CYNGOR CYMUNED YSTALYFERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting
held via Zoom on 20th October 2022 at 7:00pm

Present

Cllr. Rhian Llewelyn (Chair)
Cllrs. Steve Thomas, Rosalyn Davies, Alun Llewelyn, Geraint Williams, Emyr Wyn Williams, Cathy James

Apologies

Name	Reason
Cllr. Terry Flynn	Personal
Cllr. Julie Jones	Personal
Cllr. Hayley Morgan	Working
Cllr. Ann Jenkins	Personal

		ACTION
4643.	**Welcome, Declarations of Interest and late Apologies** Chair welcomed all to the meeting. No late apologies. Declarations of interest: Item 8, Cllrs. C. James & R. Davies as Members of NPTCBC Planning Committee. Cllr A. Llewelyn also declared an interest in item 8 as Member of NPTCBC to avoid pre-determination issues. Resolved.	
4644.	**Minutes of previous meeting & matters arising:** All agreed that the minutes were a correct record - **Resolved.** • Following on from minute 4634 Boardwalk, Clerk has forwarded all emails to S. Mattick. He will liaise with R. Atherton and will make sure National Lottery receives all of the information requested so that the grant money can be released and spent. Resolved noted. • Following on from minute 4635 Matters Arising, Clerk has emailed L. Davies, Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera. She will arrange pupils to design artworks for dog mess signage for Carreg yr Afon Park. Members were pleased with this news. Resolved that Chair also ask Cwmtawe Community School for volunteers. • Following on from minute 4635 Matters Arising, Clerk reported that she met with Cllr S. Thomas at the Community Hall on Monday. They went through Council legal documents and found plans for Penyrallt Park. Plans clearly showed the boundary. Cllr S. Thomas suggested that the fence could be placed at the top of the banked area so as to create a more compact play area. This may stop children running and throwing items down the bank. It was suggested that doing this may however increase the chance of fly-tipping, as there would be an unused area within part of the park. It was decided that the fencing be placed on the current boundary. Resolved noted. Clerk reported that she had now received 3 quotes for the works: **Glantawe Landscapes Ltd** (4ft powder coated fencing along front of park and 6ft fencing around the other three sides): **£15,200.00** **Smart Fix** (6ft powder coated fencing all around the park): **£13,750.00 + VAT**	Chair to arrange submissions from Cwmtawe School.

	Black Mountain Fencing (to repair current wooden fencing): **£6,500.00** It was agreed that repairing the current fence would be a waste of money as in all likelihood, this would need doing again in a couple of years. <u>All agreed</u> that the powder coated fencing options be considered. It was agreed that the quote from Smart Fix be accepted and actioned as the panels included a 10 year warranty and a 5 year works guarantee. <u>Resolved.</u> • Following on from minute 4635 Matters Arising, Clerk reported that Tiddlywinks had responded to her email regarding the container in Penyrallt Park. They stated that the contents is owned by NPTCBC Playworks. Cllr S. Thomas stated that he may have a set of keys for the container. <u>Resolved</u> that the contents of the container be inspected to see if it is in good condition in the first instance. • Chair asked if grasscuting would be carried out again before winter as the grass in the parks is very long. There are also weeds growing under the play equipment that need removing. <u>Resolved</u> that Clerk check with A. Jenkins and also arrange weed-killing. • Chair asked if there was an update on the knotweed situation in the Ffynnon. Clerk has not received a quote as yet. <u>Resolved noted</u>.	Clerk to contact Smart Fix to give go-ahead. Cllr S. Thomas to check condition of contents. Clerk to liaise with Andrew. Clerk to follow up with NPTCBC.
4645.	**Foodbank Update** • Cllr C. James reported that the foodbank is still very busy. She stated that they have received lots of donations from local schools after harvest festival collections. The foodbank now has 2 new volunteers. One drives, so they are very pleased with this as deliveries and pick-ups can now be made. Members were pleased with this news. • Cllr C. James reported that the foodbank will again be providing Christmas hampers this year to those who use the foodbank as of mid-November. They have 65 turkey crowns already in their freezer. The hampers will be delivered in time for Christmas. Members were pleased with this and thanked the foodbank. <u>Resolved</u>.	Cllr C. James to provide updates.
4646.	**Planters** • Clerk reported that she has received a quote for trough planters from Amberol. <u>Resolved</u> that this be discussed in the next meeting of the Finance Committee. • Cllr G. Williams reported that he had spoken to Lee, Old School Nursery and he would like to tender for next year's planting. Cllr S. Thomas reported that Pearsons would also like to tender. Clerk reported that Glantawe Landscapes would also like to tender. Clerk reported that she is currently working on creating a tender specification. <u>Resolved</u> that the budget for this be discussed in the next meeting of the Finance Committee. • Clerk reported that she has spoken to A. Jenkins regarding the planter outside Carreg Yr Afon Park. He will plant with evergreens/shrubs as soon as possible. <u>Resolved noted.</u>	Clerk to arrange F.C. meeting. Clerk to create tender spec. Clerk to liaise with Andrew.
4647.	**Project Group** **Remembrance Sunday 2022** • Chair read out arrangements for the event – 10:50am at the war memorial (cenotaph) on 13th November 2022. Clerk reported that she had completed the form for NPTCBC Special events. One additional first	

