

CYNGOR CYMUNED GORS-LAS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

held at Hebron Vestry, Drefach on 12th June, 2023, at 19:00hrs.

36.0 Agenda Item 1: Record of those Present/Apologies

- Councillors: Simon Martin (Chair), Nicholas Beckett (Vice Chair), Nia Lewis, Chris Wilkins, Kevin Jones, Tina Butler, Elinor Goldsmith, Melody Gronow, Linda Williams, Clive Douch, Andrew King, and Clive Green.
- Others: County Councillor Darren Price, Hefin Jones, Translator, and Llew Thomas, Clerk to the Council.
- Apologies for absence: Cllr Roy James.
- **Resolved:** To accept and approve the apology and reason for absence.

36.1 General.

- The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting which was declared open at 19:00hrs.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note.

37.0 Agenda Item 2: Declaration of Interest

- Item 41.4: Cllr Elinor Goldsmith: Declaration of personal and prejudicial interest as the issue relates to a property owned by the Councillor.
- Item 43.3: Cllr Kevin Jones: Declaration of Personal Interest as a resident of Heol Caegwyn.
- Item 43.3: Cllr Nia Lewis: Declaration of Personal Interest as a resident of Heol Caegwyn
- Item 46.1 Cllr Melody Gronow: Declaration of Personal and prejudicial interest due to proximity of the development to her home.
- **Resolved to:** Note and record the position.

38.0 Agenda Item 3: Minutes of the Annual and May Ordinary Meetings of the Council.

- Members considered the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council.
- The minutes of the May Ordinary meeting of the Council were also considered by members.
- **Resolved:** That the minutes of the Annual Meeting and of the May Ordinary Meeting be accepted and approved as an accurate record of discussions and decisions.

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

- There were no members of the public in attendance either physically or remotely.
- **Resolved:** To note and record the position.

40.0 Agenda Item 5: Corporate Matters.

40.1 County Council Update: County Councillor Darren Price.

- A summary update of local and county wide issues was provided which included the following: -
 - a) Urdd Eisteddfod Llandovery: Had been successful in terms of participation and attendance.
 - b) Strade Park Hotel: The Home Office decision to take over the whole facility was being challenged by the County Council. A more suitable model would be the dispersal of small groups of individuals at various locations throughout the County.
 - c) Bus Subsidy: Withdrawal of the Welsh Government COVID subside.

- d) Anti-Social Behaviour: Identified as an issue for residents at Cefneithin. The local P.C.S.O. team may contact the Council to view park CCTV coverage.
- e) Safe Routes: A new bidding round for speed reduction schemes had opened and which could include Heol Caegwyn and Heol Ddu.
- There then followed a brief question and answer session with Cllr Price which included: -
 - (i) Q1 Strade Park: Was the proposal a temporary or long-term arrangement?
Response: The Home Office had been asked to clarify the position but had not responded.
 - (ii) Bus Subsidy: Would the subsidy be included as part of the annual R.S.G. settlement.
Response: It was a cut in funding with no alternative provided.
 - (iii) Anti-Social behaviour Cefneithin: Elderly residents living in the area had contacted Community Councillors to convey their concerns. Could urgent efforts be made to help the residents including raising the matter at the meeting between the Police and County Council.
Response: Agencies were aware, and were making efforts to progress the issue. It was likely the Police would contact the Community Council to view CCTV coverage of the park.
 - (iv) Safe Routes: Would the scheme include such items as a traffic island at Heol Caegwyn and possibly signs made by local schoolchildren.
Response: Yes. It was likely that measures would also be needed at St Mary Street.
 - (v) Gorslas New School Footpath: A park user had reported colliding with a cyclist coming from the school. Could the footpath be marked to separate cyclists and pedestrians.
Response: Cllr Price kindly offered to pursue with the Education Department.
 - (vi) Gorslas New School. A Safety Assessment of the park car park drop off arrangements had been conducted by County Council Officers on 07.03.23. A copy of the report had not been received.
Response: Cllr Price would pursue with the Education Department Officers.
 - (vii) Drefach Victorian Finger Post: What would be the procedure to allow the erection of such a sign on the pavement near the entrance to the park. .
Response: Cllr Price would kindly seek advice from Highway Officers and forward detail.
 - (viii) Gorslas Community Council Office: Would it be possible to progress the provision of an internet connection in the Community Council office.
Response: Cllr Price would seek to contact the relevant officer and progress.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

