

CYNGOR CYMUNED GORS-LAS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

held at Hebron Vestry, Drefach on 13th February,2023, at 19:00hrs.

144.0 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, Melody Gronow, Gareth Jones, and Tina Butler.
- Others: PCSO'S Jonathan Crayford and Allan Davies, County Cllr Darren Price, Llew Thomas, Clerk to the Council and Hefin Jones (Translator).
- Apologies for absence: Cllrs Roy James, Clive Douch, Elinor Goldsmith. County Councillor Aled Vaughan Owen.
- **Resolved:** To accept and approve the apologies for absence.

144.1 General.

- The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular to Cllr Tina Butler who had returned following an absence of several months. The meeting was declared open at 19:00hrs.
- **Resolved:** To proceed with the business of the meeting.

145.0 Agenda Item 2: Declaration of Interest

- Item 155.4 Cllr N Lewis made a declaration of personal but not prejudicial interest in the matter as a member of the organisation seeking financial assistance.
- **Resolved to:** Note and record the position.

146.0 Agenda Item 3: Minutes of Previous Meetings.

- Members, under the direction of the Chair, considered the minutes of the meetings held on 23rd January,2023, and 2nd February,2023.
- **Resolved:** That the minutes of both meetings be approved as being a true and accurate record of discussions and decisions.

147.0 Agenda Item 4: Opportunity for Public to Address the Meeting.

- There were no members of the public present.
- **Resolved:** To note and record the position.

148.0 Agenda Item 5: Corporate Matters.

148.1: Arson and Damage to Gorslas Park Public Conveniences.

- Discussions took place with the PCSOs in relation to events at the facility on 09.01.23 when damage was caused and on 15 01 23 when attempts were made to set the establishment alight.
- CCTV footage of the relevant dates and times had been downloaded and provided to the Police.
- The PCSOs' indicated that the individuals had been identified and had been linked to a number of other arson incidents in the area. The individuals together with their parents had been interviewed regarding the incidents. The position remained under review and could be considered by the arson reduction team with a possible referral to the Youth Offending Team.
- The footage obtained from the CCTV coverage had been of good quality however the PCSOs' were of the view that coverage would be improved if the height of the cameras was reduced.
- They also advised that each and every incident in the parks be reported to the Police. This would reflect in the priority areas set for them to patrol.
- **Resolved:** To examine the possibility of reducing the height of CCTV cameras at Gorslas Park.

Signed Chair

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148.2 Proposed Changes in Opening and Closing Times Gorslas Public Convenience.

- The facilities had been closed following damage to the facility on 09.01.23 and damage and an arson incident on 15 01 23.
- Members had raised the issue of either closing the facility completely or restricted opening times or periods.
- An enquiry had also been received as to when the units, in particular the disabled facility, would be re-opened.
- **Resolved:** That the Gorslas Ward Members consider the matter at their ward meeting and report back to the next meeting of the Council.

148.3 Cefneithin Park MUGA: Anti-Social Behaviour Sunday 12.02.23

- Members had received reports of a local resident being subjected to abuse by young people who he had asked to leave the MUGA area as it was closed and had been locked.
- The issue was brought to the attention of the PCSOs who advised that, as a first step, the individual report the matter to the Police.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

148.4 Drefach Park: Theft of Item of Clothing on Monday 13.02.23.

- A member of the public had reported that an item of clothing had been stolen from the play area at Drefach Park at approximately 16:00 hrs. that day.
- The matter had been reported to the Police and the PCSOs indicated they were aware of the report and would be looking into it.
- The Council offered to make the CCTV coverage in the park available to the Police.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

148.5 Procedural.

- The PCSOs were thanked by the Chair for the information provided and their attendance.
- The Officers left the meeting at this point.

148.6 County Council Update Cllr Darren Price.

- A verbal update was provided for members which included the following:
 - a) County Council Precept likely to rise by 6.8%. Police 6.8% and Fire and Rescue 13%.
 - b) The schools' budget would be cut by £2m. Staffing and energy costs would be protected.
 - c) New 20mph speed limits were being introduced. It was anticipated that they would apply in the three villages with 30mph likely on the adjoining roads.
 - d) Heol Cae Gwyn: Awaiting money from Welsh Government for speed reduction measures.
 - e) Canolfan Carwyn: Was being used almost every day of the week to provide warm spaces/Classes and advice on financial matters etc. to residents.
 - f) Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park: Friends of the park were arranging a very successful volunteering opportunities to help maintain the facility. Details on Facebook.
 - g) Gorslas: Monitoring ongoing but there had been a drop in traffic at Gorslas Square since the opening of the new road.
 - h) Footpath Y Fron and Heol Y Parc: Works completed on dangerous wall. Path opens.
 - i) Brynglas: Two trees had been felled to help residents.

