

CYNGOR CYMUNED GORSLAS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes December Ordinary Monthly Meeting held in Gorslas Welsh Primary School on the 13th of January 2025

130.0 Agenda item 1:

- **Present** – Cllrs N Beckett (Chair), K Jones (Vice-Chair), L Williams, M Gronow, E Goldsmith, A King, C Green, N Lewis S Martin, C Wilkins
- **Others present** – H Jones (translator) C Williams (Clerk), Cllr A Vaughan Owen
- **Apologies** Cllr C Douch, Cllr T Butler

Resolved to: note and accept apologies

131.0 General

- The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting wishes all a Happy New Year and declared the meeting open at 19hrs

Resolved to: proceed with business of the agenda

132.0 Agenda item 5 County Council update – Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen

Agenda item brought forward with agreement from the members

- 2025 – 26 financial year budget Carmarthen County Council proposed increase in Council Tax of 9.7%. Many cuts in various departments. The consultation period is to close on 26 January 2025. This week Councillors are discussing the budget. Members ask if 9.7% is an acceptable level remembering pensions are to be increased by 4.1% and CPI inflation rate is approximately 2%. Residents are looking to see if the County Council are giving value for money, and the County Council seems disenfranchised from the public. Over the years there have always been cuts without any extra money for organisations/ departments.
- Drefach Safe route to School work is coming to an end. The work around the school has been completed, work to be completed on -
 - St Mary's Street within 6 – 8 weeks
 - plateaus to be added to Heol Cwmmawr
 - Public lighting to Heol Blaenhirwaun
 - shelter outside Drefach School to be installed during half term.
 - Heol Caegwyn – widening footpaths will be completed in March 2025.

Member asked Cllr Vaughan Owen if relevant parties in the County Council know of the outline planning for the land behind Bron yr Ynn as it would not tie in with the Safe Routes to School scheme. Cllr A Vaughan Owen also confirmed that the land in question was outside the new Local Development Plan's limits, therefore, no developments would be possible.

- Old Gorslas School site – catering using the building the moment, concerns with the upkeep of the building and grounds. Plans for the site to be used by Flying Start / used as a family centre. Short term the site needs to be kept tidy
- Bridge near Plasbach, MaesyBont – Carmarthenshire County Council officers have inspected the bridge and there is no structural concern with the bridge. The taking part of the wall away has not affected the strength of the wall. As to the widening of the entrance Carmarthenshire County Council will look further into this.
- Refuse collection in the County. Rubbish was not collected in various areas over the Christmas period due to many different factors – illness, weather, staffing issues, etc. Workers are not contracted to work Bank Holidays, which added to the difficulties. Members show concern with regards to the blue bin bags which had been blown onto the roads and split rubbish bags causing rubbish to be left on the roads and pavements, and could a private contractor be used if there is an issue in the future.
- Bin rationalization. Carmarthenshire County Council are looking into removing some bins which are situated close to other bins. 1 in Gorslas Park, 1 in Drefach, 0 in Cefneithin.
- Car parking charges – car parking charges are to be increased. Members show concern that our towns are struggling and increasing the parking charges will not help the towns. AA research show people will pay for convenience of parking some cities charge £25 for parking and the car parks are full.
- Member question – GoSafe speed camera van in the local area regularly but in 30mph zone not 20mph zones. If a community wishes to change the speed limit back to 30mph is the consultation still open?

Signed

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Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen to check if consultation open.

133.0 Agenda item 2: Declaration of Interest

The following declaration of interests were made by members

Agenda item	Councillor	Nature of interest
143	Cllr K Jones	Personal – member of Tabernacl Chapel an organisation which would benefit from a decision.

- Cllr K Jones had a personal but not prejudicial interest in the grant application and abstained from voting.

Resolved to: note and record accordingly

134.0 Agenda item 3: Minutes of Previous Meetings

- The minutes of the ordinary December meeting held on 9th December 2024 were considered in detail by the members.

Resolved to: that the minutes be approved and confirmed as an accurate reflection and record of the discussions and decisions made.

