CYNGOR CYMUNED YSTALYFERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held online via GoTo Meeting on 21st May 2020

Present

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

Apologies

Name	**Reason**	**Other Absence:**	
Cllr. Ann Jenkins	Sickness	Cllr. Bryan Lewis	Leave of Absence
Cllr. Simon Prothero	Working		
Cllr. Arwel Hughes	Working		

		ACTION
4371.	**Welcome and late Apologies** Chair welcomed all to the meeting and explained how the online meeting would be conducted. No late apologies. Resolved.	
4372.	**Minutes of previous meeting: All Agreed - Resolved.** **Summary of decisions made via email: All Agreed - Resolved.** Cllrs A. Llewelyn, J. Jones and R. Davies declared an interest in this matter due to their roles as school governors. Following on from minute 4356, Clerk reported that she had received email correspondence from Mrs J. Davies regarding the proposed 3G pitch, Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera playing fields. She had suggested that there be a public meeting regarding the proposed project. Members stated that this would not be possible at this time due to Covid-19 restrictions and the fact that plans for the project have not been received by council. Resolved noted. Following on from minute 4358, Cllr R. Davies reported that the report regarding the quarry tip affecting Godre'r Graig School had been shared with Tegwch. She explained that the report states that there is still a medium risk. There is some good news in the report as it states that no surrounding houses would be affected by this risk. The school is still being maintained. Resolved noted. Following on from minute 4368, grass-cutting, Clerk reported that two cuts have already taken place. Andrew also contacted Clerk to state that Gnoll Road Playground was full of horse manure. He reported that there is a gap in the fence and the horses are coming through. All agreed that the fence should be fixed. Members suggested that the Clerk write to the owner of the horses to ensure that they do not enter the park once the fence is fixed and to explain that they will be charged repair costs if the new fence is broken by the horses. Resolved noted. Cllr A. Llewelyn reported that he had spoken to NPTCBC and they stated that as the community council are no longer using their grass-cutting team, then they are unsure if the Ystayfera MUGA will still be swept. Unbeknownst to the community council, this was previously done as a favour due to the grass-cutting contract. Councillors	Clerk to draft response in conjunction with Chair and send to Mrs Davies. Cllr R. Davies to forward report to councillors. Clerk to contact owner of horses and obtain quote for fixing fence. Clerk to arrange a check of the

	suggested that the MUGA be checked and cleaned before re-opening the facility - Resolved. It was stated that Ynysmeudwy FC are responsible for cleaning the MUGA on their grounds. Resolved noted.	site before re-opening.
4373.	**Covid-19 Situation Update** Cllr A. Llewelyn reported the following: • **Overall situation in Wales.** In Wales as at 21.05.20 there have been 12,846 recorded cases and 1,247 deaths. True figures likely to be much higher (WG/PHW). 65,230 tests conducted. Well publicised issues on lack of testing / PPE especially in care homes. There are plans for a track and trace system. Welsh law/Covid regulations now apply. Welsh Government message is still 'Stay Home', with some relaxations on exercise etc. Full Welsh regulations available on WG website and Facebook pages. Increased penalties from this week for breaches e.g. excessive travelling. Some issues locally e.g. holiday homes being visited by people from outside the area, parties etc. • **Neath Port Talbot** Daily updates available on Council website npt.gov.uk and Facebook page. Most office-based workers working from home. Front line services continuing, but some disruptions. Concentration on essential services e.g. refuse collection, home care, social services, road repairs. Bulky waste collections resumed - online booking. Powys County Council are re-opening Cwmtwrch household waste & recycling centre on 28.05.20. It is important to read restrictions before visiting. Schools remain open for children of key workers/at risk. Ystalyfera is hub school for Swansea Valley. Other pupils being set work by teachers through hwb via *MS Teams*. Free school meal allowance introduced. Schools in Wales will not be opening on 01.06.20 and further decisions needed by Welsh Government. *Safe and Well* scheme providing support for vulnerable people (access through 01639 686868) including food packages. Priority for residents who must shield. Leaflet sent to every house. • **Local Voluntary Activties.** Many local people are 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 co-operating with Ystalyfera Development Trust. Cllr A. Llewelyn stated that this may be a good basis for future cross boundary working. Ystalyfera Food Bank opened – partnership with Catch and YDT, supported by Ystalyfera Community Council. Local Facebook pages have been good for sharing information including new informative page *Ystalyfera and Ystradgynlais Covid-19 Aid Group*. • Cllr B Hastie reported that he is delighted with the way the new foodbank is being run and gave thanks to the councillors who are volunteering for doing a fantastic job. He reported that grants from various sources have been accessed which has helped replenish stocks of food. He asked members to please spread the word and	Cllrs to keep everyone updated as and when more information becomes available.