40.2 Procedural: Cllr Price was thanked for his contribution and left the meeting at this point.

40.3 Annual Plan 2023/24.

- Feedback was received and considered from ward members in relation to issues which had been identified at ward meetings for inclusion in the draft plan.
- **Resolved that:** A Working Group Meeting comprising of Sub-committee members be convened to consider the submissions from the different wards and make recommendations to Council.

40.4 Community Use Agreement New Gorslas CP School.

- Feedback received regarding the Governing Body meeting indicated that the Governors were supportive of proceeding with the arrangements on a trial basis with the practical arrangements being agreed between the Headteacher and the Clerk on behalf of the Community Council.
- It was highlighted that it would not be possible for the school to provide a presence, supervision, or offer assistance should someone be injured during the period of community use.
- The Clerk has communicated with the Community Council's insurers to seek clarification on the availability of public liability cover during the period of unsupervised use by the community.
- The insurance company had responded to the effect that they did not have an issue with an arrangement whereby the Community Council's involvement was limited to paying for a letting of the facilities which had been processed and approved under the school's letting arrangements. Liability would rest with the County Council and the hirer.
- Clarification was being sought in relation to the level of cover which would apply during the period when there was general, and unsupervised access, by the public to the facilities whilst the Community Council were responsible for the facilities.
- In discussions with the Headteacher applications for use of the MUGA had been received from Urdd Gobaith Cymru for use of the facilities for a two-hour period for the remainder of the Summer Term and for a two-day Sports Camp from 09:00hrs to 15:00hrs on Wednesday 02 08 23 and Thursday 03 08 23.
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) Await clarification from the Council's insurers before proceeding with the open access community use of the MUGA and other areas.
 - (ii) The Community Council meet the reasonable hire cost of the facilities for the use of the facilities as detailed above, as a trial period, but without any commitment to doing so in future. The costs to be met out of the £2,500 budget set aside for that purpose.

40.5 Representation: Vacant Member Posts

- The County Council advised that no requests for an election to be held to fill either of the two vacancies had been received by the closing date of 19.05.23.
- Notices advising of the vacancies, and inviting interested individuals to contact the Clerk for further information, had been published.
- Two applications for Co-option had been received and had been forwarded to members.
- **Resolved that:**
 - (i) Cefneithin Ward: Mr Richard Timmins be co-opted as a member for the ward.
 - (ii) Drefach Ward: Mr William James be co-opted as a member for the ward.

40.6 Representative One Voice Wales.

- Following the May meeting Cllr Roy James had indicated that, due to other commitments, he was unable to accept the nomination to serve as a representative for One Voice Wales.
- **Resolved:** Cllr N Beckett be appointed as the Council's representative.

40.7 Representative: School Governing Body 2023/24.

- The County Council had been advised that Cllr Simon Martin was stepping down as a Governor of Cefneithin CP School after very many years of service.
- The nominations as representatives to serve on the Governing Body for the year are detailed below

School	Nominated Representative
Cefneithin C.P. School	Cllr Roy James
Drefach /Cross Hands Federation	Cllr Nia Lewis
Gorslas C.P. School	Cllr Elinor Goldsmith

- **Resolved: To receive, note and confirm.**

40.8 Incident Gorslas Park on Monday 22.05.23

- Members are advised that a claim has been received for compensation following an incident in the park on Monday 22.05.23 when an individual fell whilst in the children's play area.
- The Clerk received a communication from the individual concerned on Wednesday 24.05.23 and visited the play area, together with the park inspector that day.
- The hole was located and filled in by a contractor later that day.
- The Council's insurers have been notified.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

40.9 Cefneithin Park MUGA Markings.

- The Park Inspector advised that further damage had been caused to the MUGA surface with a small hole now been dug at the location of a penalty spot.
- The advice given was that the missing markings and the damage to the penalty spot represented a potential trip hazard and should be rectified asap.
- The Clerk visited site with a specialist contract on 28.05.23 to obtain a quotation for attending to the issue. Members were advised of the position and there was agreement that, as it was a health and safety issue an order be placed for the work to be undertaken at a cost of £1,250.00 ex VAT.
- **Resolved:** That an instruction be issued to Touchline Marking Systems Ltd to undertake the work at a cost of £ 1,250.00 ex VAT.

