

# CYNGOR CYMUNED GORS-LAS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

held on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, at 19.00 hrs.

### 157.0 Agenda Item 1: Record of those Present/Apologies

- Councillors: Nia Lewis (Vice Chair) Iestyn Llwyd, Wyn Edwards, Anthony Rees, Clive Green, Tina Butler, Darren Price, Linda Williams, N Beckett and Aled Vaughan Owen.
- Others: Llew Thomas, Clerk to the Council and Hefin Jones (Translator).
- Apologies for absence: Cllr Andrew King and Janice Price.
- In the absence of Cllr Andrew King Cllr Nia Lewis took the Chair and declared the meeting open at 19:00 hrs.
- **Resolved:** To approve and accept the reasons for non-attendance.

### 158.0 Agenda Item 2 Declaration of Interest

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

| Agenda Item | Councillor | Nature of Interest         |
|-------------|------------|----------------------------|
| 162.6       | W Edwards  | Member of One Voice Wales. |

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

### 159.0 Agenda Item 3 Consider the Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Council.

- Members examined and considered in detail each page of the February minutes of the Council.
- **Resolved that:** The notes be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings and decisions subject to an amendment to item 147.3(i) regarding the description of the roads involved. The amendment to be made before the final version of the February minutes are published.

### 160.0 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.

### 161.0 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.

### 162.0 Agenda Item 6: Corporate Matters.

#### 162.1 Progress Report.

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

### 162.2 Community and County Council Election Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May,2022

- Introductory training sessions for prospective candidates had been held by the County Council online on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March,2022.
- Details of the May election, including how to get nomination packs had been placed on the Community Council's website/social media platform.
- Notices of election had also been received from the County Council for publication on the Community Council's website and in noticeboards by 18<sup>th</sup> March,2022.
- Nominations to be submitted between Monday 21.03.22. and 4.00p.m. Tuesday 05.04.22.
- Purdah: The period of purdah commences on 16.03.22.
- Two serving Councillors had advised the Clerk that they would not be seeking re-election.
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the actions taken.

### 162.3 Park Play Equipment Inspections

- The service level agreement with Carmarthenshire County Council for the inspection of the play equipment comes to an end on the 31<sup>st</sup> March,2022.
- The County Council has offered to extend the agreement for the financial year 2022/23 for fortnightly inspections together with an independent annual inspection at a cost of £3,063.18.
- **Resolved:** That the agreement be renewed.

### 162.4 Contract P Convenience/ Litter.

- The contract with Danfo in respect of the above comes to an end on the 31<sup>st</sup> March,2022.
- The arrangements regarding the Gorslas MUGA remained an unknown factor but were likely to change during the year when the school becomes operational.
- **Resolved:** That the contract be extended until 31.03.22 at a daily price of £ 20.

### 162.5 Contract of Employment Clerk.

- One Voice Wales had advised that the employers and unions had reached an agreement on an increase of 1.75% in the salary scale for Clerks applicable from 01.04.21.
- The contract of employment for the Clerk is subject to the National Agreement on Pay and Conditions (NJC) for Local Government Staff.
- The Clerk then left the online meeting whilst members discussed the matter and rejoined the meeting after a decision had been made.
- **Resolved:** That the increase be applied as per the National Agreement.

### 162.6 Membership One Voice Wales 2022/23.

- Members were advised that the Community Council had been invited to renew its membership for 2022/23. The Association had grown to represent 89%+ of Town and Community Councils in Wales. The fee for the year was £ 817.00.
- **Resolved:** To renew the membership for the year.

### 162.7 Consultation Dog Control Measures.

- A response had not been received to the request that the relevant County Council Officer attend a meeting with members to discuss the matter. A copy of the minutes of a meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> June,2016, which related to the same subject topic area had been provided for the information of members with the agenda for the March meeting.

- Discussion took place in relation to the continuing difficulties arising from the actions of irresponsible dog owners and the danger to children in the park arising from dog faeces.
- Consideration was given to actions believed to be taken by other Councils in relation to the control of dogs in parks as well as the legal obligations and powers of the Community Council.
- **Resolved that:**
  - (i) Clarification be sought in relation to the legality of introducing a requirement that dogs be placed on a lead when in parks.
  - (ii) The Authorities who were believed to have introduced controls be contacted to clarify the position.
  - (iii) The matter be placed on the agenda for the April meeting of the Council further discussion.

