CYNGOR CYMUNED GORS-LAS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the February Ordinary Monthly meeting of the Gors-las Community Council**

**held at Hebron Vestry, Drefach on 12th February, 2024, at 19:00hrs.**

138.0 Agenda Item 1: Record of those Present/Apologies

* Cllrs: Simon Martin (Chair), Nick Beckett (Vice Chair), Nia Lewis, Kevin Jones, Chris Wilkins, Clive Douch, Catrina Williams, Andrew King, Melody Gronow, Elinor Goldsmith, Linda Williams, Tina Butler, Roy James and Clive Green.
* Others: Member of the Public, Hefin Jones, Translator and Llew Thomas, Clerk to the Council.
* Apologies for absence: None.

Resolved: To note and record the position.

139.1 General.

* The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting which was declared open at 19:00hrs.

Resolved: To proceed with the order of business.

140.0 Agenda Item 2: Declaration of Interest

* Item 143.7 Cllrs Kevin Jones, Nia Lewis as the owners of properties which could be affected by the Drefach SRiC scheme.
* Resolved to: Note and record the position.

141.0 Agenda Item 3: Minutes of Previous Meeting.

* The minutes of the January meeting of the Council were considered in detail by members.

Resolved to: Approve the minutes as being an accurate record of discussions and decisions made.

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

* No issues were raised by the members of the public present and no requests to address the Council had been received.
* **Resolved to:** Receive and note the position.

143.0 Agenda Item 6: Corporate Matters.

143.1 Member Co-Option Vacancies Cefneithin and Drefach Wards

* Cefneithin Ward: The Electoral Division had been notified of the co-option of Cllr Catrina Williams.
* Drefach Ward: There had not been any further progress in successfully recruiting a representative.
* **Resolved to:** Continue to seek to recruit a member to represent the Drefach Ward.

143.2 Clerk/RFO Position.

* Following advertisement of the post 27 application forms and recruitments packs were sent out.
* Four Applications were received and considered by the Working Group on Monday 05 02 24.
* Having scored the applications against the person criteria then regrettably there were no applications which met the criteria for proceeding to interview. The Group were of the view that:

1. the post be re-advertised asap.
2. the wording of the advertisement be revised and made more focused
3. several similar/related categories in the person specification be amalgamated.
4. the requirement regarding social media be removed.

* **Resolved:** That the recommendations of the Working Group be adopted and the actions taken be noted and formally approved.

143.3 Safety: Gorslas Park Car Park Safety Improvement Scheme.

* The Community Council observations in relation to the proposed scheme were forwarded to the relevant officers responsible for the design within the County Council.
* This had resulted in some changes being made to the design however the main point of concern i.e. the provision of a continuous barrier preventing direct access to the car park from the school side footpath was not included on the basis that it would involve a loss of a parking bay.

Resolved:

1. To ask the County Council to reconsider its decision not to include the safety barriers and.
2. Offer additional land to the County Council on the school side to retain the parking bay.
3. Offer an option of removing the footpath by the car park barrier on the school side to provide additional space for a parking bay.
4. Suggest the relocation of the machinery access gate and yellow no parking bay to the shop side of the car park freeing up an additional bay on the school side of the car park.
5. Advise if none of the above alternatives were acceptable to the County Council that the Community Council would accept loss of one parking bay.

143.4 Gorslas School Community Use Agreement.

* The Chair, Vice Chair and immediate past Chair and Clerk to the Community Council met with the Headteacher and Chair of Gorslas CP School on Thursday 01. 02. 24 to progress matters.
* Following discussion, it was agreed that a Phase 1 Draft Management Agreement be drawn up by the Clerk to the Community Council for consideration by both parties.
* Details of the draft agreement had been forwarded to members prior to the meeting.
* **Resolved that:**

1. The terms outlined in the draft agreement were acceptable to the Community Council.
2. The views of the Governing Body be sought asap in relation to the proposed terms.

143.5 Freedom of Information Request. Removal of Bus Shelter Heol Blaenhirwaun

* An application was received from a member of the public for all information relating to the removal of the shelter by the Community Council and any consultation undertaken with 9 nearby residents
* A response had been provided. Total time requirement 5 hours.
* **Resolved to:** Approve the actions taken and note the information provided.

143.6 Update of Land Registry Details.

* Given the re-location of the Council’s official address to the Community Council Office at Gorslas then there is a requirement to update the Land Registry details.
* The deeds are currently held by Messrs. Ungoed Thomas and King and an estimated cost of some £150 has been obtained for updating the records and providing paper copies of the new documents
* **Resolved** that: Messrs. Ungoed Thomas and King be instructed to undertake the work.

