

CYNGOR CYMUNED GORS-LAS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

held on Monday, 14th February, 2022, at 19.00 hrs.

139.0 Agenda Item 1: Record of those Present/Apologies

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

139.1 General.

- The Chair welcomed everyone and declared the meeting open at 19:00 hrs.
- **Resolved:** To approve and accept the reasons for non-attendance by Cllr Vaughan Owen.

140.0 Agenda Item 2 Declaration of Interest

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

| Agenda Item | Councillor | Nature of Interest |
|-------------|------------|---|
| 144.2 | D Price | Personal: Member of Carms C.C who are party to the negotiation. |

- Cllr D Price had a personal but not prejudicial interest in matters regarding the new school and thus could join in discussions and voting on the relevant items.
- **Resolved to:** Note and record the declarations of interest.

141.0 Agenda Item 3 Consider the Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Council.

- Members examined and considered in detail each page of the January minutes of the Council.
- **Resolved that:** The notes be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings and decisions.

142.0 Agenda Item 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

- There were no matters arising from the minutes considered at this juncture.
- **Resolved to:** Note and record the position.

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

- There were no requests from members of the public to speak at the meeting.
- **Resolved to:** Note and record the position.

144.0 Agenda Item 6: Corporate Matters.

144.1 Progress Report.

- An update was provided regarding progress in implementing previous Council decisions.
- **Resolved to:** Receive and note the information provided.

144.2 New School Management Agreement Gorslas

- Members were advised that a very productive meeting had taken place between the Clerk and a representative of the Governing Body in relation to the above earlier in the day i.e 14.02.22.
- The issues raised by both parties were discussed, addressed and clarified.
- Following the meeting the representative of the Governing Body would discuss the changes with the Headteacher and Governing Body, who were meeting on the 15th February,2022.
- A revised document would be produced shortly afterwards and further discussions take place.
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the actions taken.

144.3 Draft CCTV Policy.

- Consideration was given to a draft policy and procedures document which the Council was required to produce to comply with legislative requirements.
- **Resolved:** Given the complexity of the issue that the matter be considered by the Sub Committee and placed for discussion on the March Agenda of the Council.

144.4 Consultation on Enhanced Dog Control Measures.

- The County Council had written to acknowledge receipt of the observations provided by the Community Council in respect of the above.
- They had requested further information regarding the proposal.
- **Resolved:** That the relevant Officer be invited to attend the March meeting of the Council to discuss the matter.

144.5 Park- Storage Container for Cefneithin Hall.

- The Cefneithin and Foelgastell Welfare Association advised that they wished to provide a temporary storage unit adjacent to the hall for the storage of chairs and tables.
- The arrangement would free up space in the hall to facilitate a broader range of activities.
- The unit would be placed on land owned entirely by the Association, they have asked for permission to traverse the access road and to place the unit temporarily in the park car park pending the unit being craned into position.
- The Access Road and the park car park are both in the ownership of the Community Council.
- Members views have been sought on the matter and there were no objections.
- **Resolved:** To agree and approve the temporary arrangement subject to the Association having appropriate measures in place to safeguard the public.

144.6 Meeting Format.

- Members were advised that legislation required that individuals be able to attend meetings of the Council online.
- As part of planning future meetings discussions had taken place with Llanarthne Community Council in relation to the possibility of shared online hosting of meetings via Zoom.
- The costs would be comparable to that for the hire of a meeting room and was significantly less than that of a separate hosting by the Council via Zoom.
- **Resolved to:**
 - (i) Thank Llanarthne Community Council for their very generous offer.
 - (ii) Continue with the current arrangement for the present.
 - (iii) Keep the position under review.

144.7 Administration.

- The Clerk advised that the current printer, purchased in 2016, had ceased to function and was uneconomical to repair.
- Prices were obtained for a new printer, and following discussion with members prices for a new printer were obtained and subsequently purchased for a price of £225.
- **Resolved to:** Receive, note and confirm the actions taken.

