CYNGOR CYMUNED YSTALYFERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held online via MS Teams on

15th October 2020

Present

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

Apologies

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

		ACTION
4416.	**Welcome and late Apologies** Vice-Chair welcomed all to the meeting. No late apologies. Resolved. Vice-Chair stated that he wished full and speedy recoveries to the Chair and Cllr T. Flynn. Members also sent best wishes. Leave of Absence request received from Cllr Arwel Hughes. All agreed to accept request for LOA for 6 months. Resolved.	Clerk to inform Cllr A. Hughes of outcome.
4417.	**Minutes of previous meeting: All agreed- Resolved.** Following on from minute 4410, Tree at Alltygrug Park. Clerk reported that a full tree survey has to be done on the tree. Clerk stated that she had spoken to Glantawe Landscapes and Andrew will contact a tree surgeon in order to carry out the full survey. Resolved noted. Following on from minute 4406, Minutes of Previous Meeting re: BT Payphone Removal – Cllr A. Llewelyn reported that 2 kiosks will be available to the community council for use as defibrillator stations and 1 kiosk will be retained as a phone kiosk. Resolved noted. Following on from minute 4415, Correspondence, Clerk reported that she has emailed PCSO Chris Rees to arrange an online PACT meeting and is awaiting a response and suggested dates. Resolved noted.	Clerk to liaise with Andrew. Clerk to liaise with NPTCBC & BT. Clerk to liaise with PCSO.
4418.	**Covid-19 Situation & Foodbank Update** Cllr A. Llewelyn reported the following: • All-Wales Covid figures as at 15.10.2020: Cases 33, 041 Deaths 1,698 including 10 in past 24 hours. • There has been a major change in Covid regulations for our area since the September meeting of the Community Council. Welsh Government placed Neath Port Talbot into “local lockdown” from	Cllrs to keep everyone updated as and when more information becomes available.

28.09.2020 initially for a two-week period which has since been extended. This is due to a sharp increase in Covid incidents within the County Borough. At that time the number of Covid incidents in NPT were slightly below the 50 cases per 100,000 population threshold but were increasing, prompting the WG decision. Within a week the figures had nearly doubled and as at 14.10.2020 the infection rates detected by testing were 128 per 100k.

The main restrictions are:

a. people are not allowed to enter or to leave or remain away from the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council area without a reasonable excuse
b. people will no longer be able to form, or be in, an extended household (sometimes called a "bubble")
c. this means meeting indoors with anyone who is not part of your household (people you live with) is not allowed at the moment, unless you have a good reason, such as providing care to a vulnerable person
d. All licensed premises have to stop serving alcohol at 10pm.
e. people must work from home wherever reasonably practicable

Fuller information and links to the regulations are on the Welsh Government website FAQs : https://gov.wales/neath-port-talbot-lockdown-frequently-asked-questions#section-51433

The FAQs are useful but don't cover every aspect and, while clarification has been obtained from Welsh Government and the local authority for some issues, residents will need to consider if travel or other activities are essential.

- There are particular issues for boundary areas especially as we are in effect on the boundary with two local authorities who are not in local lockdown – Powys and Carmarthenshire. Following enquiries Neath's Senedd member Jeremy Miles MS, Counsel General in the Welsh Government, has expressed his understanding of the problems but explained that lockdown areas follow the county boundaries with the exception of Llanelli.
- The county council have not, at this stage, produced ward or local maps of cases within NPT. However, members will be aware of local people who have been affected, and outbreaks in schools, workplaces and hospitals.
- With winter approaching the county council and health board are revising plans for Safe and Well schemes. In our area, Ystalyfera Food Bank, 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.

