CYNGOR CYMUNED YSTALYFERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held online via MS Teams on

19th November 2020

Present

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

Apologies

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

		ACTION
4428.	**Welcome and late Apologies** Vice-Chair welcomed all to the meeting. No late apologies. Resolved.	
4429.	**Forest Schools: Holli Yeoman & Lisa Williams** Holli and Lisa attended the meeting to give an overview of the work done by Forest Schools. They have been a charity for 20 years and were set up to work in Swansea and Neath Port Talbot to bring together nature and education. Holli and Lisa explained that outdoor learning is of great benefit to both children and adults, the history of which comes from Scandinavia. Chair explained that she had experienced this on her visit to Finland with the school and it was a very beneficial way of learning. Cllr R. Llewelyn also echoed these comments. Getting out of the classroom and into a park or the woods is an excellent way to learn new skills and experience nature whilst learning. They explained that the Riverside Centre in Glanrhyd industrial estate is already part of this project. Holli and Lisa thought that Godre'r Graig Country Park would be an ideal location to run a Forest School. Holli and Lisa explained that the sessions could be curriculum focused or 'free play' sessions which gives children freedom to explore in a safe structured environment. For young children, activities could include singing, storytelling, puppets, crafts, snack-making, mud kitchen etc. For older children, activities would include den-making, crafts, biodiversity projects etc. All of this teaches the children to look after the spaces they are in and use. The sessions can be run as school-sessions where children would leave the classroom and spend the morning or afternoon in the park, or they can be run as after school sessions and holiday clubs. It would mean that 'leaders/instructors' would need to be trained to hold the sessions. This could be teachers, volunteers, or parents. The training lasts 3 days and a Level 2 Outdoor Practitioner qualification is awarded at the end of the training. Cllr E.W. Williams stated that a neighbour of his may already be	Clerk to liaise with Holli and Lisa and arrange a Project group meeting for the new year.

	qualified in this. He will find out. Holli and Lisa said that the head of Godre'r Graig School is very keen on this type of learning and is supportive of the project. Members were very excited by this potential project and asked what extra facilities would be needed in the park in order to meet Forest School's criteria. Toilets, a shed for storage and play equipment would be needed as well as lots of craft supplies etc. Holli explained that some funding could be available to cover some of these costs. Toilets would be the main potential issue but perhaps porta-loo toilets may be sufficient. Resolved that this project be spoken about in more detail during the next Project Group meeting and items/equipment/toilets costed.	
4430.	**Minutes of previous meeting: All agreed- Resolved.** Following on from minute 4417, Clerk reported that she has completed the Kiosk Purchase form and is awaiting further details from BT. Resolved noted. Following on from minute 4427, Godre'r Graig School, Cllrs G. Williams (Tegwch), E.W. Williams (Tegwch) and R Davies (School Governor) declared an interest. Cllr G. Williams stated that Tegwch have sent a letter to Cllr Rob Jones' secretary asking lots of questions. The secretary has responded saying he will look into answers to all of the questions shortly. More information should be received by next week. Cllr R. Davies stated that she had also sent a letter to NPTCBC asking as to the costs of transporting the children to the proposed new school compared to the cost of making the tip safe. Cllr G. Williams stated that Tegwch have asked for a costs breakdown of the £750,000 needed to repair the current school. Cllr R. Llewelyn asked why Rhyd Y Fro Primary is not included in the plans as these children could walk to a new school in Pontardawe whereas it would be impossible for children from Godre'r Graig to walk to school in Pontardawe. Rhos Primary School was also mentioned as Members couldn't understand why this school hadn't been included in the proposal either. It was suggested that a governors meeting of the 3 schools be held to discuss further. Cllr A. Llewelyn stated that he had proposed an amendment to NPTCBC Scrutiny Committee, stating that the consultation should be postponed until an investigation is carried out on the tip. He also stated that none of the proposals include the option of keeping Godre'r Graig Primary School open. Cllr E.W. Williams stated that the current school building has been partially refurbished and that the building is solid. It was also stated that new build sites are available within our community. The consultation has been extended until 19th January for comments, but objections cannot be submitted until March/April 2021. Clerk stated that a meeting had been requested by Paul Hinder, NPTCBC as he needs to complete an impact assessment with regards to a potential new school. Resolved noted.	Clerk to forward consultation to Cllrs.