40.10 Cefneithin Park: Park Car Park Markings.

- The existing markings have worn way and in need of a refresh. Additional marking to protect pedestrians from vehicles are also desirable.
- A quotation has been received in respect of the work however it is recommended that an attempt be made to obtain a further quotation.
- **Resolved:** To seek to obtain a further quotation

40.11 Drefach Park: Play Area Markings

- A quotation was obtained for providing alternative markings to the tarmacadam surface following completion of the current fitting of new play equipment.
- **Resolved that:** An instruction be issued to Touchline Marking Systems Ltd for the supply and fitting of the following items
 - (i) Rocket Hopscotch - £ 350.00 (ex VAT)
 - (ii) Copy Cat - £ 290.00 (ex VAT)
 - (iii) Croeso Rainbow - £ 250.00 (ex VAT)

40.12 Drefach Park: Tarmacadaming of Play Area.

- As part of the works to upgrade the play area and linked to the provision of the new play equipment and safety surfaces the Council had sought prices for the re-tarmacadaming of the existing hard surface area in the play area.
- Two quotations had been received: -
 - (i) Contractor A: £ 6,352.00
 - (ii) Contractor B: £ 4,656.96.
- Following consultation with members, and to allow the facility to re-open safely, then it was agreed to award the contract to contractor B at a total price of £4,656.96 subject to the standard contractual variations regarding costs arising out of unforeseen circumstances.
- **Resolved:** To confirm the decision to proceed with the works and award the contract to contractor B i.e. John Williams & Co (Crwbin Quarries) Ltd at a price of £4,656.96 9ex VAT) and subject to contractual conditions regarding quantities and unforeseen costs.

40.13 Drefach Park: Filling of Gaps in Footpath.

- It had been noted that the tarmacadam paths had, in places, opened cracks in the surface due to the edges not being supported and subsequent ground movement.
- The cracks will worsen with water ingress and could cause a trip hazard, Replacing and providing new edges would be costly and an intermediate fix would be to fill the gaps with a tar formulation
- The Clerk has asked the contractor appointed to undertake the re-surfacing of the tarmacadam in the paly area for a price to undertake the work.
- **Resolved:** Proceed and award if the price is acceptable.

40.14 Gorslas Park Footpath: Pedestrian/Cyclist Markings

- Details had been forwarded to members regarding the provision of signage on the footpath to separate cyclist and pedestrians.
- **Resolved to:** Explore options for the works to be included as part of the new school provision.

40.15 Applications for Use: Cefneithin Park.

- The current position is as follows: -

Park	Dates	Applicant
Cefneithin	22.06.23	Cefneithin CP PTA
Cefneithin	21.07.23 to 23.07.23	Impact 242 – Church Army
Cefneithin	28.06.23	Cefneithin C.P.

- **Resolved to:** Receive, note, and approve subject to the relevant documentation being provided.

40.16 Signage: Cefneithin Park Dog Fouling

- The signage relating to dog fouling, based on the designs by Cefneithin C.P. school pupils had been produced.
- The signs would be fitted in conjunction with the school pupils.
- **Resolved that:**
 - (i) Chair, Vice, Cefneithin Ward Members and the two County Councillors be invited to attend.
 - (ii) Consideration be given to introducing generic signage in the two other parks.