	• **Foodbank:** Cllr C. James reported that September was their busiest month since May. Number of users are increasing. Cllr G. Williams asked if the foodbank had enough money Cllr C. James stated that they are OK at the moment. She also explained that she has put in a bid for lottery funding. Cllr R. Llewelyn stated that she had asked Cwmtawe Comprehensive School for donations and during Charity Week, all pupils will bring in at least one item of food each for donation. Cllr J. Jones said she will follow this up with Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera also to find out whether or not they can do the same. Cllr R. Davies stated that Ystalyfera Development Trust are hoping to make Christmas Hampers for families in need. Cllr C. James suggested that a letter go in with current foodbank boxes to ask whether or not they would like a Christmas Hamper. Members thought this was an excellent idea and were pleased with the foodbank update and all suggestions made. Resolved noted.	Cllrs R. Llewelyn & J. Jones to liaise with schools.
4419.	**Planters** • Cllr G. Williams reported that he had a meeting with Lee, Quids In regarding Winter planting. Lee will begin Winter planting ASAP. Lee is going to give a quote for large Christmas Trees. Clerk stated that Andrew, Glantawe Landscapes will also quote for the trees. Council can then decide which quote to accept. Resolved noted. • Cllr A. Llewelyn reported that there are still some old, small Christmas trees in pots around the area. Cllr G. Williams stated that Lee has agreed to remove these and replenish with new mini trees for Christmas. Members were pleased with this. Resolved noted.	Cllr G. Williams to liaise with Lee. Clerk to forward quotes to Cllrs via email.
4420.	**Project Group** **Outdoor Gym** • Clerk reported that she has ordered the signs for the Ystalyfera Outdoor gym with the name of the gym and health & safety guidance. Clerk has contacted Signs Express for a quote for poles and fitting. She has also asked Andrew (Glantawe Landscapes) for a quote for pole installation at the site to house the signs. All agreed that cheaper installation cost should be selected. Members happy for Clerk to continue with this matter and go with cheapest installation cost. Resolved noted. • Clerk reported that she had contacted Streetmaster for a quote for a recycled plastic rubbish bin. She is awaiting quotes. Resolved noted. **Ffynnon Cwmtwrch** • Clerk reported that Mark Bentley will be clearing the overgrown branches as overgrowth either side of the Ffynnon over the coming week. Members were pleased with this news. Resolved noted. **Park Repairs** • Clerk reported that the Facilities Officer's will carry out small repairs and painting over the coming weeks. Resolved noted. • Cllr A. Llewelyn reported that the safety surfacing in parks needs sweeping after being cut. Resolved that Clerk liaise with Andrew regarding this matter.	Clerk to instruct installers. Clerk to forward quotes to Cllrs. Clerk to liaise with Mark Bentley. Clerk to liaise with Andrew.

	• Clerk reported that large surface repairs will need to be carried out by specialist contractors. All agreed that Clerk get quotes for this work. Resolved noted. **Project Group Meeting** • Cllr A. Llewelyn suggested that an online Project Group meeting be held over the coming weeks to decide on projects for next financial year. Also, to discuss extending the Flag project and Christmas decorations. All agreed – Resolved noted.	Clerk to get quotes for surface repairs. Clerk to arrange online meeting.
4421.	**Remembrance Sunday 2020** • Clerk read out emails received from Rev. Tim Hewitt. All agreed that an event should not be run this year due to the impossibility of controlling numbers that may attend. Resolved noted. • It was suggested that 2 wreaths be ordered. One for the Cenotaph at Ystalyfera and one for the Sgwâr at Godre'r Graig. Resolved noted. • It was suggested that if the Chair would be unable to lay a wreath due to her sickness, that the Vice-Chair should lay the wreath at Ystalyfera and Cllr E.W. Williams lay the wreath at Godre'r Graig. It was suggested that the wreath laying could be videoed and put on the Council's Facebook page. All agreed – Resolved. • It was stated that Poppies have again been put on lamp-posts in Ystalyfera. Cllr E.W. Williams asked if there were any available for Godre'r Graig. Clerk will check with Les Jones. Resolved noted. • Cllr A. Llewelyn suggested that if a service is to be held in St David's Church this year, that it be advertised on the Council's Facebook page. All agreed - Resolved noted. • Clerk suggested that she could put a downloadable file of a poppy on the Facebook page that people could put in their windows. All agreed that this was a good idea. Resolved noted.	Clerk to liaise with Rev. Hewitt. Clerk to order wreaths. Clerk to phone Les Jones. Clerk to put file on Facebook.
4422.	**Christmas 2020** • Clerk reported that she had received an email from NPTCBC stating that Christmas events should not be run this year. This would include the planned Santa Train tour. Members were extremely disappointed by this news. Resolved noted. • Clerk reported that Centregreat will be completing the works at Ystalyfera RFC over the coming fortnight. Centregreat also stated that if the lights on Cilmaengwyn Christmas tree are no longer working, they will replace them free of charge. Resolved noted. • Clerk suggested that an online celebration of Christmas could be run instead of the Council's usual event. She suggested a message from Santa on the Council's Facebook page, a Christmas Drawing Competition for children, a best-dressed house feature on the Facebook page. All agreed that this matter be discussed further in the Project Group meeting. Resolved noted. • Cllr R. Llewelyn suggested that selection boxes be provided to all children of Godre'r Graig School and YGY Primary. Resolved noted.	Clerk to liaise with Centregreat.

	• Cllrs A. Llewelyn and R Davies stated that a new stand would be needed for the Jerusalem Chapel Christmas tree. Clerk to order. Resolved noted. • Cllr G. Williams suggested that if a tree could not be put at Godre'r Graig School this year, that instead a tree be put at the Sgwâr. All agreed that if the school is unavailable, then the tree be put at the Sgwâr and a stand purchased. Resolved noted.	Cllr R. Llewelyn to liaise with schools. Cllr R. Davies to check whether a tree can be put at the school.
4423.	**Finance** • Clerk reported that she had received 2 queries from BDO regarding the external audit. One regarding increase in staff wages (due to NALC pay-rises) and one regarding the 2017-18 budget. Clerk responded with all information required and explained to BDO that she was not in post when the 2017-18 budget was set. Resolved noted. • Clerk reported that new NALC pay-rises had been received and are to be implemented, effective April 2020. Staff to receive back-pay. All agreed - Resolved noted. **Accounts:** Resolved.	Clerk to make BACS payments.