	aider needed. She will speak to H. Williams to see if a named Ambulance Service representative would be willing to do this. Chair suggested that if this isn't possible, then an advert be put on Facebook to ask for a volunteer first aider. Resolved noted.	Clerk to find first aider.
	• Cllr A. Llewelyn stated that he believed that Amberon will be carrying out the road closure for the event. He stated that it may be the case that NPTCBC will cover this cost for this year. He will check this. Cllr R. Davies suggested that if this wasn't possible, then the Neighbourhood Team in Pontardawe may be able to provide signage. Resolved noted.	Cllr A. Llewelyn to liaise with NPTCBC.
	• Clerk reported that she had spoken to PCSO Maria, and the Police will be at the event. Resolved noted.	
	• Chair suggested that tea, pop, biscuits and crisps be provided in the Community Hall after the event. Cllr R. Davies stated that a tea urn could be borrowed from Ystalyfera Development trust. All agreed that it was a good idea to hold this in the Community Hall. Resolved noted.	Chair to purchase tea, pop, biscuits and crisps and be reimbursed. Cllr R. Davies to arrange tea urn.
	• Cllr E.W. Williams stated that he and Cllr G. Williams will lay the wreaths at the Sgwâr, Godre'r Graig. Resolved.	
	• Clerk will pick up wreaths before event and make centrepieces. Resolved.	Clerk to make centrepieces.
	Christmas 2022	
	• Clerk stated that she has costed lights for the trees next to Junction Café. This will be further discussed in the Finance Committee Meeting. Cllr A. Llewelyn stated that NPTCBC should be contacted to make sure that permission for this is sought. Resolved noted.	Clerk to contact NPTCBC.
	• Clerk reported that she has completed the forms for NPTCBC Special Events. An additional first aider is needed. Chair suggested advertising for a volunteer on Facebook. Resolved noted.	Clerk to advertise on FB.
	• Clerk reported that the Police are happy to follow the sleigh as usual. Resolved noted.	
	• Clerk suggested having a Project Group meeting as soon as possible to work out timings for the Santa tour. Resolved noted.	Cllr E.W. Williams to arrange P.G. meeting.
	• Clerk asked whether or not Pearsons will supply and install the trees free of charge. Cllr S. Thomas will check this tomorrow and let Clerk know. Resolved noted.	Cllr S. Thomas to liaise with Pearsons.
	• Cllr E.W. Williams stated that new lights will be required for the small Christmas trees. All agreed that these be purchased as soon as possible. Resolved noted.	Clerk to order lights.
	• Cllr A. Llewelyn asked when the lights will go on in Ystalyfera this year. Clerk believes this will be on 1st December but will check with Centregreat. Resolved noted.	Clerk to liaise with Centregreat.
	Jerusalem Chapel	
	• Cllr E.W. Williams reported that he has again spoken to the Presbyterians, and he now has a contact name, Neil Poulton. He deals with chapels that have closed and sites of demolition. N. Poulton will get back to Cllr E.W. Williams as soon as possible. Resolved noted.	Cllr E.W. Williams to liaise.
	Heritage Walk	
	• Cllr E. W. Williams reported that he has applied to Boom Cymru to have the Heritage Walk project considered for the S4C TV programme,	

