CYNGOR CYMUNED YSTALYFERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at

Ystalyfera Community Hall and online via Zoom on

22nd May 2025 at 7pm

Present

Cllr. Rachel Townsend (Chair) Cllrs. Dan Davey, Ann Jenkins, Rosalyn Davies, Alun Llewelyn, Rhian Llewelyn, Hayley Morgan, Julie Jones, Ann Lewis, Geraint Williams, Emyr Wyn Williams (late arrival)

Apologies

Name	Reason
Cllr. Simon Prothero	LOA
Cllr. Cathy James	Working
Cllr. Kim Hopkins	Working
Cllr. Steve Thomas	Working

		ACTION
4937.	**Welcome, Declarations of Interest and late Apologies:** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and started the meeting at 7pm. Cllrs A Llewelyn and R Davies declared an interest in item 6, Planning, as members of NPTCBC to avoid predetermination. Cllr A Lewis also declared an interest in item 6, Planning due to knowing one of the applicants. **Resolved.**	
4938.	**Minutes of Previous Meeting & Matters Arising:** It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th April 2025 were a correct record – **Resolved.** **Matters Arising:** • Further to minute 4922 Matters Arising – Clerk reported that she wrote letter to school regarding the littering – no response as yet. **Resolved noted.** Cllr J Jones reported that there are less cars parking on Ynysydarren Road now due to it being exam time. She will liaise with school. **Resolved noted.** • Further to minute 4922 Matters Arising – Clerk reported that planning permission has now been granted and she has ordered the materials for the netting. **Resolved noted.** • Further to minute 4922 Matters Arising – Cllr A Llewelyn reported that he has submitted photos of the sinkhole and will send on to NPTCBC. **Resolved noted.** • Further to minute 4922 Matters Arising – Clerk reported that Paul Griffiths is now looking after the bin in Carreg yr Afon Park. Council were pleased with this news and thanked P Griffiths for volunteering. **Resolved noted.** • Further to minute 4922 Matters Arising – Clerk reported that Handyperson is currently working at the Ffynnon. He had to buy supplies (e.g. cement) to carry out the work. Clerk has reimbursed him for these. **Resolved noted.** Members requested some photos of the works once completed. **Resolved noted.**	Cllr J Jones to liaise. Cllr A Llewelyn to liaise. Clerk to liaise.

	• Further to minute 4922 Matters Arising – Clerk reported that the articles for the Community Mag and Ystalyfera Magazine had come out well. The articles show the Community how much is completed each year by the Community Council. **Resolved noted.** It was suggested that digital versions be linked to Council website. **Resolved** that Clerk look into doing this. It was suggested that parts of the article also be placed on Facebook. **Resolved noted.**	Clerk to liaise & research.
4939.	**Project Group** **MUGA:** • Clerk reported that S Pinner has completed all works at both MUGAs. Sensors and timers are fitted and working. If there are any problems, he is happy to assist. **Resolved noted.** Cllr R Llewelyn reported that there are lots of weeds at the MUGA in Ystalyfera. Cllr R Davies reported that there are also lots of weeds under the multi-play unit at Carreg yr Afon Park. **Resolved** that Clerk ask Handyperson if he can work on this in the first instance, if not, then a contractor be sought. • Clerk reported that she tried to apply for funding from the Place Prosperity Fund for planning and designing a MUGA at Carreg yr Afon Park but the fund would not cover this. She suggested that the play companies will provide plans for the design and a company then used to create the planning application. Members agreed. **Resolved noted.** Clerk reported that Sutcliffe Play have already been out to look at the park. They want to know where exactly the MUGA would go before coming up with a design. It was suggested that a few Members meet at the park to have a look at suitable locations. **Resolved noted.** **Heritage Walk** • Clerk reported that the application has been turned down. There was no constructive feedback given only a mention that the land proposed for signage could be suitable for development in the future. Members were disappointed and baffled by this as the signs would be going on a former landslip area that has been highlighted as not suitable for development. **Resolved noted.** Members asked whether going directly to the Heritage Lottery would be an option. Clerk stated that if they are earmarking the land 'for possible development' then Council would be very unlikely to get approval for placing the signs on the land. Cllr A Lewis suggested asking for constructive feedback. Cllr A Llewelyn stated that he will make enquires. **Resolved noted.** **Defibrillators** • Clerk reported that she has ordered the insulated cabinet. Handyperson will install when it arrives, and Clerk will place defibrillator inside once in situ. Cllr D Davey offered to look after the defibrillator. **Resolved noted.** • Clerk reported that she received a notification that the defibrillator on Graig Newydd Green had been used in an incident. She will check if the pads have been used and if so, order more if necessary. Cllr G Williams suggested ordering a few sets of pads ready so that they can be replaced in an emergency. **Resolved noted.**	Clerk to liaise. Clerk to liaise with planning and play providers. Clerk to arrange. Clerk to ask for feedback. Cllr A Llewelyn to make enquiries. Clerk to liaise. Clerk to check and order.