4431.	**Covid-19 Situation & Foodbank Update** Cllr A. Llewelyn reported the following: • All-Wales Covid figures as at 18.11.2020: Cases 68,449 Deaths 2,284 including 41 in past 24 hours. These are significant increases on last month's report. • There have been further major changes in Covid regulations for our area since the October meeting of the Community Council. Welsh Government announced an all-Wales Firebreak Lockdown for 17 days up to 09.11.2020 which replaced the local NPT lockdown. Since 09.11.2020 there have been all-Wales regulations and guidance. There is a useful Q&A on the Welsh Government website: https://gov.wales/coronavirus-regulations-guidance#section-48600 • Public Health Wales now produce an interactive map of Covid incidents on a weekly basis which can be searched on a national, county, health board or locality basis. Ystalyfera and Godre'r Graig are in a locality reaching up to Gwaun Cae Gurwen, a population of about 7,000, with Pontardawe etc in a separate locality. Generally, there had been a marked increase in cases in NPT, but the lag from the combined effects of the local and national lockdowns should give a clearer picture over the next couple of weeks. • Welsh Government are discussing potential Christmas arrangements with other devolved administrations and UK Government. • Members will be aware of local people who have been affected, and outbreaks in schools, care homes, workplaces and hospitals. • With winter approaching the county council and health board are revising plans for Safe and Well schemes. In our area, Ystalyfera Foodbank, community groups and support mechanisms such as LACs and Age Connect will help identify support needed. • Further information can be circulated to Community Council members by email in between meetings. Resolved noted. • **Foodbank:** Cllr C. James reported that the Ystalyfera Foodbank had been awarded a Lottery Community Fund Grant of just under £5,000. Members were pleased with this news. She went on to report that the foodbank is still busy and that new people are coming to receive help every week. Cllr E.W. Williams stated that he had received enquiries from local residents asking where drop-off points are located for the Ystalyfera Foodbank (as lots had been giving to Ystradgynlais Foodbank instead of Ystalyfera Foodbank). It was stated that there are drop-off points in the shop in Ystalyfera, Ystalyfera Development Trust, ASDA, Home Bargains and Gurnos Chapel (when it is open). Opening times for the foodbank are 10:30am – 1:30pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. More details are available on the Facebook page. Resolved noted.	Cllrs to keep everyone updated as and when more information becomes available.

4432.	**Planters** • Cllr G. Williams reported that he had a meeting with Lee, Quids In regarding the small Christmas trees. He explained that this year the trees will all have a rooting system which means that they can be planted into larger pots or directly into the earth after the Christmas period. They are guaranteed to grow. They will be installed all over the area as of next week. Resolved noted. • Cllr A. Llewelyn requested that two extra trees be bought, one for Ffordd Emlyn and the other for Glantwrch. All agreed – Resolved. • Cllrs A. Llewelyn and R. Davies gave thanks to Cllrs E.W. Williams and G. Williams for being prepared to put up Christmas lights and flags in the area. Resolved noted.	Cllr G. Williams to liaise with Lee. Clerk to forward quotes to Cllrs via email.
4433.	**Project Group** **Outdoor Gym** • Clerk reported that the signs have been ordered. Andrew (Glantawe Landscaps) will fit for £130.00 as Signs Express wanted £150.00 for fitting. Resolved noted. **Ffynnon Cwmtwrch** • Clerk reported that Mark Bentley has cut back all overgrowth at the Ffynnon. He has also cleared fallen trees and branches. Members stated that an excellent job had been done and extended appreciation to Mark for his hard work. Resolved noted. **Christmas** • Clerk reported that Andrew is fitting the 5 large Christmas trees this week. Resolved noted. • Clerk suggested that battery lights be purchased for the tree at Penyrallt. All agreed - Resolved. • Cllr A. Llewelyn suggested putting a post on Facebook to explain why the council cannot run the usual Christmas events this year. Resolved noted. • It was suggested that the message from Santa go out on Facebook in 18th December 2020. It was mentioned that NPTCBC and City and County of Swansea councils had only created messages from Santa / videos in English. All agreed that the message from Santa should be bilingual on the council's Facebook page and website. Resolved noted. • Cllr R. Llewelyn offered to purchase the Selection Boxes for schools. All agreed that she will be reimbursed for this. Resolved. **Pantteg Chapel** • Cllr A. Llewelyn reported that he had spoken to Gareth George regarding the future of Pantteg Chapel. The chapel is now formally closed. Gareth suggested that the building will have to be demolished. It was suggested that if this was the case, that an imaginative idea for the site was needed e.g. geological display, car park for heritage trail, a light garden in the shape of the chapel etc. Cllr R. Davies stated that if the chapel was to be demolished then a video of the inside and outside should be made for historical	Clerk to liaise with Andrew. Clerk to place posts on Facebook. Clerk to liaise with Santa. Cllr R. Llewelyn to purchase selection boxes. Clerk to arrange online meeting with Gareth George.

