CYNGOR CYMUNED YSTALYFERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held online via GoTo Meeting on 16th July 2020

Present

Cllr. Geraint Williams (Vice-chair: chaired meeting due to technical difficulties) Cllrs. Ann Lewis, Rosalyn Davies, Emyr Wyn Williams, Tristian Lewis, Julie Jones, Cathy James Rhian Llewelyn, Alun Llewelyn

Apologies

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

		ACTION
4389.	**Welcome and late Apologies** Vice-chair welcomed all to the meeting. No late apologies. Resolved. Request from Cllr. Bryan Lewis to extend his leave of absence accepted by members. Resolved.	Clerk to contact Cllr. B. Lewis with decision.
4390.	**Minutes of previous meeting: All Agreed - Resolved.** Following on from minute 4384, project group – Christmas 2020, Cllr A. Llewelyn reported that Mr Pearce, the owner of the local double-glazing firm has offered to donate a Christmas tree for the roundabout (near ASDA). Members were pleased with this and suggested purchasing solar or battery lights as this would be easier and cheaper that paying for an electricity connection. All agreed – Resolved. Cllr A. Llewelyn also suggested that the Clerk contact Swansea Council to find out if the Santa Train will be available again this year. Resolved noted.	Clerk to contact City & County Swansea Council.
4391.	**Covid-19 Situation & Foodbank Update** Cllr A. Llewelyn reported the following: • **Overall situation in Wales:** As of 16.07.20 there have been 16,871 recorded cases and 1,545 deaths. True figures are likely to be much higher (WG/PHW) but several days when no deaths recorded including yesterday. 300,424 tests conducted. Well publicised issues of testing / PPE especially in care homes. National track and trace system launched in Wales. Welsh law/Covid regulations apply. Relaxation of regulations including travelling, opening of pubs out of doors, opening shops, self-catering accommodation, and dates for indoor pubs, cafes, playgrounds etc. Full Welsh regulations on WG website and Facebook pages. National policy to re-open schools fully in Wales in September.	Cllrs to keep everyone updated as and when more information becomes available.

- **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. Schools re-opened 29.06.20 with mix of class and remote learning, to be developed further from September. Free school meal allowance introduced and WG already committed to continue over summer. Safe and Well scheme providing support for vulnerable people. Priority for residents who must "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. Ystradgynlais Volunteer centre (based at old Remploy factory, Glanrhyd) working cross-boundary supporting several individuals in Ystalyfera, Godre'rgraig, Cwmtwrch, and also co-operating with Ystalyfera Development Trust. Good basis for future cross boundary working. 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 there is reasonable access to shops in Pontardawe and Ystradgynlais. Repair garages and petrol stations mainly remained open. Local pubs/clubs have started re-opening this week. Customer indoors from early August. A number of businesses have received short term financial support but no doubting there is 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.
- **Community Council:** Clerk has kept all members well-informed of council activities and decisions.
- **Foodbank:** Cllr J. Jones reported that the £200 grant from Dwr Cymru has come through. She also stated that she will be carrying out the 20-mile sponsored walk to raise further funds for the foodbank in the coming weeks. She has created a Just Giving page for donations. Cllr C James reported that in the 13 weeks that the foodbank has been open, they had given out 176 parcels to help 478 people (277 adults and 201 children). This equates to helping 74 individual households and over 6,333 individual items have been distributed. It was also reported that the Pet Shop in Ystalyfera has been donating dog food to the foodbank which has been greatly