	refer to the foodbank anyone who may be struggling to purchase food at this time. Resolved noted.	
4374.	**Planters** • Cllr G. Williams reported that he had spoken to Lee (Quids In) and he stated that the Nursery is still open at the moment. Lee is hoping to be able to put new plants in the planters and troughs over the coming weeks. Members were pleased with this news. Resolved noted. • Clerk reported that she had received a quote from Glantawe Landscapes for filling the lamp-post planters and troughs opposite cenotaph with flowers as well as the planter on the corner of Alltygrug Road. Planting: £700.00 (£130.40 cheaper than last year). Watering Programme £1,600.00. All agreed that the planting be carried out asap. Members wanted clarification as to the length of the proposed watering programme before making a decision on this. Councillors agreed to make the decision via email once terms are known. Resolved noted. • Cllr R. Davies suggested that she contact Tim Ambler regarding the Dram on Gas Hill. Councillors would be prepared to provide flowers for the Dram if needed. Resolved noted. • Cllr E.W. Williams suggested purchasing a new lamp-post basket for Ystalyfera as one is missing. Clerk will check whether or not this will be possible under the current circumstances. If possible, she will order. Resolved noted.	Cllr G. Williams to liaise with Lee. Clerk to liaise with Andrew. Clerk to collate email decisions. Cllr R. Davies to contact T. Ambler. Clerk to contact Amberol.
4375.	**Project Group** **Outdoor Gym** • Clerk reported that the lottery funds for the outdoor gyms still hasn't been spent due to the delay with the Godre'r Graig site. As the issues with site visits/lease of land from NPTCBC for the Godre'r Graig site is currently on hold due to Covid-19, it was suggested that it may be possible to push on with the Ystalyfera site for the time being. Members were in favour of this. Clerk received correspondence from Sunshine Gym and they have given a quote for doing the Ystalyfera Gym only at this time: £7,335.00 including installation, delivery, grass-matting and equipment. £9,436.00 was received from the National Lottery Community Fund for this project. The remainder of the lottery funding could be put towards the Godre'r Graig site once it is ready. All agreed to proceed with Ystalyfera project. Resolved noted. **Heritage Walk Project** • Cllr G. Williams reported that he had met with representatives from the National Lottery Heritage Fund in March, before lockdown. He said that the meeting had been very informative and the representative seemed very keen on the proposed Heritage Walk project over the old landslip area at Pentalwn, Godre'r Graig. They would be able to provide funding of between £5,000 - £10,000 for the signage needed etc. The representative stated that	Clerk to liaise with Sunshine Gym. Clerk to contact schools.

	community involvement would be key to securing funding. It was suggested that Godre'r Graig School and Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera be involved in the project. Cllr T. Lewis stated that it would fit into the school curriculum well - <u>All agreed</u>. Cllr R. Davies suggested that members collate photos they have in order to prepare some of the information required for the signage. <u>Resolved noted.</u> **Ffynnon Cwmtwrch** • Clerk reported that she had spoken to Gary the wood-carver and he suggested making a bench out of the old oak tree trunk with a carving on the back of the bench with the story of the Ffynnon. The bench would be very heavy and would need a truck to move it, but he said that he could carve the bench in situ at the site. Gary also stated that if there was enough wood left that he may be able to make a picnic-style round table with some round wooden stools. This could then be used for people to have a picnic at the Ffynnon. <u>All agreed</u> that these were excellent ideas. Clerk will get works estimate from Gary. <u>Resolved noted.</u> **Godre'r Graig Park** • Cllr G. Williams reported that he had spoken to Mr S. Mattick. Mr Mattick reported that the fence at the entrance to Godre'r Graig Park had again been damaged. Members agreed that quotes should be obtained to fix this and the bill sent to the culprit. Cllr R. Davies reported that car tyres had recently been dumped there. <u>Resolved</u> noted. • Clerk obtained prices for bollards for the land at the entrance to the park: *Bollards Direct:* Cube bollard (W660mmxH670mm): £350.67 + VAT Round Concrete bollard (W270mmxH670mm): £63.99 + VAT *Workplace Depot:* Commercial Steel Bollards: £140.14 + VAT *Barriers Direct:* Heavy Duty Round Telescopic bollard (850mm high): £643.61 +VAT <u>All agreed</u> that advice be sought by installer but that the Round Concrete bollards with one telescopic bollard be the preferred option due to cost. <u>Resolved</u> noted.	Clerk to liaise with Gary. Clerk to get quotes. Clerk to liaise with installer.
4376.	**Finance** • Clerk stated that the internal audit had been completed by Fergusons & Peters Accountants. Report states that everything is in order. Annual Return will be approved at the June meeting of council. <u>Resolved noted</u>. • Clerk reported that the council's insurance is due for renewal. She has reviewed the previous policy and made amendments to valuations (playground equipment was undervalued) and is	Clerk to prepare documents for external audit. Clerk to liaise with insurers.