#### **162.8 Grass Boundary Hedge Cutting Contract.**

- A complaint had been received by the Clerk and members regarding debris arising out of the cutting of hedges at Drefach Park on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2022.
- The Clerk had visited site that day and examined the position. There were tractor tyre ruts visible on the park side and debris i.e. cuttings on the estate road near the bottom entrance gate to the Brynglas estate. The matter was complicated by the fact that certain works to the property in that area had been instructed by, and were under the direction of the County Council.
- The contractor was however advised of the issue as a result of which the contractor visited site on the 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2022, to complete the works and attend to the debris.
- The Clerk also visited the Cefneithin park site and observed that the work had been undertaken however there were areas where tractor tyre ruts were visible.
- It was acknowledged that there were difficulties with the spring cut due to ground conditions being wet and he need to complete works before the nesting season but also a requirement for the hedges to be cut.
- **Resolved:**
  - (i) To temporarily revise the arrangements so that the spring cut at Drefach Park excludes the boundary area hedge on the eastern side from the Welfare Hall building to the point where it meets the boundary hedge at the bottom end of the park.
  - (ii) To temporarily revise the arrangements so that the spring cut at Cefneithin Park excludes the boundary hedge on the Heol Yr Ysgol side.
  - (iii) That the arrangements be kept under review.

#### **162.9 Play Park Communications Boards**

- An offer had been received from Hywel Dda UHB of free “communication boards” developed by the Paediatric Speech and Language Therapists to help children with visual difficulties communicate.
- Following discussion with members an application was made for three boards to be place in children’s play area. The Board had advised that two boards had been awarded to be allocated to Cefneithin and Gorslas Parks.
- **Resolved:** To approve the actions taken and to make arrangements to fit the boards.

### 162.10 Independent Review Panel Wales Report 2022/23

- In accordance with section 147 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 the IRPW published a report in relation to the allowances and amounts payable for the 2022/23 year.
- The report and recommendations were considered in detail and discussed by members following which it was resolved as follows: -

#### (i) Determinations Mandatory Matters

| Determination No | Subject                         | Decision   |
|------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 43               | Care and Personal Allowance     | Adopt as detailed in the report  |
| 44               | Members Annual Allowance        | To adopt as detailed in the report subject to the following: -<br>(i) Payment to be made for members appointed in May 2022 after six months service.<br>(ii) For any member who joins the Council after the May,2022, elections payment of the allowance to be based on a pro rata basis to the service given from the date of appointment to the 30 <sup>th</sup> April,2023. Payment to be made halfway between the date of appointment and the 30 <sup>th</sup> April,2023. |
| 53               | Senior Salary Principal Council | Adopt as detailed in the report  |
| N/S              | Publication of Payments         | Adopt as detailed in the report  |

- **Resolved:** To adopt the Mandatory Determinations as detailed in the table above

#### (ii) Determinations Non-Mandatory Matters

| Determination No | Subject                     | Decision            |
|------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 45               | Senior Role Payments        | Not adopt           |
| 46               | Travel Expenses             | Adopt as per report |
| 47               | Overnight Stay              | Adopt as per report |
| 48               | Compensation Financial Loss | Not adopt           |
| 49               | Attendance Allowance        | Not adopt           |
| 50               | Payment to Chair            | Not adopt           |
| 51               | Payment to Vice Chair       | Not adopt           |

- **Resolved:** To adopt the Non-Mandatory Determinations as detailed in the table above

#### **162.11 CCTV Recording System Training.**

- Consideration and discussion took place regarding the appointment of members for training in the use of the CCTV.
- **Resolved that:** The Sub Committee members be appointed to undertake training and one member from each ward to be nominated by ward members.

#### **163.00 Agenda Item 7: Park Operational Matters.**

##### **163.1 Cefneithin Park MUGA.**

- A member of the public reported, on Monday 21 02 22 two young people climbing the goal end fencing to access the MUGA. Clerk responded to the report on 22.02.22.
- **Resolved:** To seek an update from the contractor regarding the provision of the new fences.

##### **163.2 Tree Issues 19.02 22**

- Following storm Eunice, the Clerk visited the three parks on Saturday 19.02.22 as a result of which it was noted that: -
  - (i) Cefneithin Park: One tree down and two posed safety concerns
  - (ii) Drefach Park: A tree had been cut and deposited in the park.
  - (iii) Gorslas Park: One medium sized tree had fallen.
- A suitable contractor had been engaged and the items removed on 24 02 22.
- **Resolved:** To note and approve the actions taken

##### **163.3 Gorslas P Convenience: Electrical Fault. 17 02 22**

- The cleaning contractor reported an electrical fault which was tripping the circuits continuously.
- An electrical contractor attended site the same day and resolved the issue however a replacement part was required and had been ordered.
- **Resolved:** To note and approve the actions taken.