BACS	087-89	Staff Wages & Expenses (+ backpay)	£2344.53
BACS	090	BT Broadband (Com. Hall)	£188.32
BACS	091	SSE (Godre'r Graig MUGA)	£129.37
BACS	092	SSE (Ystalyfera MUGA)	£126.21
BACS	093	SSE (Com. Hall)	£131.21
BACS	094	Viking Office Depot.	£46.14
BACS	095	Currys PC World (Hard drive)	£68.06
BACS	096	HMRC (Tax & NI)	£200.80
BACS	097	City & County Swansea Pensions	£443.29
BACS	098	Cotton & Sons (Supplies Com. Hall)	£62.30
BACS	099	TA Handford (Honorarium Alltygrug)	£100.00
BACS	100	S Mansell (Honorarium Gnoll)	£100.00
BACS	101	N Prothero (Honorarium Penyrallt)	£100.00
BACS	102	W Jones (Honorarium Carreg yr Afon)	£100.00
C297	103	J Austin (Honorarium Farteg)	£100.00
DD	104	NPTCBC (Hall Council Tax)	£273.00
C298	104b	Poppy Appeal (Wreaths)	£80.00
DD	105	Vodafone (Clerk's Mobile)	£35.00
DD	106	Survey Monkey	£29.17
BACS	107	BT Payphone (Com. Hall)	£133.32
BACS	108	Glantawe Landscapes (Gnds. Maint.)	£625.00
BACS	109	Glantawe Landscapes (Watering)	£300.00
BACS	110	BT Broadband (Com. Hall)	£74.16
BACS	111	NPTCBC (Knotweed Treatment)	£245.09
BACS	112	Npower (Gas Com. Hall)	£340.81
BACS	113-115	Staff Wages & Expenses	£2151.27
BACS	116	HMRC (Tax & NI)	£183.39
BACS	117	City & County Swansea Pensions	£443.29

Transfer from Business Account 121 to Current Account: £ 9,000.00 Resolved.

4424.	**Planning** Cllrs A. Llewelyn and R. Davies declared an interest and left the meeting. Resolved • P2020/0866 – Variation of condition 1 (planning permission P2014/0495) 4 split level dwellings – 22 Gnoll Road, Godre'r Graig SA9 2PA. No objection: Resolved. • P2020/0826 – Discharge of conditions 4 & 8 at new teaching block – Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera, Ystalyfera SA9 2DY. No objection: Resolved.	Clerk to send responses to NPTCBC.
4425.	**Community Hall** • Clerk reported that Tai Tarian had contacted her to ask if they could come to the hall to take photos of the Chair with the new flooring. All agreed that if the Chair is still sick, that the Vice-Chair attend instead. Resolved noted. • Clerk reported that the hall is still being used by Weight Watchers and Jonathan (Dance class). Some of the children in the dance class live over the border so haven't been able to attend. Cllr A. Llewelyn stated that legislation has now changed and children can cross borders for sports and physical activities. Resolved noted.	Clerk to liaise with Chair and Tai Tarian. Clerk to monitor WG guidance & liaise with group leaders.
4426.	**Correspondence** • One Voice Wales – Remote training sessions. 2 free places available to Councillors. Resolved noted. • Welsh Government – BAME helpline Wales. It was suggested that Clerk advertise the helpline on Facebook. All agreed - Resolved noted. • Lowri Jenkins (Eden Project) – Covid project resources. Clerk to forward to Councillors. Resolved noted.	Cllrs to contact Clerk if they would like to attend. Clerk to put on Facebook. Clerk to forward email.
4427.	**Other Urgent Business previously notified to Clerk – Cllrs E.W. Williams & G. Williams declared an interest due to their involvement with Tegwch.** Cllrs R. Davies and A. Llewelyn stated that they had attended a briefing regarding the future of Godre'r Graig School. An online consultation will be held regarding the possibility of combining Godre'r Graig, Alltwen and Llangiwg Primary Schools. Cllr R. Davies stated that paper copies of the consultation should be made available due to some parents and residents not having computers or broadband facilities. Members agreed with this. Members were intrigued as to why Godre'r Graig School was chosen as it is outside the Pontardawe area, yet Rhos and Rhyd Y Fro Primaries (within the Pontardawe area) were not included in the plans. It was stated that most were not in favour of making Cwmtawe School a 3-16 school. Members were puzzled at this as lots of other schools in NPTCBC are now 3-16. The report stated that the school would cater for 778 pupils (534 current figures) and 16 children with ADHD. The consultation will run from 3rd November 2020 – 5th January 2021. Members fear for the future of Godre'r Graig School and look forward to seeing the consultation documents. Resolved noted.	Cllrs to review consultation.
	The next meeting of council will take place via MS Teams on 19th November 2020 at 7:00pm.	