	awaiting 3 quotes. <u>All agreed</u> that once quotes are received, decision will be agreed by members via email. <u>Resolved noted</u>. • Clerk reported that the council mobile is due for upgrade. Carphone Warehouse's recommendation £34 over two years (instead of three) would equate to a saving of approx. £75 over the life of the contract. <u>All agreed</u> to proceed - <u>Resolved.</u> **Accounts:** <u>Resolved.</u> DD 001 NPTCBC (Hall Council Tax) £271.50 DD 002 Survey Monkey £29.17 BACS 003 BT Payphone (Community Hall) £133.32 BACS 004 YDT (Grant for Ystalyfera Foodbank) £200.00 BACS 005&6 Staff Wages & Expenses £1929.42 BACS 008 City & County Swansea Pensions £431.43 BACS 009 BT Broadband (Community Hall) £74.16 BACS 010 Viking (Vacuum & Feather Duster) £227.51 BACS 011 Viking (Inks) £19.04 DD 012 Vodafone (Mobile) £25.16 DD 013 NPTCBC (Hall Council Tax) £273.00 DD 014 Survey Monkey £29.17 BACS 015 Glantawe Landscapes (Oak removal Ffynnon) £1650.00 BACS 016 Glantawe Landscapes (Grounds Maintenance 1) £625.00 BACS 017 Viking (Dustbuster) £47.08 CHQ 018 Crynant Landscapes (Ffynnon) £110.00 BACS 019&20 Staff Wages& Expenses £1943.21 BACS 021 HMRC Tax & NI £164.07 BACS 022 City & County Swansea Pensions £431.43 BACS 023 BT Broadband (Community Hall) £74.16 BACS 024 Vodafone (Mobile) £25.16 Transfer from Business Account 121 to Current Account: £7,000.00 <u>Resolved.</u>	Clerk to liaise with Carphone Warehouse. Clerk to make BACS payments.
4377.	**Planning** Cllrs A. Llewelyn J. Jones and R. Davies declared an interest and left the meeting. <u>Resolved</u> • P2020/0309 – Lawful development certificate for motorcycle racing – The Patches, Rhiwfawr Road, Cwmtwrch SA9 2QT. It was stated that the events will be run over 14 days per calendar year. Members were concerned as to the noise the events would create and that people may use it when not being used as an event circuit. It was stated that the cemetery has now been fenced-off and that people can no longer walk through onto The Patches. Members would like to have their concerns regarding possible noise pollution noted. <u>Resolved.</u> • P2020/0370 – Retention of garage conversion – 5 Ffordd Danygraig, Godre'r Graig SA9 2BH. No objection: <u>Resolved.</u> • P2020/0355 – 2 storey rear extension – 4 Tanydarren, Cilmaengwyn SA8 4QT. No objection: <u>Resolved.</u> • P2020/0415 – 2 storey school building and associated works – Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera, Ystalyfera SA9 2JJ. Members noted that	Clerk to send responses to NPTCBC.

	the plans for a 3G pitch on the school playing fields was not included in this planning application. No objection: Resolved.	
4378.	**Community Hall** • Clerk reported that the Tai Tarian Community Challenge project is currently on hold but the flooring company want to lay the flooring now. All agreed that this be done as soon as the pipework is rerouted. Resolved noted. • Clerk reported that the vacuum, dust buster and feather duster have arrived. Caretaker is currently completing deep-clean. Resolved noted.	Clerk to arrange with plumber and flooring company.
4379.	**Correspondence** • NPTCBC: Response re: Flooding on Farteg Road. Members happy with response. Cllr A. Llewelyn stated that the land has now been purchased and a bid for funding from Welsh Government to complete works on the culvert has been approved. Works are scheduled to begin at end of June 2020. Resolved noted. • Independent Remuneration Panel: Non-compliance letter. Clerk has now sent applicable forms. Resolved noted. • SuDS: Letter informing of amendments to legislation. Resolved noted. • Ystalyfera RFC: Application for funding. This to be considered in July meeting. Resolved noted. • C. Gordon: Dogs off leads at the Ffynnon. All agreed that bilingual signs be ordered to place at the Ffynnon and Pentalwn stating that all dogs should be kept on leads and any dog mess should be cleaned up. Resolved noted.	Clerk to order signage.
	The next meeting of council will take place online via GoTo Meeting at 7:00pm on 18th June 2020.	