

# CYNGOR CYMUNED GORSLAS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes for September Ordinary Monthly meeting of Gorslas Community Council  
held at Ysgol Gymunedol Gorslas on 09 September 2024 at 19.00hrs.

## 80.0 Agenda Item 1: record of those Present/ Apologies

- Cllrs K Jones (vice-chair), Simon Martin, Chris Wilkins, Clive Douch, Clive Green
- Others present: Hefin Jones (Translator), Catrina Williams (Clerk)
- Apologies for absence: Cllr T Butler Cllr N Beckett, Cllr L Williams, Cllr M Gronow, Cllr N Lewis, Cllr E Goldsmith

## 80.1 General

- In the absence of Cllr Beckett, it was unanimously agreed that Cllr Kevin Jones chair the meeting.

**Vice Chair – Cllr K Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting which was declared open at 19.10**

**Resolved to:** Proceed with order of business

## 80.2 Agenda Item 2: Declaration of Interest

- No declarations of interest were made

**Resolved to:** note and record the position

## 81.0 Agenda Item 3: Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the ordinary July meeting of the Council held on the 8<sup>th</sup> July were considered in detail by members.

**Resolved to:** Approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July as being an accurate record of discussions and decisions made.

## 82.0 Agenda Item 4 County Council Update – Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen

- Nant y Dderwen complex to close and will be empty in the next few weeks. Site to be developed by 'Stori', independent organisation to create affordable housing. Local letting policy will be enforced. Housing officer will have an office on site and will be based here part time. Concerns in the village regarding further building in the future. Stori will be responsible for the housing not County Council.
- Safe Roads to School – work have begun near the school; some pavements have been widened. To be done a plateau outside the school, driver feedback signs, extending the 20mph further on to Heol Blaenhirwaun, possible Puffin traffic light outside the school. Concerns has been made about the number of cars parked on the road near the cricket club during certain times of the week especially on Saturdays, this is due to lack of parking in the Cricket Club and residents using the car park to park leaving no room for patrons/users of the Club to park. Clwb Criced Drefach are working with the Safe routes to schools' design to work on lessening the problem.  
The has been an accident on Heol Blaenhirwaun on 8 August 2024, involving a lorry and a car, resulting in the people in the car needing to go to hospital.
- Cefneithin – Planning application to establish pitches for six Romany Family members has been turned down. The public Rights of Way Team are working in the area to ensure the public path going through the property is accessible due to complaints of dogs loose/ tied up near the path. Also, Noise Team are working on complaints of dogs barking from the farm.
- Budget – 20 million funding gap with CCC. Predicted Council Tax to rise by 4%, staff wages rise by 4%, inflation 2%. In next few week directors will be holding a meeting to identify possible areas for cuts.
- Over the next 2 years – changes to the bin collection to comply with the Blueprint from Welsh Assembly, most of the Welsh counties are already complying with the Blueprint.

Possible actions

- ✓ 4 day working week

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- ✓ Black bags collected monthly
- ✓ main depot in Nantycaws,
- ✓ energy Park in Nantycaws,
- ✓ Solar panel park in Nantycaws
- ✓ Residents to sort own rubbish – paper, metal, cardboard, etc.

Consideration needs to be given to all residents remembering storage of bin bags, moving heavy bags – elderly residents, also different areas, towns, rural communities, etc.

- Grasslands – CCC mowing less, to bring more wildlife to the areas – concerns about the area looking untidy and junctions – grass too long unable to see cars coming. Residents in Bron yr Inn have mowed the area themselves.
- Noticeboard Ysgol y Gwendraeth – keys have not been found. CCC will look to replace locks and Gorslas Community Council Clerk will up-date the information. Clerk to cost moving the noticeboard to a new location.

### **83.0 Agenda Item 5 Opportunity Public to Address the Meeting.**

- There were no members of the press or public present

**Resolved to:** Receive and note the position

### **84.0 Agenda Item 6: Corporate Matters.**

#### **84.1 Member Vacancies Cefneithin and Drefach Wards.**

- Drefach: No expressions of interest received in respect of either vacancy.
- Cefneithin: County Council Elections Officer advised of resignation of Cllr C Williams. Notice published and displayed in noticeboards.

**Resolved:** Members continue to seek to recruit representatives.

#### **84.2 Periodic Maintenance Agreement Carmarthenshire County Council**

Received – site meeting with CCC contractors to discuss agreement - 20/08/24. Document to be finalised by CCC, copy sent to all members of the Community Council and agreed to adopt.

