

CYNGOR CYMUNED GORS-LAS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the July Ordinary Monthly meeting of the Gors-las Community Council

held at Ysgol Gynradd Gymunedol Gorslas on 8th July 2024, at 20:15 hrs.

67.0 Agenda Item 1: Record of those Present/Apologies

- Cllrs: N Beckett, (Chair) Simon Martin, Chris Wilkins, Clive Douch, Catrina Williams, Melody Gronow, Tina Butler and Clive Green.
- Others: Hefin Jones, Translator and Llew Thomas, Clerk to the Council.
- Apologies for absence: Cllrs. Linda Williams, Kevin Jones, Nia Lewis, Andrew King and Elinor Goldsmith.
- **Resolved to:** Record, note and approve the reasons for absence.

67.1 General.

- The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting which was declared open at 20:15hrs.
- **Resolved to:** Proceed with the order of business.

67.1 Agenda Item 2: Declaration of Interest

- There were no items where declarations of interest were stated.
- **Resolved to:** Note and record accordingly.

68.0 Agenda Item 3: Minutes of Previous Meeting.

- The minutes of the Additional May Meeting held on 08 05 24 and Ordinary June meeting of the Council held on 10 06 24 were considered in detail by members.
- **Resolved to:** Approve the minutes of the meetings held on 08 05.24 and 10.06 24 as being an accurate record of discussions and decisions made.

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

- No members of the public present and no requests to address the Council had been received.
- **Resolved to:** Receive and note the information provided.

70.0 Agenda Item 5: Corporate Matters.

70.1 Member Vacancies: Cefneithin and Drefach Wards.

- There had not been any expressions of interest received in respect of either vacancy.
- Cllr Catrina Williams offered to prepare and place a power point presentation regarding the Community Council on the Council's website/ Facebook page.
- **Resolved that:** Members continue to seek to recruit representatives.

70.2 Periodic Maintenance Agreement with Carmarthenshire County Council

- Confirmation had been received that the County Council were prepared to enter into a Maintenance Service Level Agreement with the Community Council covering the following areas.
 - (i) the bi-monthly greasing and lubrication of play equipment/fixtures and
 - (ii) bi – monthly minor maintenance works.
 - (iii) the cost excludes materials.
 - (iv) There be no such arrangement for the months of January and February.

- (v) The agreement to commence on 01 08 24 and end on 31 03 25.
- Cost £151 per month plus pay award.
- **Resolved:** That the agreement be entered into on the terms and conditions outlined.

70.3 Risk Park Users: Cefneithin Park and Play Area.

- During a visit to the park, it was identified that there were areas where action could be taken to reduce risks to park users. The areas where improvements could be made were:
 - (i) Park Car Park: Access directly from the park and footpaths.
 - (ii) Park: Access for unauthorised vehicles to the main grassed park area,
 - (iii) Park Car Park: Bay and safety markings eroded. A price of £625 ex Vat had been obtained for the work.
 - (iv) Pedestrian and vehicle access and egress through main park gate.
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) Marking of Car Park: That the price of £625 for undertaking the work be accepted and the work undertaken asap.
 - (ii) Park Car Park: That prices be obtained for the provision of safety barriers to prevent direct access to the car park together with appropriate, vehicle and pedestrian gates be sought as soon as possible.
 - (iii) That consideration and costings be obtained in the near future regarding the option of providing a separate main park access /egress point for pedestrians through the play area with appropriate fencing to maintain the separation of children’s play area from the areas accessible to general park users.
 - (iv) That, as the issues were safety related, standing orders be suspended in respect of this item and subject to consultation with all members of the Council and the approval to proceed of the majority the relevant officer be authorised to instruct that the works proceed as a matter of urgency.

70.4 New Park and Play Area Signs.

- In accordance with earlier discussions draft signage had been prepared streamlining the variety of different signs currently being used in the parks and play area had been prepared.
- The opportunity was also taken of also incorporating the recommendations of the Police and Play Industry Inspectors as well as the different issues and difficulties which the Council had experienced.
- The draft signage had been circulated to members prior to the meeting for their consideration.
- The Children’s Playground Signs would be placed at the pedestrian entrances to the play areas in each park giving a total of 7 signs.
- Satellite Signs would be placed at each official entrance to the park giving a total of 11 signs.
- The professional design fees, production, fitting and removal of the old signs would be included and represented a total cost of £6.300 as provided by the designer.
- **Resolved:** That as the issue was safety related an instruction be given to the contractor , A Williams Graphic Designer, to proceed with work as a matter of urgency.

