

CYNGOR CYMUNED GORS-LAS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes of the January Ordinary Monthly meeting of the Gors-las Community Council
held at Hebron Vestry, Drefach on 8th January, 2024, at 19:00hrs.

124.0 Agenda Item 1: Record of those Present/Apologies

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

124.1 General.

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

125.0 Agenda Item 2: Declaration of Interest

- Declarations of interest were made by Cllr Kevin Jones, Nia Lewis in item 127 Drefach SriC proposal as the owners of properties which could be affected by the proposals: -
- **Resolved to:** Note and record the position.

126.0 Agenda Item 3: Minutes of Previous Meeting.

- The minutes of the previous meeting of the Council were considered by members in detail.
- Resolved to: Approve the minutes as being an accurate record of discussions and decisions **made**.

127.0 Agenda Item 4: County Council Update

- Cllr Darren Price provided an update for members which included the following items: -
 - (i) County Issues included
 - a. County Council Budget: An increase of 3.3% in funding had been received from Welsh Government leaving a shortfall of £ 22m from the requirement. Consultation on measures to address the shortfall was currently underway.
 - b. Flooding because of heavy rainfall. Some 20 properties in Llansteffan had been under water because of a cloudburst.
 - c. A campaign to address a shortfall in foster parents was currently being undertaken.
 - (ii) Locally:
 - a. Cross Hands East Business units would be occupied in the next few months.
 - b. Gorslas Church Road Gorslas: Proposal for supporting living for adults with learning difficulties.
 - c. Cefneithin Y Glyn: Issues with fencing following high winds
 - d. Cefneithin: Roadside Barrier repair completed Heol Treventy.
 - e. Foelgastell: Heol Dinefwr road adoption enquiries proceeding.
 - f. Housing: Demand for Local Authority housing in the area remains very high.
 - g. Drefach: Consultation event regarding SRiC bid to be held
 - (iii) Discussion.
 - a. Budget Consultation: Advertised in press and on websites. Meeting with Town and Community Council representatives planned. Individuals via letters, online or in person at HWB centers.

- b. Use of C.C. Reserves: Has the assurance given at the liaison meeting that such reserves would not be used to fund severance or redundancy payments been kept. Cllr D Price responded that he would check however there was no early retirement scheme for the current year.
 - c. Local Authority Housing: It was noted that there were some 4,000 applications County wide for such housing. The County Council housing stock had depleted by some 50% because of the right to buy schemes. Until recently Local Authorities were not allowed to build accommodation to replenish the housing stock. New developments were however currently underway but would take time to become available.
- The Chair thanked Cllr Price for his attendance and the information provided and the Drefach Ward members for kindly agreeing to distribute the leaflets advising residents of the SRiC scheme consultation event. Cllr Price left the meeting at this juncture.

128.0 Agenda Item 5: 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 **position**.

129.0 Agenda Item 6: Corporate Matters.

129.1 Member Co-Option Vacancies Cefneithin and Drefach Wards

- Cefneithin Ward: Members were advised that an application for co-option as a representative for the Ward had been received from Catrina Williams who was present at the meeting.
- Drefach Ward: There had not been any further progress in successfully recruiting a representative.
- **Resolved to:**
 - (i) Unanimously agreed that Catrina Williams be appointed as a co-opted member to represent the Cefneithin Ward.
 - (ii) To continue to seek to recruit a member to represent the Drefach Ward and for a suitable notice to be placed in the relevant notice board.

129.2 Clerk/RFO Position.

- Following notification of the resignation of the current postholder the Working Group met on 18.12.23 and prepared an advertisement and a Recruitment Pack which included a Job Description and Person Specification.
- Copies of the documentation were circulated to members for comments and the revised documentation is enclosed with the papers for the meeting.
- **Resolved:** To accept the Working Group recommendations as outlined in the supporting papers and
 - (i) Confirm the need for the post to be filled
 - (ii) Confirm the post requirements and conditions as detailed in the supporting documentation.
 - (iii) Confirm the Recruitment pack including job and person specification as provided.
 - (iv) Confirm the timetable and arrangements for shortlisting and interview as detailed in the supporting documentation.