**Resolved to:** Receive and adopt agreement

#### **84.3 Cilca**

- Membership of SLCC transferred to C Williams. CILCA – needs to be in post for 12 months. ILCA – can be done first – can register when in position 4 – 6mths.

**Resolved to:** clerk to register within the next 2 months

#### **84.4 Signage Parks – General**

**Designs approved and signs fitted in all three parks**

#### **84.5 Cefneithin Park/ car park + Drefach Park**

- Car Park Weed Removal + Removal of Ivy Play Area Wall and Front Boundary Wall, with repairs front boundary wall.
- Repaint the car parking bays, disabled, yellow hatched boxes + New walkway, walking person symbols, yellow hatched box, give way markings.

**Completed**

### **85.0 Agenda Item 7: Park Matters**

- CCTV cameras – Cefneithin and Drefach Parks – 2 cameras in Cefneithin Park + 1 in Drefach Park – water has entered camera unit – pictures provided are unclear. Awaiting recommendations from Dyfed Alarms.

Initial assessment by engineer – new cameras will be needed.

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## **Resolved to: wait for report from Dyfed Alarms discuss in next meeting**

- Gorslas Car park – less use over the school holidays due to car park not being available. Car park at the rear of the school has been open for users of the shop and park but very few have used it. CCTV cameras have been reconnected Wednesday 14/08/24 by Dyfed Alarms. TTS construction have completed the work in the main car park but need to complete the railings on the footpath.

### **Work completed early**

- Gorslas Park - Safety flooring under multi-play frame coming away from base – Sutcliffe representative site meeting acknowledged the problem.

### **Awaiting response.**

- Drainage Drefach Park – Drain Brynglas – hedge around the park needs to be cut which will be done beginning of September to allow access to the inspection points to check for blockages.
- Safety issues – main entrance Cefneithin Park – issues regarding main entrance and pedestrian safety – stone pillars create a blind spot for vehicles entering and exiting the car park. Quote from ACE Ltd – demolish pillars install new barrier gate. - £8980.00

## **86.0 Agenda Item 8: Urgent Local Issues.**

### **86.1 Drefach: Street Light Concerns – Heol Afallon**

- Following a communication from a resident to meet with a ward Cllr a site meeting took place on Friday 26.07.24 between the resident and Vice Chair of the Council Cllr K Jones.
- The concern related to a lighting issue resulting from the placement of a streetlight in proximity to the resident's property.
- Following concerns from the resident the County Council provided a shade to reduce the effect of the lighting on the resident's property and arranged for the light not to be on from 9.30p.m to 1.00a.m
- The resident is unhappy with the arrangement and has been in communication with the local County Councillor regarding the decision and a lack of consultation on the placement of the streetlight.
- Cllr Jones explained that the matter was outside the jurisdiction of the Community Council however he would seek to contact the County Cllr to convey his concern further and seek to hasten a response
- Further correspondence between Cllr K Jones + County Cllr A Vaughen – resident to place security lights in his property.

**Resolved:** Receive and Note

## **87.0 Agenda Item 9: Members Reports:**

### **87.1 Cllr. Chris Wilkins – One Voice Wales Carmarthenshire Area Committee Meeting**

On 17 th July 2024, Cllr Chris Wilkins attended the One Voice Wales Carmarthenshire Area Committee meeting on behalf of Gorslas Community Council and has summarised some of the main points of interest:

- **Member allowances no longer taxable.**
- **The new version of the Financial Regulations was due to be issued by the end of August.**
- **Numbers attending area committees across Wales are low. Member councils are encouraged to complete a survey that will be circulated shortly.**
- OVW are currently working on a few projects including:
  - Digitisation.
  - Cost of Living Crisis
- Training modules are generally well attended. There is a new Biodiversity training module and positive reviews of the Making Effective Grant Applications were given.

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Zoe Antrobus from 4theRegion gave an interesting presentation about how the organisation

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worked, the various initiatives and projects that it worked with and the range of organisations from the public and private sector that it was engaging with. Further information can be found on their website: *4theRegion | Regional Changemakers | SouthWest Wales*.

