CYNGOR CYMUNED YSTALYFERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held online via GoTo Meeting on 18th June 2020

Present

Cllr. Ann Lewis (Chair) Cllrs. Rosalyn Davies, Tristian Lewis, Julie Jones, Rhian Llewelyn, Cathy James, Terry Flynn, Alun Llewelyn, Emyr Wyn Williams, Geraint Williams

Apologies

Name	**Reason**	**Other Absence:**	
Cllr. Ann Jenkins	Unable to get online	Cllr. Bryan Lewis	Leave of Absence
Cllr. Simon Prothero	Working		
Cllr. Arwel Hughes	Working		
Cllr. Brian Hastie	Working		

		ACTION
4380.	**Welcome and late Apologies** Chair welcomed all to the meeting. No late apologies. Resolved.	
4381.	**Minutes of previous meeting: All Agreed - Resolved.** Following on from minute 4376, finance, Clerk reported that the insurance had now been taken out with Pen (AXA) as agreed by councillors via email: Premium £1,777.01 for one year's cover. Resolved noted. Following on from minute 4379, correspondence, Clerk reported the 'dog fouling / dogs on leads' signs have been delivered and are ready for installation. Resolved noted.	Clerk to arrange installation.
4382.	**Covid-19 Situation Update** Cllr A. Llewelyn reported the following: • **Overall situation in Wales:** In Wales as at 18.06.20 there have been 12,846 recorded cases and 1,247 deaths. True figures are likely to be much higher (WG/PHW). 144,141 tests conducted thus far. Well publicised issues of testing / PPE especially in care homes. National track and trace system launched in Wales; progress is at early stage. Welsh law/Covid regulations apply. Welsh Government message is Stay Local, with some relaxations on exercise etc. Further changes expected in Welsh Government announcement on 19.06.20. Full Welsh regulations on Welsh Government website and Facebook pages. National policy to re-open schools in Wales 29.06.20. • **Neath Port Talbot:** Daily updates on Council website npt.gov.uk and Facebook page. Most office-based workers are still working from home. Front line services are continuing, but with some disruptions. Concentration on essential services e.g. refuse collection, home care, social services, road repairs at this time. Bulky waste collections resumed	Cllrs to keep everyone updated as and when more information becomes available.

with online booking. Cwmtwrch (Gurnos) household waste & recycling centre was re-opened by Powys 28.05.20. Important to read restrictions before visiting. No pre booking at this site. Schools due to re-open 29.06.20 with a mix of class and remote learning, to be developed further from September. Intensive preparation needed. Additional provision still available for key workers children. Free school meal allowance introduced and Welsh Government already committed to continue over the summer. 'Safe and Well' scheme providing support for vulnerable people (access through 01639 686868). Priority for residents who have to 'shield'. A leaflet has been sent out to every house. Food packages likely to be phased out, with emphasis instead on using local services.

- **Local Voluntary Activities:**
  Many local people volunteering or acting as good neighbours. Ystradgynlais Volunteer centre (based at old Remploy factory, Glanrhyd) working cross-boundary supporting several individuals in Ystalyfera, Godre'r Graig, Cwmtwrch, and also co-operating with Ystalyfera Development Trust. Good basis for future cross boundary working. Ystalyfera Food Bank has extended opening hours. Local Facebook pages have been good for sharing information including new informative page 'Ystalyfera and Ystradgynlais Covid-19 Aid Group'.
- **Local shops and businesses:**
  These have been invaluable. Ystalyfera and surrounding area have benefitted from having a range of shops open during this period for food and other items. We have three larger stores Tesco, Asda and Home Bargains. Smaller shops like Premier/Post Office have been essential, particularly in carrying out deliveries. Butcher and several takeaways have now re-opened. Reasonable access to shops in Pontardawe and Ystradgynlais. Repair garages and petrol stations mainly remained open throughout lockdown. More local shops likely to re-open when allowed by Welsh Government in near future. Pubs/clubs also making preparations for re-opening but there is an uncertain timescale with regards to this. A number of businesses have received short term financial support but there is still great pressure on them. Community Council's Business Forum page has continued to share information about local businesses. This may be way of promoting local businesses beyond the Covid-19 period.
- **Community Council:**
  Clerk has kept all members well-informed of council activities and decisions.
- **Foodbank:**
  Chair, Cllrs C. James and J. Jones reported that the Ystalyfera Foodbank is doing very well. They have received £500 funding from Tesco, Pontardawe and are expecting a £200 grant from Dwr Cymru to come through shortly. Tesco Pontardawe also give their left-over stock to the foodbank weekly. Opening hours/days have now changed to Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Cllr J. Jones reported that she will be carrying out a 20-mile sponsored walk to

