

CYNGOR CYMUNED GORS-LAS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

held online on Monday, 23RD January,2023, at 18:45hrs.

125.0 Agenda Item 1: Record of those Present/Apologies

- Councillors: Nia Lewis (Chair), Simon Martin (Vice Chair), Chris Wilkins, Wyn Edwards, Clive Green, Kevin Jones, Nick Beckett, Andrew King, Linda Williams, Elinor Goldsmith and Melody Gronow.
- Others: Joe James (Emroch Landscapes Ltd), Llew Thomas, Clerk to the Council and Hefin Jones (Translator).
- Apologies for absence: Cllrs Roy James, Clive Douch, Tina Butler.
- **Resolved:** To accept and approve the apologies for absence.

125.1 General.

- The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting which was declared open at 18:45hrs.
- **Resolved:** To proceed with the business of the meeting.

126.0 Agenda Item 2 Declaration of Interest

- There were no declarations of interest made at this time.
- **Resolved to:** Note and record the position.

127.0 Agenda Item 5 Drefach Park New Play Equipment Presentation.

- With the agreement of members the order of business was changed to allow Mr Joe James to give a presentation on the companies' proposals for new play equipment at Drefach Park.
- Mr James thanked the Council for the opportunity and apologised for not being able to attend the previous meeting of the Council on the 16th January,2023.
- Details were provided for members in relation to the company, it's experience in providing play equipment and warranty periods for the different categories of equipment and surfaces.
- There then followed a question and answer session during which confirmation was given by Mr James that the company had applied for membership of the Association of Play Industries.
- Clarification was also provided in relation to the technical aspects of the proposal including securing the safety surfaces to the edging kerbs and integrating the finished levels with the existing.
- At the conclusion of the discussion the Chair thanked Mr James for the information provided following which he left the meeting.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

128.0 Consider the Minutes of the Previous Meetings of the Council.

- The minutes of the previous meetings of the Council held on the 19th December,2022 and 16th January,2023, were examined in detail under the direction of the Chair.
- **Resolved:** The minutes be confirmed as a correct record of proceedings and decisions.

129.0 Agenda Item 4: Opportunity for the Public to address the Council.

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

130.0 Agenda Item 5: Corporate Matters.

130.1 Procurement of New Play Equipment Drefach Park

- Members had been provided with details of tenders received.
- A discussion took place in relation to the merits and de-merits of each submission, the budgetary requirements and compliance with the conditions of contract.
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) The preferred design was that of contractor B.
 - (ii) In principle, the Clerk be authorised to award the contract to contractor B subject to confirmation being that the contractual requirement to have membership of the Association of Play Industries had been met.
 - (iii) The Clerk seek clarification, the following day, from the Association of Play Industries in relation to the membership status of contractor B.
 - (iv) That should evidence of contractor B meeting the contractual requirement regarding membership of the Association of Play Industries not be met then the contract be not be awarded and the requirements reviewed prior to a new tender being issued as a matter of urgency.

130.2 Precept 2023/24 and Budgets 2023/24 to 2027/28.

- As requested by Council a Working Group had met, on the 9th January,2023, and considered each individual area of expenditure and income for the next, and four subsequent financial years.
- The group had also examined the effect of a decrease in income from the Band D charge, existing and future commitments, inflation, and the effect of different levels of income and expenditure on reserves and ability to deliver services.
- Members were also acutely aware of the current cost of living increases households were facing and sought to assess through comparisons of indicative cost per resident the position in neighbouring or similar sized Councils within the County.
- The report and recommendations were considered in detail by the full Council with a useful and informative discussion ensuing regarding individual budgets, future commitments, and the proposed precept level for 2023/24.
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) That the proposed five-year individual income and expenditure budgets as recommended in the Working Group Report be adopted.
 - (ii) The precept for 2023-23 be set at £ 122,828 representing a 5% increase in the Band D charge.
 - (iii) That the revised proposals in relation to the Community Provision at the new Gorslas CP school form the basis of discussion with the school.
 - (iv) The Chairs Fund Allocation be revised to £ 500 and be included within the General Donations Budget.. The Chair to propose payments from the £500 allocation and the Clerk be authorised to make such payments upon being satisfied that they are in accordance with the Council's policies and legal powers.

130.3 Provision at Gorslas Park Public Conveniences.

- Two separate incidents had been reported by the contractor of events between 04.01.23 and 09.01.23 which had caused damage to the facility. .
- A further report had been received of an incident reported on 15.01.23 of damage to the facility and of a fire being started in a cubicle. A member of the public had also reported the incident.
- The incidents had been reported by the Clerk to Dyfed Powys Police.
- Following the fire the toilets are now locked and closed pending consideration by the Council.
- **Resolved.**
 - (i) The facility remain closed pending the outcome of discussion/investigation.
 - (ii) A representative from the Police be invited to attend a meeting of the full Council to discuss what action can be taken to address and reduce the number of such incidents.

130.4 General Update

- Members considered an update on progress on previous decisions of the Council.
- **Resolved:** Receive and note.

