

CYNGOR CYMUNED GORS-LAS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the July Ordinary Monthly meeting of the Gors-las Community Council
held at Hebron Vestry, Drefach on 10th July,2023, at 19:00hrs.

50.0 Agenda Item 1: Record of those Present/Apologies

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

50.1 General.

- The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting which was declared open at 19:00hrs.
- Prior to the commencement of business members the Chair advised members of the sad passing of a previous member of the Community Council Mr Wynford Nicholas who had represented the Drefach Ward during the 1990's and 2000's.
- Members thoughts were very much with his family at this time.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note with sadness the information provided.

52.0 Agenda Item 2: Declaration of Interest

- Item 53.1: Cllr Nia Lewis: Declaration of Personal Interest as a resident affected by the proposal.
Resolved to: Note and record the position.

53.0 Agenda Item 7 Urgent Local Matters

53.1 Safe Routes in the Community Scheme: County Councillor Aled Vaughan-Owen

- To facilitate the business of the Council, and with the agreement of members, it was agreed that the order of the agenda be changed to facilitate discussion and participation in the item.
- Cllr N Lewis Declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the matter and withdrew from the discussion at the meeting and the decision-making process.
- Cllr Vaughan-Owen thanked members for the opportunity to address the meeting and outlined the basis of a bid being prepared by the County Council for speed reduction measures in the Drefach Area. The information provided included the following:
 - Drefach C.P. School would be the lead in making the application.
 - The bid process was highly competitive.
 - At this time expressions of interest only were being sought.
 - The proposed scheme would include the areas within Drefach Village which had been identified as being a cause for concern.
 - As part of the process, the Community Council and other organisations and establishments in the area were being contacted and asked to consider supporting the process.
 - The closing date for the application was 21.07.23
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) That it be recorded that the Community Council support the application

- (ii) The Chair and Clerk be authorised to receive, and where appropriate to sign, the relevant documentation confirming the Community Council’s support for the submission.
- (iii) Should the scheme progress the Council nominate a member to serve as a contact point.

54.0 Agenda Item: 9.0 Correspondence

54.1 Sustainable Drainage Grant.

- To facilitate the business of the meeting, and with the agreement of members, the order of agenda was altered to allow discussion on this issue.
- The Council operated three parks and it was noted that there were issues arising during periods of heavy rainfall which affected and restricted the use of the parks.
- Members were of the view that the grant offered an opportunity to address some of the issues and enquired as to whether there was any technical expertise available from the County Council which could be of assistance in considering a submission.
- Cllr Aled Vaughan -Owen indicated that if it were possible to forward details of the grant, he would make enquiries with the relevant officers.
- **Resolved:** That Cllr Vaughan-Owen’s kind offer be accepted.

55.0 Procedural.

- Cllr Aled Vaughan-Owen left the meeting at this juncture.

56.0 Agenda Item 3: Minutes of Previous Meeting.

- The minutes of the June meeting of the Council were considered in detail by members.
- **Resolved:** To approve the minutes as being an accurate record of discussions and decisions.

57.0 Agenda Item 4: Opportunity for Public to Address the Council.

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

58.0 Agenda Item 5: Corporate Matters.

58.1 Co-Option of Members Cefneithin and Drefach Wards.

- It was reported that, sadly and for different reasons, the persons nominated to serve as co-opted members for the wards had advised that they would not be able to take up the positions.
- **Resolved:** That the decisions be noted and the vacancies re-published.

58.2 Annual Plan 2023/24.

- The Working Group had met and following consideration of the submissions from the three wards had assessed and prioritised the proposals to form a draft Annual Plan for 2023/24.
- A copy of the draft Annual Plan had been provided for members as part of the meeting papers.
- **Resolved:** That the Working Group draft Annual Plan for 2023/24 be adopted.

58.3 Review Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

- The Chair outlined the discussion and progress made by the Working Group in considering the documents. Further work was necessary before the group could finalise its recommendation.