The main focus seems to be collaboration on various projects and themes such as the economy, transport and wellbeing. The representative of the Hywel Dda University Health Board Stakeholder Group provided a verbal update on the most recent meeting and summarised the main issues discussed:

- A closure programme for some of the existing buildings and the proposals for the new hospital in West Wales including the new healthcare models are being considered.
- There is an expectation that people will have to travel to receive healthcare.
- There will be growth in the provision of home-based self-testing and digital solutions.
- There will be some centralisation of specialist services, including the continuation of some relevant services at places outside of the Hywel Dda geographical area (as at present).
- There are significant funding challenges with no money currently earmarked by Welsh Government for a new hospital (estimated to be at least £1billion).

**Resolved:** Cllr C Wilkins was thanked for his report

## **87.2 CROSS HANDS HALL, CINEMA & COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Cllr. C Green declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the matter as an officer holder in the organisation and provided a summary of the current situation of Cross Hands Hall, Cinema & Community Centre.

- Trustees have decided that it is overdue to have the charity correctly registered with the Charity Commissioners. At present it is recorded as "Llannon & Llanarthney Community Centre". The title we want registered with the Charity Commissioners is that at the top of this message.
- The Go Fund Me Appeal at the time of writing stands at £3385 against a target of £10,000. We greatly appreciate the donations we have received from the local communities, but we recognise that there is a long way still to go.
- At the moment the Committee is made up of:  
Charity Officers - Chair, Treasurer & Manager  
Trustees - 5  
Members - 6
- In my opinion we could do with more 'Trustees'. If any councilors wish to put their name forward or knows of somebody local who would be interested, they should carefully read the "Charity trustees: what's involved (CC3a)" which can be seen on the Charity Commission website.
- On 28th September from 7pm there will be a "Variety Night" with tickets available from 28/8/24 at a cost of £10 per person.
- **Resolved to:** receive and note the position and thank Cllr C Green for the report.

## **88.0 Agenda Item 10: One Voice Wales**

### **88.1 On Voice Wales - Attendance by Members – the 6 Month Rule**

Copy available for members to read.

- If a member fails to attend a meeting during a six-month period, that member automatically ceases to be a member of the council, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the council before the end of the six-month period.
- If a councillor wants their absence from a meeting to be approved by the council, they should submit a written request together with the reason for absence before the meeting takes place.
- The Council should resolve and vote on the approval of absence.
- If a Member is ill, the Council can approve the absence without a written request. Apologies need not be submitted in writing, but the reason should be minuted. However, if the absence is to be formally approved, then this must be by way of an affirmative resolution.

**88.2 Keep Wales Tidy's Local Places for Nature scheme!** - Local Places for Nature is a Welsh Government grant scheme enabling areas of highest deprivation or those with least access to nature in

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Wales, such as urban communities, to restore and enhance their local nature. The funding is distributed to communities through partners including Keep Wales Tidy and National Lottery Heritage Fund.

**88.3 - Information from Save a Life Cymru/ Gwybodaeth gan Achub Bywyd Cymru** - Every year in Wales, over 6,000 people will have an out of hospital cardiac arrest. They often occur suddenly and without warning. Without early recognition and immediate action in the first few minutes of the cardiac arrest happening, death is likely. An out of hospital cardiac arrest is a term used for a cardiac arrest that happens suddenly when you are going about your day in your community, whilst at work, following your leisure activities or just relaxing at home. It can happen at any time and to anyone of any age - whether you're male or female, young or old. Chance of surviving an out of hospital cardiac will fall by 10% with every passing minute if somebody doesn't have a go at performing CPR and using a defibrillator.

**Resolved to:** Receive and note

**89.0 Correspondence**

**89.1 Accident Blaenhirwaun Rd Drefach** – referred to County Councillors. – covered by Cllr Aled Vaughen Owen.

**89.2 Amman Valley Hospital League of Friends** - Amman Valley Hospital Summer Fete - 6 July 2024 – email 19/8/24

**89.3 Hywel Dda engagement** - My Health, My Choice' Primary Care and Community Services engagement

Lansio ymgysylltiad 'Fy Iechyd, Fy Newis' Gwasanaethau Gofal Sylfaenol a Chymunedol

**Resolved to:** Receive and note.

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

**90.1 Training Courses.**

- Details of courses available forwarded to members. Interested parties to contact Chair and Clerk.
- Applications to join the Eden Project 'Introduction to Community Action' online course

**Resolved to:** Receive and note.

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

Consideration was given to the schedule of planning applications received since the last meeting