143.7 General Update

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

1. Receive and note the information provided
2. Note that the flashing speed limit sign at Foelgastell was still not working.
3. Seek clarification on the work currently being undertaken at Heol Dinefwr, Foelgastell.

144.0 Agenda Item 7: Park Matters

144.1 Gorslas Park Play Area: Sinkhole 10.01.24.

* During a site visit the Clerk and Chair noted that a sinkhole had appeared in the children’s play area.
* Temporary measures were taken to prevent injury to park users with stone filling being purchased by the Clerk to the value of £ 52.94 from B+M stores. Having placed the stone filling in the hole and applying downward pressure the void was deeper and wider than first observed.
* Accordingly Messrs. Lloyd and Gravell were contacted and temporary safety fencing erected.
* Following discussion with members, it was resolved to instruct the company to undertake further investigative works to establish the extent of the void and the possibility of further voids in the area.
* Accordingly excavations were undertaken by the company the following morning i.e. 11.01.24 which established that the void was approximately a metre square by 1.2 metres deep.
* There was no evidence of further subsidence or of water ingress having causing the void.
* The void was filled with stone and covered over. Security fencing was left in place.
* Concerns were expressed as to the possibility of further voids due to mineworking in the area. The cost of a ground penetrating radar survey of the play area was established as being £5,275.
* The Clerk subsequently met with a representative from Messrs. Lloyd and Gravell to review the position and to seek options for preventing a re-occurrence.
* On the evidence available the most likely cause of the ground collapse was water ingress to the play area from the surrounding areas of the park which concentrated flows of water into this one area. The pattern of heavy and consistent rain fall during the last few months would have saturated the ground worsening the position.
* **Resolved to:**

1. Meet the cost of the emergency works undertaken by Lloyd and Gravell.
2. Not to commission ground penetrating survey at this time bit to monitor the position.
3. Instruct Messrs. Lloyd and Gravell to design, prepare, and cost a drainage scheme to address the issues as a matter of urgency.
4. Approve the actions taken and the re-imbursement of the payment of £52.94 made by the Clerk.

**144.2 Gorslas Park: Fallen Tree 22 01 24 Storm Isha**

* Danfo contractors reported that a tree had fallen in the park and was obstructing a footpath.
* As the path is used by pupils attending the school as well as park users to ensure their safety the Clerk contacted a contractor and the tree was cut and removed that day.
* The charge for the work was £350.00
* **Resolved to:** Receive, note, and approve the actions taken and the payment of the account.

**144.3 Gorslas Park Public Convenience:**

* A report was received from a member of the public on 05 02 24 that the Emergency cord on the disabled toilet cubicle had been broken.
* The unit has been closed and Charles B Sams asked to attend and repair.
* **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the actions taken.

**144.4 Gorslas Park Planter Joint Project with Gorslas CP School.**

* Progress has been made in relation to the proposal with school pupils and Community Council representatives helping to spread new topsoil on Tuesday 16th January,2024.
* The momentum was sustained with a weed suppression membrane being fitted on Monday 29th January,2024 with school pupils and members in attendance.
* The project will now move to the third stage with the contractor visiting the school to seek the views of pupils on what should be displayed in the planter.
* **Resolved:** To receive, note, and approve the actions taken.

**145.0 Agenda Item 7: Urgent Local Issues.**

**145.1 Drefach Cricket and Football Club.**

* The Clerk was contacted by a member of the club and asked to attend a meeting between club representatives, and other organisation regarding grant funding for proposed development works.
* The Clerk attended the meeting on Wednesday 17 01.24 with two representatives from the funding body, a club representative, a County Councillor, representatives from an architectural design company and a consultant. The proposals to be progressed by the Club and Consultant.
* **Resolved to:** Receive and note.

**145.2 Drefach: Wayside Seat Repair.**

* Notification had been received that the Gwendraeth Menshed had removed the seat for repairs due to its poor condition.
* **Resolved to:** Receive and note the information provided.

**145.3 Gorslas Vertical Measures along Cefneithin Road.**

* Carmarthenshire County Council are consulting regarding the provision of a raised plateau extending across the full width of the carriageway, 65mm high with a maximum permitted legal height of 100mm at Cefneithin Road on the boundary of No 4 and 5 Cwm Mwyn Gorslas.
* Closing date for observations: 15.02.24.
* **Resolved to**: Receive and note

**145.4 Maesybont: Temporary Closure of C2066.**

* Carmarthenshire County Council advise that a 30mtr section of the road north of the junction with the C2222 will be closed for 5 days to allow Welsh Water to make a new connection.
* **Resolved to:** Receive and note.