131.0 Agenda Item 6: Park Matters

131.1 Gorslas Park: New School- Signage and Public Lighting Units.

- An issue has arisen in relation to the acceptance of responsibility for the new school lighting units and signage placed on the Community Council land by the County Council.
- The Clerk had received a schedule of the units showing their location and power supply. These had been checked against the land ownership plans. The units could be categorized as: -
 - (i) New Provision on school owned land but drawing power from the park lighting units.
 - (ii) Units on Gorslas CC land and drawing power from the park public lighting
- There were no existing agreements for the units or signs to be sited on Community Council land or an acceptance of responsibility for maintenance or running costs by the Community Council.
- The Clerk has contacted the contractor, the Public Lighting Units and CCC Technical Services Department seeking a meeting to resolve the matter. To date no response had been received.
- **Resolved:**
 1. That the basis of any agreement be that any new provision, be it a lighting unit or sign, which does not replace an existing one be the responsibility of the County Council.
 2. That the Community Council grant an easement to the County Council in respect of access to maintain, inspect, or replace the lighting units or signs.

131.2 Gorslas Park: Car Park New Lighting Units.

- It was noted by the Clerk that on 24.12.22 at 18.45 and on 09.01.23 at 21:15 that the six new units in the park car park were not working. Reported to Lloyd and Gravell.
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the actions taken.

131.3 Gorslas Park: New Lighting Unit Car Park C 18.

- A member of the public reported on 16.01.23 that a lighting unit was leaning towards the play area and would move if touched.
- The Clerk visited site on 16.01.23 and verified the position. The unit base was firmly fixed and thus the unit would not fall or fail completely. The matter was however reported to Lloyd and Gravell for immediate action and for the other new units in the park to also be checked.
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the actions taken..

131.4 Gorslas Park: Public New Lighting Unit C 22.

- During a check undertaken by the Clerk on 16 01 23 it was noted that the inspection cover was loose leading to a possibility of accessing the wiring.
- Reported to Lloyd and Gravell for immediate actioning.
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the actions taken.

131.5 Gorslas Park: Land Slippage.

- It was noted by the Clerk that a hole had appeared. for a second time, on land adjacent to the public footpath from the car park to the school entrance.
- Reported to Lloyd and Gravell for immediate actioning.
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the actions taken

131.6 Gorslas Park Water Issue Footpath Church Side near Play Area.

- New tarmacadam and the footpath widened as part of the works for the new school.
- During the process an existing Aco drain and a gully had been tarmacadamed over by a sub-contractor. The sub-contractor had provided a replacement Aco drain which was ineffective.
- Messrs Lloyd and Gravell have been advised of the position on 16.01.23 and indicated they would progress the issue with the sub-contractor immediately.
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the actions taken.

131.7 Gorslas Park. Replacement Seats for Proludic See Saw.

- Following a communication identified by the park inspector regarding the above, and following consultation with members two new replacement seats have been ordered at a cost of £610.99 including VAT and Carms CC asked to remove the existing and fit the replacement units.
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the actions taken.

131.8 Cefneithin Park: Pedestrian Gate.

- It was noted by the Clerk, during a site visit, that the posts securing a pedestrian gate leading into the park were badly rusting and in need of replacement.
- Following consultation with members the maintenance contractor has been requested to obtain a price for a replacement unit. The maintenance contractor advised that the gate/posts etc. were not of a standard size and would require a specialist to make them. He had contacted one such company but they were not in a position to undertake the work. It was suggested the Council engage a specialist to undertake the work.

- The Clerk contacted a suitable contractor, as suggested by the maintenance contractor and, following a site visit was quoted £ 530 ex VAT.
- Details of the anonymised quotation were provided to members.
- **Resolved:** In view of the specialist nature of the work and possibility of injury from the failure of the unit to accept the quotation and instruct the work.

131.9 Cefneithin Park: Main Park Gates.

- During a site visit it was noted that the large park gates had dropped on their hinges and also that the design was such that there was a risk of injury from the iron spikes which formed part of the design.
- The gates were large and extremely heavy and remedial work would be undertaken by a suitable specialist. An anonymised quotation for £ 990.00 ex VAT for remedial works had been obtained.
- **Resolved:** In view of the specialist nature of the work and possibility of injury from the failure of the unit to accept the quotation and instruct the work.

131.10 Cefneithin Park: Damage to MUGA Goal End Panels.

- The Park Inspector advised in his report of deliberate damage having taken place to the goal end panels of the MUGA which had left elements of the wire panel protruding into the goal mouth.
- Accordingly the Clerk had visited site, to verify the position and having done so purchased two locks to secure the access gates to the MUGA and a further lock to lock an unsecured gate to the children's play area and which provided access to the car park.
- A notice advising that the facility was closed due to vandalism had been placed on the MUGA with Cefneithin CP School and the Cefneithin Hall Committee being advised of the closure. .
- A quotation had been obtained by the Clerk from a suitable specialist contractor to repair the damage. The anonymised quotation of £675 ex VAT was presented for members consideration.
- **Resolved:** In view of the specialist nature of the work and the need to return the MUGA to a safe working condition asap to accept the quotation and instruct the work.

