CYNGOR CYMUNED YSTALYFERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at

Ystalyfera Development Trust and online via Zoom on

20th March 2025 at 6:45pm

Present

Cllr. Rachel Townsend (Vice-chair) Cllrs. Julie Jones, Ann Jenkins, Rhian Llewelyn, Ann Lewis, Rosalyn Davies, Dan Davey, Hayley Morgan, Alun Llewelyn, Kim Hopkins (online)

Apologies

Name	Reason
Cllr. Simon Prothero	LOA
Cllr. Emyr Wyn Williams	Working
Cllr. Geraint Williams	Sickness
Cllr. Steve Thomas	Working

		ACTION
4911.	**Welcome, Declarations of Interest and late Apologies:** The Vice-chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and started the meeting at 6.45pm. Cllrs A Llewelyn and R Davies declared an interest in item 7, Planning, as members of NPTCBC to avoid predetermination. Cllr S Prothero had requested a further 3 months leave of absence – Members agreed. **Resolved.**	
4912.	**Pathfinders Cymru:** E Lye, B Knight and B Wallace attended the meeting to report to council. They explained that they are going from strength to strength. Members were pleased with this news. The library is going very well. Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera are weekly visitors to the library and Pathfinders are running projects for literacy and training for teachers and parents. They are also running Welsh language history sessions. They are having lots of referrals for young people with learning difficulties. E Lye went on to explain that many people are coming to the library for support and advice, so they are working with Swansea University as they are able to search a database for various organisations etc who can help with any particular problems. The people can then be signposted to relevant organisations. Any 3rd sector organisation can apply for access to the database which is very useful. E Lye explained that they had received the Warm Spaces grant from NPTCBC for the new chairs for the hall. Members were very grateful for this and pleased that the warm hub is doing well. Pathfinders Cymru are planning on running a Youth Club from the hall for over 11s. They are waiting for funding before starting this. They hope to have high-value activities such as a graffiti artist, so that they can draw young people in so that they can make friends and socialise. They currently run an afterschool hangout which is very popular and has many attendees from the school. They are also working with the Duke of Edinburgh to enable young people to achieve a Bronze Award for young enterprise i.e. equipping the young people with the skills to run their own businesses.	

	Members asked where they advertise their activities. Facebook, Ystalyfera Mag and posters in the sheltered home, halls and shops are all used. Storytelling sessions are planned, with Makaton being used. Reports state that lots of young people in NPTCBC leave school with a literacy age of 6. Books are very important and encouraging the school pupils to the library is very advantageous to literacy. It was suggested that Pathfinders Cymru send their magazine article to Council every month so that Members can see what is going on and help promote the activities and events. Members thought this was a good idea. Vice-chair thanked Pathfinders Cymru for attending the meeting and thanked them for their report. They then left the meeting. **Resolved noted.**	
4913.	**Member of Public** A member of the public attended to speak to Council regarding the following: • **Parking at Ynysydarren Road during school hours.** Problem with cars filling the road down Ynysydarren Road and around all the way to the Rugby Club making it difficult for two cars to pass. D James (who also attended the meeting to speak to Council) stated that Ystalyfera RFC would be happy to open their car park for the students to park during the day. They have room for 50 cars. Members thought this was a good idea and thanked D James for this. Cllr J Jones offered to liaise with the school regarding this. **Resolved noted.** Cllr A Jenkins suggested extending the double yellow lines so that cars won't park too close to the junction. Cllr A Llewelyn explained that if the lines are extended, then parking spaces would be restricted for residents. It was suggested that Clerk contact M Brumby, NPTCBC to pass on Council's concerns regarding this matter. **Resolved noted.** • **Anti-social behaviour and drug use in Ystalyfera.** Lady reported that there is lots going on in Ystalyfera. Smell of drugs everywhere. She stated that she phones the PCSOs but they don't come back to her. Cllr R Davies suggested that she phone the Police from here on so that they can have a full picture of what is going on. **Resolved noted.** • **Recycling left on walls and floor attracting rats.** Lady stated that as some people don't wash out their recycling before bagging it, this attracts rats. Cllr A Llewelyn explained that residents can have as many recycling bags as they wish, they can order them from NPTCBC. He explained that as long as they are hung on the walls and not on the floor then they are ok. If there is no environmental health hazard, then nothing can be done. If bags are left on floor and rats are being seen the environmental health can come out to assess. This has to be done via NPTCBC. **Resolved noted.** Vice chair thanked the lady for attending and for her comments. The lady left the meeting.	Clerk to liaise.
4914.	**Ystalyfera RFC** D James, Ystalyfera RFC attended the meeting to share news about the clubhouse. He explained that they had submitted an insurance claim and the insurers are prepared to fund a new roof. He explained that the structure had gone at the back end of the roof. D James thanked Council for their donations to the club, youth teams and Chunky 7s. He asked Council what would happen going forward of the roof is damaged by balls coming from the MUGA. As they have spent approx. £16,000 over the last 10 years for repairs to the roof. Would funding be available from Council for repairs? Members explained that the	