70.5 Drainage:

70.5.1 Cefneithin Park Wooded Area.

- It was identified that the ditch running along the topmost boundary of the wooded area has become blocked and is preventing the water from being discharged. Accordingly excess water is running across the footpath and into the main wooded area which in turn makes the area very wet.
- **Resolved:** Subject to consultation with members the Clerk be authorised to engage a suitable contractor to clear out the ditch over the summer period in readiness for the Autumn.

70.5.2 Drefach Park.

- It has been identified that the existing boundary drain with the Brynglas Estate has become blocked and is not discharging water. It is maintained that the issue is causing issues for adjoining properties.
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) Subject to consultation with members the Clerk be authorised to engage a suitable contractor over the summer period to undertake exploratory work and
 - (ii) should that not prove successful to provide a suitable alternative drainage system.

70.5.3 Community Use of MUGA Gorslas School.

- The trial period for the use of the MUGA facility will finish at the end of the Summer school Term.
- The option exists of discussions with the school to make the facility available to the community for periods during the summer holidays.
- **Resolved:** That discussions take place with the school over the possibility of making the facility available to the community for 14 days during the summer holiday subject to finance being available

70.6 Maintenance: Gorslas P Convenience

- The following issues had arisen in relation to the operation of the public convenience. They were actioned by the Clerk due to health and safety obligations.
 - (i) Men’s Cubicle Cistern not filling. Repaired 17.06.24
 - (ii) Disabled Unit- Light not working. Repaired 19.06.24
 - (iii) Exterior Lights permanently on. Repaired 22. 06 24
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the actions taken.

70.7 General Update.

- An update was provided, and considered by members, in relation to progress made in implementing previous decisions of the Council.
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) Item 17: Signage Gwendraeth Hall. That the concern remains and that the local member had advised that finance to undertake the repair was not available.
 - (ii) Item 31: Gorslas School Crossing Patrol: That a request for an update to Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen’s email to County Council Officers regarding the provision of safety measures at the location be sent.

71.0 Agenda Item 6: Park Matters

71.1 Gorslas School: Dog Fouling.

- A report of an incident whereby the Headteacher had been required to clean parts of the school following an incident of dog mess being carried into the school had been received. It would appear that the incident of dog fouling had occurred on the school site itself near the main school entrance.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note.

71.2 Gorslas Park: Grass Cutting.

- Concerns were raised by members in relation to the fact that the grass in certain areas of the park had become very tall and had not been cut.
- The Clerk explained that there were different cutting regimes for different areas of the park. The area in question was due to be cut every month but on the second week of the month would only receive a cut of a 1mtr area from each footpath.
- The contractor had unfortunately mixed up the schedule which had resulted in two minor cuts of the grass instead of one full and one lesser cut. The area had since been cut with the Clerk had met with the operatives on site on 03 07 24 and re-stated the cutting regime at Gorslas.
- It was noted that the contractor had attended an event at Ysgol Gymunedol Gorslas with the schoolchildren to discuss a planting regime for the brick flower border in the park car park and had also provided an additional cut at Cefneithin Park to facilitate the school sports day without any additional charge to the Council.
- In relation to the cutting regime at Gorslas Park then the position would be monitored for July to ensure that the regime was working properly.
- **Resolved:** To note and approve the actions taken.

72.0 Agenda Item 7: Urgent Local Issues.

72.1 Temporary Road Closure C2066.

- Notification had been received from the County Council of the temporary closure of a stretch of the road from the junction with B4310.
- **Resolved:** Receive and note.

72.2 Noticeboard: Former Ysgol Y Gwendraeth.

- The issue was raised in relation to the fact that the noticeboard had not been used for some time with members noting the content was therefore out of date.
- The Clerk recalled that that the issue had been raised at the previous meeting of the Council. As the noticeboard was in the ownership of the County Council and on land which was in their ownership it had been resolved that the matter would be discussed with Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen. Due to interviewing of candidates prior to the July meeting of the Community Council Cllr Owen would attend the September meeting of the Community Council when the issue could be raised with him.

73.0 Agenda Item 8: Members Reports:

73.1 Cross Hands Hall and Cinema Trustees: Cllr Clive Green.

- An update was provided by Cllr Green of the current situation in relation to the Hall and Cinema. It was noteworthy that the funding appeal had now reached £2,800.
- It was pleasing to note that a new member had joined the Trustees and also that a Working Group had been established to help take the facility forward into the future.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

74.0 Agenda Item 9: Correspondence.

- A schedule of consultations and correspondence received since the June meeting was present to , and was considered by, members.
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and approve the information provided.