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

58.4 Community Use Agreement New Gorslas CP School.

- Confirmation has been received from the Community Council's insurers that there would be public liability cover for the period when the facilities were the responsibility of the Community Council.
- The cover would not extend to include any damage to the facilities.
- Cost were being sought for litter picking for periods of public use of the facilities outside of the school's letting arrangements.
- Discussions had been held with the Headteacher regarding two applications received by the school for the use of the facilities for the current school year
- Both were from Urdd Gobaith Cymru and related firstly to 2-hour sessions for children held once a week from the Summer Term half term to the end of the school term. The second period related to a three-day Sports Camp held during the Summer Holiday with each session lasting 6 hours.
- The arrangements would be made by the school via its school letting policy and following discussion a total donation of £120 towards the cost being proposed.
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) To approve and fund the arrangement at a cost of £120.
 - (ii) The funding be drawn from the £2,500 budget allowance set aside in respect of the community school use arrangement.

58.5 Update Report

- Consideration was given to the report which detailed progress in relation to previous decisions.
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) Drefach Play Area: Advice be obtained re the removal of the wording "Copi Cath"
 - (ii) Drefach Park: The bench with the broken slats near the Toll Bar be removed and not replaced.
 - (iii) That the other information provided be received and noted.

58.6 Communication. Community Council Mobile Phone.

- As resolved at previous meetings a mobile phone had been purchased for use by the Clerk in relation to the business of the Council.
- A decision on activating the phone had been postponed whilst enquiries and checks were undertaken relating to the signal strength at the new Community Council Office and Hebron Vestry.
- The checks undertaken at Hebron Vestry had proved successful but internet access would be required at the Community Council Office. That issue was still being progressed by the school.
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) That the Clerk be authorised to procure a business sim only package with the provider Three for unlimited calls, text and broadband as soon as practical.
 - (ii) That the allowance currently paid to the Clerk for the use of a home phone be reduced by an amount equivalent to the non-VAT element of the package as from 01.08.23.

59.0 Agenda Item 6: Park Matters

59.1 Re Surfacing of Tarmacadam Surface Drefach Play Area.

- The works were completed on Saturday 17.06.23 and are as specified.
- Invoice received as per quotation of £ 4,656.96 (ex-Vat). Total with VAT £5,588.35.

- To extend the life of the new tarmacadam it would be prudent to provide a wooden batten edging for the area tarmacadamed. This would prevent crumbling taking place at the edges.
- **Resolved to:**
 - (i) To authorise the payment of £5,588.35.
 - (ii) Obtain a quotation for the supply and fitting of a wooden batten edging for the tarmacadam.

59.2 Markings: Cefneithin and Gorslas Parks

Cefneithin Park.

- The current bay, and vehicle exclusion markings have eroded and need refreshing.
- As part of the work there was also an opportunity to introduce markings which would create separate pedestrian/ vehicle zones near the main entrance to the park.

Gorslas Park.

- Issues had been identified with cyclist from the school coming into contact with pedestrians using the park footpath.
- Whilst the footpath was not sufficiently wide in all areas to allow a separate “cycling lane” there was an opportunity to improve the situation through the provision of such markings on other paths.

Costs.

- Two contractors were approached in relation to designs and costs.
- Contractor A Cefneithin £1,350 (ex VAT)
- Contractor A Gorslas (Not priced for line marking but periodic logo marking of image pedestrian one side, a dividing line, and an image of a cyclist on the other. £ 42 per set.
- Contractor B. £1,050(ex VAT) for both sites.
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) Accept quotation B i.e. Glamorgan White Lining.
 - (ii) The work proceeds subject to clarification on the footpath issues.

59.3 Injury Incident Gorslas Park on Monday 22.05.23

- Further correspondence has been received from the individual involved. Clerk will respond.
- **Resolved. To note and receive the information provided.**

59.4 Drefach Park: Filling of Gaps in Footpath.

- Discussion with the tarmacadam contractor indicated that there was a need to cut out the relevant sections of path where the surface was crumbling at the edges and re-fill with tarmacadam.
- **Resolved:** Obtain a price for the work.

59.5 Anti-social Behaviour Cefneithin Park.

- A householder of a property adjoining the park reported that he and his wife had suffered abuse and threats from young people who had entered their property to retrieve balls. The same type of incident had occurred several times that day. The matter had been reported to the Police.
- It was also reported that that young people were using the MUGA until the early hours of the morning causing a disturbance.