	Prosiect Pum Mil. If successful, then the project can be started with a budget of £5,000 and lots of items/labour may be donated as companies like to advertise their businesses on the programme. Members thanked Cllr E.W. Williams for his work. Resolved noted.	Cllr E.W. Williams to keep Members updated.
4648.	**Boundary Commission Revised Proposals** • Cllr C. James asked if Members had seen the revised proposals. Members confirmed this. She explained that under the new plans, our area would be right at the bottom of Brecon and Radnor and that this may have a negative effect on our area views being considered. Cllr A. Llewelyn stated that this idea is non-sensical in terms of geography and community. Chair stated that she believed our area would better off placed with another valleys area such as the Neath Valley, Aman Valley or with Swansea. Cllr C. James stated that it is likely that the Senedd will follow suit in the same way as Westminster and it may turn out that our area would be made part of Brecon and Montgomeryshire. She explained that it has been stated that these decisions are not made on a political basis – it is made up of equal populations throughout the UK. Unfortunately, this makes it difficult in rural areas. • Cllr R. Davies asked if there had been responses from MPs themselves. This information is not known. Resolved noted. • Cllr C. James went on to explain that this is the third consultation. She stated that she feels that we owe it to our community to object as a Community Council. Members agreed. Resolved. • Cllr S. Thomas asked if this matter was out of our hands. Yes, it is but an objection can be made. Cllr A. Llewelyn stated that it is important to have it on record that the Community Council objects to these plans. Resolved noted. • Cllr C. James stated that the report goes to government in July 2023. It would then be implemented in the following election. It was suggested that C. James create a response to the consultation on behalf of the council and forward to Members before it is submitted. Resolved.	Cllr. C James to respond.
4649.	**Finance** • Clerk reported that the Audit for 2021-22 has passed. Members were pleased with this news. She will now put conclusion of audit notice on the council website. Resolved noted. • Clerk reported that the invoice for the 2022 elections has been received. It is approx. half the cost of the previous election due to there having been no election in Godre'r Graig this year. Members were pleased with this. The bill comes in at £4,429.49. Resolved noted. **Accounts:** Resolved.	Clerk to make BACS payments.

Ref:	Type:	Payee:	Amount: £
098	DD	NPTCBC (Hall Council Tax)	£273.00
099	DD	Survey Monkey	£44.17
100	DD	iD Mobile	£33.99
101-3	BACS	Staff Wages & Expenses	£2,312.51
104	BACS	HMRC Tax & NI	£365.88
105	BACS	City & County Swansea Pensions	£483.96
106	BACS	NPTCBC (2022 Elections)	£4,429.49
107	BACS	Glantawe Landscapes Ltd (Gnds Maint)	£1,875.00

	108	BACS	Glantawe Landscapes Ltd (Watering & Planting)	£1,240.00	
	109	BACS	E-ON Gas	£3.01	
	110	BACS	BT Payphone	£133.32	
	111	BACS	BT Broadband	£57.35	
	112	BACS	NPTCBC (Trade Waste)	£270.81	
	113	DD	NPTCBC (Hall Council Tax)	£273.00	
	134	C 312	Poppy Appeal (Wreaths & Poppies)	£180.00	
	135	DD	Survey Monkey	£44.17	
4650.	**Planning** Resolved that there were no objections to the following Planning Applications: • P2022/0706 - Proposed detached garage & raised terrace to rear - 35 Clare Road, Ystalyfera SA9 2AJ– no objection. Resolved. • P2022/0697 - First floor side and single storey rear extensions to include works to retaining wall - Nant Y Deri 129 Cilmaengwyn Road, Cilmaengwyn SA8 4QN– no objection. Resolved. • P2022/0783 - Retention of raised decking to front of property - 259 Graig Road, Godre'r Graig SA9 2NZ– no objection. Resolved. • P2021/1234 - Proposed first floor side extension with undercroft. Retention of existing retaining works and incorporation of land into residential curtilage. Plus construction of 600mm high planter on front boundary (amended description of works and amendment to scheme to remove additional parking proposal) - 311 Graig Road, Godre'r Graig SA9 2NZ– no objection. Resolved.				Clerk to email NPTCBC with decisions.
4651.	**Community Hall** • Clerk reported that she had spoken to the Caretaker and the below are needed: Cutlery Pots & Pans Utensils Baking trays Plastic Tumblers Tea Towels Toaster Cleaning items Cllr S. Thomas suggested asking the Recycling Centre in Glanrhyd if they have any of the items that we could purchase from them. Cllr R. Davies stated that some of the items be available from Trysor Charity Shop. Resolved that Clerk send list to Cllrs S. Thomas and R. Davies so that they can check what is available from both outlets. • Clerk reported that she has purchased a sim for the Caretaker. She will pick up the phone from Cllr R. Davies as soon as possible. Resolved noted. • Clerk reported that she met with S. Mattick at the Community Hall this morning. He inspected the door frames, skirtings and door handles in the hall. He stated that he will be able to splice the door frames and paint over them. S. Mattick also agreed to cut back overgrowth around the exterior of the hall as well as the footpath and car park overgrowth. He				Cllr S. Thomas to liaise with Cllr R. Davies. Clerk to collect phone. Clerk to liaise with S. Mattick.