	received. Members were very pleased with the news and thanked all of the Councillors and volunteers involved. • **Ystalyfera Development Trust:** Cllr R. Davies stated that YDT have opened their offices 2 weeks ago. The Charity Shop, Trysor has also re-opened. Resolved noted.	
4392.	**Planters & Recess off Graig Road, Godre'r Graig** • Cllr G. Williams reported that all planters in Godre'r Graig, Pantteg and Ystalyfera are blooming well. Resolved noted. • Clerk reported that she is awaiting a quote for re-surfacing the recess on Graig Road, Godre'r Graig. Resolved noted.	Clerk to liaise with Andrew.
4393.	**Project Group** **Outdoor Gym** • Clerk reported that the Ystalyfera Outdoor gym has been completed. There has been a good response from the public regarding the gym thus far. Positive comments have been made on Facebook and to councillors. She stated that the council now need to order a post and sign for the gym, including health and safety information. Resolved noted. Cllr E.W. Williams suggested that the council name the gym, Campfa Yr Hen Gamlas Gym. All agreed - resolved noted. Clerk reported that a meeting needs to be held with D. Phillips, NPTCBC regarding the placement of the Godre'r Graig gym. It was suggested that if the cycle track (near Tarenni) isn't suitable, that the equipment could go up at Godre'r Graig park. Resolved noted. **Ffynnon Cwmtwrch** • Cllrs agreed that a bench seat with a carved 'story' regarding the history of the Ffynnon would be the best option for carving as it would be functional and artistic. Resolved noted. **Gnoll Road Park Fencing** • Clerk reported that she is awaiting further quotes for the fencing. Resolved noted. **Godre'r Graig Park** • Cllr R. Davies reported that the grass needs cutting. Resolved that Clerk contact Andrew to cut grass. She also stated that the boardwalk needs replacing. It was suggested that the Project Group meet with the volunteers to find out what works need to be carried out at the park. Resolved noted. **Re-opening of Playgrounds** • Clerk reported that Welsh Government have stated that playgrounds can re-open as of 20th July 2020. Clerk reported that she had received NPTCBC's risk assessment – she will adapt this for the community council playgrounds. She will also adapt their signage so that the community council can have signage made for each playground. All agreed to order signage asap. Resolved noted.	Clerk to cost post & signage. Clerk to liaise with NPTCBC. Clerk to liaise with Gary. Clerk to email Cllrs once further quotes are received. Clerk to liaise with Andrew re: grass cutting. Clerk to send proof of signage and risk assessment to councillors for approval.

	Glantwrch • Cllr A. Llewelyn reported that he had received requests from the residents of Glantwrch to have a children's play area installed. He stated that there are many families living there now. The land is owned by Tai Tarian. It was suggested that the council open negotiations with Tai Tarian regarding leasing the land. Resolved noted. **Ystalyfera Tennis Courts** • Cllr A. Llewelyn reported that he had received requests regarding reinstating the Tennis Courts at Ystalyfera. It was suggested that the council run another 'local residents survey' to find out what people want in the area. Resolved that this matter be revisited in September meeting as running a survey online only would not be sufficient as it wouldn't be representative of residents who are not online. **Playground Risk Assessments** • Clerk reported that risk assessments need to be carried out each month in order to adhere to insurance regulations. She advertised role on Facebook and website but found it difficult to find someone willing to do the assessments as it would only be one day's work per month. Resolved that J. Parr-Williams be employed initially on 8-10 hours per month. Clerk is unsure as to whether or not the council's insurance will cover this work. Clerk will check with insurers before proceeding. Resolved noted. **NPTCBC Covid Signage** • Members reported that many residents had complained regarding NPTCBC Covid signage and Facebook information being in English only (not bilingual). It was suggested that the community council write to NPTCBC to relay this information. Resolved noted. **Alltygrug Park Tree** • Cllr A. Llewelyn reported that a branch of a tree in Alltygrug Park had fallen into Clyngwyn Road, Ystalyfera. NPTCBC removed the branch. The tree is under a TPO but needs cutting back. Resolved noted.	Clerk to liaise with Tai Tarian. Clerk to contact insurers. Clerk to write to NPTCBC. Clerk to get quotes for cutting.
4394.	**BT Payphones Removal Consultation** • It was reported that BT want to remove 3 phone kiosks in Ystalyfera. Members agreed that it was difficult to justify keeping them as they are not used. It was suggested that they be taken over by the community council in order to place defibrillators for the village. All agreed - resolved noted. • It was suggested that further defibrillators be placed in Godre'r Graig also. All agreed – resolved noted.	Clerk to send response to BT and cost defibrillators.