144.8 Corporate Communications:

- Cllr Green highlighted the fact that corporate email addresses for members were provided on the website and social media site as a means of contacting members.
- Due to the difficulty of using those email addresses they had become impractical to use.
- It was also noted that the gallery of photographs of members did not include Cllr N Beckett.
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) To remove the references on the website and social media to the non- functioning e mail addresses.
 - (ii) As a temporary measure, to publish and route all external e mail communication to members through the generic Gorslas Community Council e mail address.
 - (iii) That Cllr Beckett forward a current photograph for publication on the Council’s official website.

144.9 Chairs Allocation.

- The Chair indicated that, due to the pandemic, it had not been possible to attend local events or organisations.
- Accordingly, he proposed that the allocation be used to develop the Council’s website to facilitate accessibility for the visually impaired to the information and documentation.
- The Clerk also highlighted a procedural issue in relation to the administration of the fund.
- **Resolved to:**
 - (i) Accept the proposal and transfer the funds to a earmarked fund for website development.
 - (ii) As a temporary measure that request for the provision of sums from the Chairs Allocation be submitted to the Clerk and powers delegated to the Clerk to make such payments subject to their being in line with the Council’s duty and responsibilities for such matters.

144.10 Policies.

- It was noted that it would be likely that the Sub Committee would need to meet prior to the next full Council meeting in relation to reviewing policy documentation.
- Resolved: That the Sub Committee be authorised to review the relevant policies and make recommendations to the Council in relation to their adoption or otherwise

145.0 Agenda Item 7: Park Operational Matters.

145.1 Gorslas Toilets Damage Baby Change Unit Saturday 15th January,2022

- Danfo reported that the metal toilet holder had been smashed and the paper scattered over the car park. The contractor has cleaned up the mess and is looking for a replacement dispenser. The Baby Change unit is temporarily closed.
- The matter has been reported formally to the Police Headquarters.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

145.2 Gorslas Park: Arson Attempt Sunday 16th January,2022

- A member of the public reported that they had witnessed an attempt by youths to light a fire near a bench placed car park area. They, together with a passing Police Officer, intervened.
- The matter has been reported formally to the Police Headquarters.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

145.3 Gorslas Park Lighting Unit 711-124

- The unit was evidenced as being permanently on. Reported to Carms CC on 17.01.22.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

145.4 Cefneithin Park – Tree Issues

- It was reported that a low hanging branch across the footpath in the wooded area could cause an injury and there were also concerns regarding the danger posed by the remains of a tree which had fallen across the footpath and been cut back.
- Cllr S Martin attended to, and resolved the issues on 20th January,2022.
- **Resolved:** To note and approve the actions taken and thank Cllr Martin for his actions.

145.5 Gorslas Park- Abandoned Shopping Trolleys and Various debris.

- A shopping trolley had been abandoned in the play area on 14.01.22. It was reported to the shopping unit at the Cross Hands Retail Park who advised they could not recover it.
- A further shopping trolley was found at the rear of the toilet area together with a significant amount of the debris.
- Both trolleys and as much of the debris as possible was removed by Cllr Martin on 20.01.22
- **Resolved:** To note and approve the actions taken and thank Cllr Martin for his actions.

146.0 Agenda Item 8: Urgent Local Matters.

146.1 Gorslas Square: Excess Water.

- A report had been received from a member of the public regarding flooding which occurred at the square on Sunday 13th February,2022 when the drainage system had been over whelmed.
- Cllr D Price advised that the County Council's had flushed out the system and having found a large stone lodged in the system anticipated this would have resolved the matter.
- It was apparent it had not and further investigations were being undertaken.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

146.2 Penygroes Road: Excess Water.

- Cllr Price also advised that there had been issues with excess water causing problems for householders on Penygroes Road.
- The issue had been ongoing for some time with Welsh Water forming a view that the current drainage system was at 98% capacity and thus could not cope with the volume generated by a sudden or persistent downpour. Increasing capacity was likely to be necessary.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

