CYNGOR CYMUNED GORS-LAS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly meeting of the Gors-las Community Council**

**held at Hebron Vestry Drefach on Monday, 13th June, 2022, at 18:30hrs.**

39.0 Agenda Item 1: Record of those Present/Apologies

* Councillors: Nia Lewis (Chair) Simon Martin (Vice Chair) Roy James, Clive Douch, Gareth Jones, Chris Wilkins, Clive Green, Tina Butler, Kevin Jones, Wyn Edwards, N Beckett, Andrew King, Linda Williams. Melody Gronow and Elinor Goldsmith.
* Others:

1. Michael Roberts, Environmental Enforcement Policy Officer Carms C.C.
2. Steven Raymond, Environmental Enforcement Officer, Carms C.C.
3. Mark Jenkins Drefach Football and Cricket Club
4. Carol Jones Cefneithin C.P. School
5. Anthony Rees, Member of the Public),
6. Llew Thomas, Clerk to the Council and Martin Davies (Translator).

* Apologies for absence: Cllr Roy James (Late arrival). County Councillors Aled Vaughan Owen and Darren Price.
* **Resolved:** To note and accept the information provided.

39.1 General.

* The Chair welcomed members to the meeting which was declared open at 18.30hrs.

40.0 Agenda Item 2 Declaration of Interest

* There were no declarations of interests made by members.
* **Resolved to**: Note and record the position.

41.0 Agenda Item 3 Consider the Minutes of the Previous Meetings of the Council.

41.1 Annual General Meeting:

* The minutes of the meeting held on the 9th May,2022 were examined in detail by members.
* **Resolved that**: The minutes be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings and decisions.

41.2 Ordinary May Meeting.

* The minutes of the meeting held on the 9th May,2022 were examined in detail by members.
* **Resolved that**: The minutes be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings and decisions

42.0 Agenda Item 4: Dog Fouling.

* The Chair welcomed the two County Council Officers to the meeting.
* The Officers thanked members for the opportunity to address the Council and proceeded to outline the legal and enforcement position regarding prohibiting dogs in public spaces.
* Amongst the matters highlighted by the Officers were: -

1. Relevance: Dog fouling was an issue in most parks in the County.
2. Legal Prohibition: The County Council had recently consulted upon a new Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order. Dogs could be prohibited from specific enclosed areas.
3. Dogs on Leads: County Council Officers could require owners to keep a dog to be kept on a lead whilst in a public space. The Community Council could not impose a general requirement for owners to keep dogs on leads without providing evidence of alternative measures to allow disabled owners etc to exercise their dogs off the lead.
4. Dog specific areas: As part of the mitigation measures taken by other Councils specific areas had been provided and fenced off within parks for dog owners to use. The arrangement had led to difficulties in terms of dogs fighting other dogs.
5. Enforcement: There were 3 officers undertaking overt and covert surveillance.
6. Prohibition: Officers could seek orders prohibiting specific individuals from specific areas for repeat offences.
7. Evidence: To a large extent enforcement depended on the public providing evidence and being prepared to sign a court statement relating to the offence.
8. CCTV: The County Council Officers were not allowed to view general CCTV footage from another organisation looking for offences. The organisation would need to forward the relevant images to Officers as well as details identifying the offender. Images could not be posted online or on social media which identified the offender.
9. Education Package: A package aimed at promoting an understanding by the public of the issues involved in dog fouling. It included survey and incidence recording sheets for use by school children allowing monitoring over time.
10. Publicity: The Officers would support and take part in publicity or social media campaigns by schools or other organisations to raise awareness of the issues.

* Cllr Roy James joined the meeting at this point.
* The representatives of Cefneithin CP School and Drefach Cricket Club then outlined for members and the officers the difficulties caused by dog fouling in the parks for the children they were responsible for.
* There then followed a Question-and-Answer session with officers receiving and answering questions from members and the organisations present. They included:

1. Responsibility for Health and Safety arising from dog fouling. – remains with the Council.
2. Community Protection Notice; dependent on evidence being provided.:
3. DNA tracing of dog ownership: Expensive, slow with not many dogs on the register.

* There being no further matters for discussion the Chair thanked the Officers and representatives of the organisations present for their input.
* The Officers and representatives of the different organisations then left the meeting.
* **Resolved** to:

1. Note the information provided
2. Request a copy of the Educational Package.
3. A copy of the package be provided to Cefneithin CP School.

