

CYNGOR CYMUNED GORS-LAS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the October Ordinary Monthly meeting of the Gors-las Community Council
held at Hebron Vestry, Drefach on 9th October, 2023, at 19:00hrs.

81.0 Agenda Item 1: Record of those Present/Apologies

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

81.1 General.

- The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting which was declared open at 19:00hrs.
- **Resolved:** To proceed with the order of business.

82.0 Agenda Item 2: Declaration of Interest

- None declared.
- **Resolved to:** Note and record the position.

83.0 Agenda Item 3: Minutes of Previous Meeting.

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

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

- There were no members of the public present.
- **Resolved to:** Record and note

85.0 Agenda Item 5: Corporate Matters.

85.1 Member Vacancies Cefneithin and Drefach Wards

- Members advised that they had spoken to individuals regarding the vacancies but without success thus far. They will continue with their efforts.
- **Resolved to:** Receive and note.

85.2 Annual Plan 2024/25.

- Discussion took place in relation to the possibility of holding events in the different wards to engage with and provide an opportunity for the community to input into the process of future planning.
- Cognizance was taken of the experiences of previous consultation events undertaken by the Council and the lessons learned in organising and evaluating the results from such events.
- **Resolved that:** Further consideration be given to the matter and the opportunity of combining such an event with a similar suitable event.

85.3 Review Financial Regulations and New Model Standing Orders.

- Due to unforeseen circumstances it had not been possible for a meeting of the group to be held.
- **Resolved:** That a further meeting of the Working Group be held to progress the matter.

85.4 Community Use Agreement: Gorslas CP School.

- An update on the current position was provided.

- **Resolved:** That a meeting between the Sub- Committee and Headteacher be arranged.

85.5 Civic Regalia: Chair.

- The issue of looking at alternative options for the provision of Civic Regalia to denote the office held by the Chair of the Council during their term of office had been raised at the previous meeting.
- Consideration was given to the cost of retaining the current arrangement, whereby the name of the Chair is inscribed on a name bar for each year of office and attached to a ribbon as opposed to having a permanent generic chain of office to be passed from office holder to office holder.
- Members were mindful of the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on residents and the need for the Council to use its resources effectively and in a prudent manner.
- Cognizance was also taken of the preferences of individual members to wear, or not wear the chain, during their term of office. Members were also reminded that a sum of £1k had been transferred from the Chair’s fund to reserves for this purpose by Cllr King’s during his term as Chair.
- **Resolved to:** Accept the proposal that:
 - (i) The Council purchase a suitable generic Chain of Office for the use of the Chair of the Council during their time in office with the Chain being passed from Office holder to Office holder.
 - (ii) The Council’s pendant be attached to the Chain of Office.
 - (iii) The Amount held in reserves of £1k originally for the purpose of procuring a Chain be used as an upper limit for the purchase of a Chain of Office for the Chair.
 - (iv) If necessary the Clerk be authorised to procure the Chain using their personal credit card and that the Clerk be refunded accordingly.
 - (v) The Chain to remain the property of the Council and recorded on the asset register.

85.6 Drefach Safe Routes in Communities Bid.

- The Clerk, as the designated contact point, attended a meeting regarding the above on 26.09.23.
- The County Council Officer outlined the process and highlighted the importance of community engagement on the chances of success of any application.
- The Officer indicated that draft plans would be available mid to late October and that they were of the view that there would be a benefit in holding a Consultation Event in the village possibly after the October Half Term to allow people to view and comment on the proposal.
- Amongst the items which could be considered as part of the plan were: -
 - (i) Waiting shelters at the school where pupils and parents could wait for the school to open.
 - (ii) Extending the area to include those pupils walking from Drefach to Maes Y Gwendraeth.
 - (iii) Widening certain footpaths in Drefach Park to 3m to allow use by pedestrians and cyclists
- Following a 4-week consultation period the plans could be amended to consider any revisions before being assessed for practicality and costing by engineers.
- The bid would need to be submitted by the end of January 2024.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided and to seek an invitation to the consultation event.

85.7 Gorslas Community Council Office.

- Following testing of the IT provision the Clerk has re-located to the office with effect from 11.09.23.
- The official address will be Gorslas Community Council, Block A, Gorslas C.P. School Site, Church Road, Gorslas, SA14 7NF. The Post Office has been notified of the change of address.

- PAT testing of printers and other electrical equipment in the new office is necessary and would be undertaken by Charles B Sams.
- Following consultation with members a hard disk back up of information stored on the lap top was purchased at a cost of £ 64.99 from Currys Carmarthen.
- **Resolved to:**
 - (i) Receive and note the information provided.
 - (ii) Approve the engagement of Charles Sams to undertake the PAT electrical testing.
 - (iii) Approve the purchase of the hard disk unit at a cost of £ 64.99 from Curry's Carmarthen.

85.8 Annual Inspections.

- Annual Tree Safety Inspection: To be undertaken as per contract in the next two weeks.
- Play Equipment: External Independent Inspection as per SLA currently being undertaken.
- **Resolved to:** Receive and note the information provided.