146.3 Footpath FP31/13 Cross Hands Park/ Ysgol Maes Y Gwendraeth

- Notification had been received from the County Council regarding the development of a section of the path as a bridleway. The Community Council would be advised of progress.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

146.4 Wayside Seats/ Bus Shelters.

- Members were advised that the County Council was having difficulty in locating accurate details as to the ownership of wayside seats.
- The discussion broadened to the need to establish ownership of bus shelters in the ward and the possible removal of the brick bus shelter on the land of the former Ysgol Y Gwendraeth.
- **Resolved:** That the Clerk provide a copy of details held by the Community Council regarding the ownership of bus shelters in the wards to Cllr Price.

147.0 Agenda Item 9: Members Reports.

147.1 Meeting of the Trustees of Cross Hands Hall and Cinema.

- Cllr Green advised that he had chaired meeting of the Trustees on the 26th January,2022.
- It was reported that, in spite of some initial teething problems, the cinema had been successfully in introducing the Covid passport scheme. It was expected however that the passport requirement would be removed shortly by Welsh Government.
- Attendances at the cinema were good and only a little down on the usual level.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

147.2 County Council Matters: Cllr Darren Price.

- A summary of the matters relevant to the area and electorate was provided and included: -
 - a) Funding: The 9.2% funding increase from Welsh Government previously reported was offset by reductions in other funding received from Welsh Govt.
 - b) Spending pressures were being experienced in terms of salary increases and a 20% increase in energy prices.
 - c) The increase in Council Tax increase for 22/23 was set at 2.5% with the final settlement figure from Welsh Government being received on the 2nd March,2022.
 - d) Section 106: The County Council had accepted a proposal from Cllr Price and Aled Vaughan Owen that the past history of developers in relation to meeting their section 106 obligations be taken into account when considering planning applications. The issue had drawn support from County Councils across Wales.
 - e) Flooding: As reported previously.
 - f) Housing: Issues at Brynlluan and Brynglas which the County Council were pursuing.

- g) Cae Coch/Uwch Gwendraeth. Cae Coch had been adopted last year. The Uwch Gwendraeth situation was linked with another development by the contractor. It was hoped that the requirements relating to both sites would be resolved shortly and allow both sites to be adopted by the County Council.

- **Resolved to:** Receive and note the information provided.

147.3 Ward Meeting Drefach 08.02 22

- Information regarding the meeting held on the 8th March,2022 had been circulated to members
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) To note that Cllr D Price would contact Go Safe regarding speeding checks between the Junction of Heol Caegwyn and Cwmmawr and along the stretch to Ty Isaf, Cwm Mawr.
 - (ii) The County Council had published a notice stating that double yellow lines were to be placed on the highway between Heol Ty Isaf and 31 Heol Cwm Mawr. The matter was outstanding. Cllr D Price would contact the relevant officer to progress the matter.

148.0 Agenda Item 10 Correspondence and Consultation.

- Members considered the schedule of correspondence received.
- **Resolved to:** Receive and note the items of correspondence received.

149.0 Agenda Item 11: One Voice Wales.

149.1 Training/Correspondence: Details of courses and correspondence

- Details of upcoming courses had been provided to members.
- **Resolved that:** Any member wishing to attend a course contact the Chair and Clerk direct.

149.2. Information on Swifts.

- Electronic information sheet available regarding Swifts.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

149.3 Multi Location Meetings Survey.

- The association advises that the results of the survey of Councils regarding holding different types of meetings is available.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided

149.4 Raising Awareness Videos Community and Town Councils.

- Advise of promotional video to promote and encourage people to stand for the local community and town elections in May,2022. Available to view on OVW website.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided

150.0 Agenda Item 12: Planning Matters.

- Consideration was given to the schedule of planning applications which had been received
- **Resolved to:**
 - (i) Receive and note the information provided.
 - (ii) In relation to application PL/03471 to submit the same concerns and observations as previously submitted.

