CYNGOR CYMUNED YSTALYFERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting
held via Zoom on 16th March 2023 at 7:00pm

Present

Cllr. Rhian Llewelyn (Chair)
Cllrs. Alun Llewelyn, Rosalyn Davies, Steve Thomas, Julie Jones, Rachel Townsend, Ann Jenkins, Ann Lewis, Geraint Williams

Apologies

Name	Reason
Cllr. Simon Prothero	Working
Cllr. Emyr Wyn Williams	Working
Cllr. Hayley Morgan	Working
Cllr. Cathy James	Working
Cllr. Dan Davey	Working
Cllr. Terry Flynn	Personal

		ACTION
4689.	**Welcome, Declarations of Interest and late Apologies** Chair welcomed all to the meeting. No late apologies. Declarations of interest: Item 7, Cllr R. Davies as Member of NPTCBC Planning Committee. Cllr A. Llewelyn also declared an interest in item 7 as Member of NPTCBC to avoid pre-determination issues. Resolved.	
4690.	**Rose Revera - NPTCBC** Chair welcomed R. Revera to the meeting. R. Revera explained how wildflowers grow. She explained that it was important to collect grass cuttings so that soil becomes less nutrient rich. This is the environment where wildflowers can grow and flourish. Cllr S. Thomas explained that when he cuts Carreg yr Afon Park, he blows away the cuttings. R. Revera stated that this was a good second option if cuttings cannot be collected. She explained that wildflower meadow patches are usually cut in April or May and then cut again in August, with the last cut in September or October. This encourages wildflower growth. R. Rivera stated that wildflower meadows always have grass and during the first few years of doing this, flowers can be sparse, but they will develop naturally over a period of time. R. Rivera explained that it is important to choose appropriate sites for wildflower meadows i.e. disused corners in parks, disused land etc. Cllr S. Thomas suggested that R. Rivera could be invited to visit our parks and land to see which areas may be suitable. Resolved noted. Cllr A. Llewelyn asked if mowing would spoil any of the areas at the moment. R. Revera explained that more cutting would not be disadvantageous as long as the cuttings are collected in areas where Council would like to see wildflowers grow. Cllr A. Llewelyn reported that there had been many complaints last year regarding the lack of grass cutting in NPTCBC. R. Revera explained that areas earmarked for wildflowers and promoting bees and insects should be trimmed around the perimeters as to not look untidy and appropriate signage should be	Clerk to liaise.

	installed. This would inform residents and visitors as to why the area is uncut. Cllr A. Llewelyn explained that Tai Tarian and NPTCBC are in talks to improve grass cutting this year by working in tandem. Areas should therefore look much better this year. Members were pleased with this. R. Revera explained that she had looked at Council's Biodiversity Policy – she had some recommendations: the bird boxes and insect house in the grounds of the Community Hall should be included, the promotion of naturally occurring native wildflowers should be included as opposed to the planting of wildflower seeds. Resolved noted. Chair thanked R. Revera for her time. R. Revera left the meeting.	
4691.	**Minutes of previous meeting & matters arising:** All agreed that the minutes were a correct record - **Resolved.** • Following on from minute 4682 Matters Arising, Cllr A. Llewelyn reported that Claire Rodgers has not yet responded. As soon as new dates become available, he will check his schedule and select a date. Resolved noted. • Following on from minute 4682 Matters Arising, Clerk reported that she is liaising with Broxap (Sunshine Gym) regarding gym equipment for Carreg yr Afon Park. Resolved noted. • Following on from minute 4682 Matters Arising, Clerk reported that the Ramblers have installed 2 bird boxes and 1 insect house in the grounds of the Community Hall. Resolved noted. • Following on from minute 4682 Matters Arising, Clerk reported that S. Mattick has cleared the overgrowth from Ystalyfera MUGA and the entrance to the Community Hall. Members were pleased with this news. Resolved noted. • Following on from minute 4684 Project Group, Clerk reported that the St David's flags looked lovely in Ystalyfera as well as the bunting around Ystalyfera and Godre'r Graig. Members thanked everyone involved for their work. Resolved noted. • Following on from minute 4684 Project Group, Clerk reported that a Bingo and Sing Along night will be held at Godre'r Graig Workingmen's Club on Friday 17th March. This night has been organised by Cllr R. Davies and MICNPT. The night will be funded from the grant given to MICNPT in January 2023. Resolved noted.	Clerk to liaise with Cllr A. Llewelyn. Clerk to liaise.
4692.	**Foodbank Update** • Clerk reported that she had received an update from Cllr C. James to stated that the foodbank was still very busy. They are hoping to set up a new foodbank in Penrhos. Ystalyfera Foodbank serves Penrhos due to Ystradgynlais Foodbank having no way of delivering goods. It is hoped that a new foodbank in Penrhos in conjunction with Ystalyfera Foodbank will be established shortly. Members were pleased with this news. Resolved noted.	Cllr C. James to provide updates.
4693.	**Project Group** **Jerusalem Chapel** • Cllr J. Jones reported that she had spoken to a Member of the Presbyterians and has been given a new name for Cllr E.W. Williams to contact regarding Jerusalem Chapel site. She will pass on to him. Resolved noted.	Cllr E.W. Williams to liaise.