4395.	**Finance & Grant Applications** • Clerk stated that only one application for funding had been received, probably due to Coivd-19. Ystalyfera RFC asked for funding but it was stated that last year's sizable funding was a one-off and the club would not be eligible for further Section 137 funding for two years. Resolved. • Clerk reported that she had not heard back from BDO regarding the external audit as yet. Resolved noted. **Accounts:** Resolved. BACS 037 Amberol (Lamp-post basket.) £119.10 BACS 038 Centregreat (Christmas Lighting 2019) £6,100.20 BACS 039 BCW (Dog Mess Signs Pentalwn & Ffynnon) £265.18 BACS 040 NPower (Community Hall Gas) £600.55 BACS 041 BT Broadband (Com. Hall) £74.16 DD 042 Vodafone (Clerk's Mobile) £25.16 BACS 043&44 Staff Wages & Expenses £1,929.22 BACS 045 HMRC £164.07 BACS 046 City & County Swansea Pensions £431.43 DD 047 NPTCBC (Com. Hall Council Tax) £273.00 BACS 048 Quids In (Summer Planting) £1,240.06 BACS 049 Plumb N Fix It (Com. Hall Plumbing) £368.90 DD 050 Survey Monkey £29.17 BACS 051 BT Payphone (Com. Hall) £133.32 BACS 052 Npower (Com. Hall Gas) £72.24 BACS 053 Glantawe Landscapes (Watering) £300.00 BACS 054 Glantawe Landscapes (Monthly Grass-cutting) £625.00 BACS 055 Greenstream Flooring (Com. Hall) £1,371.36 BACS 056 Viking Office Depot (Stat. & Hall Sanitisers) £73.94 Transfer from Business Account 121 to Current Account: £ 3,000.00 Resolved.	Clerk to contact Ystalyfera RFC with decision. Clerk to make BACS payments.
4396.	**Planning** Cllrs A. Llewelyn and R. Davies declared an interest and left the meeting. Resolved • P2020/0547 – Retention of existing gabion basket retaining wall – 193 Graig Road, Godre'r Graig SA9 2NZ. No objection: Resolved. • P2020/0477 – Change of use from shop to 2 commercial units together with external alterations to front and rear elevations and new shop front – 88 Commercial Street, Ystalyfera SA9 2HU. No objection: Resolved.	Clerk to send responses to NPTCBC.
4397.	**Community Hall** • Clerk reported that the new hall flooring has been completed. The flooring looks excellent. Resolved noted. • Clerk reported that no guidance regarding re-opening has been received from Welsh Government as yet. It was suggested that only the disabled toilet will be used and the kitchen closed in order to lower the risk of Covid-19 transmission. All agreed - resolved noted.	Clerk to follow WG guidance as soon as it is received.

	• Clerk reported that she had made signage for the interior of the centre in relation to Covid-19. She will install these asap. Resolved noted. • Clerk reported that Weight Watchers will be carrying out their own risk assessment before starting back. The community council will also need to complete a risk assessment. It was suggested that NPTCBC be contacted for a copy of their community centre Covid-19 risk assessments. Resolved noted. • Clerk reported that measures, for example hand sanitiser, cleaning between groups will need to be taken in order to avoid the transmission of Coivid-19 in the Community Hall. All agreed – Resolved noted.	Clerk to liaise with Weight Watchers.
4398.	**Correspondence** • Cllr A. Llewelyn had a call stating that there were children playing in Ystalyfera MUGA whilst it is closed. He stated that he reported this to the PCSO. Resolved noted. • Cllr E.W. Williams asked when PACT meetings will be re-started. No news as yet. Resolved noted. • Chair reported that Les Jones had placed a wreath at the cenotaph on behalf of Ystalyfera Community Council for VE day. He will do the same for VJ day. All agreed that a donation be given to the Poppy Appeal for the wreaths. Resolved noted.	Clerk to send cheque.
	The AGM will take place online via MS Teams at 7:00pm on 17th September 2020. The next meeting of council will follow immediately after the AGM.	