CYNGOR CYMUNED YSTALYFERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Ystalyfera Development Trust and online via Zoom on 18th April 2024 at 7:00pm

Present

Cllr. G Williams (Chair) Cllrs. H Morgan, D Davey, R Davies, J Jones, R Llewellyn, A Lewis (online), A Llewelyn (online), A Jenkins (online), E W Williams (online – late arrival)

Apologies

Name	Reason
Cllr S Thomas	Working
Cllr. T Flynn	Personal
Cllr C James	Working
Cllr S Prothero	Personal
Cllr R Townsend	Working

		ACTION
4811.	**Welcome, Declarations of Interest and late Apologies:** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting (and online) and started the meeting at 7.00 pm. Declarations of interest: Item 7 - Planning, Cllrs R. Davies and A. Llewelyn declared an interest as Members of NPTCBC to avoid pre-determination issues. **Resolved.**	
4812.	**Minutes of Previous Meeting & Matters Arising:** It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2024 were a correct record – **Resolved.** **Matters Arising:** • Further to Minute 4805 Commercial Waste & Recycling – Clerk reported that she had spoken with the caretaker regarding this matter. She is recycling as instructed but is unsure of what goes in the Red Box. **Resolved** that Clerk contact NPTCBC for advice. Further **Resolved** that labels be printed and placed on all of the boxes so that there is no confusion going forward. • Further to Minute 4809 Community Hall – Cllr J Jones reported that the library is now open and looks excellent. Books can be ordered online and picked up from the library. She reported that pupils from Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera have already visited and there is a planned visit from a Storyteller. Members were pleased with this news. **Resolved** noted. • Further to Minute 4810 Correspondence – Clerk reported that Council had already signed up to the pledge a few years ago. **Resolved** noted. • Further to Minute 4810 Correspondence – Clerk asked if the Christmas tree had been removed from Gurnos Chapel Foodbank. It has not. **Resolved** that Clerk arrange removal of any trees that have not been removed as yet.	Clerk to liaise with NPTCBC. Clerk to arrange removal.

4813.	**Foodbank Update** • Clerk reported that there was no update received on the Foodbank this month. It was suggested that this item be taken off the Agenda as a standing item and only put on the Agenda if there is an update from Cllr C James in future. Members agreed – **Resolved.**	Clerk to amend Agenda.
4814.	**Grass-cutting, Planting and Watering Contracts 2024:** **Grass-cutting** - 4 Quotes were received as follows: • James Bayliss: £8,142 • Countrywide: £6,250 • Wren Vale: £8,900 • Glantawe Landscapes: £9,300 Although Countrywide were the cheapest option, Members were not happy with the works carried out last year and after discussion, it was **Resolved** that a 1-year contract be taken out with James Bayliss for the Grass-cutting. **Planting** - 2 Quotes were received as follows: • James Bayliss: £4,550 • Glantawe Landscapes: £2,540 (planters) + £400 (lamppost baskets) Although Glantawe Landscapes were the cheapest option, Members were not entirely happy with plants used last year and after discussion, it was **Resolved** that a 1-year contract be taken out with James Bayliss for the Planting. • Clerk to check if lamppost baskets are included in the quote from James Bayliss. If not, then a quote will be needed and compared to the lamppost basket quote from Glantawe Landscapes. **Resolved** noted. • An email of apology was received from Tim Ambler stating that unfortunately he is too busy to provide a quote for this year's planting. He thanked Council for the opportunity. Members thanked him for responding. **Resolved** noted. **Watering** - 2 Quotes were received as follows: • James Bayliss: £115 per half day • Glantawe Landscapes: £180 per watering It was **Resolved** that a 1-year contract be taken out with James Bayliss for the Watering, but that watering is only carried out when needed. Cllr R Llewelyn reported that she is trying to get some local residents and businesses to water some of the planters, therefore a half day from James Bayliss should be sufficient for the other planters and baskets. **Resolved** noted.	Clerk to inform of decisions. Clerk to inform of decisions. Clerk to liaise. Clerk to inform of decisions.
4815.	**Project Group** **MUGA:** • Clerk reported that she has ordered the lighting This will be delivered directly to Simon Pinner so that he can install them as soon as possible. **Resolved** noted.	