- j) Consultation on Second Home Tax: Attention was drawn to an anomaly in the online questionnaire which would only allow a response of setting the level at 25% or above. Cllr Price noted the issue and advised it would be investigated.
- k) Gorslas School Management Agreement. Members noted, with disappointment, that four years had passed since discussion had been initiated by the Community Council on the agreement but had not been finalised. Cllr Price shared members disappointment.
- l) Gorslas New School Public Lighting Units/Footpath: There were several units in the park provided as part of the scheme but not working. There was an issue as to who would take responsibility for the units. Bollards had also been placed on a park footpath which could prevent access for vehicles working in the park. Details to be forwarded to Cllr Price.
- m) Uwch Gwendraeth: Progress had been made in relation to the long outstanding matter. Cllr Price was currently awaiting a response from the engineer on the latest position.
- n) Wayside Seats: Members drew attention to the dangerous state of the seats in the Bron Yr Ynn Estate. Due to their location the seats were considered to be part of the housing portfolio. Details to be forwarded by the Clerk to Cllr Price.

- **Resolved:**

- a) To receive and note the information provided.
- b) To forward the information requested by Cllr Price.
- c) To progress the School Community Use Management Agreement as a matter of urgency and to set a date for completion of 01.04.23.

148.7 Procedural:

- The Chair thanked Cllr Price for his attendance and input. He was also asked to relay to Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen the Council's best wishes for a speedy recovery and congratulations to Mrs. Angharad Vaughan Owen on being appointed as the new Headteacher for Gorslas C.P. School.

148.8 Proposed Change in Access Arrangements: Cefneithin MUGA.

- Following a number of incidents of damage and abuse of residents by those using the MUGA a proposal was put forward that use of the MUGA be restricted to Cefneithin CP School who would be responsible for opening and locking it. There would not be any use other than by the school.
- **Resolved:** Cefneithin Ward members to consider and report back to next meeting of the Council.

148.9 Contracts Gorslas Public Convenience/ Cefneithin MUGA Cleaning and Litter.

- The current contract expires on 31.03.23 and is with Danfo UK Ltd
- The Council is considering changes to the opening hours and periods at the facility. It may also be linked to the future community management agreement for Gorslas New School.
- **Resolved:**
 - a) Renew the contract with Danfo UK Ltd for a period of one year at the revised price.
 - b) The Working Group review and consider future arrangements relating to the facility.

148.10 Park Play Equipment Inspection Service Level Agreements (SLA)

- The current SLA is with Carmarthenshire County Council and terminates on 31.03.23.
- The agreement provides for fortnightly inspection of play equipment at the three parks together with one Annual Inspection by Independent External Company.

- **Resolved:** To renew the SLA for a period of one year.

148.11 Street Lighting.

- The current SLA is with Carmarthenshire County Council and terminates on 31 03 23.
- The agreement provides for periodic, every 3 weeks, inspection of units checking they are operational and includes replacement of bulbs. A recharge for energy used by the units is also included.
- **Resolved:** To renew the contract for a period of one year.

148.12 Play Equipment Tender Drefach Play Area.

- Following the decision at the Council meeting on 02 02 23 the tender has been re-advertised with a revised budget of £50k (ex VAT) and a closing date of 24 02 23.
- The Drefach Ward Members, Chair and Vice are to meet with prospective tenderers online on Thursday 16 02 23 to discuss their proposals before the final submission of tenders.
- **Resolved to:**
 - a) Receive, note, and approve the actions taken.
 - b) Bring forward the March Meeting of the Community Council to Monday 06.03.23.

148.13 Working Group Feedback Review of Staffing Structure.

- Feedback from the Working Group Meeting held on Monday 06 02 23 was provided.
- The Group would meet again on 13.03.23 to discuss the proposals with the Clerk.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note.

