

CYNGOR CYMUNED GORS-LAS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the December Ordinary Monthly meeting of the Gors-las Community Council
held at Hebron Vestry, Drefach on 11th December, 2023, at 19:00hrs.

111.0 Agenda Item 1: Record of those Present/Apologies

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

111.1 General.

- Members were advised that sadly Cllr Nia Lewis's mother had passed away very recently.
- It was members wishes that a letter of condolence be sent to Cllr Lewis conveying members sympathy at the family's loss.
- **Resolved:** That the Clerk forward a suitable letter to Cllr Lewis on behalf of the Council.

112.0 Agenda Item 2: Declaration of Interest

- Declarations of interest were made by Cllr Kevin Jones in relation to the following items: -
- Minute Ref 115.4 Drefach SRiC Bid Road Improvements as the owner of a property which could be affected by the proposal.
- Minute Ref: 122.3 Applications for Financial Assistance: Consideration of the application from Tabernacle Church Cefneithin as Cllr Jones is an official of the organisation.
- **Resolved to:** Note and record the position.

113.0 Agenda Item 3: Minutes of Previous Meeting.

- The minutes of the November meeting of the Council were considered by members in detail.
- **Resolved to:** Approve the minutes as being an accurate record of discussions and decisions subject to an amendment in the item 99 changing the figure quoted regarding the Bwcabus scheme to £70k. The amendment to be completed prior to final signature of the approved minutes.

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

- No members of the public present and no requests to address the Council had been received.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information received and to consider together with item

115.0 Agenda Item 5: Corporate Matters.

115.1 Member Vacancies Cefneithin and Drefach Wards

- Cefneithin Ward: Members reported interest from an individual in filling the vacancy. The Clerk had forwarded the relevant documentation to the interested party.
- Drefach Ward: despite efforts nobody had declared an interest in filling the position.
- **Resolved to:**
 - (i) Receive and note the information provided
 - (ii) For a notice seeking volunteers for the vacancies to be placed in the relevant notice boards.

115.2 Annual Plan 2024/25.

- Consideration was given to the issues included in the draft annual plan forwarded to members.
- **Resolved that:** The draft plan be adopted and periodically reviewed and changed if necessary.

115.3 Gorslas CP School Management Agreement.

- The Working Group and Clerk met with the Chair, Vice Chair and Headteacher on Wednesday 6th December,2023 to discuss proposals for progressing community use of school facilities under the management agreement.
- Both parties re-affirmed their commitment to the principles of making the facilities available to the public and of their being unsupervised access. A target date of April,2024 was set for a trial period.
- A further meeting in early January was agreed to discuss further the practical operational arrangements.
- **Resolved that:**
 - (i) The information provided be received and noted
 - (ii) The Working Group meet with representatives of the Governing Body as soon as possible.

115.4 Drefach SRIC Bid.

- Cllr Kevin Jones provided feedback from a meeting held on 30.11.23 with officers of the County Council to discuss progression of the scheme.
- There were two issues raised at the meeting which the Community Council were asked to consider and which would help the application:
- Meeting the cost of hiring Hebron vestry on Tuesday 09.01.24 for a consultation event. Approx times 3.30 to 8.00 p.m.
- Drefach Ward Members to distribute leaflets inviting residents to the event. Cars CC to supply letter.
- Estimated total cost circa £110.
- **Resolved that:**
 - (i) The Community Council meet the cost of hiring the venue and letter of invitation
 - (ii) Volunteers from the Drefach Ward members distribute the letter of invitation

115.5 Drefach Ward: Creation of Hub at Hebron Vestry.

- Cllr N Lewis forwarded an update in relation to the survey undertaken of Drefach Welfare and ward members regarding support for and potential developments at the site.
- Members considered the information provided and discussed the potential use of the facility.
- **Resolved:** That a letter of support be provided.

115.6 Tree Works Tender.

- Consideration was given to the work identified as being required and the timescales stated in the recent assessment undertaken by the tree specialist.
- Prices had been sought and received for undertaking the remedial work.
- **Resolved:** That the Clerk seek a further quotation for the work.

115.7 Gorslas Community Council Change of Address

- An update was provided by the Clerk with the Royal Mail now registering the Council’s official address as Gorslas Community Council, Church Rd, Gorslas, Llanelli, SA14 7 NF.
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) Continue to attempt to resolve the registered postal address issue.
 - (ii) Update legal title land registration and other documents through the Council’s solicitors Ungoad Thomas and King once the address issue has been resolved.