40.17 Gorslas Public Convenience.

- Repairs had been completed to the flooring following an arson attempt. Cost £ 350.00
- Removal of the pan to allow fitting of the floor together with flush repair Cost £ 247.14.
- Broken sensor re outside lights. C Sams instructed to repair.
- SMART Meter: Fitted 30.05.23. No cost.
- **Resolved to:**
 - (i) Approve the payment of £ 350 (ex VAT) to Gwendraeth Valley Carpets in respect of the provision and fitting of the flooring.
 - (ii) Approve the payment of £247.14 (ex VAT)

40.18 Employment: Carms C.C. Pension Fund.

- The County Council advise that following a valuation report on the fund and considering the McCloud judgement and revised life expectancy and mortality rates the employer's contribution rate for the period April 2024 to March 2027 will be 28.2%.
- This in an increase of 1.6% from the current level and would need to be factored into the budget setting process for future years.
- **Resolved to:** Receive and note and include in future budget requirements.

40.19 New Standing Orders

- New standing orders have been provided by One Voice Wales.
- **Resolved that:** The revised orders be considered by a Working Group who would feedback their recommendations to the full Council.

40.20 General Update.

- A general update was provided in relation to previous decisions of the Council.
- **Resolved to:** Receive and note the remaining items.

41.0 Agenda Item 6: Park Matters

41.1 Cefneithin Park: Fly Tipping.

- Member of the public reported a B+M shopping trolley which has been left in the park.
- The Clerk visited site on Sunday 28.05.23 with the trolley being sited at the rear of the hall.
- The Clerk visited B+M Stores Cross Hands who spoke to the manager who agreed to collect it.
- **Resolved to:** Receive and note.

41.2 Gorslas Park: Fly Tipping.

- The Clerk during a site visit on 31.05.23 found a Home Bargains Shopping Trolley left in the park.
- The Clerk visited the store that day and spoke to a manager regarding the matter however the store would not arrange pick up or removal of the trolley.
- **Resolved to:** Arrange removal by a contractor.

41.3 Gorslas Park: Grass Cutting.

- It was reported that, whilst grass in the play area, had been cut that in the surrounding areas had not.
- As a result an issue had arisen in that some dog walkers had reported that they had been unable to pick up the dog poo as a result of the grass being too long. They requested that the grass be cut.

- The Clerk advised that during the period of cutting the play areas were to be cut every fortnight, subject to weather, and the remaining areas once a month.
- Members were also advised that the legal duty rested solely with the person responsible for the dog in relation to clearing up and removing dog excrement. The circumstances, as outlined, did not remove that duty.
- **Resolved that:** The non-cutting of the grass to be pursued with the contractor asap and which would hopefully also improve the position in relation to dog fouling.

41.4 Gorslas Park: Overgrowth.

- Cllr Elinor Goldsmith declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the matter as the issue affects the residential property in which she has an interest.
- The concern relates to the fact that the overgrowth from the trees in the park are interfering with a hedge on the property. The request is that the trees in the park are cut back.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

42.0 Agenda Item 7: Urgent Local Issues.

42.1 Bus Shelter B4310 Heol Blaenhirwaun, Opposite Llwyn Onn.

- Notice advising of closure placed in the shelter. And on the Council website, on 23.05.23 with a closing date for objections 05.07.23.
- Carmarthenshire County Council advised, Schools, Local County Councillors, bus company.
- Additionally the Clerk has spoken to the occupants of the premises opposite the shelter. They advise that they have not seen anyone use it, to catch a bus, during the last 10 years. They would welcome its demolition as it is used as a gathering point for young people in the evenings and weekends giving rise unfortunately to anti-social behaviour.
- **Resolved:** To place the item on the agenda for the July meeting.

42.2 Heol Cwmmawr: Footpath Overgrowth.

- As reported previously it was noted that there was overgrowth behind the first bus shelter at the start of Heol Cwmmawr was overgrown with brambles blocking the adjacent footpath.
- Responsibility for clearing the footpath was that of the County Council.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

43.0 Agenda Item 8: Members Reports.

43.1 Ward Members Reports.

- Reports of the ward meetings held since the last meeting of the Council had been provided and would be used to input into the preparation of the Annual Plan.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

43.2 Cross Hands Hall and Cinema: Cllr Clive Green.

- An update was provided for members which included the following items:
 - (i) Go Fund Appeal for roof repairs had exceeded the £700 required for the repair of the roof.

