

# CYNGOR CYMUNED GORS-LAS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Gors-las Community Council

held online on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2022, at 19.00 hrs.

### 1.0 Agenda Item 1: To Elect a Chair for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

- It was proposed and seconded that Cllr Nia Lewis be elected as Chair of the Council for the 2022/23 municipal year.
- **Resolved:** It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Nia Lewis be elected to the position.

### 2.0 Agenda Item 2: Chair's Declaration Acceptance of Office.

- Cllr Lewis thanked members for the honour of being elected Chair of the Council read out, and signed, the declaration of acceptance of office with members and the Proper Officer witnessing the proceedings by means of live streaming.
- **Resolved:** To note and record the proceedings.

### 3.0 Agenda Item 3: Elect a Vice Chair for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

- It was proposed and seconded that Cllr Simon Martin be elected as Vice Chair of the Council for the Municipal Year 2022/23.
- **Resolved:** It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Simon Martin be elected to the position.

### 4.0 Agenda Item 4: Vice Chair's Declaration Acceptance of Office.

- Cllr Martin thanked members for the honour of being elected Vice Chair of the Council read out, and signed, the declaration of acceptance of office with members and the Clerk witnessing the proceedings by means of live streaming.
- **Resolved:** To note and record the proceedings.

### 5.0 Agenda Item 5: Record of those Present/Apologies

- Councillors: Nia Lewis (Chair), Simon Martin (Vice Chair), Roy James, Gareth Jones, Chris Wilkins, Clive Green, Tina Butler, Kevin Jones Andrew King and N Beckett,
- Others: Llew Thomas, Clerk to the Council and Hefin Jones (Translator).
- Apologies for absence: Cllr Clive Douch
- **Resolved:** To accept the reason for absence submitted by Cllr Douch.

### 6.0 Agenda Item 6: Signing by Members of Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

- As this was the first meeting for many the Chair asked that each member, in turn, introduce themselves and say a few words about themselves and their reasons for joining the Council.
- The Chair then paused proceedings whilst each member to read and sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as a Councillor witnessed by the Clerk.
- **Resolved to:**
  - (i) Thank members for their participation in the information sharing process and
  - (ii) Note and record the signing of the declaration of Acceptance of Office by members and ask that the form be returned to the Clerk as a matter of urgency.

### 7.0 Agenda Item 7. Register of Members Interests

- Councillors were reminded by the Chair of the need for them to complete and return the Register of Interest forms to the Clerk by the deadline date.
- **Resolved that:** Members action by the deadline date.

### 8.0 Agenda Item 8 Annual Report 2021/22 from the past Chair.

- Cllr Andrew King provided an overview for members of the year which had passed.
- Notable had been the limiting effect of the pandemic on the number of events which had been held locally and which would have showcased the invaluable work which they do. It was a feature of his year in office which he regretted.
- The year had not however been all bad. The Community Council had kept its services going with the three parks being especially well used and valued by the public during the Covid restrictions.
- The Community Council had also been successful in obtaining section 106 funding to purchase over £100k of new play equipment at Gorslas and Cefneithin Parks. The equipment was now in place and had been very well received.,
- The process of installing CCTV coverage in the three parks was underway with investment also taking place in the Toll Bar, New Coloured Playground fencing, Drainage as well as in upgrading the Public Conveniences. All in all it had been a busy and successful year.
- In closing Cllr King wished to convey his thanks to members for their invaluable support during the year and he wished Councillor Lewis all the very best during her year in office which he was sure she would excel at and enjoy.
- **Resolved to:** Receive and note the information provided and thank Cllr King sincerely for his work during the year.

### 9.0 Agenda Item 9: Opportunity for the Public to address the Council.

- No requests had been received from members of the public to speak at the meeting.
- **Resolved to:** Note and record.

### 10.0 Agenda Item 10: Consider the Co-option of Additional Members.

- Since the election on the 5<sup>th</sup> May,2022, there were vacancies for four Councillor representatives. Three for the Gorslas Ward and one for the Drefach Ward.
- A readiness to join the Council as a Co-opted Member had been shown by four individuals who lived in the area.
- **Resolved:**
  - (i) Drefach Ward: Mr Wyn Edwards be appointed as a representative for the ward.
  - (ii) Gorslas Ward: The following be appointed as representatives for the Gorslas Ward upon receipt of confirmation of interest: -
    - a) Linda Williams
    - b) Elinor Goldsmith
    - c) Melody Gronow.

### 11.0 Agenda Item 11: Establishment of a Sub Committee.

- Discussion took place in relation to the functions and working of the Council.
- **Resolved:**

- (i) That a Sub Committee be established for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.
- (ii) The Sub Committee would undertake functions and tasks delegated to it by the full Council.
- (iii) Membership of the Sub Committee to be: -
  - a) Core Membership- with voting rights: Chair, Vice Chair and immediate past Chair of Council.
  - b) Observers: One observer from each ward without voting rights. Cllrs N Beckett, Tina Butler and Chris Wilkins.

**12.0 Agenda Item 12: Appoint Representatives to External Bodies.**

- Following discussion, the following nominations were proposed: -

Organisation	Nominated Councillor Representative
One Voice Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Wyn Edwards</li> <li>• Cllr Roy James</li> </ul>
School Governing Bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cefneithin C.P. – Simon Martin</li> <li>• Drefach/ Cross Hands Federation: Nia Lewis</li> </ul>
Gwendraeth Group of Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clive Green</li> <li>• Vacancy</li> </ul>
Torcoed Quarry Liaison Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kevin Jones</li> </ul>
Cross Hands Public Hall and Cinema	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clive Green</li> <li>• Nick Beckett</li> </ul>
County Council Liaison Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wyn Edwards</li> <li>• Kevin Jones</li> <li>• Gareth Jones</li> </ul>

- **Resolved that:** That the nominations be accepted and members be appointed as representatives of the Council to the organisations as stated for the 2022/23 municipal year.

