CYNGOR CYMUNED YSTALYFERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held online via MS Teams on

17th September 2020

Present

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

Apologies

Name	**Reason**	**Other Absence:**	
Cllr. Ann Jenkins	Unable to get online	Cllr. Bryan Lewis	Leave of Absence
Cllr. Simon Prothero	Working		
Cllr. Emyr Wyn Williams	Working		
Cllr. Arwel Hughes	Working		
Cllr. Tristian Lewis	Working		

		ACTION
4405.	**Welcome and late Apologies** Chair welcomed all to the meeting. No late apologies. Resolved.	
4406.	**Minutes of previous meeting:** Amendment to minute 4393, the volunteers do not want a new boardwalk but a path instead. The remainder of the minutes confirmed as a correct record - Resolved. Following on from minute 4394, BT Payphone Removal – Clerk reported that BT would be pleased to offer the phone boxes to the council for use as defibrillator locations. Clerk has received a quote for the defibrillators, £1,495.00 each (including a grant of £200 from Welsh Hearts). Total for 3 would be £4,485.00. Cllr A. Llewelyn reported that he had spoken with NPTCBC planning regarding the phone box on Gurnos Road and asked if this could be retained if possible due to there being no other payphone boxes in the valley, north of Pontardawe. Members agreed that if the phone box could be retained, then it would be good for the community. If not, then it will be used as a defibrillator location as previously discussed. All agreed that once a final decision is made on the removal of the phone boxes, that council purchase either 2 or 3 defibrillators for Ystalyfera. Resolved noted. It was suggested that further defibrillators could be placed in Godre'r Graig, one at Hodgson's Road and one at the Square. The Clerk highlighted that the defibrillators need an electricity supply (for the cabinet). All agreed that this be looked at in due course and appropriate locations be brought to council. Resolved noted.	Clerk & Cllr A Llewelyn to liaise with NPTCBC and BT.
4407.	**Covid-19 Situation & Foodbank Update** Cllr A. Llewelyn reported the following: • **Overall situation in Wales:** In Wales as at 16.09.20 there have been 19,880 recorded cases and 1,597 deaths. True figures likely to be much higher (WG/PHW) but several days when no deaths recorded	Cllrs to keep everyone updated as and when more information

	including yesterday. 682,997 tests conducted in Wales. Well publicised problems of testing across UK. Welsh law/Covid regulations apply. Relaxation of regulations July/August including travelling, opening of pubs and shops, hotels, self-catering accommodation, other sports and leisure. From 14.09.2020 new Welsh Government regulations responding to overall increase and risks in cases - mandatory wearing of masks in public indoor settings and the "rule of six" indoors. Neighbouring local authority Rhondda Cynon Taf has gone into lockdown. Full Welsh regulations on WG website and Facebook pages. National policy to re-open schools fully in Wales implemented in September. Schools, including Governors, have had to devise comprehensive risk assessments and operational plans. • **Neath Port Talbot:** Daily updates on Council website npt.gov.uk and Facebook page. Most office-based workers still 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. Cwmtwrch (Gurnos) household waste & recycling centre re-opened by Powys 28.05.20. Important to read restrictions before visiting. No pre booking. Safe and Well scheme providing support for vulnerable people. Priority for residents who have to "shield." Food packages being phased out, with emphasis instead on using local services. NPTCBC looking to co-operate with community councils and voluntary organisations on future arrangements especially if another wave of virus. • **Local Voluntary Activities:** Many local people volunteering or acting as good neighbours. NPTCBC reinstating Local Area Co-ordinators soon to work with Community Leads. 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. Age Connect now have local worker, Ali, who will be in contact with community council. 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 in this period for food and other items. We have three larger stores Tesco, Asda, Home Bargains. Smaller shops like Premier/Post Office have been essential including deliveries. Butcher and several takeaways have re-opened. Also reasonable access to shops in Pontardawe and Ystradgynlais. Repair garages and petrol stations mainly remained open. Local pubs/clubs have re-opened. A number of businesses have received short term financial support but no doubting pressure on them. Community Council's Business Forum page has continued to share information about local businesses. May be way of promoting local businesses beyond Covid period.	becomes available.

- **Community Council:** Clerk has kept all members well-informed of council activities and decisions. Resolved noted.
- Cllr B. Hasite thanked Cllrs A. Llewelyn and R. Davies for their updates on the situation.
- **Foodbank:** Chair thanked Cllr C. James for her updates and work with the foodbank. Cllr C. James reported as follows:
  Activity report April 2020 -September 2020 Ystalyfera Foodbank was set up in April 2020 as a response to the new methods of operation required by the Covid-19 outbreak. This report covers the period 15th April to 11th September 2020. During that time the Foodbank has issued 255 parcels to 94 separate households, helping 244 individuals –149 adults and 95 children. Several of these have been helped on more than one occasion.

Summary by month	April	May	June	July	August	Sept (to 11th)	**Total**
Total people	67	174	161	131	80	86	**699**
Adults	39	97	97	81	55	48	**417**
Children	28	77	64	50	25	38	**282**
Total parcels	27	61	61	48	31	27	**255**
Total items	886	2290	2071	2009	1369	1243	**9868**

Cllr C. James reported that several of these have been helped on more than one occasion. She also stated that the foodbank expects to get busier once furlough ends. Resolved noted.