43.0 Agenda Item 5 Update on County Council Matters

* The Clerk advised that, due to a clash of meetings, the County Councillors were unable to attend the meeting and had sent their apologies.
* They advised however that they would, in turn, attend meetings of the Community Council every two months and provide feedback on County Council matters.
* Should any urgent issue or matter come up in the period between meetings the Community Council was welcome to contact the County Councillors in relation to those matters.
* **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

44.0 Agenda Item 6: 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.

45.0 Agenda Item 7: Corporate Matters.

45.1 Governance: Declaration Acceptance of Office by Co Opted Members.

* The Chair formally welcomed, and thanked, the new co-opted members for their willingness to join the Community Council and to represent the residents of the area.
* Cllrs Wyn Edwards (Drefach Ward), Elinor Goldsmith (Gorslas Ward) Melody Gronow (Gorslas Ward) and Linda Williams (Gorslas Ward) all duly read and signed the declaration of acceptance of office in the presence and witnessed by the Proper Officer.
* **Resolved**: To welcome the new members and to record and evidence the acceptance by them of the acceptance of office.

45.2 Governance: Register of Members Interests.

* In accordance with the legal requirements the co-opted members furnished the Clerk with the details required for the Register of Members Interests.
* Resolved: To receive and note the information provided.

45.3 Progress Report.

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

45.4 Payment of an Attendance Allowance for Members.

* The Independent Review Panel for Wales require the Community Councils to consider the option of making a payment of an attendance allowance for Councillors.
* The allowance could not exceed £30 per meeting and any member claiming the allowance could not also be paid an attendance allowance.
* Different options were available which had been detailed in the update report.
* **Resolved:** The Sub-Committee examine the matter and report back with recommendations.

45.5 Safety Surfaces: Drefach Park

* Details of options and quotations were provided for the repair, replacement of the surfaces as well as for the provision of new equipment.
* Resolved:

1. That an invitation be extended to the Regional Co-ordinator of the Lottery Fund to attend the July meeting of the Community Council.
2. Draft tender specifications to the value of £40,400 be prepared for the purchase of new play equipment and repairs to the safety surfaces for consideration at the July meeting.

45.6 Format of Future Meetings

* Discussion took place in relation to the format of future meetings which needed to facilitate remote attendance by members or the public.
* **Resolved to**: Hold physical meetings at Hebron Vestry with remote access provided via the Llanarthne Zoom option. The arrangement to be reviewed at the end of six months.

45.7 Strategic Document

* Members had been provided with a copy of the Council’s Strategic Plan.
* Resolved that:

1. Members forward any comments or observations they have to the Clerk within 10 days.
2. The Sub Committee examine the document and feedback to the full Council.

45.8 Council Priorities for 2022/23

* The requirement relating to the setting of priorities for the 2022/23 year was considered.
* **Resolved:** That ward members discuss and consider the priorities for the Council and forward to the Clerk for consideration by the Sub Committee.

45.9 Training Plan.

* Following the introduction of new legislation there was a requirement for Councils to produce a training plan for members and staff by November 2022.
* **Resolved:**

1. That the provision made by One Voice Wales form the basis of the plan.
2. The Clerk prepare and circulate to members proposals for a training plan.

45.10 External Representatives: Community Governors New Gorslas C.P. School

* The County Council had advised that they were seeking nominations for consideration by the Governing Body for a Community Governor.
* **Resolved:** Cllr Elinor Goldsmith be nominated as the Community Council representative.

45.11 Carmarthenshire County Council: Suggestions for Review by Scrutiny Committee.

* An invitation had been extended by the County Council for suggestions on subjects for review by the County Council’s Scrutiny Committee.
* **Resolved that**: The following matters be put forward as proposals for the forward work programme: -

1. Section 106 Monies – an explanation of the processes associated with the calculation and distribution of the funds.
2. Dog Fouling: A means of the County Council co-ordinating action on the problem of dog fouling across the County.
3. Parks and Play Equipment Inspection: Ways of delivering a play equipment safety inspection and repair service.

45.12 Application for Use Cefneithin Park.

* A request had been received for permission to use the paths and other suitable areas in the park for a Nordic Walking Club activities for which the organisation would make a charge.
* **Resolved:** Members were supportive of the proposal however it was considered prudent to make enquiries in relation to the insurance and other legal aspects of granting permission.

45.13 Application Use of Cefneithin Park

* A request to use the park and MUGA for the annual Cefneithin C.P. School Sports Day which would take place on Thursday 30th June,2022, had been received.
* **Resolved:** That permission be granted subject to the school having the appropriate insurance policies in place to indemnify the Community Council against any claims.

45.14 Management Agreement: Gorslas New School

* Members were disappointed that no further progress had been made in relation to finalising the management agreement.
* Initial contact had been made by the Community Council with the Governing Body some three years ago to develop a management agreement to allow the use of community facilities when not required by the school as a means of compensating the community for the loss of green spaces and playing facilities which the re-location of the school to the park would entail.
* An undertaking at that time was received from the Governing Body that they agreed in principle to the management agreement with the detail to be discussed.
* That undertaking was key to the Community Council’s decision to donate the park land to allow the building of a new school and the opportunity for a new school in the area would have been lost.
* The new school build was progressing and hopefully the school would open in the Autumn and to tie in with the opening of the new school it was necessary to finalise the management agreement and tender for contractors to undertake the custodial duties associated with the use of the facilities.
* **Resolved that: T**he Council write to the Chief Executive and Leader of Carmarthenshire County Council seeking their assistance in discussing and finalising a management agreement.