	raise further funds for the foodbank. Cllr C James reported that in the 8 weeks up to 10th June 2020, the foodbank had given out 111 parcels to help 313 people (174 adults and 139 children). This equates to helping 55 individual households and over 3,000 individual items have been distributed. Chair reported that volunteers are doing very well but that some must go back to work soon. Some new volunteers have been recruited. She gave thanks to Cllr B. Hastie for his hard work on this project. Members were very pleased with the news and thanked all of the Councillors and volunteers involved. Resolved noted.	
4383.	**Planters & Overgrowth** • Cllr R. Davies reported that Tim Ambler has now planted the Dram on Gas Hill and the planter next to Carreg Yr Afon Park with flowers. Councillors were pleased with this news. Resolved noted. • Chair reported that the flowers in the troughs and on lamp-posts in Ystalyfera are growing well. Resolved noted. • Cllr G. Williams reported that all planters in Godre'r Graig, Pantteg and Ystalyfera have now been re-planted with Summer flowers by Quids In. Resolved noted. • Cllr E.W. Williams reported that the recess on Graig Road, Godre'r Graig (where the community council have placed a planter) needs clearing as it is overgrown. All agreed that Clerk contact Andrew to clear this small area. It was reported that there used to be a concrete base in the recess as there was a telephone exchange box there as well as a bench seat. It was suggested that Clerk get quotes for a new concrete base / hard standing. Resolved noted. • Cllr E.W. Williams also reported that he had received complaints from local residents that the pavements at the top of Graig Road, Godre'r Graig were currently unusable due to the overgrowth and brambles. The public footpath and steps near Owen's Lane (next to the Church grounds) is also completely inaccessible due to brambles and overgrowth. Cllr R. Davies will report these matters to NPTCBC. Resolved noted. • Clerk reported that Amberol had sent out the incorrect lamp-post planter and invoiced incorrectly. Amberol apologised for their mistake. Approx. £30 extra will need to be paid for the correct planters. All agreed to pay the extra in order to receive the correct planter. Resolved noted.	Clerk to liaise with Andrew & get quotes. Cllr R. Davies to report matters to NPTCBC. Clerk to liaise with Amberol.
4384.	**Project Group** **Outdoor Gym** • Clerk reported that she managed to get a discount on the Ystalyfera Gym: down from £7,335.00 to £5,515.50 including installation, delivery, grass-matting and equipment. £9,436.00 was received from the National Lottery Community Fund for this project. Resolved that the remainder of the lottery funding (£3,920.50) will be put towards the Godre'r Graig site once it is ready.	Clerk to liaise with Sunshine Gym.

	Heritage Walk Project • Clerk reported that Godre'r Graig School have responded positively to the proposed project. She is yet to receive a response from Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera. Resolved noted. **Ffynnon Cwmtwrch** • Clerk reported that Gary the wood-carver has sent photos of options for the wood carving at the Ffynnon. Clerk will forward photos to councillors and will get costs from Gary as soon as councillors select their preferred options. Resolved noted. **Gnoll Road Park Fencing** • Clerk reported that she had received one quote for the fencing thus far from Glantawe Landscapes, £1,160.00. Clerk will obtain further quotes before a decision is made. Resolved noted. **Bollards at Godre'r Graig Park** • Clerk reported that she had spoken to Andrew regarding the bollards. He suggested that metal bollards would be a better solution than concrete. He will look into this further and come up with a plan and costings for works. Resolved noted. **Godre'r Graig Park** • It was suggested that Godre'r Graig Country Park be re-opened for local resident's exercise purposes. Clerk stated that she will make signs to reinforce the social distancing message. All agreed that the park be re-opened. Resolved noted. **Christmas 2020** • Clerk reported that she had spoken to Anthony Gough, Centregreat and he stated that he hopes that the works to the electrics for the Christmas tree at Ystalyfera RFC will be completed at the end of July. Councillors were pleased with this news. Resolved noted. **Carreg Yr Afon Park** • Cllr T. Flynn reported that once playgrounds are re-opened that a handyman will be needed to open the gate of the playground as it is currently jammed shut. Resolved noted.	Clerk to liaise with Cllrs and Gary. Clerk to obtain quotes for fencing. Clerk to liaise with Andrew. Clerk to liaise with Andrew re: re-opening park. Clerk to liaise with Anthony. Clerk to liaise with handyman.
4385.	**Finance & Annual Return** • Clerk stated that the internal audit had been completed by Fergusons & Peters Accountants. Clerk presented Annual Return to council and explained variances. Annual Return approved by council and signed by RFO (Clerk) and Chair immediately following the meeting. Resolved.	Clerk to prepare documents for external audit.