	quoted £300 for all of the work. Members were happy with this quote and agreed to go ahead. Resolved. • Clerk reported that new lighting is needed in the Community Hall. All agreed that Clerk obtain quotes for the works. Resolved noted.	Clerk to obtain quotes.
4652.	**Correspondence** • Tegwch– request for update on situation with Godre'r Graig School. Cllr R. Davies reported that there is a meeting scheduled for Monday morning with governors and headteacher and NPTCBC. There is also a Public Meeting scheduled for 8th November 2022 in Godre'r Graig Workingmen's Club with NPTCBC representatives. Cllr A. Llewelyn stated that this meeting will look at matters regarding the actual school building. The review of Swansea Valley schools will continue. He went on to explain that the engineers report is still the same. Ideas and options for the land will be discussed with local residents. More information is available online on the NPTCBC website. Resolved noted. • J. Castle-Baron – request for reduced hall hire rate for new local business requiring the hall for one day on February 2023. Request approved. £50 + VAT agreed for single day usage. Resolved. • L. Williams – complaint letter regarding grasscutting and suggesting planting of wildflowers. Cllr R. Davies stated that this was a County Council matter and went on to explain that the sites mentioned have been highlighted as biodiversity 'bee friendly' sites to encourage native wildflowers to grow (as opposed to planting wildflowers which may not be native to the area). Cllr S. Thomas asked if we could spread wildflower seeds in the areas but Cllr R. Davies explained that NPTCBC want flowers to appear naturally. Cllr C. James explained that City & County Swansea have to re-plant the flowers every year. NPTCBC are trying to let the flowers grown naturally. Cllr A. Llewelyn suggested that the NPTCBC Biodiversity team could be invited to meet with the Project Group to discuss their vision. He explained that council can plant wildflowers on Community Council land but not on County Council land. Location discussions could also be beneficial. With regards to general grasscutting, Cllr A. Llewelyn explained that NPTCBC were cutting verges one week but Tai Tarian were cutting their verges on different weeks therefore this made the area look more untidy than it otherwise would have. Cllr S. Thomas stated that if we were made aware of what the native plants to this area were, then we could perhaps help the process in some way. Resolved noted. • Cllr C. James forwarded an email from a resident asking if it would be OK to plant a tree in memory of a loved one near the Ffynnon. All agreed that this was a lovely idea. Resolved noted. • OVW, WG Legislation – Clerk reported that she has been liaising with OVW regarding the new legislation. It is now necessary for ALL Councillors to have a training plan in place. There is also the requirement of an annual report each year (starting 2021-22) which means that Clerk	Cllr G. Williams to update Tegwch. Clerk to respond. Cllr G. Williams to update L. Williams. Cllr C. James to respond. Clerk to create training plans & annual reports.

	will have to complete 2 annual reports in quick succession. This will mean that Clerk may have to claim overtime for hours worked over her contracted hours in order to complete these reports. Members agreed that overtime be claimed. Resolved. • Clerk reported that she is using lots of paper and is spending lots of time shredding every month. She has purchased a Logitech Crayon for the iPad which means she can take meeting notes and put all of her to-do lists on the iPad. Members thought this was a great idea. Members agreed that Clerk be reimbursed the £49.99 for the Logitech Crayon and any other software necessary. Resolved.	Clerk to be reimbursed.
	The meeting ended at 9:00pm. Chair thanked all for attending the meeting. The next meeting of council will take place on 17th November 2022 at 7:00pm via Zoom.	