135.0 Agenda item 4: Opportunity Public to Address the Meeting.

- No members of the public present and no requests to address the Council received.

Resolved to: note and record accordingly

136.0 Agenda item 6 Corporate matters

136.1 Member Vacancies Cefneithin and Drefach Wards.

- No expressions of interest received for Cefneithin Ward nor Drefach Ward.
- Schools have been emailed asking for suggestions of possible candidates

Resolved to: Members to think of ideas of how to generate interest also Clerk to push social media posts to create some interest

136.2 General update

- Gorslas School Management Agreement - Clerk has met with Governor responsible for the Management Agreement. Management agreement has been passed by the School Governors and is ready implemented.
- Management Agreement will be reviewed yearly with the headteacher and any recommendations considered. The agreement can be adapted to the needs of the Community and the School for both parties to work in partnership.

Resolved to: Clerk to seek previous versions of the Agreement and email copies to members.

- Gorslas Community Council Office - Governors are approaching the relevant department in Carmarthenshire County Council regarding drawing up a usage agreement for Gorslas Community Council office. Copy of the Usage Agreement has not been received yet.

Resolved to: receive and note the information

- Gorslas Toilets – Chip and pin locks - Quote received from Healthmatics – supply & install chip and pin locks on 4 doors - £6,335.00

Resolved to: defer to next meeting. Members to email clerk with their opinion.

- Gorslas School boundary fence - Boundary fence has been damaged by a car. Fence has been secured temporarily. The fence borders on the footpath which leads behind the school field. There is no barrier between the car park and the footpath.

Resolved to: receive and note information provided

- Vandalism Gorslas Park. Quotes for replacing the barrier have been sent to Police. 1 individual has accepted responsibility for his part in the incident. Police speaking to the parents of the other individuals in the New Year.

Resolved to: receive and note information provided

- Gorslas Toilet Block roof - Damage to the roof shop side hole in the corner.

Signed

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- TollBar Drefach – Slight damage to the roof – damaged slates and slates have moved in high winds. Water has not leaked into the Tollbar.

Resolved to: clerk to seek contractor to complete the work

- Bron yr Ynn - Streetlight outside 29 Bron yr Ynn not working. County Councillors have been notified by email.

Resolved to: receive and note

- Resident on Heol Cwmmawr contact the clerk regarding the trees on the site of Neuadd y Gwendraeth. During Storm Darragh parts the trees fell into the gardens of the houses along Heol Cwmmawr, and residents are concerned about the stability of the trees. County Councillors have been notified and Cllr A Vaughan Owen has contacted Carmarthenshire County Council regarding assessing the stability of the trees. Are the trees on the assessment list?

Resolved to: receive and note

- Car had been left in the layby for 2 weeks – Clerk emailed County Councillors and Police. Car has now been removed

Resolved to: receive and note

137.0 Agenda Item 7: Park Matters

- Maintenance work to begin in the parks – all weather dependant.

Resolve to: note and record accordingly

- Gorslas Park Safety flooring under multi-Play frame coming away from base - Sutcliffe have been contacted to seek explanation on why the existing surface was not removed. Sutcliffe stated their documents only state make good surfacing. They allowed for overlay to the existing bases which the council approved at the time if they had to remove all the rubber and install new rubber to these bases, there would not be enough money for any new play equipment in the park.

Resolved to: receive and note information and seek contractor to repair wetpour surface

138.0 Agenda Item 8: Members Reports:

- Cllr N Beckett provided a verbal report on clerk's performance review

Resolve to: receive and note the information provided and thank Cllr Beckett for his contribution.

139.0 Agenda Item 9: Consultation/Correspondence.

139.1 Correspondence

Ref	From	Advise of/or Provide Information Regarding
1	Headteacher Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Gorslas	In May this year, Gorslas School will be celebrating the school's centenary. As part of a year of celebrations, and to reflect our Welsh heritage, culture and tradition, they have adapted the official name of the school to Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Gorslas, meaning Gorslas Welsh Primary School.