115.8 Anti-Social Behaviour/ Damage in Parks.

115.8.1 Meeting with Local Police Force Representative.

- Cllrs N Beckett, Andrew King, Melody Gronow and Clive Douch together with the Clerk met PCS Jonathan Crayford on Wednesday 22.11.23 at the Community Council Office.
 - An explanation of the procedures for dealing with such incidents was provided by the Officer and the involvement of the School Liaison Officer, Youth Offending Team and role of crime prevention.
 - The Police would:
 - (i) Patrols: Update the system and re-instate the parks as hotspots to be patrolled regularly. Reviewed after 90 days.
 - (ii) Prevention: Arrange for the Crime Prevention and School Liaison Officer to visit the parks.
- Meetings: Seek to include representatives of the Community Council in regular online meetings. Later found not to be an option.
- (i) The Community Council would explore options for remote access to CCTV footage in the parks.
 - **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided

115.8.2 Meeting with Crime Prevention Officer.

- The Clerk met with PCSO Jonathan Crayford and PC Stephen Morris on Thursday 30.11.23 and an inspection of the 3 parks took place.
- Feedback from the visit was provided, and considered by members. In general: No evidence was identified which gave rise to significant concerns.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

115.9 National Pay Agreement.

- Notification has been received from One Voice Wales that agreement has been reached on the increase in pay for employees for the 2023/24 financial year.
- Consideration was given to the contractual and financial implications of the award.
- **Resolved to:** Implement the National Pay Agreement for the 2023/24 financial year.

115.10 General Update

- Members considered the information provide in relation to the progression of previous decisions.
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) To receive and note the information provided.
 - (ii) That a event be held in the Spring and in conjunction with Drefach CP School, to mark the unveiling of the Rebecca Riots Sign on the Drefach Toll Bar.

115.11 Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer Post.

- The postholder advised members that he would be submitting a letter of resignation from both posts to the Chair. Both posts would therefore become available as from 01.04.24.
- **Resolved:** A meeting of the working group be convened asap to consider the matter.

116.0 Agenda Item 6: Park Matters

116.1 Gorslas Park: Dog Fouling Gorslas School.

- The school advised on 20.11.23 that repeated dog fouling near the entrance to the school had become an issue with staff having to remove and clean the residue prior to pupils arriving.
- The Clerk reported the matter to Carm's C. C. Enforcement Officers who patrolled the park on 22.11.23 and placed additional signage regarding dog fouling.
- The Clerk also sought to obtain details from the school regarding dates etc. to seek to identify dates for viewing CCTV coverage.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

116.2 Gorslas Park Dog Fouling and Other Issues.

- Details of concerns raised by a member of the public on 29.11.23 regarding various issues at Gorslas Park were relayed and discussed by member.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided

116.3 Cefneithin Park: Dog Fouling/ Anti-Social Behaviour.

- A member of the public reported on 30.11.23 that, on several occasions, they have observed a young couple entering the MUGA at Cefneithin and turning the dog loose.
- They had asked the young couple to take the dog out of the facility as per the signage and as the MUGA was used by the local school children. The individual was subjected to verbal abuse.
- As it was advised that the incidents had, on several occasions, occurred at the same time of day the Clerk reported the matter that day to C.C.C. Enforcement Officers.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

116.4 Gorslas Park: Public Lighting.

- A concern was relayed to the Clerk on Friday 24.11.23 that some of the lights in the park and near the entrance to the school were not working and had caused difficulties for parents attending an evening event at the school earlier in the week.
- A check was made by the Clerk on the evening of the 24.11.23 when it was established that the units in question were those on school property and not under the control of the Community Council.
- As other events are planned to take place in December the school were advised of the issue
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided and the actions of the company.

116.5 Gorslas Park: Gritting of Paths and Park Car Park.

- The issue of gritting the paths in the path leading to the school and of the park car park during icy weather to assist pupils and parents and achieve attendance figures was sought.
- Consideration was given to the practicality and benefits of introducing such an arrangement.
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) No further action be taken on the matter at this time
 - (ii) The position be kept under review.

116.6 Gorslas and Drefach Parks Noticeboards.

- A member of the public reported an issue on Sunday 19.11.23 regarding the noticeboard doorframe.

- The matter was investigated by the Clerk and Carmarthenshire C.C. operative on Monday 20.11.23 when an additional issue was identified regarding the fixing of the frame to the ground. The frame was removed to prevent the possibility of injury to passersby.
- An inspection of the noticeboards at Drefach Park identified an issue with the ground anchor points which would need attention but did not present an immediate risk.
- **Resolved that:** Carmarthenshire County Council be instructed to undertake repairs to the Gorslas and the Drefach noticeboards.

117.0 Agenda Item 7: Urgent Local Issues.

117.1 Drefach: Water Ingress to Rear of Properties Brynglas.

- Concerns had been raised previously regarding the ingress of water at the rear of houses at the site as a result of which certain actions had been taken by the County Council to try and resolve the issue
- The Clerk was recently contacted by an Officer from the County Council as the issues affecting a particular household continue with a possible solution could involve work in the park.
- The Clerk met with the Officer on site on Wednesday 29.11.23 with the officer being shown the existing drainage arrangements on the park side.
- To help progress matters the County Council were invited to undertake a survey of the park side drainage to establish the depth at which the drain was set and establish whether there were blockages.
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) To note the information provided.
 - (ii) To advise the County Council members for the area of the position.