	planning permission for netting to go on top of the current fence was awaiting approval by NPTCBC. D James stated that he thought the netting wouldn't be high enough to stop any balls. Cllr A Llewelyn stated that getting the nets up is the first step. Their effect can then be measured. The fact that there will be a new roof provides a measurable starting point so any damage by balls can then be assessed. It is important to see if the netting works in the first instance. Members agreed. It was suggested that Clerk contact the planning officer to see if the planning could be moved quickly. Resolved noted. Vice-chair thanked D James for attending and providing Council with an update. D James left the meeting.	Clerk to liaise.
4915.	**Minutes of Previous Meeting & Matters Arising:** It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 20th February 2025 were a correct record – **Resolved.** **Matters Arising:** • Further to minute 4904 Matters Arising – Clerk reported that the planning application for the netting at the MUGA is submitted and we are awaiting an outcome. **Resolved noted**. Clerk received quote from Net World Sports for the netting, posts and fixtures £460 + VAT. Members were pleased with this quote. **Resolved noted**. • Further to minute 4904 Matters Arising – Clerk read response to further letter regarding the 'Hen Bont' building in Ystalyfera from C Morris, NPTCBC. The site is assessed on a regular basis and the fencing meets safety regulations. Cllr A Llewelyn reported that a Team has formally been adopted at NPTCBC to deal with Commercial Buildings, so it is hoped that they will look at this building as soon as possible. Cllr A Llewelyn suggested that individual Members could contact NPTCBC with their concerns. Clerk will forward email address. **Resolved noted.** • Further to minute 4904 Matters Arising – Cllr A Jenkins reported that the sinkhole has not been filled. Cllr A Llewelyn will follow up on this. **Resolved noted.** • Further to minute 4904 Matters Arising – Cllr R Davies reported that the bin is overflowing in Carreg yr Afon Park. Cllr R Davies had messaged R Whiteman and he confirmed he would accept the role and will start ASAP. **Resolved noted.** • Further to minute 4904 Matters Arising – Clerk reported that the Poppies on lampposts in Godre'r Graig have now been taken down by Handyperson. **Resolved noted.** • Further to minute 4910 Correspondence – Clerk reported that A Phillips had been in touch and the tree has been cut free of charge. The man took the wood as payment. Members were pleased with this news. **Resolved noted.** It was reported that the stones at the Ffynnon need re-setting. There is a willow tree falling over the benches and the little railings can be taken away from the top of the wall as they are broken. Clerk will liaise with Handyperson regarding this. **Resolved noted.** • Further to minute 4910 Correspondence – Clerk reported that she now has the Godre'r Graig AFC bank details and will make the grant payment ASAP. **Resolved noted**	Clerk to liaise. Clerk to forward email address. Cllr A Llewelyn to follow up. Clerk to liaise. Clerk to set up BACS payment.