	Heritage Walk • Clerk reported that she has received a quote for Heritage Walk Signage from Fitzpatrick Woolmer of £18,491 + VAT. Cllr S. Thomas stated that he will be able to obtain a second quote from Charterbrook Signs. Cllr A. Llewelyn stated that he will forward details of Trysor Signs to Clerk so that a third quote can be obtained. Resolved noted. • Cllr A. Llewelyn suggested that Clerk contact NPTCBC Heritage Team to discuss the possibility of blue plaques. Resolved noted. • Cllr A. Llewelyn suggested that Clerk contact J. Skinner, Ystalyfera Heritage Society in order to obtain information and history from them Resolved noted. **Defibrillators** • Clerk reported that she has applied for 2 defibrillators from Calon Hearts for the kiosks. Members were pleased with this news. Resolved noted. **MUGAs** • Clerk reported that she met Keith, KDY Electrics at Ystalyfera MUGA. He stated that two of the lamps have died. Keith stated that it would be difficult to get an electrician from this area to look at them due to the scaffolding needed and/or cherry picker. • Clerk reported that she phoned the company listed on the electric box. They stated that they remembered installing the MUGA lights and that this was over 20 years ago. They were amazed that the lights had lasted this long. They said the lights are American electric systems therefore general electricians from our area would not be able to deal with them. They suggested sending a specialist electrician down to look at the lights – electrician will bring parts with them to replace. Electrician will visit both MUGAs. This will not happen for at least 2 months as they are booked up at the moment. Members agreed to wait for the electrician. Resolved noted. • Cllr A. Llewelyn stated that it may be worth looking at LED lights. Cllr R. Davies agreed and suggested that LED lights be purchased for Godre'r Graig MUGA as well. Clerk stated that the company also suggested this. She will obtain quotes. Resolved noted • Cllr A. Llewelyn stated that the MUGAs are an important part of Council Facilities and are well-used. He therefore suggested that fixing or changing the lighting be made a priority project for the next financial year. Members agreed. Resolved. • Cllr R. Davies asked if the backboards could now be ordered for Godre'r Graig MUGA. Cllr S. Thomas will send measurements to Clerk. Resolved noted. **Biodiversity Policy** • Members approved the Biodiversity Policy with the following amendments: wording to be changed to 'To encourage native wildflower growth' and that the bird boxes and insect house be added. Resolved.	Cllr S. Thomas and Clerk to obtain further quotes. Clerk to contact. Clerk to contact. Clerk to follow up. Clerk to liaise. Clerk to obtain quotes. Clerk to order. Clerk to amend and publish on website.

4694. **Tenders**

- Clerk reported that she had received 2 tenders for the Grass-cutting and Maintenance contract:
  - Glantawe Landscapes Ltd: **£9,300.00**
  - Countrywide Ltd: **£5,854.00 + VAT**
  - NPTCBC decided not to tender.

  Resolved that **Countrywide Ltd** be awarded the contract.
- Clerk reported that she had received 2 tenders for the Planting contract:
  - Glantawe Landscapes Ltd: **£2,340.00**
  - Old School Nursery Ltd: **£3,225.00 + VAT**
  - No tender was received from T. Ambler.
  - No tender was received from Pearsons.

  Resolved that contract be awarded to **Glantawe Landscapes Ltd**.
- Cllr A. Llewelyn asked if the Planters could be planted as soon as possible. Cllr G. Williams stated that Summer plants cannot be planted now as they are not ready. Summer planting will start in May. Resolved noted.