151.0 Agenda Item 13 Finance

151.1 Monthly Transactions January

| Paid /Received | Description | Amount £ |
|---------------------|--|-----------|
| Income | Section 106 Refund Gorslas | 74,440.00 |
| | Section 106 Refund Cefneithin | 19,428.96 |
| | Refund VAT Qtr 3 | 22,028.82 |
| | Refund Planning Fee (50%) Fencing | 115.00 |
| Expenditure | | |
| WCVA | Payroll Charge | 21.30 |
| Wrenvale | Grass Cutting Charge | 1,116.00 |
| Clerk | Pay/ Trav/ Refund of Payments | 1,172.20 |
| Menter Gwasanaethau | Translation April to Jan – 9 meetings | 933.75 |
| Charles Sams | Electrical Work CCTV Gorslas and Disabled Toilet Alarm | 877.76 |

151.2 Precept 2022/23 and Setting Five Year Budgets.

- As directed by members the Sub Committee met on Thursday 27th January, 2022, to discuss the options for the setting of the precept for 2022/23 and budgets for the next five years.
- Having done so the Sub Committee resolved to recommend to the Council as follows: -
 - (i) The adoption of the income and expenditure budgets as detailed in the report to Council.
 - (ii) That the precept for 2022/23 be increased by a factor of between 3% and 5% taking into account the factors contained in the report to Council.
- A wide ranging and thorough discussion took place in relation to cost increases caused by inflation, changes in service level provision and the effect of increases on households.
- Having done so members recognised the need to strike a balance between meeting increasing costs and demand for services and the effect on individual households.
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) To approve the service level budgets for the next five years as detailed below.
 - (ii) That the precept for 2022/23 be set at £ 117,769.
 - (iii) To thank the Sub Committee and Clerk for their work.

| | Estimate 22/23 | Estimate 23/24 | Estimate 24/25 | Estimate 25/26 | Estimate 26/27 |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Income | | | | | |
| Precept | 117,769 | 117,769 | 117,769 | 117,769 | 117,769 |
| VAT Refund | 6,300 | 9,379 | 12,810 | 13,414 | 13,304 |
| Grants/Section106 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Interest Business Account | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total External Income | 124,070 | 127,149 | 130,579 | 131,183 | 131,073 |
| From Reserves | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total Income Budget | 124,070 | 127,149 | 130,579 | 131,183 | 131,073 |

| Expenditure | Estimate 22/23 | Estimate 23/24 | Estimate 24/25 | Estimate 25/26 | Estimate 26/27 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Parks | | | | | |
| Larger Works | 8,500 | 8,764 | 8,939 | 9,118 | 9,400 |
| Minor Works | 8,800 | 9,073 | 9,254 | 9,439 | 9,732 |
| Grass Cutting | 12,220 | 12,220 | 14,665 | 14,665 | 14,665 |
| Litter/Custodial Collection | 12,443 | 19,790 | 20,186 | 20,589 | 21,228 |
| Other 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Section Total Parks | 41,963 | 49,846 | 53,044 | 53,811 | 55,025 |
| P Conveniences | | | | | |
| Larger Works | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Minor Works | 500 | 516 | 526 | 536 | 553 |
| Cleaning Custodial | 6,836 | 7,047 | 7,188 | 7,332 | 7,559 |
| Running Costs | 577 | 595 | 607 | 619 | 639 |
| Other 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Section Total P Conv | 7,913 | 8,158 | 8,321 | 8,488 | 8,751 |
| Bus Shelters | | 0 | 0 | | |
| Larger Works | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Minor Works | 500 | 516 | 526 | 536 | 553 |
| Other 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Section Total Bus Shelters | 500 | 516 | 526 | 536 | 553 |
| Seats | | | | | |
| Larger Works | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Minor Works | 500 | 516 | 526 | 536 | 553 |
| Other 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Section Total Seats | 500 | 516 | 526 | 536 | 553 |
| P Lighting | | | | | |
| Larger Works | 2,015 | 2,015 | 2,015 | 0 | 0 |
| Minor Works | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Running Costs | 7,369 | 7,597 | 7,749 | 7,904 | 8,149 |
| Other 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Section Total P Light | 9,384 | 9,612 | 9,764 | 7,904 | 8,149 |
| Corporate | | | | | |
| Equip Costs | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Salaries and Oncosts | 29,100 | 30,002 | 30,602 | 31,214 | 32,182 |
| Corp Running Expenses | 10,576 | 10,904 | 11,122 | 11,344 | 11,696 |