85.9 General Update

- An update relating to progress on previous decisions and actions of the Council had been provided and was discussed by members.
- **Resolved to:** Receive and note the information provided.

86.0 Agenda Item 6: Park Matters

86.1 Cefneithin Park: Application for Use from Cefneithin CP School

- A request has been received from the school to use the MUGA and facilities every Friday between 2.30 and 4.30 for multi-use games play.
- A Park Use application form has been forwarded to the school together with details of the terms and conditions. Awaiting a response.
- **Resolved to:** Approve the arrangement subject to the necessary conditions being met.

86.2 Drefach Park: Toll-Bar Roof

- A check of the three parks was undertaken by the Clerk on Thursday 28.09.23 following the stormy weather. It was noted that a tile was missing from the roof of the toll bar. Replacement instructed.
- **Resolved to:** Receive, note, and approve.

86.3 Drefach Park: Toll-Bar Information Sign.

- A proof of the proposed information sign for the toll-bar had been forwarded to members.
- Cllr Green wished to extend and record his thanks and appreciation to Cllr N Lewis and the Clerk for the work which they had undertaken in relation to the signage.
- **Resolved to:** Receive and note and approve the

86.3 Gorslas Park: Gorslas Public Convenience Vandalism.

- Danfo contractors advise the Clerk on Monday 09.10 23 that the metal toilet holder in the ladies' cubicle had been damaged and disposed of near the top of the park near Church Road.
- The company had been instructed to procure and fit a replacement unit.
- **Resolved to:**
 - (i) Receive, note, and approve the actions taken.

- (ii) Request that a Police Officer attends a meeting of the Council to discuss the incidents of vandalism and damage in the parks.

86.4 Gorslas Park Play Area: Proludic Sweeping See Saw

- Danfo contractors noted, on the morning of Monday 09.10.23 that the item had suffered a breakage of the spring supporting an element of the frame and seats.
- The item was made temporarily safe with County Council employees attending later that morning and removing the broken spring and seat arrangement.
- An instruction was given to procure a replacement spring and for the work to be undertaken at the same time as the scheduled work for the replacement of two bearings on the unit.
- **Resolved to:** Receive, note, and approve the actions taken and the procurement and fitting of replacement parts by the County Council.

87.0 Agenda Item 7: Local Issues.

87.1 Drefach: Public Lighting Outage.

- On Monday 25.09.23 a report was received of 6 lighting units on Heol Caegwyn, Drefach, were not working causing concerns for residents using the footpaths in the evening.
- The County Council attended site on Monday 25.09.23 and the faults rectified.
- **Resolved to:** Receive and note the information provided.

87.2. Housing: Assistance sought for Re-location to Cefneithin.

- A communication received from a former local resident seeking assistance with re-locating back to the area to be close to family.
- Advice was sought on the matter and the individual advised of the appropriate procedure to progress their request.
- **Resolved to:** Receive, note, and approve the information and actions taken.

87.3 Drefach: Bus Stop Sign Bron Yr Ynn Footpath.

- An enquiry was received from a member of the public as to the possibility of having a Bus Stop Sign at the point where the footpath from the estate joins the Heol Cwmmawr pavement.
- The assistance of the local County Council members has been sought in clarify the position
- **Resolved to:** Receive and note the information provided.

87.4 Temporary Closure C 2222 Maesybont.

- The County Council advise of the temporary closure of a section of the road on 09.11.23 for one day between 09:00 hrs. and 17:00hrs to allow polling to take place.
- **Resolved to:** Receive and note the information provided.

88.0 Agenda Item 8: Members Reports.

88.1 Carmarthenshire C.C. Town and Community Liaison Meeting 14 09 23. Cllr Kevin Jones.

- Cllr Jones provided a summary of the items discussed for members which included:
 - (i) Cost of Living Crisis: The HWB and various other locations in the county to provide a one stop shop for residents needing advice and support. Some 2,500 people had made use of the facility.

- (ii) Locally support was available at the Cross Hands Working Mens Club, Tumble Hall. Cllr Jones had leaflets providing further details which members could avail themselves of.
- (iii) Preventative Services: An explanation of the work and role of NACRO and POBOL in supporting people in relation to wellbeing and learning difficulties such as autism.
- (iv) An update on the introduction of the 20m.p.h. speed limit in the county. It was likely that there would be a period of adjustment before Go Safe would undertake enforcement action.
- (v) Public Rights of Way: New updated facility on the County Council website.
- (vi) Section 106: Officers were monitoring data from developers and on the assessment of needs in the community.

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

89.0 Agenda Item 9 Correspondence.

89.1 Consultation/Surveys.

- Members considered the schedule of consultations and surveys received since the previous meeting.
- **Resolved:** To receive the information provided.

89.2 General Correspondence.

- Consideration was given to the schedule of correspondence received since the previous meeting.
- Cllr Green highlighted the importance of the correspondence regarding the siting of a new hospital in the County as well as likely changes in General Practitioner provision in the area.
- **Resolved:** To receive the information provided.

