CYNGOR CYMUNED GORS-LAS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

**held at Hebron Vestry, Drefach on 11th March 2024, at 19:00hrs.**

156.0 Agenda Item 1: Record of those Present/Apologies

* Cllrs: Simon Martin (Chair), Nick Beckett (Vice Chair), Kevin Jones, Chris Wilkins, Catrina Williams, Andrew King, Melody Gronow, Elinor Goldsmith, Linda Williams, Tina Butler, and Clive Green.
* Others: County Councillor Aled Vaughan Owen, Member of the Public, Helen Thomas, Translator and Llew Thomas, Clerk to the Council.
* Apologies for absence: Cllrs: N Lewis and Clive Douch.

Resolved: To note and record the position.

156.1 General.

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

Resolved: To proceed with the order of business.

157.0 Agenda Item 2: Declaration of Interest

* 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.

158 Agenda Item 3: Minutes of Previous Meeting.

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

159.0 Agenda Item 4: County Council Matters Update by Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen.

* A summary of local and county wide matters was provided for members which included: -

1. Budget: Council Tax increase of 7.5%.
2. Flood Risk Strategy: 12,000 addresses had been identified as having some flood risk in the County. There were ongoing discussion with groups to increase local resilience.
3. Modernising Educational Provision Strategy: Consultation had now been completed. It included a review of the policy of admitting rising 4’s to school. The plan also placed an increased emphasis on the possibilities of supporting small schools through federation arrangements.
4. Fly Tipping/Litter/Dog Fouling: Details of enforcement actions was provided.
5. Local issues: the continued increase in demand for housing, a number of school transport appeals, recorded complaints re speeding had reduced. There was also an impetus to re-commence the annual Gorslas village Carnival.

* Discussion:

1. Local Development Plan: Progress imminent. Delayed by need for clarification regarding matters related to Welsh Language and Habitat issues.
2. Budget: The increase in Council tax was greater than Town and Community Council’s had been led to believe at a Forum with County Council Officers. The increases had reflected the RSG settlement and cost pressures. Ideally the increase would have been less.

* There being no further items for discussion Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen conveyed his, and Cllr Darren Price’s appreciation of the work of the Clerk over the last 8 years and wished him well for the future.
* The Clerk in turn expressed his appreciation and gratitude for the kind assistance which they had both provided , as both County and Community Councillors. It had been very much appreciated.
* Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen left the meeting at this juncture.

160.0 Agenda Item 5: Opportunity for the Public to Address the Meeting.

* No issues were raised by the members of the public present.
* **Resolved to:** Receive and note the position.

161.0 Agenda Item 6: Corporate Matters.

**161.1 Vacancy Cefneithin Ward.**

* The Council has received notification of the resignation of Cllr Roy James with immediate effect.
* The County Council’s Electoral Services Dept have been notified and have forwarded the relevant notice which has been placed in the noticeboard. The vacancy has also been noted on the Community Council’s website.
* The resignation has been acknowledged and Cllr James thanked for his services.
* **Resolved:** To receive the information provided and approve the actions taken.

**161.2 Co-Option Vacancy Drefach Ward.**

* No applications had been received to date.
* **Resolved:** To receive and note.

**161.3 Gorslas Park Water Issues.**

* The issue stems from the appearance of a sink hole in the children’s play area.
* The cause for the sinkhole seems to be related to water run-off from areas above the play area, the embankment on the Church Side and the footpath which has been widened.
* Accordingly, a scheme was developed to address the issue and dispose of the water off site.
* The cost of the scheme would be £16k, ex VAT and could be undertaken relatively quickly.
* **Resolved:**

1. To monitor the position
2. Await clarification from the County Council regarding works to address the outstanding water issues on the school side footpath.

**161.4 Gorslas Park Cark Incident 04 03 24.**

* A report was received of an incident whereby a vehicle reversing in the park car park had come into contact with a child cycling to school. It is understood that no injuries were suffered.
* Upon receiving the report, the Clerk met with the Headteacher of Gorslas Community School on the 05 03 24 to discuss the matter as a result of which: -

1. The Clerk advised the County Council of the incident and sought clarification on progress on the car park safety scheme which the Community Council and school had requested.
2. The school would take pupils to the car park to make them aware of the danger from vehicles.
3. The Community Council would make the local Police aware of the incident and ask that they visit the car park on occasion to remind drivers of the need to be aware of pedestrians.
4. The school together with the Community Council would prepare a joint article to appear in the weekly newsletter to parents and circulated to all parents in the weekly newsletter regarding the dangers and need to exercise caution when using the car park.
5. Following the agreement of members the Community Council to erect 6 signs prohibiting the riding of bicycles/scooters in the park car park.