75.0 Agenda Item 10 One Voice Wales.

75.1 Training Courses.

- Details of courses available forwarded to members.
- **Resolved:** That any member wishing to follow a course contact the Chair and Clerk.

75.2 Bio Diversity Resource You Tube Video

- Noted that a new video and resource information had been launched relating to the matter.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note.

76.0 Agenda Item 11: Planning Matters.

- No notifications of applications in the area had been received from the County Council.
- **Resolved:** To receive and note the information provided.

77.0 Agenda Item 12 Finance.

77.1.1 Quarter 1 Financial Review 2024/25.

A. Budget Summary Qtr 1.

- An overview of budget performance for the quarter, and financial year, against actual and known commitments was provided and considered by members.
- Clarification was sought in relation to the areas of identified underspending.
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and to continue to monitor the position.

77.1.2 Qtr. 1 Financial Review: Individual Service Budget Detail.

B. Income

- Consideration and discussion took place in relation to the performance of the actual and projected income against budget for the quarter and the financial year.
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and to continue to monitor the position.

C. Expenditure.

- Consideration and discussion took place in relation to the performance of the actual and projected expenditure against budget for the quarter and the financial year.
- **Resolved:** To receive, note and to continue to monitor the position particularly in areas of projected underspend

77.1.3. Budget Virement.

- As part of the ongoing process of budgetary review it is advisable to consider virement of resources to and from existing budgets to reflect the current position. The following virements are proposed.

Budget	Opening Balance 24/25	Virement +/-	Reason	Revised Budget 24/25

Reserves - Commitments Previous Years	£ 14,863	-£1,560	Earmarked expenditure re litter pick TBM Jan – March 24 and accounted for in 23/24.	New Budget £11,338
		-£500	Relates to funds earmarked for for signage in 22/23 and accounted for in that year.	
		- £1,465	Relates to funds earmarked for for signage in 22/23 and accounted for in that year	
Other Budgets				
Parks Litter	£5,735	+£ 1,560	From Earmarked Reserves to pay 23/24 invoice from TBM	New Budget £ 7,295
Parks Larger Works	£ 9,370	+ £500	From Earmarked Reserves to Pay Signage invoice from A Williams	
Parks Larger Works		+£ 1,465	From Earmarked Reserves to Pay Signage invoice from A Williams	New Budget £ 11,335
Corporate Running Expenses	£11,010	-£ 605	Transfer out to P Conv Budget from funds not committed.	New Budget £ 10,405
P Convenience Minor Works	£550.	+ £ 605	Transfer from Corp Running Exp to meet excess unexpected cost of repairs	New Budget £ 1,155

- **Resolved: To approve and adopt the virements as detailed above.**

77.1.4 Reserves.

- Details of the amounts held in individual earmarked reserves and estimated operational reserves were provided for , and considered by members.
- **Resolved to:** Note and record the information provided.

77.1.5 Balances in the Bank.

- Information was provided in relation to the working balances held in the Council's bank accounts together with details of the amounts due, in respect of cheques issued but not cashed.
- **Resolved:**
 - (i) Transfer the Asset replacement opening balance amount of £56,268 from the current account to the Barclays Savings Account asap.
 - (ii) That in the Autumn the Working Group consider different options for increasing income from reserves.

77.2 Receipts/Payments Through Bank June

77.2.1 Income:

- Details of the income received during the month were provided and considered.
- **Resolved to:** Receive and note the information provided.

77.2.2 Expenditure:

- Details of the items of expenditure presented and paid by the bank for the month were considered.
- **Resolved to:** Receive and note the information provided.

77.3 Payment to be made July

- Details of payments scheduled for the month were provided and considered.
- **Resolved to:** Approve the payments subject to satisfactory services/goods being received.

78.0 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.

78.1 Capel Seion Drefach – Contribution towards Replacement Boiler/ Heating system.

- An application for financial assistance has been received towards the cost of a replacement boiler and associated heating system at the Chapel. The scheme has a total cost of almost £12,000.
- Members considered the application very carefully and assessed the request against their power and duties regarding the making of donations.
- **Resolved that:** On this occasion regrettably the Council would not be making a financial contribution.

79.0 Agenda Item 13 Next Meeting:

- Next meeting scheduled for Monday 09.09.24. Venue to be determined.
- There being no further items of business the Chair thanked members for their attendance and work during the year. As there were no meetings scheduled for the summer recess, he wished them a happy and relaxing summer break.
- The meeting was closed at 21:20hrs.