131.11 Cefneithin and Drefach Park: Picnic Tables.

- It had been noted that the wooden picnic tables on both sites were deteriorating and in need of replacement.
- Quotations had been sought from 3 suppliers with two returning quotations.
- **Resolved:** To authorise the purchase two recycled picnic table units to be placed at Cefneithin and Drefach Parks as soon as possible.

132.0 Agenda Item 7: General Correspondence

- A schedule of correspondence and consultation documentation received during the month was presented to and considered by members.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

133.0 Agenda Item 8: Members Reports.

133.1 County Council Liaison Forum 19th January,2023: Cllr Wyn Edwards /Kevin Jones.

- Feedback from the forum was provided for members and included:-
 - (i) Carmarthenshire County Council Budget 2023/24
 - (ii) Expected Precept rise of 7%
 - (iii) Consultation on the budget was taking place online and form part of an impact assessment.
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) To receive and note the information
 - (ii) That members be encouraged to respond to the budget consultation and the Clerk forward the link to all members following the meeting.

134.0 Agenda item 9: Urgent Local Matters.

134.1 Drefach Go Safe Update: Cllr Kevin Jones

- Details were provided for members on the outcome of three speed enforcement operations by Go Safe at Heol Cae Gwyn and Heol Ddu. The highest portion of speeding vehicles being on Heol Ddu.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

134.2 Drefach: Uwch Gwendraeth.

- Cllr Clive Green enquired as to whether any further information had been received from the County Councillors in relation to progress on the adoption of the Uwch Gwendraeth site.
- The Clerk advised that, to date, no further information had been received.
- **Resolved:** That the Clerk contact Cllr Darren Price for an update.

135.0 Agenda Item 10: One Voice Wales.

135.1 Training

- Details of training courses forwarded to members for the next two months.
- **Resolved:** Members interested in attending courses to contact Chair and Clerk.

135.2 Improving Democratic Engagement Grant.

- Grant of up to £1k available from Welsh Govt to reduce the democratic deficit. Closes Feb 2023.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note.

136.0 Agenda Item 11 Planning Matters.

136.1 Planning Applications.

- Details of the planning applications notified by the County Council were provided to members.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

137.0 Agenda Item 12 Finance:

137.1 Monthly Payments/Receipts December

A) Income:

- £39,256.23 Precept and
- £0.58p Interest Community Account

B) Expenditure

Chq No	Payee	Description	£
105089	Clerk	November Pay and Trav and Refund	1,304.75
105101	Dyfed Alarms	Part Payment CCTV Cefn	4,500.00
105086	Gorslas Welfare Assoc	Grant/Donation	175.00
105080	Wrenvale N+L Ltd	Grass Cutting Instalment	1,164.00
105096	Drefach Welfare Assoc	Donation	175.00
105094	Tabernacle Church	Donation	250.00
105104	Carms CC	Park Equip Repairs	223.20
105103	Carms CC	Equip Inspection Qtr. 2. Instalment	918.96

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

137.2 Payments January 2022

137.2.1 Monitoring of Regular Income/ Payments

- A table summarising the profile of income and expenditure payments was provided for members.

137.3 Schedule of Payments for January 2022

A) Income

From	Description	£	Profile
Nil			

B) Expenditure

Cheque No	Payee	Description	£	Profile
105118	Wrenvale N+L Ltd	Monthly Grass Cutting Contract	1,164.00	Yes
TBD	Danfo	Monthly P Conv Clean	720.00*	Yes
105122	Clerk	Monthly Pay Trav and Refund	1,401.32	Yes
TBD	GB Spares	Supply 2 Seats	610.99	Yes
105117	Capel Seion	Donation	250.00	Yes
105119	Bowen and Weaving	Stationery Box Envelopes and A4 Paper	45.60	Yes
105120	Carms C.C.	Charges Repair Play Equip	37.20	Yes
105121	Crams CC	Community P Lighting Scheme Inst	2,356.06	No

Resolved:

- To approve the schedule for payment subject to any minor variations resulting from legislation and subject to the goods and services being provided in a satisfactory manner and as per contractual agreements,

137.4 Financial Review Qtr 3: Cllr Chris Wilkins.

- Cllr Wilkins outlined for members the checks made as part of the review. Details of transactions were checked against the electronic cashbook entries, hard copy invoices. Bank statements and entries in the relevant cheque book.
- It was pleasing to note that, other than clerical issues on entries, there were no areas of concern or discrepancy.
- **Resolved:** To thank Cllr Wilkins for his work and diligence.

137.5 Quarterly Budget Report

- Members considered and discussed the quarterly budget review report.
- **Resolved to:**
 - (i) Receive and note the information provided.
 - (ii) Continue with monitoring of projected budget expenditure and the possibility of revision in the light of ongoing negotiations related to Community Use at the new Gorslas School and the provision for Play Equipment at Drefach park.

138.0 Agenda Item 13 Next Meeting.

- Monday 13 02 23 at 19:00 hrs. Hebron Vestry