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

**92.0 Agenda Item 12 Finance.**

**Receipts/Payments Through Bank July and August**

**92.1 Income:**

From	Description	£
HMRC	VAT returns	1,878.63
Carms	Precept Inst 2	44,000.00

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

**92.2 Expenditure: July and August**

Chq No	Payee	Description	£
D/D	OVO Energy	Charge P Conv July	38.00
D/D	OVO Energy	Charge P Conv August	38.00
D/D	Three Network	Monthly Charge - July	21.31
D/D	Three Network	Monthly Charge – August	21.31
105342	Capel Seion Chapel	Donation	250.00
105345	Danfo UK Ltd	July Monthly Toilet and Litter Charge	1,488.00

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105346	Wrenvale N&L Ltd	July Monthly Grass Cutting Charge	1,286.40
105347	LI Thomas	July Wages/Travelling/Expenses	1,336.29
105348	Alan Williams	Dog Poo Signs Design Consult etc	1,740.00
105349	Sutcliffe Play SouthWest Ltd	Provision Spring Pirate Ship	234.66
105350	Menter Cwm Gwendraeth Elli	Translation services	289.00
105351	PTA Ysgol Cefneithin	Replacement cheque	200.00
105352	Carmarthenshire CC	Repair Manhole Gors Park	88.37
105353	LI Thomas	TSHost refund – website host	95.62
105354	GCC savings	Savings account	56,268.00
105355	C Williams	Wages July	1,019.75
105356	Wrenvale N&L Ltd	August Monthly Grass Cutting Charge	1,286.40
105357	Alan Williams	Design Fees Out of Order Sign Pirate Ship	120.00
105358	Alan Williams	Design Fees Temp Car Park Signs	60.00
105359	Alan Williams	Drefach Interpretation Panel Ad Work	250.00
105360	Alan Williams	Design Fees 18 Park Signs Part Payment 1	2,000.00
105361	Bowen & Buckland	Payroll May June July	97.20
105362	Gorslas Welfare Ass	Donation Gwyl Gorslas	250.00
105363	Bevan & Weaving Ltd	Printer cartridge	47.70
105364	Eifion Williams	Maintenance Cefneithin Park	480.00
105365	Alan Williams	Design Fees 18 Park Signs Part Payment 2	2,000.00
105366	Nolan Road Markings	Repaint the car parking bays, disabled, yellow hatched boxes, New walkway, walking person symbols, yellow hatched box	750.00
105367	C Williams	Wages August	1,497.56

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

### 91.3 Payment to be made

Ref	Payee	Description	£
D/D	OVO Energy	Monthly Charge P Conv - September	38.00
D/D	Three Network	Monthly Charge Sim September	21.31
Chq	Alan Williams	Design Fees 18 Park Signs Part Payment 3	2,300.00
Chq	Danfo UK Ltd	September Monthly Toilet and Litter Charge	1,488.00
Chq	Wrenvale N&L Ltd	September Monthly Grass Cutting Charge	1,286.40
Chq	Staff wages	September Wages	1,497.56
Chq	Ace Engineering	Back Panel MUGA Parc Cefneithin	750.00
Chq	Greenbarnes Ltd	Lock & keys – Foelgastell noticeboard	17.46
Chq	RedKite Locksmith	Replacing lock Foelgastell noticeboard	45.00

**Resolved:** Approve the payments subject to satisfactory services/goods being received.

### 91.4 Applications for Financial Assistance.

The Council has powers to provide assistance to organisation where it is of the view that there is a benefit to residents or the area which is commensurate with the amount awarded.

Cefneithin Rugby Juniors – support to take junior teams on tour to Spain and France

**Resolved to:** donate £200 to Cefneithin RFC Junior section in the memory of Barry and Alun John

**91.5 Finance: Audit Wales: Conclusion of 2022/23 Financial Year Audit.**

- The Audit has been completed with the Auditor General issuing an unqualified audit for the year with no issues which he was required to bring to the attention of the Council.
- In accordance with the requirements the Notice of Public Right to Inspect the Accounts has been placed in the relevant Noticeboards and on the Council's website together with the copy of the Annual Return.

**92.0 Agenda Item 14 next scheduled Meeting of the Full Council**

Next scheduled meeting of the Council 19.00hrs on 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2024 in Ysgol Gymunedol Gorslas

There being no further items of business the chair declared the meeting closed at 20.45hrs.