Chair: _____ Date:.....

| | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Insurances | 1,681 | 1,733 | 1,767 | 1,803 | 1,859 |
| Corporate Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Section Total Corporate Costs | 41,357 | 42,639 | 43,491 | 44,361 | 45,736 |
| Democratic | | | | | |
| Member Exp Training/Conf/ Fees | 450 | 464 | 473 | 483 | 498 |
| Members Travel/Subs | 300 | 309 | 315 | 322 | 332 |
| IRPW Mand Allowance | 2,250 | 2,250 | 2,250 | 2,250 | 2,250 |
| Chairs Fund | 1,000 | 1,031 | 1,052 | 1,073 | 1,106 |
| Democratic Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Section Total Democratic | 4,000 | 4,054 | 4,090 | 4,127 | 4,185 |
| Other | | | | | |
| General Donations/Grants | 3,750 | 3,866 | 3,944 | 4,022 | 4,147 |
| Donations Community Events | 525 | 541 | 552 | 563 | 581 |
| Donations Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Section Total Grants/Donations | 4,275 | 4,408 | 4,496 | 4,586 | 4,728 |
| | | | | | |
| Total Exp Without VAT | 109,891 | 119,748 | 124,259 | 124,350 | 127,681 |
| | | | | | |
| VAT Element | 9,379 | 12,810 | 13,414 | 13,304 | 9,886 |
| | | | | | |
| Total Exp Including VAT | 119,271 | 132,559 | 137,673 | 137,655 | 137,567 |
| | | | | | |
| From Expend Budget into Reserves | 3,952 | 3,952 | 3,952 | 3,952 | 3,952 |
| General Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cefn MUGA | 2,500 | 2,500 | 2,500 | 2,500 | 2,500 |
| Gorslas MUGA | 1,452 | 1,452 | 1,452 | 1,452 | 1,452 |
| Gorslas Car Park | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sub Total | 3,952 | 3,952 | 3,952 | 3,952 | 3,952 |
| | | | | | |
| Grand Total All Expenditure | 123,223 | 136,511 | 141,625 | 141,607 | 141,519 |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Summary Budget Income and Expenditure | Estimate 22/23 | Estimate 23/24 | Estimate 24/25 | Estimate 25/26 | Estimate 26/27 |
| Income | 124,070 | 127,149 | 130,579 | 131,183 | 131,073 |
| Allocated from Reserves | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Income | 124,070 | 127,149 | 130,579 | 131,183 | 131,073 |

Chair: _____ Date:.....

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Less Expenditure | 119,271 | 132,559 | 137,673 | 137,655 | 137,567 |
| From Expend Budget into Reserves | 3,952 | 3,952 | 3,952 | 3,952 | 3,952 |
| Total Expenditure | 123,223 | 136,511 | 141,625 | 141,607 | 141,519 |
| | | | | | |
| Surplus Deficit | 847 | -9,362 | -11,046 | -10,424 | -10,446 |

151.3 Audit Fee Scheme 2022-23.

- Audit Wales provided copies of their fees for auditing the 2021-22 accounts.
- There were two types of charges. For a Transaction Audit, which would be made every three years, the cost to the Community Council for a standard audit would be between £605 and £725.
- A limited procedure audit would cost between £ 200 and £ 240.
- These audits are in addition to the Audit undertaken by the Independent Auditor.
- Resolved; To receive and note the information provided.

152.0 Agenda Item 14 Next Meeting.

- The next ordinary meeting would be at 19:00hrs on 14.03.22 online.
- There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:35hrs