	Accounts: Resolved. DD 025 NPTCBC (Community Hall Council Tax) £273.00 DD 026 Survey Monkey £29.17 BACS 027 SSE (Ystalyfera MUGA) £128.99 BACS 028 SSE (Community Hall) £118.96 BACS 029 Came & Company (Council Insurance) £1,777.01 BACS 030 Amberol (Flower Basket) £77.40 BACS 031 Fergusons & Peters (Internal Audit) £720.00 BACS 032 Glantawe Landscapes (Flowers Ystalyfera) £700.00 BACS 033 Glantawe Landscapes (Watering) £300.00 BACS 034 SSE (Godre'r Graig MUGA) £129.17 BACS 035 Glantawe Landscapes (Grasscutting) £625.00 BACS 036 Viking Office Depot (Stamps, Router etc.) £119.10 Transfer from Business Account 121 to Current Account: £ Resolved.	Clerk to make BACS payments.
4386.	**Planning** Cllrs A. Llewelyn and R. Davies declared an interest and left the meeting. Resolved • P2020/0478 – Retention of change of use of former doctor's surgery (use class D1) to hairdressing salon (use class A1) – 1 Wern Road, Ystalyfera SA9 2LX. No objection: Resolved.	Clerk to send responses to NPTCBC.
4387.	**Community Hall** • Clerk reported that Huw, the plumber, will be working on the pipework in the main hall on Monday 22nd June 2020. Caretaker will open the hall for access. Huw will also look at the blocked toilet in the Ladies. Resolved noted. • Clerk reported that she had spoken to Rebecca, Tai Tarian Community Challenge project, and she discovered that the flooring (paid for by Tai Tarian) that has been ordered for the main hall is for carpet tiles. Members were grateful to Tai Tarian for their contribution but would like to pay the difference of £1,773.72 in order to have the LVT flooring fitted, as it is more durable than carpet tiles and more suitable for the main hall as it can be washed. All agreed that the difference be paid and that this work be done as soon possible before the hall re-opens. Resolved noted. • Clerk reported that the caretaker has been running the taps in the toilets and kitchen sinks every week and flushing all toilets. Members stated that this should meet our obligation as to water safety before re-opening. Resolved noted. • Clerk reported that she had received an email from Weight Watchers asking if the council would be happy for them to start sessions as of 5th July 2020 on a one-in-one-out basis. Members were happy with this as long as Welsh Government Guidelines allow for this and that social distancing rules are followed. Resolved noted. • It was suggested that the rent for Weight Watchers be set at £15 per session in line with other hall users' payments. It was suggested that a full rent review be carried out before the next financial year. All agreed – Resolved.	Clerk to liaise with flooring company. Clerk to liaise with Weight Watchers.

4388.	**Correspondence** • Phone-call from resident of Ynysydarren Road, Ystalyfera complaining about the trees on the Community Hall land. He stated that twigs and branches were falling from the trees and damaging his car. Clerk put out a tender for tree works at the site. 3 tenders received (including cutting 5 Ash trees and 2 Alders as well as traffic management and waste removal): Tenderleaf Ltd: £1,680.00 + VAT Glantawe Landscapes Ltd: £1,250.00 The Arb team: £1,400.00 + VAT Members decided that the tender be awarded to Glantawe Landscapes Ltd. Cllr E.W. Williams reported that some of the trees on the opposite side of the car park also need work. Cllr T. Flynn proposed that any other urgent works to the trees required be arranged by the Clerk at her discretion to avoid any accidents or damage to properties. <u>All agreed</u> that decisions regarding tree cutting due to urgent safety reasons be delegated to Clerk. <u>Resolved</u>. • Cllr R. Llewelyn received a request from a resident of Ynysydarren Road, Ystalyfera asking as to whether or not he would be permitted to park his Campervan in the Community Hall Car Park. Members discussed this matter. Concerns were raised as to whether or not this would set a precedent to other vehicle owners in the area. Members were concerned that allowing one local resident to do this would be opening the floodgates for others to follow suit. It was stated that the Community Hall Car Park is only for Community Hall users. The matter was put to a vote and the majority voted not to allow residents parking in the car park. <u>Resolved.</u>	Clerk to inform companies of decision. Clerk to write letter to resident.
	The next meeting of council will take place online via GoTo Meeting at 7:00pm on 16th July 2020.	