- (ii) Receive and note the explanation provided by the Football Club
- (iii) That a temporary agreement be drafted in respect of the period to 30th September,2021, to act as a basis for any future agreements.

61.17 Maintenance: Drefach Toll Bar.

- Works were progressing to repair the missing and loose slates.
- Following consultation with members the painting of the weatherboards on the apex of the building and the outside walls was further instructed.
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the actions taken.

61.18 Maintenance: Gorslas Park Flower Bed

- Discussion took place in relation to the possibility of filling the flower bed with topsoil.
- **Resolved:** That the matter be discussed at the Gorslas Ward members meetings.

61.19 Ward Members Update.

- Gorslas and Cefneithin Wards: Both groups had used Whats App for the purposes of discussing and communicating with each other. Having done so members reported that physical meetings had not been held as no new issues had arisen.
- Drefach Ward: Copies of the ward meeting held on 05.07.21 were considered by members.
- **Resolved to:**
 - (i) Highways: Hedge Cutting: The County Council had a new policy which, to support biodiversity, the frequency of cutting had been reduced. The policy allowed for exceptions to be made in cases where health and safety issues were a factor e.g. exit points at junctions.
 - (ii) That Cllrs Aled Vaughan Owen and D Price’s offer to follow up a number of incidents where pedestrians were having to walk on the road, and hence facing danger from heavy goods vehicles serving the quarry, due to overgrowth on footpaths be accepted.
 - (iii) That the Council consider a proposal introducing a cycleway from Llanddarog to Heol Cwmmawr when details of the proposed scheme are received.
 - (iv) Newsletter: Members were requested to consider and prepare, over the summer period, articles for submission to Cllr Iestyn Llwyd who would co-ordinate matters.

62.0 Agenda Item 7 Park Matters

62.1 Cefneithin: Permission to Film.

- A request had been received from S4C to be allowed to film part of a programme on the 1971 British Lions in the park on the 18th June,2021.
- Members views had been sought following which approval was given for the filming.
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the actions taken

62.2 Gorslas Park: Teen Shelter Anti-Social Behaviour.

- Requests had been received for the removal of the shelter due to the alleged behaviour and damage caused by individuals using the facility. The individuals had also been seen climbing onto the roof on numerous occasions which represented a danger to them and other park users.
- **Resolved to:**
 - (i) Coat the roof with anti-climb paint and provide appropriate signage.

- (ii) Publish the request to remove the shelter on the Council's Facebook page and invite members of the public to forward comments/observations to the Clerk.
- (iii) Keep the position under review.

63.0 Agenda Item 8: Urgent Local Matters.

- There were no items for discussion under this heading.

64.0 Agenda Item 9: Members Reports

64.1 Town and Community Council Liaison Forum 02.07.21.

- Cllr Wyn Edwards advised that due to unforeseen circumstances he had not been able to attend.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

64.2 Carmarthen Area Committee Meeting 07.07.21.

- Cllr Wyn Edwards summarised the following key points from the meeting: -
 - (i) Chair: Cllr Mair Stevens had been elected as Chair.
 - (ii) Fly- tipping and Dogs on Lead in Parks: Mike Roberts from Carms.C.C. addressed the meeting on both issues.
 - (iii) Code of Conduct Training: Councils were encouraged to register members for the courses which were organised by the County Council.
 - (iv) Publication of Decisions: Community Councils were required to publish decisions within 7 working days.
 - (v) Welsh Government: Consultation was underway and included specific qualifications which Clerks would be required to have.

64.3 County Council Update: Cllrs Aled Vaughan Owen and Darren Price.

- Cllr N Lewis declared an interest in the item regarding speeding at Heol Caegwyn as an owner of a property on Heol Caegwyn.
- Members were provided with a summary of local and county wide matters relevant to the ward which included the following: -
 - a) Highways: There was an increase in complaints regarding hedge cutting and speeding.
 - b) Highways: Welsh Govt were changing their position in relation to the Llandeilo By-pass.
 - c) Highways: Complaints regarding speeding at Heol Cae Gwyn Drefach. The option of the Community Council contributing £600 for the provision of repeater speed sign had been made.
 - d) Cefneithin Y Fron: A dispute had arisen in relation to the ownership of an unsafe wall. The Head of Communities was dealing with the matter. He had been advised that Cllr T Jones had been involved in its construction which had been instructed by the County Council.
 - e) Education: There had been a significant increase in referrals for help for children.
 - f) Environment: An air quality plan was being prepared
 - g) Housing: A continued increase in complaints particularly relating to neighbour disputes.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

65.0 Agenda Item 10: Consultation/ General Correspondence

- Members considered the schedule of consultations and correspondence provided.

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

66.0 Agenda Item 11 One Voice Wales.

- Details of the monthly training opportunities were considered.
- **Resolved:** That any member wishing to attend a course advise the Chair and Clerk.

67.0 Planning Matters.

- Cllr N Beckett declared an interest in relation to application PL/02022 and took no part in the discussion or decision.
- Consideration was given to the schedule of planning applications received for the month.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

68.0 Finance

68.1 Financial Assistance Requests.

- A number of requests had been received from external bodies seeking financial assistance.
- Members considered that, in order to allow proper consideration, the matter be deferred until the next meeting of the full Council.
- **Resolved:** That the matter be considered at the September meeting of the Council.

68.2 Monthly Transactions June

Paid /Received	Description	Amount £
Income	VAT Refund 2020 21	6,981.53
Expenditure		
WCVA	Monthly Payroll Charge	21.30
Wrenvale	Monthly Grass Cutting May	1,116.00
Clerk	Wages and Travel	1,254.75
HMRC	Qtr 1 Employee/Employer Contributions	1,682.52
C.C.C.	Qtr 1 Employee/Employer contributions	1,651.50
SWALEC	Gorslas P Conv	51.02
Fattorini	Chairs Badge of Office	60.10

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

68.3 Quarterly Budget Review.

- Members reviewed the income and expenditure budgets for the 2021/22 financial year.
- **Resolved:** To monitor and review budgets in September having regard to the bid for 106 funds.

69.0 Agenda Item 14 Next Meeting.

- The next ordinary meeting would be on 13.09.21 online. Operational arrangements for the ensuring the work of the Council could continue were discussed.
- **Resolved**
 - (i) Authority be given to the Clerk in consultation with the Chair/Vice Chair to convene meetings of the Council it's Sub Committee or Ward Members as necessary.
 - (ii) Standing Orders be suspended until the September meetings

- (iii) The use of e mail communication to consult with or keep members advised of operational requirements over the summer period be approved.