117.2 Cefneithin: Heol Y Foel

- Concerns had been received regarding the following issues:
 - (i) Highway subsidence. Reported to CCC. Acknowledged. Instruction issued to investigate.
 - (ii) Highway: Discharge of sewage via road gulleys during periods of heavy rainfall. Reported to CCC
 - (iii) Highway: Adoption of Heol Dinefwr by CCC. Advised complex issue with no real progress.
 - (iv) Pumping Station: Sewage discharge during heavy rain. Reported to Dwr Cymru.
 - (v) Potholes Near Manhole: Reported to CCC. Acknowledged and ticket issued for repair
 - (vi) Speed Indicator Sign: Reported to CCC. Acknowledged and ticket issued for repair
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the actions taken.

117.3 Cefneithin: Street Lighting outside Tabernacle Church.

- Members attention was draw to the fact that a street lighting unit outside the church was not working.
- The Council's help was sought in resolving the issue as several evening events were planned at the venue over the Christmas period and the lack of lighting was of concern to elderly residents wishing to attend such events.
- **Resolved:** That the matter be reported to the County Council immediately and the importance of the issue to residents be highlighted.

118 .0 Agenda Item 8: Members Reports.

118.1 Drefach Go Safe: Cllr Kevin Jones.

- A summary of the current position was provided for members which indicated that there had been a temporary hiatus in enforcement in the area which would end shortly.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided

119.0 Agenda Item 9: Correspondence.

119.1 Consultations and Surveys

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

119.2 Correspondence

- Members considered the schedule of correspondence received since the November meeting
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided

120.0 Agenda Item 10 One Voice Wales.

120.1 National Awards Conference 2024.

- To be held on 27.03.24 at the Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells. Councils can nominate schemes they wish to be considered for the awards. Closing date 16.02.24.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided

120.2 I.R.P. W Presentation: Changes to Members Allowances.

- Copy of presentation by I.R.P.W available electronically.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided

120.3 Training Courses.

- Details of courses available forwarded to members. Interested parties to contact Chair and Clerk.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided

120.4 Cost of Living Team.

- Advise that a Cost-of-living team has been established and will contact the Council soon.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided

121.0 Agenda Item 11: Planning Matters.

121.1 Planning Applications.

- Members considered a schedule of planning applications received from the County Council
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

122.0 Agenda Item 12 Finance:

122.1 November Receipts/Payments Through Bank

122.1.1 Income:

From	Description	£
N/A	N/A	0

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

122.1.2 Expenditure

Chq No	Payee	Description	£
D/D	OVO Energy	Charge P Conv Aug	38.00

D/D	Three Network	Charge September	20.40
105232	Capel Seion	Donation	250.00
105229	Capel Seion	Hire Vestry Sept Oct	32.50
105226	Staff	Wages Refund Exp October	1,286.16
105228	Cllr Roy James	Refund Expenses	8.48
105235	Air Ambulance Wales	Donation	100.00
105224	Wrenvale N+L Ltd	Grass Cutting Contract Oct Inst	1,164.00
105243	Bevan & Buckland Ltd	Payroll Service Aug Sept Oct	97.20
105238	The Arb Team	Annual Tree Survey Contract	336.00

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

122.2 Payments Due for December

- A schedule of payments to be made in December was considered by members.
- **Resolved:** Approve the payments subject to satisfactory service and goods being received.

122.3 Applications for Financial Assistance.

- Cllr Kevin Jones declared a prejudicial interest as an official of one of the organisations seeking assistance i.e. Tabernacle Church Cefneithin and withdrew from proceedings.
- Members considered a number of applications for financial assistance which had been received.
- Cognisance was taken that, in considering any award, there would need to be a benefit to residents or to the area which was commensurate with any award the Council decides to make.
- **Resolved** that the following awards be made

Organisation	Purpose	Amount
Gorslas Church Hall	To make the hall available for community events	£ 250
Llanlluan Chapel	To help towards cost of maintain graveyard	£ 250
Tabernacle Church	To help towards cost of maintain graveyard	£ 250

122.4 Section 137 Monies: Notification of Appropriate Sum.

- Notification has been received from Welsh Govt that the appropriate sum per resident for the 2024-25 financial year is £ 10.81. per elector.
- Section 137 provides powers for Councils to spend money on matters for which there are no other legal powers to do so. It will form part of the budget setting process.
- **Resolved:** That the information provided be noted and included in the 24/25 budget setting process.

122.5 Budget Setting 2024/25.

- There is a need for the Council to prepare budgets for the 2024/25 financial year and to notify the County Council of its precept requirements usually by the end of February.
- **Resolved:** That the Working Group consider and make recommendations to the Council in relation to the budget requirements for the 2024/25 and 4 subsequent years.

123.0 Agenda Item 13 Next Meeting:

- Scheduled at 19:00 hrs. on Monday 8th January, 2024, at Hebron Vestry., Drefach.
- The Chair took the opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
- There being no further items of business the meeting was declared closed at 20:25 hrs..