- Concern had also been raised regarding further incidents whereby an individual had been walking around the park in the early hours of the morning shining a torch into the property. The Police had attended and questioned the individual. The behaviour stopped for a period but resumed thereafter.
- **Resolved: That the householder be advised that the Council would co-operate fully with any Police enquiry and make any CCTV coverage available.**

59.6 Anti-Social Behaviour Drefach Park.

- The Clerk was made aware of two incidents which had caused concern to a member of the public.
- The first was where young people had taken two horses onto park land.
- The second related to an individual lying prostrate on a park bench and not moving for some time.
- **Resolved:** To receive note and monitor the position.

59.7 Anti-Social Behaviour Drefach Park.

- Contractors had reported to the Clerk that, on two separate occasions the temporary security fencing had been breached- losing the bolts on the clamps. No damage had been caused to the equipment or surfaces but zip ties and other fastenings on items in the play area had been cut/opened.
- **Resolved: To receive note and monitor the position.**

59.8 Invasive Weed Treatment: Cefneithin and Drefach Parks

- Knot weed had been identified as growing in the wooded area at Cefneithin Park and mare's tail in the car park and was scheduled to be treated.
- Additionally a member of the public had identified knot weed in Drefach park.
- Accordingly an instruction was given for a licensed contractor to also treat the knotweed at Drefach Park as well as other weeds in the car park areas, the raised planter at Gorslas and the Toll Bar.
- The treatment was completed on 07.06.23
- It would be prudent for the Council to commission a report and plan identifying the areas of knot weed at the two parks. The cost of the reports are £400 per location.

Resolved:

- (i) Approve the treatment of both the invasive and other weeds at the three sites.
- (ii) Commission reports and treatment plans for Invasive species at Cefneithin and Drefach Parks at a cost of £800 ex VAT.

59.9 Gorslas Park: Missing Scooter.

- A report was received from a parent of a child's scooter being taken from the play area at Gorslas Park on Thursday 06.07.23.
- The Clerk advised that the Council would make CCTV coverage available to assist any investigation by the Police.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

59.10 Application Use of Cefneithin Park:

- A request has been received from the Early Years Integration Team to hold a free play session in the park on 26 07 23. An application form will be sent to the Team.
- **Resolved:** Approve the application subject to insurance being in place.

60.0 Agenda Item 7: Urgent Local Issues.

61.1 Bus Shelter B4310 Heol Blaenhirwaun, Opposite Llwyn Onn.

- A Notice advising of closure placed in the shelter. And on the Council website, on 23.05.23. Closing date for objections 05.07.23.
- Carmarthenshire County Council, Schools, County Councillors, bus company advised of proposal.
- No observations or objections against the proposal. Householders' opposite was verbally in favour of the proposal as they had not seen anyone catch a bus from the shelter in the last 10 years. They would welcome its demolition as it gives rise to anti-social behaviour.
- **Resolved that:** The shelter be removed at a cost of circa £650.

61.2 Drefach: Speed Reduction Grant.

- See item 53.1.

62.0 Agenda Item 8: Members Reports.

62.1 Drefach C.P. School: Cllr Nia Lewis.

- Cllr Lewis provided a summary of the Summer Term meeting of the Governing Body which had been the Headteacher was retiring at the end of the Summer Term after many years at the school.
- **Resolved that:** Letters of thanks be sent to the Headteacher of Drefach CP and the Headteacher of Gorslas C.P. schools to thank them for the valuable contribution which they had made to the lives of the children and residents of the areas over very many years.

62.2 Drefach Commemoration "Joe": Cllr N Lewis.

- Members were advised that a commemorative event had been held in the village on Sunday 2nd July, 2023, in honour of "Joe" (Mr Eifion Lewis).
- A large gathering of friends, family and First Cymru bus drivers gathered to unveil plaques on two benches, one being near the Drefach square bus stop and a bench in the park, which had been part funded by the bus drivers, to remember "Joe" i.e. Mr Eifion Lewis.
- Cllrs Roy James, N Lewis and Clive Douch had been in attendance.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

63.0 Agenda Item 9.0 Correspondence and Consultation.

- Members considered and discussed the items of correspondence and consultation received since the previous meeting.
- **Resolved to:**
 - (i) Receive and note the information provided.
 - (ii) Proceed with the matter of the Sustainable Drainage Grant as per item 54.1

64.0 Agenda Item 10 One Voice Wales.

64.1 Training

- Details of training courses had been forwarded to members.
- **Resolved:** Members interested in attending courses to contact Chair and Clerk.