**13.0 Agenda Item 13: Appoint Independent Internal Auditor for 2022/23 financial Year.**

- The Council is required to appoint a suitable Independent Auditor to review the Council's financial and governance arrangements.
- **Resolved:** To appoint Lyn Llewellyn Audit Services to undertake the work.

**14.0 Agenda Item 14: Appoint Internal Financial Examiner for 2022/23.**

- As part of the audit assurance measures the Council should appoint a Councillor to review the Council's financial and governance arrangements.
- **Resolved:** That Cllr Chris Wilkins supported by Cllr Clive Green be appointed.

**15.0 Agenda Item 15: Chairs Fund for 2022/23.**

- Traditionally a fund had been allocated by the Council in respect of which the Chair of the Council could make nominations for donations to be made to organisations in accordance with the Council's aims and objectives.
- **Resolved that:**
  - (i) A sum of £1,000 be allocated to the Chairs fund for the financial year 2022/23.

- (ii) Authority be delegated to the Clerk to make reasonable payments within the allocated budget to organisations, following nomination by the Chair, and providing the nominations are in line with the Community Council's aims and objectives.

**16.0 Agenda Item 16: Report Members Attendance.**

- The following details were provided regarding the attendance of members at meetings of the full Council for the period 1<sup>st</sup> May,2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> April,2022.

Ward	Surname	First Name	Possible Attendance	Meetings Attended	% Attendance
<b>Cefneithin</b>	Martin	Simon	16	13	81
	Jones	Terry	10	7	70
	Kirby	Brian	16	0	0
	Llwyd	Iestyn	16	16	100
	Price	Darren	16	14	88
<b>Drefach</b>	Edwards	Wyn	16	16	100
	Green	Clive	16	16	100
	Rees	Anthony	16	13	81
	Butler	Tina	16	9	56
	Lewis	Nia	16	13	81
<b>Gorslas</b>	Owen	Aled	16	12	75
	Price	Janice	16	3	19
	Beckett	Nicholas	16	14	88
	Williams	Linda	16	14	88
	King	Andrew	16	14	88

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

**17.0 Agenda Item 17 Dates of Full Council Meeting 2022/23**

- The following dates were proposed for monthly meetings of the Council :-

Date	Venue
13/06/22	Ordinary Monthly Meeting at 7.00p.m. – Online
11/07/22	Ordinary Monthly Meeting at 7.00p.m. – Online
12/09/22	Ordinary Monthly Meeting at 7.00p.m. – Online
10/10/22	Ordinary Monthly Meeting at 7.00p.m. – Online
14/11/22	Ordinary Monthly Meeting at 7.00p.m. – Online
12/12/22	Ordinary Monthly Meeting at 7.00p.m. – Online
09/01/23	Ordinary Monthly Meeting at 7.00p.m. – Online
13/02/23	Ordinary Monthly Meeting at 7.00p.m. – Online

13/03/23	Ordinary Monthly Meeting at 7.00p.m. – Online
10/04/23	Ordinary Monthly Meeting at 7.00p.m. – Online
08/05/23	Annual Meeting of the Council at 7.00p.m - Online
08/05/23	Ordinary Monthly Meeting at 7.00p.m. – Online

- **Resolved:** To adopt the proposed dates and arrangements for ordinary meetings of the Council accepting that they could be subject to review and change during the year.

#### 18.0 Agenda Item 18: End of Year 2021/22 Service Budget Summary

- Members considered the information provided with the meeting papers in respect of the 2022/22 budgets.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

#### 19.0 Agenda Item 19: Annual Report.

- Members were advised that new legislation meant that the Council was required to publish an annual report detailing performance over the previous year and its objectives for the new year.
- Discussion took place in relation to the practice of the members for each ward meeting as a group, either physically or online and how this could help in formulating objectives for the coming year.
- **Resolved:**
  - (i) Members consider matters which they would wish to prioritise for the forthcoming year
  - (ii) The matter to be placed on the agenda for the June meeting of the Council
  - (iii) Ward members to meet as a group online or physically to discuss local matters and priorities if they so choose.

#### 20.0 Agenda Item 20: Risk Assessment

- A schedule of risks and mitigation measures was considered by members
- **Resolved:**
  - (i) To receive, note and accept the information provided
  - (ii) That the schedule be reviewed by the Sub Committee.

#### 21.0 Agenda Item 21 Asset Register

- A schedule of assets owned by the Council was considered by members.
- **Resolved:**
  - (i) To receive, note and accept the information provided
  - (ii) That the schedule be reviewed by the Sub Committee.

#### 22.0 Agenda Item 22 Standing Orders

- Copies of the Council’s Standing Orders were considered by members.
- **Resolved:**
  - (i) To receive, note and accept the information provided
  - (ii) That the schedule be reviewed by the Sub Committee

**23.0 Agenda Item 23: Financial Regulations**

- Members considered the current Financial Regulations for the Council.
- **Resolved:**
  - (i) To receive, note and accept the information provided
  - (ii) That the schedule be reviewed by the Sub Committee.

**24.0 Agenda Item 24: Code of Conduct for Members**

- The importance of the Code of Conduct was discussed and considered. Members had been provided with a copy of the code with the papers for the meeting.
- It was noted that adherence to the code had formed part of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office signed by Members.
- **Resolved:** That the Council formally adopts the Code of Conduct as provided to members.

**25.0 Close of Business**

- There being no further items of business for discussion the Chair thanked members and declared the meeting closed at 20:05 hours.