129.3 Safety: Gorslas Park Car Park Safety Improvement Scheme.

- Copies of the revised scheme proposed by the County Council have been forwarded to members.
- **Resolved:** That the Council supports the aims and principles of the proposal. The County Council Officers be asked to consider amendments relating to:
 - (i) The provision of additional directional signage.
 - (ii) The provision of a 5mph roundel at the vehicular entrance point.

- (iii) The provision of barriers on the eastern and western side of the car park preventing access other via the new footpaths into the car park area.

129.4 Tree Works Cefneithin and Drefach Parks

- Consideration was given to anonymised quotations received in respect of undertaking the works as stipulated in the Tree Assessment Report.
- There were no reasons which would prevent the Council from awarding the contract to either party.
- Price: Contractor A: £ 1,200 ex VAT.
- Price: Contractor B: £ 980.00 ex VAT.
- **Resolved:** Award to contractor B. Members were subsequently advised that contractor B was Dynefor Tree Services.

129.5 Gorslas Community Council Change of Address

- Royal Mail have registered the address as Gorslas Community Council, Church Rd, Gorslas.
- The Clerk has spoken to the person delivering the mail and explained the position
- **Resolved**
 - (i) To receive and note the information provided and the relevant parties advised of the change.
 - (ii) That the title land registration and other documents be updated through the Council's solicitors Ungoed Thomas and King.

129.6 Civic Regalia.

- Members were advised that following previous discussions the company had offered to provide an alternative chain at a cost of £744 ex VAT to include a supportive collar.
- Cllr Nia Lewis wished for it to be recorded that she would abstain on voting on the matter.
- **Resolved.** To purchase the chain and collar at a total cost of £744 ex VAT with the funding to come from provision within the reserves of unspent allowance by a previous Chair.

129.7 Civic Commemorative Noticeboard.

- Members considered the issue of providing a commemorative sign in the new Community Council Office at Gorslas listing the name of previous Chairs and Officers of the Community Council.
- **Resolved:** That the matter be considered at a future meeting.

129.8 Authorised Signatory.

- In accordance with the Council's requirements two authorised signatories are required to sign any cheque for payment.
- There are currently three authorised signatories which include the current Clerk. In the light of the resignation of the current postholder it was judged prudent to appoint an additional signatory.
- Following consultation with members Cllr Simon Martin was asked, and kindly agreed, to undertake the role. The relevant forms have been submitted to Barclays Bank.
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the actions taken and to confirm the appointment of Cllr Simon Martin as an authorised signatory.

129.9 General Update

- A general update on progress in implementing previous decisions of the Council was provided.
- **Resolved:**

- (i) To receive and note the information provided
- (ii) That certain revisions to the Facebook and Website pages to ensure they are current be noted.

130.0 Agenda Item 7: Park Matters

130.1 Cefneithin Park. Request for CCTV footage.

- A request was made by a member of the public for coverage related to alleged damage caused by another vehicle to a motor vehicle.
- Advised to report to Police to whom coverage would be made available.
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the actions taken.

130.2 Gorslas Park Public Convenience:

- Members were advised that Danfo contractors reported on 20.12.23 that the lock fixing on the gent's toilet was missing. The unit has been locked and a repair instructed.
- It was also noted that, as is the usual practice, the facility was closed for Christmas, Boxing and New Years Day.
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the actions taken.