Cllr J. Jones reported that her sponsored walk in aid of the foodbank raised £460.00. Members congratulated her on her achievements. Resolved noted.

Cllr G. Williams asked if the foodbank had enough money to continue, Cllr B. Hastie stated that they had £1,025.00 in the bank at the moment, so all OK to continue for the time being. Resolved noted.

Cllr B. Hastie reported that donations were currently more cash than food. Cllr R. Llewelyn suggested that Cwmtawe, Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera and Maesydderwen Schools be asked for food donations. Members thought this was a good idea. Cllr B. Hastie stated that the school always give generously on harvest collections and hopes that they will continue to do so. Resolved noted.

Cllr R. Llewelyn to ask for food donations.

It was suggested that a request for food donations be put on Facebook. All agreed – Resolved noted.

Clerk to create Facebook post.

Cllr B. Hasie reminded members that they can make referrals to the foodbank. Resolved noted.

Cllrs to make referrals when necessary.

4408.	**Planters** • Cllr G. Williams reported that he had spoken to Lee, Quids In regarding Winter planting. All agreed that Winter planting should take place as the community enjoy the flowers and it may cheer up some locals during this unprecedented time. Resolved noted.	Cllr G. Williams to liaise with Lee.
4409.	**Project Group** **Outdoor Gym** • Clerk reported that she has designed signs for the Ystalyfera Outdoor gym with the name of the gym and health & safety guidance. Clerk has contacted Signs Express for a quote. She has also asked Andrew (Glantawe Landscapes) for a quote for pole installation at the site to house the signs. Resolved noted. • Clerk suggested that a small bin be placed at the site as there is rubbish left by gym users. Clerk suggested it could be emptied by the Caretaker on a weekly basis as it will be next to the Community Hall. All agreed – Resolved noted. **Ffynnon Cwmtwrch** • Clerk reported that the Ffynnon needs a lot of work. There is a fallen branch over the Ffynnon itself and it needs a general re-vamp. Cllr R. Llewelyn suggested asking Mark Bentley to remove the tree branch. Resolved noted. • Cllr J. Jones reported that the footpath from the Patches to the Ffynnon is in a poor state. Cllr A. Llewelyn will send footpath number to Clerk so that it can be reported to NPTCBC. Resolved noted. • It was suggested that there be a site visit before deciding on what carving to have made for the site. Resolved noted. **Godre'r Graig Park - Bollards** • Clerk reported that some people park their cars at the top of the park. Members still want bollards to stop people dumping at the site. It was suggested that a site visit be carried out before a final decision is made. Resolved noted. **Carreg Yr Afon Park** • Cllr R. Davies suggested that a large sign be made for Carreg Yr Afon Park. All agreed that this be costed. Resolved noted. **ROSPA** • Clerk reported that ROSPA reports have been received. Results similar to the Facilities Officer's monthly reports. Lots of work to be done at all parks. Facilities Officer will be able to carry out small jobs such as painting and replacement of bolts as this will be more cost effective for the council. Contractors will be needed to repair surfacing and carry out larger jobs. All agreed to proceed with repair works as necessary. Resolved noted.	Clerk to cost post & signage & forward to Cllrs via email. Clerk to cost bin. Clerk to liaise with Mark Bentley. Clerk & Cllr A. Llewelyn to liaise with NPTCBC. Clerk to arrange site visit. Clerk to arrange site visit. Clerk to cost sign. Clerk to arrange repair works & liaise with contractors.

4410.	**Potentially dangerous tree at Allygrug Park** • Clerk reported that she had been up to Alltygrug Park to view the tree. The tree has a TPO so cannot be cut without planning permission. If planning is approved, Western Power will need to temporarily cut off the power supply to the overhead cables as they run through the tree. <u>All agreed</u> that Clerk submit planning application and speak to Western Power - <u>Resolved noted.</u>	Clerk to contact NPTCBC & Western Power
4411.	**Christmas 2020** • Clerk reported that she has provisionally booked the Land Train from NPTCBC for 11th December 2020. Whether or not this will be able to go ahead will depend on the Covid-19 situation. <u>Resolved noted.</u> • Cllr R. Davies stated that Centregreat did not remove the lights on Cilmaengwyn Christmas tree. Clerk to contact Centregreat on numerous occasions regarding this matter. She will contact them again to make sure the lights are replaced if they are no longer working. <u>Resolved noted.</u> • It was suggested that the businesses in Ystalyfera that have a flagpole be approached to see if they would like to contribute towards small Christmas trees for their shopfronts. Clerk to cost trees. Alternatively, garland with solar lights could be placed around the flagpoles. Cllr R. Davies suggested that Ystalyfera Development Trust may be able to sponsor this. <u>Resolved noted.</u> • Clerk reported that the electrics for the tree in Ystalyfera RFC should be completed in two weeks' time. Anthony Gough (Centregreat) will arrange access with Ystalyfera RFC. <u>Resolved noted.</u> • Clerk reported that she has completed the NPTCBC forms for streetlamp Christmas lights and has returned the information for approval. She has also made Centregreat aware of the dates for lighting. <u>Resolved noted.</u> • Cllr R. Davies stated that 4 Christmas trees will be needed. Clerk to contact Glantawe Landscapes and Quids In for costs. <u>Resolved noted.</u>	Clerk to contact Centregreat. Clerk to cost items. Clerk to cost trees.
4412.	**Finance** • Clerk reported that she had not received any queries from BDO regarding the external audit as yet. <u>Resolved noted.</u> **Accounts:** <u>Resolved.</u> DD 057 Vodafone (Clerk's Mobile) £25.16 BACS 058 BT Broadband (Com. Hall) £74.16 BACS 059 Dwr Cymru (Com. Hall) £64.31 BACS 060&61 Staff Wages & Expenses £1,950.92 BACS 062 HMRC £164.07 BACS 063 City & County Swansea Pensions £431.43 BACS 064 Sglein (Gnds. Maint. Com. Hall) £100.00 BACS 065 ROSPA (Playground Inspections) £579.60 BACS 066 Viking Office Depot (Com. Hall) £74.15 BACS 067 BCW Office Products (Covid Signage) £995.28	Clerk to make BACS payments.