45.15 Anti-Social Behaviour: Teen Shelter

* A number of incidents of concern, including an arson attempt, had been received in relation to the behaviour of individuals using the shelter and their interaction with the public.
* Following the latest incident which included an attempt to start a fire discussion with representatives of Dyfed Powys Police had resulted in a request that the shelter be removed.
* Consideration was given to the feedback from members regarding the issues and concerns of local residents from the behaviour of those using the shelter.
* There was also an awareness that the shelter was currently the only provision made for young people in the park.
* Members considered various options in relation to the possible retention, re-location or re-orientation of the shelter which would allow the provision to be retained whilst also addressing the safety and anti-social behaviour issues.
* **Resolved** that:

1. Having considered the impact on both the users of the shelter and the broader community it was resolved that regrettably the shelter be removed on the grounds of safety.
2. That the Council seek to offset the loss of the facility to young people by seeking to ensure that the management agreement relating to the new Gorslas School site included facilities and activities for this age group.

45.16 Social Media.

* It was reported that the Council’s Facebook page had not been updated for some time.
* The task had been undertaken previously by a Councillor who had not sought re-election.
* **Resolved:** That the matter be considered at a future meeting.

46.0 Agenda Item 8: Park Operational Matters.

* It was reported that bolts were missing from an item of play equipment at Gorslas Park. The company have been contacted for replacements.
* **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided

47.0 Agenda Item 9: Urgent Local Matters.

* Notification had been received of a temporary road closure on 10.06.22 on the B4310 Cwmmawr to Porthyrhyd between 10.00a.m and 15:00hrs to accommodate the Women’s Tour of Britain,2022.
* **Resolved:** To receive and note.

48.0 Agenda Item 10: Members Reports.

* There were no items reported under this heading.

49.0 Agenda Item 11 Correspondence and Consultation.

* Members considered the schedule of correspondence received.
* **Resolved:**

1. To receive and note the items of correspondence received.
2. Any member wishing to attend the free County Council Training Session on the Code of Conduct for members to contact the Clerk asap.

50.0 Agenda Item 12: One Voice Wales.

* The items of communication received from One Voice Wales relating to training, Environmental Issues Working Group and the request for examples of good responses to global warming were considered.
* **Resolved:**

1. To note and record the information provided
2. Any member interested in a training course should contact the Chair and Clerk.

51.0 Agenda Item 13: Planning Matters.

* Consideration was given to the schedule of planning applications which had been received
* **Resolved to:** Receive and note the information provided.

52.0 Agenda Item 14 Finance

52.1 Annual Audit 2021/22: Independent Auditor Report.

* Members considered the letter from the Independent 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.

52.2 External Audit 2021/22: Annual Return.

* Copies of the Annual Return for 2021/22 had been circulated prior to the meeting.
* There was a legal requirement for the full Council to consider and satisfy itself in relation to the Accounting and Governance Statements made in the Annual Return and to consider the report by the Independent Auditor.
* Members considered carefully both the accounting and Governance statements contained in the Annual Return for 2021/22 together with the report of the Independent Auditor.
* Resolved:

1. To confirm that the Council was satisfied that the financial and governance statements in the return were true and accurate.
2. That the Chair be authorised to confirm as such by signing the Annual Return on behalf of the Council.
3. That the return and accompanying documentation be forwarded to Wales Audit.
4. That the required public notices be published at the appropriate time

52.3 Monthly Payments

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Paid /Received** | **Description** | **Amount £** |
| **Income** |  | Nil |
|  |  |  |
| **Expenditure** |  |  |
| WCVA | Payroll Charge May | 21.30 |
| Wrenvale | Grass Cutting May | 1,164.00 |
| Wrenvale | Replacement Chq Grass Cutting | 2,676.000 |
| Drefach Welfare | Replacement Chq Christmas Donation | 175.00 |
| Clerk | Pay/ Trav | 1,182.73 |
| BHIB Insurance | Annual Insurance Policy Renewal | 2260.95 |
| Danfo | Toilets Cleaning etc. | 720.00 |
| Hopley | Repairing leak Gorslas Toilets | 100.08 |
| TBM | Litter and Park Work Jan to March | 1,536.00 |
| Bowen and Weaving | Replacement Ink cartridge | 44.10 |
| Lyn Llewellyn | Independent Audit 2021/22 | 560.00 |

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

53.0 Agenda Item 15 July Meeting.

* To be held at Hebron Vestry on Monday 11.07.22. at 19:000hrs
* There being no further business the Chair thanked members for their attendance and declaring the meeting closed at 21:25hrs.