130.3 Gorslas Park: Tree Safety and MUGA Panel. Storm Gerrit

- A report was received on Friday 29.12.23 of a fallen tree in the park and of a MUGA sound deadening panel having been become detached due to inclement weather.
- The Clerk and contractor visited site on Sunday 31.12.23 and inspected the tree. Due to the presence of rot it was decided that on the grounds of safety of nearby footpath users the fallen limb and the remaining portion of the rotted tree be cut and removed.
- It was also noted that an adjoining tree also had a limb which could fall on the surrounding footpath and adjoining school playground. The relevant limb was also cut and removed.
- The remainder of the park was walked and it became apparent that a large tree in an area adjoining the industrial estate had fallen and was resting against on the boundary fence with significant overhang on the neighbouring property. To prevent injury to persons and damage to property the tree was cut and removed.
- Checks were made on Cefneithin and Drefach Parks. No issues of concern or damage were noted.
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the actions taken.

130.4 Gorslas Park: Safety Surface.

- It was noted by the Clerk during an examination of the play area that the safety surface issue raised with Sutcliffe Play had been attended to.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note.

131.0 Agenda Item 8: Urgent Local Issues.

- None Reported
- **Resolved:** To receive and note.

132.0 Agenda Item 9: Members Reports:

- None received.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note.

133.0 Agenda Item 10: Correspondence.

133.1 Consultation/Survey

133.2 Correspondence and Consultations

- A schedule of the items of general correspondence and consultations received during the month were considered.
- The Chair advised members and relayed to members the content of the letter from the Clerk tendering their resignation.
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) To receive and note the information provided.
 - (ii) That in response to the contact made by representatives of Canolfan Carwyn they be invited to attend a meeting of the Council in the next few months.

134.0 Agenda Item 11 One Voice Wales.

134.11 Training Courses.

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

135.0 Agenda Item 12: Planning Matters.

- Consideration was given to a schedule of planning applications received from Carmarthenshire County Council since the previous meeting.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

136.0 Agenda Item 13 Finance:

136.1 December Receipts/Payments Through Bank

13.6.1 Income:

From	Description	£
Carms CC	Precept	40,942.67

- Resolved: To receive and note the information provided.

136.2 Expenditure

Chq No	Payee	Description	£
D/D	OVO Energy	Charge P Conv Aug	38.00
D/D	Three Network	Charge September	20.40
D/D	Dwr Cymru	Water Charges Gors P Conv	199.54
105242	Staff	Wages November	1,221.32
105240	Wrenvale N+L Ltd	Grass Contract Nov	1,164.00
105244	Wrenvale N+L Ltd	Grass Contract July	1,164.00
105239	Cefneithin RFC	Donation	250.00
105250	Carms CC	Inv 97270940	164.12
105251	Carms CC	Inv 97270950	558.79
105253	Carms CC	Inv 97270744	964.90
105252	Allan Williams	Drefach Door Project	985.00
105256	Gorslas Church	Donation	250.00
105225	Danfo UK Ltd	Inv 7445 October	837.00

105258	Tabernacle Church Cefn	Donation	250.00
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- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the payments made

136.3 Payments Due for January

Chq No	Payee	Description	£
D/D	OVO Energy	Charge P Conv July	38.00
D/D	Three Network	Charge September	20.40
D/D	Welsh Water	Charges Gors P Conv	199.54
105265	Wrenvale	Grass Cutting Charge Jan	1,164.00
105264	Danfo (UK) Ltd	P Conv Charge December	837.00
105266	Staff Wages	Wages January	1,221.32
105260	Menter Cwm Gwendraeth	Translation Sept Nov Dec	349.00
105261	Llanddarog C.C.	Donation Towards Zoom	140.00
105262	Bowen & Weaving Ltd	Office Printer Colour Ink Supplies	59.40
105263	Charles B Sams	Inv 25543 Electrical Works	108.32

- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the payments subject to satisfactory service and the goods being received.

136.4 Quarterly Financial Review.

- Information was provided to members in relation to the financial performance of the Council in relation to the overall budgetary position together with details of individual service area performance against budget.
- **Resolved:** To note the information provided and that the position continue to be monitored closely.

137.0 Agenda Item 14 Next Meeting:

- The next scheduled meeting of the Council be held at 19:00 hrs. on Monday 12th February.2024, at Hebron Vestry, Drefach.
- There being no further items of business the meeting was declared closed at 20:05 hrs.