148.14 General Update

- An update was provided, and considered by members on the progress made in relation to implementing previous decisions of the Council.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

148.15 Annual Dinner.

- Members raised the possibility of having an annual dinner, the first since the pandemic.
- The Clerk advised members that regulations prevented the funding of such items from the public purse and attendees would therefore be required to meet the costs themselves.
- **Resolved:** That the Clerk obtain details regarding the availability of the Smiths at Foelgastell on or around Friday 28.04.23.

149.0 Agenda Item 6: Park Matters

- There were no additional items of business to be dealt with under this heading.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note.

150.0 Agenda Item 7: Consultation and General Correspondence.

- Members considered the schedule of correspondence and items of correspondence received during the month.
- Cllr Green noted that Hywel Dda University Health Board were holding consultation events regarding the siting of a new hospital and encouraged people to attend and make their views known.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

151.0 Members Report.

151.1 Cross Hands Hall and Cinema Trustees: Cllr Clive Green.

- Members were advised that Cllr Green had attended a meeting of the trustees on 08.02.23.
- The Trustees were looking for volunteers to join them on the Board and would especially welcome anyone with legal knowledge or experience.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

151.2 Drefach and Cross Hands Governing Bodies: Cllr N Lewis.

- Cllr Lewis had attended a meeting of the joint Governing Body of the two schools.
- It was of note that the Governors had been advised that the current Headteacher would retire at the end of the Summer Term.
- The post had been advertised but no appointment made. It had however been decided that the Deputy Headteacher undertake the duties for a period of one year following which the position would be reviewed.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

151.3 Gorslas CP School Governing Body: Nomination of Representative.

- The issue was raised that Cllr Elinor Goldsmith had been nominated by the Council to serve as its representative on the Governing Body however there had not been any feedback as to whether or not the nomination had been accepted.
- **Resolved:** That the Clerk contact the County Council to clarify the matter.

152.0 Agenda Item 9 Urgent Local Matters.

152.1 Foelgastell: Concerns re Conditions of Pavement.

- Concerns had been relayed to the Council regarding concerns by residents in relation to the condition of pavements at two locations in the village. The concerns had been relayed to the County Council but without result.
- The Clerk advised the two County Councillors of the issue and asked them for assistance in progressing the matter.
- It was reported that the matter had now been resolved.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note.

153.0 Agenda Item 10 One Voice Wales.

153.1 Training

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

153.2 Defibrillator Survey.

- Seeking information on defibrillators in the Council's wards.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note.

153.3 Area Committee Meeting 30.01.23. Cllr Wyn Edwards.

- Unfortunately circumstances had prevented both Cllr Edwards and Roy James from attending.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note.

154.0 Planning Matters.

Signed Chair

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- Consideration was given by members to the schedule of planning applications for the month received from the County Council.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

155.0 Agenda Item 12 Finance:

155.1 Monthly Payments/Receipts January 2023

A) Income:

- VAT Refund - £ 10,523.46

B) Expenditure

Chq No	Payee	Description	£
105109	Welsh Water	Gorslas P Conv to 25 11 22	178.87
105093	Peniel Chapel	Donation	250.00
105054	Danfo UK	P Conv Charge July	720.00
105071	Danfo UK	P Conv Charge August	744.00
105081	Danfo UK	P Conv Charge October	744.00
105105	Wrenvale N+L Ltd	Grass Cutting Charge Nov	1,164.00
105106	Clerk	Dec Wages/ Arrears/Travel/Refund	1,893.18
105112	A Williams	Signage	2,225.00
105098	Carms YFC	Donation	50.00
105113	ARB Team	Tree Works	1,320.00
105116	Charles B Sams	Cefneithin Park CCTV Electrical Part	571.20
105108	Carms C.C.	Qtr. 3 Eee/Eer Contributions	2,024.29
105107	HMRC	QTR. 3 Eee/Eer Contributions	2,178.33
105114	Capel Seion	Hire Fee Vestry	82.50
105115	Menter Cwm Gwendraeth	Translation Oct/Nov/Dec	290.00
105111	OVO Energy	Gors P Conv to December	146.45
105060	Llanddarog C.C	Donation Zoom Meetings	20.00
105072	Llanddarog C C.	Donation Zoom	20.00
105095	Llanlluan Chapel	Donation	250.00
105088	TBM	Gorslas Aco Drains	408.00
105102	TBM	Litter Pick	1,680.00
105120	Carms C.C.	Park Works	37.20
105126	Ovo Energy	Gors P Conv to 06 01 23	56.15
105124	Carms C.C.	Works Play Equip Gorslas	880.20
105123	Carms C.C.	Qtr. 3 Park Inspection Charge	918.96
105122	Clerk	January Wages/Travel/Refund	1,401.32
105121	Carms C.C.	Community Lighting Project	2,356.06

Resolved: To receive, note and approve the income and expenditure information provided.