	• Clerk reported that she had spoken with D James via WhatsApp and then N James, Ystalyfera RFC over the phone. There has been a misunderstanding as to what type of letter was needed from their insurers. Clerk had explained exactly what is needed and N James said that he will ask the club's insurers to issue a letter. This letter can then be forwarded to Council's insurers for further action. **Resolved** noted. • Cllr R Llewelyn suggested that the Clerk should not be contacted by members of the public via WhatsApp. Members agreed. It was suggested that Clerk inform members of the public that they should only contact Council via phone, letter or email. **Resolved.**	Clerk to liaise.
	Heritage Walk • Clerk reported that she had spoken to S Clements, NPTCBC regarding Heritage Funding from NPTCBC. She suggested a pre-application meeting to make sure the plan meets with the funding criteria. **Resolved** that Clerk arrange meeting. • Further funding will be applied for via the National Lottery Heritage Fund. **Resolved** noted. • Cllr E W Williams reported that the meeting on Monday regarding content for the boards had gone well. There needs to be 2 groups, one for Ystalyfera and one for Godre'r Graig. This will make compiling the information for the boards easier. Cllr J James reported that Bernant Hughes is happy for his content from his book to be used on the boards as long as he is recognised for this. Members were pleased with this news. Cllr E W Williams will also contact Clive Reed to ask if he would be happy for excerpts of his book to be used. Cllr J Jones suggested contacting Lloyd Williams for information a well. **Resolved** noted. • There will be 8 large boards in total – 2 at Pant Teg, 2 at Jerusalem site, 1 on Church Road, 1 at 'Siop Alfa', 1 at the Cilbrwyn and 1 at the old Godre'r Graig School. Small signs will be placed along Pentalwn to point out where old buildings of interest used to be. Cllr R Davies suggested that photos will tell much of the story on the boards. **Resolved** noted. • Cllr A Llewelyn stated that it is important to start discussions with the Presbyterians regarding the Jerusalem Chapel site. It was suggested that an on-site meeting be held. **Resolved** noted. **RoSPA Inspections** • Clerk reported that she has booked the RoSPA annual inspections for June 2024. **Resolved** noted. **Carreg yr Afon Park** • Clerk reported that the Facilities Officer had reported that the knotweed in Carreg yr Afon Park is now spreading inside the boundary fencing of the playground area. **Resolved** that Clerk add this area to NPTCBC Knotweed contract.	Clerk to arrange meeting. Cllr E W Williams to contact. Cllrs A Llewelyn & E W Williams to arrange meeting. Clerk to liaise with NPTCBC.
4816.	**Finance & Internal Audit** • Clerk reported that she is currently completing the accounts and other required documents for the internal audit. **Resolved** that Ferguson's and Peters be instructed to carry out the 2023-24 internal Audit. • Clerk reported that Council Insurance is due for renewal on 1st June 2024. Cllr J Jones suggested that the library in the hall needs to be added to the insurance quote. Resolved noted.	Clerk to liaise. Clerk to put audit notice on website and hall notice board. Clerk to liaise with Gallagher.

	Accounts: RESOLVED 242 BACS NPTCBC Footbridge Ground Rent £1.00 243 BACS NPTCBC Godre'r Graig Park Lease £160.00 244 BACS S. Mattick - Fit door handles, put up signage,floor strip £80.00 245-7 BACS Member Consumables Payments £156.00 248 PayPal Adobe Systems - Acrobat Pro £29.96 249-51 BACS Staff Wages & Expenses £2258.84 252 BACS BT Broadband £66.25 253 BACS Cllr E.W. Williams - Reim – sympathy flowers £21.50 254 BACS L. Evans - Minutes (Clerk cover) £111.54 255 BACS Ystalyfera Development Trust £20.00 256 BACS City & County Swansea Pensions £262.93 001 DD NPTCBC Hall Council Tax £310.00 002 DD Survey Monkey £44.17 003 BACS Wales Audit Office (Ext Audit 2022-23) £200.00 004 BACS SJB Floodlighting Ltd £4,128.00 005 BACS SSE - Godre'r Graig MUGA £225.34 006 BACS NPTCBC Trade Waste £286.67 007 BACS E-ON Next - Hall Gas £381.31 008 BACS BT Payphone £133.32	Clerk to make BACS payments.
4817.	**Planning** **Resolved** that there were no objections to the following Planning Application: • P2024/0109 - Conversion of ground floor offices to a self-contained residential apartment, together with use of basement for ancillary domestic storage associated with both proposed ground floor apartment and existing first floor residential apartment at No. 94 Commercial Street - 92 Commercial Street Ystalyfera SA9 2HU	Clerk to inform NPTCBC.
4818.	**Community Hall** • LA Alarms have been in touch as a service is due on the alarms. Caretaker is meeting them at the hall on Monday afternoon. Cllr J Jones suggested letting Pathfinders Cymru know about this as they will be in the library at the time. **Resolved**.	Clerk to liaise with Pathfinders Cymru.
4819.	**Correspondence** • Cllr S Prothero – request for compassionate leave on grounds of his wife's ill-health. **Resolved** that request be accepted. Members passed on their best wishes to Mrs Prothero. • One Voice Wales – training dates. Members to let Clerk know if they wish to book onto a course. Clerk suggested the Code of Conduct training for Members who have not yet completed this. **Resolved** noted. • S Clements, NPTCBC – Heritage Fund Pre-application advice. **Resolved** noted. • A Roberts, Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera Year 6 Leavers Party – request for funding. **Resolved** that £100 be donated to the school for the party. Further **Resolved** that £100 also be donated to Godre'r Graig Primary School for their Year 6 Leaver party. • Llangollen International Eisteddfod – request for funding. **Resolved** that this be revisited during the July meeting when funding applications are considered.	Clerk to contact. Cllrs to liaise with Clerk. Clerk to make payments.

	• Cllr J Jones – request from residents regarding the future of the 'Hen Bont' building. Cllr A Llewelyn reported that the owners of the building had not done what they said they would. There is a legal process going ahead at the moment. He will update council when more is known. **Resolved** noted. • Cllr J Jones – concerns regarding the path to/from the aqueduct. It is difficult to cross the road to follow the path due to the pavement being blocked by fencing. The wall at the aqueduct is also damaged. Cllr A Llewelyn reported that NPTCBC are awaiting information from CADW with regards to the aqueduct. It was suggested that 2 letters be written from Council to NPT regarding the aqueduct and path. Walls are low and wires have been thrown into the river. **Resolved** noted. • Cllr E W Williams – Cabinet at the Sgwâr, Godre'r Graig. Cllr E W Williams reported that people had been dumping books, rubbish and eggs etc at the site. He cleaned the site himself over the weekend as it looked awful. A proper book exchange cabinet has now been put on private land next to the Sgwâr and the people involved are now happy with this. **Resolved** noted.	Cllr A Llewelyn to update Members. Clerk to write letters.
	The meeting ended at 8.15 pm. Chair thanked all for attending the meeting. Next Meeting and AGM will be held on 16th May 2024.	