Resolve to: Receive and note the information provided

140.0 Agenda Item 10 One Voice Wales.

140.1 Correspondence

Ref	From	Advise of/or Provide Information Regarding
1	One Voice Wales	Age Without Limits Day: Micro-grants for Age-friendly Communities // Diwrnod Heneiddio Heb Gyfyngiadau: Micro-grantiau ar gyfer Cymunedau sy'n Dda i Bobl Hŷn.

Resolve to: Receive and note the information provided

141.0 Agenda Item 11: Planning Matters/ Road Closures.

- 140.1 Planning Matters
- The following applications have been advised by the County Council

Signed 

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Ref	Type and Description	Location
PL/08710	Householder planning permission - Installation of a single storey modular extension to the rear of the property	57 Brynlluan, Gorslas, Llanelli, SA14 7HR
W/39381	Change of use to drive on residential land and to erect covered area over drive (car port with wooden uprights and polycarbonate sheeting or similar on roof) - Appeal	Land adjacent to 72 Heolu Parc Cefneithin, Llanelli, SA14 7DS

Resolve to: Receive and note the information provided

141.2 Road Closures

No notices of road closures have been received.

Resolve to: Receive and note the information provided

142.0 Agenda Item 12 Finance.

Receipts/Payments Through Bank December

142.1 Income:

- 20.12.24 - £44,000 – Precept

Resolve to: Receive and note the information provided

Expenditure: December

Date	Amount	Payment	Payee	Description
28 12 24	1,792.51	105415	Employee	December Wages and Backpay to April
18 12 24	38.00	D/D 02 OVO	Ovo Energy	P Conv Electricity Supply November
09 12 24	21.31	DD/04 Three	Three Mobile	Monthly Mobile Charge November
12 12 24	205.81	105407	Employee wages	back dated pay
12 12 24	1092.00	105408 - 105414	Councillors	members expenses

Resolve to: Note and approve the payments made

142.2 Payment to be made – December/ January

Payee	Description	£
OVO Energy – DD	Charge Electricity - P Conv Gorslas December	38.00
Three Network - DD	Monthly Charge - December	21.31
Wrenvale N & L Ltd	Monthly Grass Cutting Charge – December	1,286.40
Danfo UK Ltd	Monthly Toilet and Litter Charge - December	1,388.00
Employee	Wages – January	1,578.97
Wrenvale N + L Ltd	Trimming tree Parc Drefach	216.00
Wrenvale N + L Ltd	Remove fallen tree Parc Drefach	540.00
Wrenvale N + L Ltd	Trim hedge children's Play park – Parc Drefach	540.00
HMRC	Employer/EE - NI Contributions Qtr. 3	1,302.96
Carmarthenshire CC	Employer/ Pensions Qtr. 3	2,105.55
Carmarthenshire CC	Replacement of lanterns for 2025	2,356.06
Total		11,373.25

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

143.3 Applications for financial assistance/ Ceisiadau am gymorth ariannol

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.

- Capel Tabernacle Cefneithin

Resolve to: receive and approve to donate £250 to the organisation

Signed 

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143.4 Precept + Budget setting 2025 – 2026

The working group met on 25.11.24, and the budget has been revised following recommendations from the working group. Information from County Council has been received and used to prepare the budget for 2025 – 26. The council considered the prepared budget and precept for 2025 - 26 financial year and 2 subsequent financial years – 2026 – 27 and 2027 – 28. A copy of the revised budget was provided to members, with a precept report.

Resolved to:

- i) adopt and accept the working group in relation to 2025 – 26 financial year budgets and to set the precept for 2025 – 26 at £135894.
- ii) accept and adopt the budgets for the two subsequent financial years – 2026 – 27 and 2027 – 28.

144.0 Next Meeting/ Cyfarfod nesaf: 10.02.25 – Ysgol Gymunedol Gymraeg Gorslas.

Meeting closed 20.45hrs

Signed 

Date 10/02/25