	DD	068	Survey Monkey	£29.17	
	DD	069	NPTCBC (Com. Hall Council Tax)	£273.00	
	DD	070	Vodafone (Clerk's Mobile)	£25.16	
	BACS	071-73	Staff Wages & Expenses	£2,094.33	
	BACS	074	HMRC	£183.35	
	BACS	075	City & County Swansea Pensions	£431.43	
	BACS	076	Glantawe Landscapes Ltd (Trees Com. Hall)	£1,250.00	
	BACS	077	Glantawe Landscapes Ltd (Gnd Main Mnth 4&5)	£1,250.00	
	BACS	078	Glantawe Landscapes Ltd (Watering Mnth 4&5)	£700.00	
	BACS	079	Glantawe Landscapes Ltd (Signage & Parks)	£240.00	
	BACS	080	Glantawe Landscapes Ltd (G.G. Park)	£300.00	
	BACS	081	Broxap (Sunshine Gym Equipment)	£4,257.84	
	BACS	082	Broxap (Sunshine Gym Installation)	£1,770.00	
	BACS	083	SSE (Festive Lighting Unmetered Supply)	£86.25	
	DD	084	NPTCBC (Com. Hall Council Tax)	£273.00	
	DD	085	Survey Monkey	£29.17	
	DD	086	Vodafone (Clerk's Mobile & Upgrade fee)	£65.59	
	Transfer from Business Account 121 to Current Account: £ 20,000.00 Resolved.				
4413.	**Planning** Cllrs A. Llewelyn and R. Davies declared an interest and left the meeting. Resolved • P2020/0695 – Replacement door with window for garage conversion – 7 Llys Rhaeadr, Godre'r Graig SA9 2BG. No objection: Resolved. • P2020/0752 – 2G Sports Pitch with flood lighting and pitch enclosures – Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera, Ystalyfera SA9 2JJ. It was noted that Mr & Mrs Davies have concerns regarding contractor access and parking on this site. This matter was discussed in depth by members. No objection to application by Community Council: Resolved. • P2020/0764 – Single storey front extension - 14 Swan Lane, Ystalyfera SA9 2JB. No objection: Resolved.				Clerk to send responses to NPTCBC.
4414.	**Community Hall** • Clerk reported that Tai Tarian had contacted her for a quote for Facebook regarding the new flooring at the hall by the Chair. Chair will forward a quote to Clerk. Resolved noted. • Clerk reported that the hall is now open and being used by Weight Watchers and Jonathan (Dance class). All adults are wearing masks and adhering to the Community Council Covid-19 risk assessment. The hall is being cleaned and disinfected after each session. If there are any changes to guidelines, Clerk will update Council, Caretaker, and Group-leaders. Resolved noted. • It was reported that Kim Lewis would like to start ballet classes at the hall. Clerk awaiting call. Resolved noted.				Clerk to liaise with Chair and Tai Tarian. Clerk to monitor WG guidance. Clerk to liaise with Kim Lewis.

4415.	**Correspondence** • Mrs J. Davies emailed with concerns regarding construction and access to the site, Planning application P2020/0752. Resolved noted. • Clerk received phone call regarding the dangerous tree at Allygrug Park. Clerk went to view tree. Resolved noted. • Consultation on a pre-planning application for a Global Centre of Rail Excellence in Wales based at old open cast site. Councillors to review consultation and Council to respond in due course. Resolved noted. • Cllr A. Llewelyn reported that there had been damage caused to vehicles and property on Wern Road and Glantwrch. PCSO Chris Rees would like to meet with Community Council and NPTCBC regarding this matter. Clerk suggested arranging an online PACT meeting over the coming weeks. All agreed that this was a good idea. Resolved noted.	Cllrs to review documents. Clerk to arrange online PACT meeting.
	The next meeting of council will take place via MS Teams on 15th October 2020 at 7:00pm.	