* **Resolved to:**

1. Receive, note and approve the actions taken.
2. Approve the purchase and placement of the warning signs.

**161.5 IRPW Report for 2024/25 Financial Year.**

* A summary of the report, as it applies to Gorslas Community Council was provided for members.
* **Resolved** **that:**

Extra Cost Payment £156 pa: To be paid at year end and pro rata to service. Members can opt out of receiving the payment.

Payment Consumables: Refund as per evidence of expenditure up to £52 per year.

Senior Role Payment: Not to adopt.

Chair Official Duties Payment: Not to adopt.

Vice Chair Payment: Not to adopt.

Meeting Attendance Allowance: Not to adopt.

Financial Loss: Payment as per legal requirement.

Cost of Care: Re-imbursement reasonable expenses upon providing proof of provision.

**161.6. Public Convenience and Litter Picking Contract.**

* The current agreements relating to the above were detailed for members.
* The arrangements required revision in the light of new arrangements regarding the community use of facilities at the new Gorslas CP School. The amalgamation of the two current arrangements would include:

1. daily collection at the three parks
2. the daily reporting by the contract holder of any obvious safety related issues.
3. a requirement to collect and dispose of litter from the Gorslas School MUGA on community use days a week from 10.04 24 to the end of the current school year.

* **Resolved that:**

1. The current arrangements be terminated as from 31 03 24.
2. Tenders be sought for a contract for the period 01. 04 .24 until 31.03 25.
3. The specification to include the revisions outlined above.
4. The Clerk be authorised, following consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair, to consider and award the new contract. Details of the award to be reported to the full Council.

**161.7 Play Equipment Inspection SLA.**

* The current agreement is with the County Council and terminates on 31 03 24. It includes fortnightly inspection of play equipment in the parks and an independent annual inspection.
* The cost of renewing the agreement for the 2024/25 financial year is £3,344,99.
* There have not been any concerns regarding performance over the last year. The issue is safety related and the provider is a specialist in this area.
* **Resolved:** To renew the agreement and review at the end of the 24/25 financial year.

**161.8 Street Lighting Agreement.**

* There is an agreement whereby the County Council examine streetlights every three weeks and replace serviceable elements. The agreement includes the price of electricity.
* There have not been any issues of performance during the year.
* **Resolved:** To renew and review at the end of the 2024/25 financial year.

**161.9 Translation.**

* There is an arrangement whereby translation at meetings is provided by Menter Gwendraeth /Elli.
* The Council has resolved previously that it would wish for provision to be made for the minutes of Council meetings to be translated into Welsh.
* The time would therefore be opportune for the Council to re-assess the position and seek quotations for the work for the 2025/26 municipal year.
* **Resolved:** That tenders be sought**.**

**161.10 Suppliers: Performance Review.**

* Members were advised and considered the performance of contractors over the previous 12 months.
* **Resolved to:** Receive and note as there were no areas where action was required.

**161.11 General Update.**

* Consideration was given to an updated schedule of progress relating to previous decisions and actions of the Council.
* **Resolved to:** Receive and note the information provided.

**162: Agenda Item 7: Park Matters**

**162.1 Gorslas Park Dog Fouling.**

* A report had been received from Gorslas CP School of a further incident of dog fouling which had resulted in the mess being carried into the school by children.
* The Clerk had reported the incident to the County Council Dog Wardens who had confirmed that they have, and would continue, to regularly patrol Gorslas Park.
* **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

**162.2 Gorslas Park Police Patrols.**

* In response to recent anti-social behaviour issues an enquiry was made in relation to Police patrols in the park.
* The Police advised that the park had been taken off the priority patrol list but would be reinstated.
* **Resolved to:** Receive and note.

**162.3 Gorslas Public Convenience: Vandalism Incident 27 02 24.**

* It had been reported that an incident of crude shaving foam art had occurred in the disabled unit of the facility during the previous weekend.
* **Resolved to:** Receive and note.