155.2. Payments February 2023

155.2.1 Monitoring of Regular Income/ Payments

- A schedule profiling the timing of regular receipts and expenditure was provided for members.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

155.2.2 Schedule of Payments for February, 2023

A) Income

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From	Description	£	Profile
Nil			

B) Expenditure

Cheque No	Payee	Description	£	Profile
105127	Charles B Sams	Balance Cefn CCTV Electric Works	142.80	Yes
105128	Dyfed Alarms	Balance Cefn CCTV Works	1,058.40	Yes
105129	Wrenvale N+L Ltd	Grass Cutting Instalment January	1,164.00	Yes
105130	Bevan and Buckland	Quarterly Payroll Charge	75.90	Yes
105131	Danfo UK Ltd	P Conv Charge January	672.00	Yes
105132	Clerk	Wages/ Travel and Refund	1,431.31	Yes

- **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.

155.3 Payment of Suppliers.

- The Clerk advised that Welsh Water had advised that as from 30.04.23 they would no longer accept payment by cheque.
- Discussion with the Council's bank regarding the possibility of paying suppliers by Direct Debit had eventually proved successful.
- **Resolved that:**
 - a) Payments to Welsh Water and OVO for supplies to Gorslas P Convenience be authorised by Direct Debit.
 - b) The Financial Regulations and Standing Order requirements be amended accordingly.

155.4 Financial Assistance Request. Local Appeals Committee for Urdd Eisteddfod 2021.

- Cllr N Lewis declared a personal interest in the matter as a member of the organisation and took no part in the discussion or decision.
- A copy of an application form seeking financial assistance towards the cost of the event had been forwarded to members .
- Members considered the benefit the event would present to the residents of the area and the amount of contribution which should be made.
- **Resolved:** That a donation of £500 be made.

155.5 Budget 2023/24

- The following is the approved budget for 23/24 revised to include the agreed level of precept and the increased provision for the Drefach Play Equipment Procurement.

Income Budget

Income	Budget
Precept	122,828
VAT Refund	14,832
Grants/Section106	0
Other Interest Business Account	5
Other 2	0
Total External Income	137,665

From Reserves	50,000
Total Income Budget	187,665

Expenditure Budget

Parks	Budget
Larger Works	58,400
Minor Works	9,240
Grass Cutting	12,000
Litter/Custodial Collection	5,460
Other 1	2,500
Section Total Parks	87,600
P Conveniences	
Larger Works	0
Minor Works	525
Cleaning Custodial	8,235
Running Costs	819
Other 1	0
Section Total P Conv	9,579
Bus Shelters	
Larger Works	0
Minor Works	525
Other 1	0
Other 2	0
Other 3	0
Section Total Bus Shelters	525
Seats	
Larger Works	0
Minor Works	525
Other 1	0
Other 2	0
Section Total Seats	525
P Lighting	
Larger Works	2,035
Minor Works	0
Running Costs	8,214
Other 1	0
Section Total P Light	10,249
Corporate	
Equip Costs	0
Corporate Salaries and NI Pensions Contribution	36,261
Corp Running Expenses	10,486
Insurances	2,373

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Corporate Other	0
Section Total Corporate Running Expenses	49,119
Democratic	
Member Exp Training/Conf/ Fees	473
Members Travel/Subs	473
Chairs Fund	0
I.R.P.W Mand Allowance	2,340
Democratic Other	485
Section Total Democratic	3,770
Other	
General Donations/Grants Given	3,938
Donations To Community Events	551
Donations Other	500
Section Total Grants/Donations	4,989
Total Exp Without VAT	166,356
VAT Element	17,967
Sub Total Exp Including VAT	184,323
Expend Budget Payment into Reserves	2,500
Grand Total All Expenditure	186,823

Summary

Summary	Budget
Total Income Budget	187,665
Grand Total All Expenditure	186,823
Summary +/-	842

156.0 Agenda Item 13 Next Meeting.

- The next meeting of the Council would be at Hebron Vestry on Monday 06 03 23 at 19:00 hrs.
- There being no further items of business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20.25hrs