64.2 Area Committee Meeting:

- Meeting 12 07 23 at 6.30 St Peters Hall, Carmarthen or via zoom.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

65.0 Agenda Item 11: Planning Matters.

65.1 Planning Applications.

- Cllr N Lewis declared a personal and prejudicial interest in application PL/05645 as the owner of the property. Cllr Lewis withdrew from the meeting discussion and consideration of the matter.
- Details of the planning applications received since the previous meeting were considered.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

65.2 Carmarthenshire L.D.P 2018-2033.

- The County Council acknowledge receipt of the representations made by the Community Council.

66.0 Agenda Item 12 Finance:

66.1 Quarterly Review Payments Income and Bank Reconciliation: Cllr C Wilkins.

- Cllr Wilkins had, in the role of internal financial examiner, reviewed the entries in the electronic cashbook against actual invoices, receipts, cheque book entries and bank statements.
- Whilst there were minor issues in entry details there were no issues of concern to report.
- **Resolved to:** Receive and note the information provided and thank Cllr Wilkins for his work.

66.2 Budget Quarterly Review

- Members considered the information provided in the review including: -
 - (i) Summary Position: The estimated overall position of the Council for the financial year.
 - (ii) Reserves: The overall estimated position for the financial year.
 - (iii) Service Budgets: The estimated end of year position for each service budget.
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) To receive and note the information provided.
 - (ii) To further review the position in October and the projected underspend of £ 34,583.

66.3 Danfo UK Ltd.

- A communication had been received advising of a change of address by the company.
- The change had been verified with the Head Office Manager.
- There was no change in payment details.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note.

66.4 Monthly Bank Payments and Receipts June 2023

Income			Nil
Expend			
Chq No	Payee	Description	£
105165	Danfo (UK) Ltd	P Conv Charge March 2023	744.00
105176	Danfo (UK) Ltd	P Conv Charge April 2023	810.00
105178	Gwendraeth Valley Carpets	Flooring P Conv Gorslas	420.00

105187	V L Llewellyn	Audit 2022/23	575.00
SO	OVO Energy	Charge June P Conv	46.00
105179	Mark Hopley	Plumbing re Flooring P Conv	296.57
105180	Capel Seion	Hire Vestry April and May	44.50
105189	F C Bookbinders	Binding Minutes 2021-23	155.00
105188	Alan Williams	Design Supply Fit + Consult	1110.00
105190	Bowen & Weaving	Supply 1 box A4 Printing Paper	28.20

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

66.5 Payments to be Made July and August

Chq No	Payee	Description	£
SO	OVO Energy	P Conv Gors Monthly Charge	46.00
	Danfo (UK) Ltd	P Conv Charge June	810.00
	Danfo (UK) Ltd	P Conv Charge July	837.00
	Wrenvale N+L Ltd	Grass Cutting Charge June	1,164.00
	Wrenvale N+L Ltd	Grass Cutting Charge July	1,164.00
	Wrenvale N+L Ltd	Spraying Knot Weed etc.	288.00
	Clerk	July Wages and Ref	1,473.33
	Clerk	August Wages	1,295.73
	Sutcliffe Play Ltd	New Play Equipment Drefach	58,186.80
	John Williams (Crwbin Quarries) Ltd	Re surface Play Area Drefach Park	5,588.35
	Touchline	Re Marking Cefn MUGA	1,500.00
	Touchline	Markings Drefach Play Area	890.00

- **Resolved:**
 - Approve payments subject to satisfactory service and goods being received.
 - Authorisation for the payment due, and payable, in respect of any amounts due which are not listed above to be made following consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and notification to the Council's Internal Financial Examiner.

66.6 Applications for Financial Assistance.

- **Resolved that:** The item be considered at the September meeting.

66.7 Agenda Item 13 Next Meeting:

- That the next scheduled meeting of the Council be on Monday 04.09.23 Hebron Vestry 19:00hrs.
- There being no further items of business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:35hrs and hoped that members would have an enjoyable summer recess.