90.0 Procedural.

- Cllr Andrew King gave his apologies and left the meeting at this point.

91.0 Agenda Item 10 One Voice Wales.

91.1 Area Committee Meeting

- The next meeting of the Committee would take place on 26.10.23.
- Following the retirement of Cllr Wyn Edwards the position had kindly been filled by Cllr N Beckett.
- **Resolved to:** Receive and note the information provided.

92.0 Agenda Item 11: Planning Applications.

- Consideration was given to the schedule of planning applications received since the last meeting.
- **Resolved** Receive and note the information provided.

93.0 Agenda Item 12 Finance:

93.1 Financial Review Quarter 2 Bank Reconciliation

- Members considered the information provided in relation to the above.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

93.1.1 Financial Review Quarter 2: Budget

- Information was provided and considered in relation to income and expenditure budgets.

- **Resolved to:**
 - (i) Receive and note the information provided.
 - (ii) Approve the following revisions to the current budgets: -

Service	Current Budget	Revised Budget
Income		
VAT Refund	14,832	20,000
Interest	5	20
Transferred form Reserves	50,390	30,000
Expenditure		
Parks Larger Works	58,400	56,400
Parks Minor Works	9,630	11,000
Parks Litter/Custodial	5,460	5,200
P Conv Minor Works	525	600
P Conv Cleaning Custodial	8,235	8,000
Bus Shelter Larger Works	0	690
Bus Shelter Minor Works	525	0
Corporate Equip	0	20
Corp Insurance	2,373	2.215

93.1.2 Financial Review Qtr. 2: Reserves

- The quarterly review included an analysis of the existing and projected, levels of reserves.
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) Note the information provided
 - (ii) To approve the following virements with immediate effect

Current Budget - Commitments Outstanding	Current Budget Allocation	Proposed Revised Budget	General Equip Fund
Website Dev from Chair Fund 2021 22	1,000.00	0	*1,000.00
MUGA Fencing Cefneithin	184.20	0	184.20
Toilet Equip Repair	1,000.00	0	1,000.00
Translation Minutes	5,508.00	0	5,508.00
VAT on Amounts Reserved	638.00	0	638.00

93.2 September Receipts/Payments Through Bank

93.2.1 Income:

From	Description	£
Barclays	Interest Savings Account	2.81

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

93.2.2 Expenditure

Chq No	Payee	Description	£
D/D	OVO Energy	Charge P Conv Aug	38.00
D/D	Three Network	Charge September	20.40
105209	Bevan & Buckland	Payroll Charge May June July	97.20
105213	Staff	Wage August	1,285.16
105215	Alan Williams	Door Graphic Gorslas Office	450.00
105220	Menter Cwm Gwendraeth	Translation Services June July	174.50
105214	Carms CC	Drefach Park Works	148.80
105218	Carms CC	SLA Qtr. 1 Park Inspections	964.90
105210	Capel Seion	Hire Vestry for Meetings June July	35.00
105184	Danfo UK Ltd	P Conv Charge May Charge	837.00
105196	Danfo UK Ltd	P Conv Charge July Charge	837.00
105212	Danfo UK Ltd	P Conv Charge August Charge	837.00

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

93.3 Payments Due for October.

- A schedule of payments due for the forthcoming month was provided.
- **Resolved:** To approve the payments subject to satisfactory service and goods being received.

93.4 Applications for Financial Assistance

93.4.1 Requests for Financial Assistance

- In considering the provision of financial assistance to organisations the Council is required to consider whether any award is commensurate to the benefit to residents or to the area.
- Members were reminded that the Code of Conduct applies to any application more than £500.
- **Resolved that:** The following awards be made

Organisation	Purpose	Amount	Budget
Drefach Welfare Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution towards the cost of providing Christmas Tree and lights for the community outside Hebron Vestry. 	£250	Community Events
Gorslas Welfare Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution towards the cost of providing a Christmas Tree and Lights for the community at Gorslas Square 	£250	Community Events
Capel Seion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To help towards the cost of maintaining 2 burial grounds open to residents of Gorslas Ward 	£250	General Donations

Cefneithin RFC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Running 7 teams with an expansion in numbers. Provides a benefit for young people. Seeking assistance with the cost of jerseys etc. and to continue with the provision. 	£250	General Donations
Carmarthenshire YFC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards cost of providing activities available to the young people of the area. 	£100	General Donations
Mens shed Cwm Gwendraeth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the cost of developing services for residents of the area. 	£100	General Donations
Air Ambulance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the cost of providing the service which residents can, and have used. 	£100	General Donations
MacMillan Cancer Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the cost of providing the service which residents can, and have used. 	£100	General Donations

94.0 Agenda Item 13 Next Scheduled Meeting of Full Council:

- Next scheduled meeting of the Council 19:00 hrs on 13th November,2023 at Hebron Vestry Drefach.
- There being no further items of business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20.45hrs