4916.	**Project Group** **MUGA:** • Clerk reported that the lights have now been installed. Members were pleased with this news. It was suggested that S Pinner check the timers on both MUGAs to ensure the lights do not come on until it is dark. **Resolved noted.** **Heritage Walk** • Clerk reported that there is no news as yet on the grant application. **Resolved noted.** **Defibrillators** • Clerk reported that the situation is ongoing with National Grid regarding an electricity supply for Graig Road. The load and unmetered supply has to be worked out. **Resolved noted.** **Parks** • Clerk reported that the National Lottery funding has been approved and the money is now in Council account. Members were pleased with this news. Clerk reported that she has contacted Sovereign Play, and the order is ready to be processed. **Resolved** that the equipment from Sovereign Play be ordered ASAP. • Clerk reported that she had spoken to W Rees from the Trustees of Carreg yr Afon Park and they are happy for Council to lease more of the land for the timber trail. It was suggested that an additional £100 p/a be offered for the land (so a total of £500 for all land p/a). All agreed. **Resolved.** • Clerk reported that Our Tree Company have a lot of work on at the moment and will look at the trees at Alltygrug Park ASAP. **Resolved noted**. • Clerk asked if everyone now had access to the Parks Forms on Google Docs. Some Members still cannot get on. Clerk will send out new links. **Resolved noted.** **Cenotaph** • Clerk reported that they had received one quote so far for new plaques - Harold Davies, Neath £6,292+VAT. Members suggested waiting to find out if any funding from the War Memorial Trust was available before deciding on whether to replace the plaques or have the current plaques re-etched. **Resolved noted.** • It was suggested that if a grant was not awarded from the War Memorial Trust, that either an application could go in every year, or some funds could be put aside every year in order to cover the cost of replacement plaques. Members thought this was a good idea. **Resolved noted.** **Tennis Courts** • Cllr A Llewelyn reported that work is now nearing completion at the tennis courts. Lines are to be placed shortly. Members were pleased with this news. The fencing needs checking for safety before opening the courts. **Resolved noted.**	Clerk to liaise. Clerk to liaise. Clerk to liaise. Clerk to liaise. Clerk to liaise.

	• Cllr A Llewelyn reported that the courts will not be a staffed site but during the Summer, nets will be put up and they will be stored in the Bowls Club during Winter. It was suggested that volunteers could be sought to be responsible for bookings etc. • It was suggested that Taster Sessions could be run at the courts. Vice-chair suggested that Brecon Disability Sports may be able to advise. She will contact them. It was suggested that Pathfinders Cymru may be interested in running some sessions at the courts if they could get funding for this. **Christmas Decorations** • Clerk reported that A Gough, Centregreat Ltd, had confirmed that Council can purchase decorations up to £5,000. Decorations would be £305 each and Garlands would be £282 each. It was suggested that a mix of decorations and garlands would be nice. Clerk will contact A Gough to ask for photos of options for the decorations. **Resolved noted.** • It was suggested that the lighting for the tree at Ystalyfera Rugby Club be looked at again. Cllr A Lewis asked why Centregreat won't put the lights up. Clerk explained that they would be driving over the pitch and could damage it. They are not prepared to take a risk on being liable for any damage they may cause. It was suggested that someone with a cherry picker be contacted to see if they would be able to help with this. It was suggested that this matter be discussed further in a meeting of the Project Group. **Resolved noted.** **Volunteer Awards 2025** • Clerk reported that she had received a response from NPTCVS. Their volunteer awards are held the first week of June. Fine for one or two Councillors to attend the event. Gemma Richards will let us know more in due course. **Resolved noted.**	Cllr R Townsend to liaise. Clerk to liaise. Clerk to liaise with Cllr E.W. Williams to arrange a Project Group Meeting. Clerk to liaise.
4917.	**Finance** • Clerk reported that she will start getting the accounts and 2024-25 documents together in preparation for internal audit at the end of the month. **Resolved noted.** • Clerk reported that the Council's Insurance is due for renewal – she will complete the pre-renewal questionnaire as soon as possible. **Resolved noted.** • It was suggested that the business broadband be checked to see if we are in contract. If not, then other options could be looked into. **Resolved noted.** **Accounts: RESOLVED**	Clerk to prepare. Clerk to complete. Clerk to check.

215	BACS	Cllr S Thomas - reimbursement plans	£- *
216	BACS	Old School Nursery - Christmas Trees	£780.00
217	BACS	Ystalyfera Development Trust - room hire	£20.00
218	BACS	Ystalyfera Development Trust - room hire	£26.00
219	BACS	NPTCBC - Planning application fee	£115.00
220	DD	iD Mobile (Clerk's mobile)	£36.92
221-4	BACS	Staff Wages & Expenses	£3,536.43
225	BACS	HMRC Tax & NI	£687.73
226	BACS	City & County Swansea Pensions	£588.87
227-9	BACS	Member Remuneration	£468.00
230	BACS	Ystalyfera Development Trust - room hire	£20.60
231	BACS	Centregreat Ltd - Festive Lighting	£7,944.00

*Cllr S Thomas to let Clerk know amount owed.