**146.0 Agenda Item 8: Members Reports:**

**146.1 County Council Budget Setting Meeting 17.01.24: Cllr K Jones.**

* Summary feedback on the main points of the meeting was provided by Cllr Jones.
* The County Council were seeking views, observations, or proposals on areas for review and, as the closing date was before the next meeting of the Community Council member were asked to respond on an individual basis to the consultation.
* **Resolved to**: Receive and note the information provided.

**147.0 Agenda Item 9: Correspondence.**

**147.1 Consultation/Survey.**

* Consideration was given to the items of correspondence relating to surveys or items for consultation received since the previous meeting.
* **Resolved to:** Receive and note the information provided.

**147.2 Correspondence**

* Members considered the items of correspondence received since the previous meeting.
* **Resolved to:**

1. Receive and note the information provided.
2. Approve the attendance of the Chair at a Mayors meeting on 14.03.24 at Llandeilo be approved.
3. Consider at a future meeting a suggestion from a member of the public that Welsh appear first on any items of correspondence /communication by the Community Council.

**148.0 Agenda Item 10 One Voice Wales.**

**148.1 Training Courses.**

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

**148.2 Draft Minutes Area Committee Meeting 23.01 24**

* Copies of the draft minutes available from Clerk
* **Resolved to:** Receive and note.

**148.3 Online Meeting OVW and Planning Aid Wales.**

* Online on 07 03 24 from 10.00hrs and 14:00hrs. Relating to sustainability challenges. Cost £50.
* **Resolved to:** Receive and note.

**148.4 Buglife Cymru.**

* New resources available online and on Buglife You Tube channel.
* **Resolved to:** Receive and note.

**148.5 OVW National Awards Conference on 27 March at Royal Welsh Showground**

* Information on categories for award and how to nominate a Council. Closing date entries 16 02 24.
* **Resolved to:** Receive and note

**149.0 Agenda Item 11: Planning Matters.**

**149.1 Planning Applications.**

* Consideration was given to notification of planning applications received since the previous meeting.
* **Resolved:** There were no items upon which the Community Council would submit observations.

**149.2 Revised Local Development Plan (LDP) 2018-2033.**

* The County Council advise of a delay in the submission of the Revised Plan to Welsh Government to allow consultation on changes to the Habitat Regulations Assessment and Integrated Sustainability Appraisal. It is the intention to submit the revised plan in March 2024.
* **Resolved to**: Receive and note.

**150.0 Agenda Item 12 Finance:**

**150.1 Budget and Precept**

* The Working Group met on Thursday 25.01.24 to consider recommendations to the Council in respect of the budget and precept for 2024/25 financial year and the four subsequent years.
* The recommendations were forwarded to members on 29 01 24.
* **Resolved to:**

1. Adopt and accept the Working Group recommendations in relation to both the 2024/25 financial year budgets and to set the precept for the year at £132,000.
2. Accept and adopt the Working Group recommendations for the budgets for the four subsequent financial years i.e. 2025/26 to 2028/29.

**150.2 January Receipts/Payments Through Bank**

**150.2.1 Income:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **From** | **Description** | **£** |
| N/A | N/A | N/A |

* **Resolved to:** Receive and note the information provided.

**150.2.2 Expenditure**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Chq No** | **Payee** | **Description** | **£** |
| D/D | OVO Energy | Charge P Conv Aug | 38.00 |
| D/D | Three Network | Charge September | 20.40 |
| 105247 | Staff | Wages and Backpay to April 2023 | 1,871.13 |
| 105255 | HMRC | Qtr 3 Ee/ Er Contributions | 2,082.43 |
| 105259 | Capel Seion | Hire Fee for Meetings Nov Dec | 37.50 |
| 105263 | Charles B Sams | Electrical Repair Gors P Conv | 108.32 |
| 105261 | Cyngor Cymuned Llanddarog | Donation Zoom Costs | 140.00 |
| 105260 | Menter Cwm Gwendraeth | Translation Sept Nov Dec | 349.00 |
| 105249 | Carms C.C. | Qtr 3 Ee/Er Contributions | 2,012.99 |
| 105267 | Carms C.C | Installment Community Lighting | 2.356.06 |
| 105270 | S Jones Dynevor Trees | Cut 3 trees following storm | 450.00 |
| 105245 | Wrenvale N+L Ltd | December Grass Installment | 1,164.00 |
| 105257 | Llanlluan Chapel | Donation | 250.00 |
| 105269 | Staff | Refund Payment Just Print Leaflets | 88.78 |

* **Resolved to:** Note, receive, and approve the payments made.

**150.2.3 Payment Approval February**

* A schedule of payments for the coming month was considered.
* **Resolved to:** Approve the payments subject to satisfactory service and goods being received.

**151.0 Agenda Item 13 Next Meeting:**

* Next Meeting 11.03.24 at 19:00. Venue to be confirmed.
* There being no further business to transact the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:05hrs