Clerk to inform companies of Council's decisions.

Clerk to ask Andrew to clear planters in preparation.

4695. **Finance**

- Clerk reported that she has received the notice of conclusion of audit 2021-22. She will place on website and on Community Hall notice board. Members were pleased with this news. Resolved.
- Clerk suggested that Cllr A. Jenkins be added to the council's bank accounts as a signatory. Members agreed. Resolved.

Accounts: Resolved.

Ref:	Type:	Payee:	Amount: £
194	DD	Survey Monkey	£44.17
195	BACS	S. Mattick (Grounds & MUGA Maintenance)	£620.00
196	BACS	SSE - Ystalyfera MUGA Electric	£375.83
197	BACS	SSE - Community Hall Electric	£365.27
198	BACS	NPTCBC - Godre'r Graig Country Park Lease	£160.00
199	BACS	NPTCBC - Footbridge Rent	£1.00
200	BACS	E-ON Gas	£338.14
201	BACS	SSE - Godre'r Graig MUGA Electric	£344.20
202	BACS	BT Broadband	£106.35
203-5	BACS	Staff Wages & Expenses	£2,779.61
206	BACS	HMRC Tax & NI	£649.44
207	BACS	City & County Swansea Pensions	£581.03

Clerk to place on website and notice board.

Clerk to liaise.

Clerk to make BACS payments.

4696. **Planning**

Resolved that there were no objections to the following Planning Applications:

- P2023/0146 - Proposed balcony on rear elevation with side privacy screen - 21 Alltygrug Road, Ystalyfera SA9 2AQ
- P2023/0127 - Single storey side extension and single storey rear/side extension (amended plan received to show altered roof to side extension 02/03/2023) – Lynsdale, Old Wern Road, Ystalyfera SA9 2LL

Clerk to email NPTCBC with decisions.

	Resolved that objection and comments for consideration be submitted to NPTCBC regarding the following application due to the burning of wood at the site causing pollution and disruption to residents: P2022/0683 - Retrospective change of use from a former bus depot to a landscaping business with two ancillary storage buildings, material loading bays and associated lighting (amended plans received 22/2/23 6/3/23) - Garage Depot, Cilmaengwyn Road, Cilmaengwyn SA8 4QN	
4697.	**Community Hall** • Clerk reported that the bird boxes and insect house have been installed in the grounds of the hall. Resolved noted. • Clerk reported that S. Mattick has cleared in front of the Police Station as well as the entrance driveway to the hall. Members were pleased with this. Resolved noted. • Clerk reported that she met with Erika Lye, Bethan, Wayne John and Claire Davies in the hall to discuss the library. The meeting went very well and NPTCBC are willing to restock the library as well as provide toys for a lending library. Cllr A. Llewelyn thanked Clerk for co-ordinating this and asked if there could be a selection of Welsh Language books added as well. This could be done in conjunction with the school as Primary pupils could be invited over to borrow books. The group are hoping to start mid-April. Members were pleased with this. Resolved noted. • Clerk reported that the storeroom needs clearing out so that some items from the library can be placed in there. She will liaise with Tiddlywinks regarding this as it is full of their toys and equipment. Resolved noted.	Clerk to liaise.
4698.	**Correspondence** • R. Revera – advice re: Biodiversity Policy. Resolved noted. • P. Egan – advice on Annual Report. Annual Report should be published on website but no rule to say it has to be published as a physical copy. Cllr A. Llewelyn suggested printing out 2 copies, one for the Community Hall library and one for YDT. Resolved noted. • L. Conolly, Llamau – request to attend next meeting to address council Resolved noted. • NPTCBC – Urban Capacity Study asking for recommendations for sites where housing could be built in our area. Cllr J. Jones suggested converting the 'Old Bridge' in Ystalyfera and using Jerusalem Chapel site for housing. Cllr R. Davies suggested the old 'Tudor Hall' next to Corner House in Ystalyfera. Ysgol Y Wern was also suggested. Resolved noted.	Clerk to publish and print. Clerk to invite to meeting. Clerk to respond.
	The meeting ended at 8:30pm. Chair thanked all for attending the meeting. The next meeting of council will take place at YDT on 20th April 2023 at 6:45pm.	