Clerk to make BACS payments.

4918.	**Planning** • P2025/0073 - Certificate of Lawful Development (proposed) for the construction of a detached outbuilding situated within the side garden and to be used for a purpose incidental to the enjoyment of the dwellinghouse - 184 Graig Road, Godre'r Graig SA9 2NZ – no objections. **Resolved noted.** • P2025/0115 - Proposed first floor rear extension - 4 Pentwyn Road, Ystalyfera SA9 2AH - no objections. **Resolved noted.** • P2025/0134 - 2m extension in height of existing wire mesh fencing (from 4.8m to 6.8m) to northwest boundary - MUGA And Skatepark, Ffordd Glandwr, Ystalyfera SA9 2ER – this is Council's own application, so comments cannot be submitted. **Resolved noted.**	Clerk to liaise with NPTCBC.
4919.	**Community Hall** • Clerk reported that Distinction Windows have been out to look at the hall and a quote will be received in due course. A quote will also be provided from Harmony Windows. **Resolved noted.** • Clerk reported that she has submitted the NPTCBC Minor Projects form for the windows and a decision should be imminent as it will go to cabinet on 2nd April 2025. **Resolved noted.** • Clerk reported that the signing-in book is working well. **Resolved.** • Clerk reported that Caretaker now has her work phone and will forward the details to Members. The shared calendar isn't working on the phone but Clerk will find a work around for this. It was suggested that the number and email be placed on Council website and Facebook. A poster in the hall would also be beneficial. **Resolved noted.** • Clerk reported that the Recycling Centre in Glanrhyd do not want the old chairs. Clerk suggested putting an advert on Facebook. Vice-chair suggested contacting a scrap merchant. Cllr A Llewelyn suggested asking NPTCVS if they could ask their Members if any of them need new Chairs. **Resolved noted.**	Clerk to liaise. Clerk to liaise. Clerk to find work around. Clerk to update website, FB & make a poster. Cllr R Townsend to speak to scrap merchant. Clerk to contact NPTCVS.
4920.	**Correspondence** • Cllr A Llewelyn – suggestion to create a strategic partnership with Ystalyfera RFC. Clerk reported that she had already contacted One Voice Wales for advice on this matter. Some Councils do this – it is totally legal. A legal agreement should be made up and signed by both parties, with an exit clause. It was suggested that's the club's constitution should be looked at to make sure the whole club is run as a not-for-profit including the clubhouse. It was stated that other organisations also do a lot for our community as well as people with additional needs, including Pathfinders Cymru, Ystalyfera Bowls Club, Ynysmeudwy AFC and Godre'r Graig AFC. Cllr A Llewelyn stated that the reason he supports a strategic partnership with Ystalyfera Rugby Club was due to the numbers who participate in the club and its importance to Ystalyfera. It was suggested that more be found out about participation including age ranges served, girls and boys teams, adults, walking rugby, inclusiveness etc. It was stated that it would be important to know exactly what they run. It was suggested that this matter be put on the next agenda for further discussion. **Resolved noted.** Cllr A Llewelyn also suggested promoting the area as a Sports Hub or Sports Village as there is Tennis, Bowls, Rugby, MUGAs, 2 Football	Clerk to liaise.

	teams, 2G Pitch and Tennis courts as well as a Sports Hall at Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera and the outdoor gyms, cycle path, park run etc. He stated that people think we have nothing in our villages, but we actually have a lot of sporting activities and facilities. Vice-chair suggested making a video to promote the area. This to be discussed further at a later date. **Resolved noted.** • A Phillips – email to say that the tree at the Ffynnon has been removed free of charge. Members were pleased with this news. **Resolved noted.** • C Morris, NPTCBC – Hen Bont response. (See Minute 4915). **Resolved noted.** • L Vincent – Ystalyfera Magazine. Invitation to write articles regarding Council projects etc. Clerk will prepare 'A review of the year' article. **Resolved noted.** • James Bayliss – Grass-cutting. Conformation that grass-cutting will commence at the start of April. **Resolved noted.**	Clerk to write article.
	The meeting ended at 9:00pm. Chair thanked all for attending the meeting. Next Meeting will be held on 17th April 2025.	