	purposes. Clerk suggested that an AR app could be made so that people could see exactly what the chapel looked like. Chair stated that she knows someone who could create this type of app. Members were pleased with this. It was suggested that the memorial stones currently at the chapel should be placed elsewhere in the community. The iron works would also need to be saved from scrapping as they were made in the Ystalyfera Iron Works and are historically important to the area. Cllr J. Jones suggested that some of it could possibly be incorporated in the new buildings at Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera. It was suggested that Gareth George be invited to the next meeting of the Project Group to discuss further. All agreed – Resolved noted.	
4434.	**Remembrance Sunday 2020 Review** • Chair stated that the event had gone very well. Social distancing was adhered to and there was good attendance. Resolved noted. • Chair gave thanks to the organisers (Howard Williams and Rev. Hewitt), trumpeter (Emyr Myers) and Les Jones for the wreaths and poppies. Resolved noted. • Chair thanked Cllr A. Llewelyn for videoing the event and thanked Clerk for editing the videos. Clerk stated that the videos had excellent viewing figures on Facebook. Members were pleased with this. Resolved noted. • Chair thanked Cllrs E.W. Williams and G. Williams for putting up poppies in Godre'r Graig and for also laying the wreaths at Sgwâr Godre'r Graig. Resolved noted. • Clerk reported that Rev. Hewitt had asked if the council want him to continue helping with the event next year. Members were keen for this to continue. Resolved noted.	Clerk to liaise with Rev. Hewitt for next year's event.
4435.	**Finance** • Clerk reported that she is still awaiting the notice of conclusion of audit from BDO. Resolved noted. • Clerk reported that next month, the precept for 2021-22 will need to be set. Resolved noted. **Accounts:** Resolved. DD 118 NPTCBC (Hall Council Tax) £273.00 BACS 119 PA Drake (Christmas Tree Stands) £212.40 DD 120 Survey Monkey £29.17 C299 121 Trustees Carreg yr Afon Park (Lease) £100.00 BACS 122 PayPal- eBay (Christmas Flags) £103.50 BACS 123 Quids In (Winter Planting) £1,190.00 BACS 124 Signs Express (Outdoor Gym signs) £253.70 BACS 125 PayPal – eBay (Xmas lights & plaques) £156.62 BACS 126-128 Staff Wages & Expenses £2,166.40 BACS 129 HMRC (Tax & NI) £183.39 BACS 130 City & County Swansea Pensions £443.29 BACS 131 BT Broadband (Com. Hall) £57.24	Clerk to make BACS payments.

	Transfer from Business Account 121 to Current Account: £ 5,000.00 Resolved.	
4436.	**Planning** Cllrs A. Llewelyn, J. Jones and R. Davies declared an interest and left the meeting. Resolved • P2020/0920 – Discharge of conditions 6 at new teaching block – Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera, Ystalyfera SA9 2DY. No objection: Resolved. • P2020/0940 – Discharge of condition 5 at new teaching block – Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera, Ystalyfera SA9 2DY. No objection: Resolved. • P2020/0904 – Commercial development of 7 light industrial units (B1 use) – Swansea Valley Business Park, Glanyrafon, Ystalyfera SA9 2EE. No objection: Resolved.	Clerk to send responses to NPTCBC.
4437.	**Community Hall** • Clerk reported that the hall is still being used by Weight Watchers and Jonathan (Dance class). Other groups are yet to return due to pandemic. Resolved noted.	Clerk to monitor WG guidance & liaise with group leaders.
4438.	**Correspondence** • Julie Dudley (Cooke & Arkwright) – email informing the allocation of a new agent, Chris Hyde, to deal with Alltygrug Park lease. Resolved noted. • Audit Wales – future audit arrangement. Resolved noted. • Environment Agency – NNB Generation Company Briefing Note. Resolved noted. • One Voice Wales – remote meeting survey results. Resolved noted. • Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue – consultation. Resolved noted.	Clerk to forward relevant emails to Cllrs.
4439.	**Other Urgent Business previously notified to Chair or Clerk.** Cllr A. Llewelyn stated that as Cllrs A. Jenkins and S. Prothero are having problems attending meetings online, that Clerk should contact them to see how the council can help them get online for the meetings. Resolved noted.	Clerk to contact Cllrs A. Jenkins and S. Prothero.
	The next meeting of council will take place via MS Teams on 17th December 2020 at 7:00pm.	