**163.0 Agenda Item 8: Urgent Local Issues.**

**163.1 Cefneithin Pavement Issue**

* It was noted during a park visit that two potholes had appeared in the pavement outside the park entrance. The matter was reported to the County Council and temporary repairs affected.
* **Resolved to:** Receive, note, and approve the actions taken.

**163.2 Road Closure U 251 Dyllcoed, Maesybont.**

* The County Council advised a section of the road would be closed for three days as from 27 10.24.
* **Resolved to:**  Receive and note.

**164.0 Agenda Item 9: Members Reports:**

164.1 Gorslas Ward Member Feedback. Cllr N Beckett

* Details of the ward meeting were provided for members which included the following: -

1. Community Award: Members were delighted to learn that Cllr Elinor Goldsmith had received an award from the High Sheriff of the Couty for her work in the community.
2. A litter pick in the area had been held resulting in 6 bags of rubbish being removed.
3. Gorslas Park Information Board: Members were in favour of a straightforward update.
4. Park Planter: Possibility of including a Christmas Tree in the planter be considered.
5. Dog Mess: Consideration be given to producing signage in partnership with the school.
6. Social media: Members were invited to provide a brief biography for inclusion on the Council’s social media and website.
7. Office Holders: That consideration be given at the Annual Meeting to change the procedure for appointing office holders annually from each ward in rotation.

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

**165. 0 Agenda Item 10: Correspondence.**

* Members considered the schedule of correspondence received since the previous monthly meeting.
* A request was made for further details regarding the process for the nomination of an individual for the King’s New Years Honours.
* **Resolved:**

1. To receive and note the information provided.
2. That the Clerk forward details of the communication received to the member.

**166.0Agenda Item 11 One Voice Wales.**

**166.1 Training Courses.**

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

**167.0 Agenda Item 12: Planning Matters.**

* Details of the planning applications received since the previous monthly meeting were provided.
* **Resolved to:** Receive and note.

**168.0 Agenda Item 13 Finance:**

**168.1 February Receipts/Payments Through Bank**

168.1.1 Income:

* HMRC VAT Qtr 3 Refund - £ 1,654.69

**168.1.2 Expenditure**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Chq.** | **Payee** | **Description** | **£** |
| D/D | OVO Energy | Charge P Conv | 38.00 |
| D/D | Three Network | Charge September | 20.40 |
| 105262 | Bowen &Weaving Ltd | Supply Ink Cartridges | 59.40 |
| 105266 | Staff | Wages January | 1,307.14 |
| 105275 | Landscape Supplies | Topsoil | 300.00 |
| 105285 | Bowen & Weaving Ltd | Stationery Supplies | 92.40 |
| 105277 | Thomas Glass Ltd | Repairs Lock P Conv Gorslas | 163.45 |
| 105281 | Bevan & Buckland Ltd | Payroll Charges Nov Dec Jan | 97.20 |
| 105273 | Capel Seion | Hire Vestry for Meetings January | 55.00 |
| 105286 | Carms. C.C. | Repairs Noticeboard Gorslas | 679.87 |
| 105278 | Staff | Refund Filling Sinkhole Gorslas | 52.94 |
| 105279 | Dynevor Trees | Cut Trees on Footpath Gorslas | 350.00 |
| 105274 | Wrenvale N+L Ltd | Additional Cuts for Gors Park | 504.00 |
| 105265 | Wrenvale N+L Ltd | Grass Cutting Instalment January | 1.164.00 |

* **Resolved:** To note, receive, and approve.

**168.2.0 Payment Approval March**

* A schedule of payments for the month was provided for members.
* **Resolved:** Approve payments for the month, subject to satisfactory service/goods being received.

**168.3.0 Financial Assistance.**

* A request for financial assistance from the Friends of Cefneithin CP School was considered.
* **Resolved:** That an award of £ 200 be provided to the group for the purposes outlined.

**169.0 Additional Item.**

* The Clerk indicted that as this was to be his last monthly meeting he wished to express and record his sincere thanks to members for the courtesy, kindness and help which they had given him over the 8 years he had held the post.
* It had been an honour to serve the Council and community and he wished them all the very best in the future.
* **Resolved:** To receive and note.

**170.0 Agenda Item 14 Next Meeting:**

* 18TH March 2024. Cefneithin CP School.
* There being no further items of business the Chair closed the meeting at 08:20