- (ii) The Church had now settled the outstanding invoices. A penalty clause for late payment would be included for future invoices.

43.3 Drefach Go Safe Update: Cllr Kevin Jones.

- Cllr Jones declared a personal interest in the matter as a resident of Heol Caegwyn. The item was purely for information purposes only and no decision or action was required of the Community Council in relation to the matter.
- Cllr N Lewis declared a personal interest as a resident of Heol Caegwyn.
- An update was provided for members by Cllr Jones which included the following:
 - (i) Residents of Heol Cwmmawr had advised members of concerns regarding speeding vehicles. The possibility of extending checks to include that area could be explored with Go Safe.
 - (ii) Data on speed checks for a 6-week period ending 28.04.23 were provided with 10 incidents recorded on one day at Heol Caegwyn and 13 incidents at Heol Ddu.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

44.0 Agenda Item 9.0 General Correspondence

- The items of consultation and correspondence received since the last meeting were considered.
- **Resolved to:**
 - (i) Receive and note the information provided.
 - (ii) Members could submit responses to surveys as private individuals where possible.
 - (iii) A response be provided in relation to an enquiry from an individual relating to how to progress proposals for future play equipment in the area.

45.0 Agenda Item 10 One Voice Wales.

45.1 Training

- Details of training courses had been forwarded to members.
- A place on the Chairing Skills course has been booked for Cllr N Beckett.
- **Resolved:** To confirm the actions taken.

46.0 Agenda Item 11: Planning Matters.

46.1 Planning Applications.

- Cllr Melody Gronow declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Planning Application PL/05974 due to the proximity of the proposed development to her home. Cllr Gronow took no part in the discussion or decision relating to the application.
- Consideration was given by members to the applications for planning permission received from the County Council since the last meeting of the Community Council.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

47.0 Agenda Item 12 Finance:

47.1 Annual Return 2022/23.

- Copies of the Annual Return for the 2022/23 financial year and which included the comments of the Independent Internal Auditor had been provided to members as part of the papers for the meeting.

- Members, under the direction of the Chair considered each line of the financial statement and the individual governance questions included on the 2022/23 Annual Return.
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) To confirm that the Council was content that the statements made were accurate and true.
 - (ii) That the Chair be authorised to sign the Annual Return accordingly.
 - (iii) The Council's appreciation of the quarterly financial review undertaken by Cllr Chris Wilkins during the course of the financial year be recorded.

47.2 Monthly Payments/Receipts May 2023

A) Income:

- VAT Claim: £4,431.20

B) Expenditure

Chq No	Payee	Description	£
105169	Clerk	Wages/ Travel April	1,295.93
105171	Bevan & Buckland	Payroll Charge Feb to 30.04.23	75.90
D/D	Dwr Cymru	Gorslas P Conv	140.20
105172	Bowen & Weaving	Stationery	49.80
D/D	OVO Energy	Gorslas P Conv	46.00
D/D	I.C.O	Annual Registration	35.00
105147	SLCC	Annual Subscription	187.00
105177	B.H.I.B	Renewal Annual Insurance	2,214.61
105174	Clerk	May Wages/Travel/Refund Purchase for Council	1,709.31

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

48.0 Corporate Matters: Request for Assistance Ammanford Town Council.

- The Clerk advised members that he had been approached by the Town Council in relation to providing temporary assistance to undertake the duties of the Responsible Financial Officer in the absence of the post holder who was currently on sick leave.
- The Clerk advised that the current contract of employment required the approval of the Council for the individual to undertake any other form of employment. The condition included work outside of the 25 hours per week for which the Clerk was employed by the Community Council.
- The Clerk then left the meeting to allow members to discuss the matter.
- **Resolved:** The Communal Council accede to the request for a period of two months.

49.0 Agenda Item 13 Next Meeting:

- The next ordinary meeting of the Council would be at Hebron Vestry at 19:00 hrs. on 10.07.23.
- There being no further items of business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:45hrs