##### **163.4 Gorslas P Convenience: Anti-Social Behaviour. 26.02 22**

- A report had been received from the Police of having to speak to youths occupying the toilet facility on Saturday 26 02 22 regarding their behaviour.
- The Police had been thanked for their work and advised that CCTV was being fitted in all three parks which might assist with such matters.
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the actions taken.

#### **164.0 Agenda Item 8: Urgent Local Matters.**

##### **164.1 Urgent Closure of U2270 Capel Seion to Cwmmawr**

- The County Council had advised of an emergency closure of the U2270 Capel Seion to Cwmmawr road on 04.03.22 for a period of one day to enable BT to restore service.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

## 165.0 Agenda Item 9: Members Reports.

### 165.1 County Council Matters: Cllr Darren Price and Aled Vaughan Owen.

- A summary of the matters relevant to the area and electorate was provided and included: -
  - a) Precept: An increase of 2.5% had been approved.
  - b) Elections: The last meeting of the County Councillors had recently taken place.
  - c) Future Housing Assessment: A report had identified sites for the provision 2,000 new affordable homes in the next five years. It was noted that the Nantydderwen site in the Drefach Ward was not included due to technical site matters.
  - d) Energy Prices: Residents reported a number of “cold calling” incidents from companies indicating that grants were available to help reduce energy costs. Residents could check with the County Council if they wished to check that the companies were authorised.
  - e) Recycling Centers: The booking system introduced during the pandemic had worked well and was being retained.
  - f) Drefach: Speeding continued to be reported as an issue particularly on Heol Caegwyn and requests for the Go Safe van to attend had been made. The Authorities have again offered to provide equipment and training for a Community Speed Group. An attempt would be made to obtain data from the Mansel Arms cable recording unit on vehicle speeds in time for the next meeting.
  - g) Drefach; Fencing Mansel Arms: The County Council were of the view that the fence was I private ownership. Cllr Anthony Rees however was able to verify
  - h) Drefach: Double Yellow Lines section of highway at Heol Cwmmawr: Objections had been received to other proposals in the notice published by the County Council as a result of which none of the proposals could proceed. A new report was being prepared.
  - i) Drefach Damage to Driveways: Court case pending.
  - j) Gorslas: Gorslas Square Highway: The road surface was breaking up. The County Council intend to resurface the highway in the new year.
  - k) Gorslas Brynlluan -vehicle parking had become an issue.
- **Resolved to:** Receive and note the information provided.

### 165.2 PACT Meeting Cllr C Green.

- Cllr Green advised members that he had attended a meeting of the PACT group on the 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, the first such meeting since 2018. Discussion at the meeting included: -
  - (i) An introduction to the officers based at Cross Hands.
  - (ii) Drefach Speeding concerns.
  - (iii) Marking of the highway with double yellow lines on a section of road on Heol Cwmmawr.
  - (iv) Meetings were held every four weeks with exception of August and December.
  - (v) The County Council members acknowledged the work undertaken by the Police with whom they have online meetings every two weeks.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

### 165.3 Trustees Cross Hands Hall and Cinema.

- Members were advised that the trustees were seeking a replacement Treasurer and anyone interested should contact the trustees.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

### 166.0 Agenda Item 10 Correspondence and Consultation.

- Members considered the schedule of correspondence received.
- **Resolved:**
  - (i) To receive and note the items of correspondence received.
  - (ii) Consultation Asset Transfer: Members wishing to submit views to do so online.

### 167.0 Agenda Item 11: One Voice Wales.

#### 167.1 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.

### 168.0 Agenda Item 12: Planning Matters.

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

### 169.0 Agenda Item 13 Finance

#### 169.1 Monthly Transactions February

| Paid /Received    | Description                   | Amount £ |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|----------|
| Income            | N/A                           | Nil      |
| Expenditure       |                               |          |
| WCVA              | Payroll Charge                | 21.30    |
| Wrenvale          | Grass Cutting Charge          | 1,116.00 |
| Clerk             | Pay/ Trav/ Refund of Payments | 1,305.60 |
| Bowen and Weaving | New Printer/Fax/Scanner       | 270.00   |
| Towy Works        | Barrier Tape and Line Paint   | 14.50    |

#### 169.2 Budget 2021/22.

- It was acknowledged that, due to a variety of circumstances, contractors had not been able to complete works commissioned during the 2021/22.
- **Resolved:** That provision be made within the earmarked reserves for 2021/22 to meet the expected costs of such works.

#### 169.3 Authorised Signatories for Bank Accounts.

- There was a need to review the current position and appoint three new signatories.
- **Resolved:** That the matter be placed on the agenda for the April meeting.

#### 170.2 Agenda Item 14 Next Meeting.

- The next ordinary meeting would be at 19:00hrs on 11.04.22 online.
- There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:46hrs