	Parks • Clerk reported that a 25% deposit has to be paid to Sovereign Play before any equipment is installed. £717.27+VAT deposit for Climbing Wall and £3,240.36+VAT deposit for the Timber Trail. National Lottery funding has already come through so money is ready for use. Members agreed to the deposits. **Resolved** that Clerk make payments. • Clerk reported that the quote from Our Tree Company for works at Alltygrug Park has come through, £150+VAT. Members thought this was a good quote and decided to go ahead with the works. **Resolved noted**. • Clerk reported that she has opened an account with Online Playgrounds so that she could order safety surface repair kit to be used at Alltygrug Park as well as new swing shackles as some are worn. Members were happy with this. **Resolved noted.** • Cllr A Llewelyn asked if a longer lease could be sought for Alltygrug Park. Clerk stated that she tried this a few years ago and the landowners would not change the terms of the lease. She will contact Cooke & Arkwright again. **Resolved noted.** • Chair stated that Chat GPT can be used to find funding in Neath Port Talbot and throughout the UK. She recommended that Clerk use this to find funding opportunities. **Resolved noted.** • Cllr EW Williams reported that he had contacted Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera and Cwmtawe Community School regarding volunteering at Godre'r Graig Country Park for their Duke of Edinburgh awards. He has received no response so far. Cllr J Jones stated that she will speak to Emyr Evans regarding this. Cllr R Llewelyn suggested that a working group of pupils could be set up that would meet up at the park on weekends – the schools would not then be responsible for getting the pupils to the park. It was suggested that Cllr D Davey set a timetable of when the volunteers will be there so that the pupils can join them. Volunteers may need to be DBS checked if working with the pupils. Cllr A Lewis suggested that the Cubs or Scouts could also be involved. **Resolved noted.** **Cenotaph** • Clerk reported that she is still awaiting a response regarding the pre-application from the War Memorial Trust. **Resolved noted.** **Tennis Courts** • Cllr A Llewelyn reported that the opening went well. He thanked Cllrs G Williams, A Jenkins and R Davies for attending on behalf of the Council. • Cllr A Llewelyn reported that he had spoken to Carwyn (Sports Development at NPTCBC) and it would cost £600 for 10 lessons with 2 tutors. They would provide racquets. It was suggested that the Community Council fund 5 lessons and that the Ystalyfera Development Trust could fund 5 lessons. Cllr R Davies stated that she will raise this in the next meeting of YDT. **Resolved noted.** Members agreed to fund 5 lessons at a cost of £300. **Resolved.** It was suggested that the sessions could be advertised to the schools via school newsletters and on Facebook. **Resolved noted.**	Clerk to make payment. Clerk to liaise. Clerk to order. Clerk to liaise. Clerk to try. Cllrs EW Williams, D Davey and J Jones to liaise. Clerk to liaise. Clerk & Cllrs A Llewelyn & R Davies to liaise. Clerk to advertise.

	Planters • Clerk reported that most of the Planters have now been adopted by members of the community. Members were pleased with this news. **Resolved noted.** • Clerk reported that she has set up a Facebook group for the adopters of the planters and will order some wooden plaques that can be placed in each planter to show who has adopted the particular planter. Members thought this was a great idea. **Resolved noted.** • Clerk reported that the plants will be planted this weekend. A new planter will be needed on Gnoll Road, due to the old one being smashed. It was suggested that a small planter be purchased for the Farteg as well. **Resolved** that Clerk order. Cllr A Llewelyn suggested getting permission from Tai Tarian for the planter. Cllr G Williams offered to assist Lee with placing the planters. Members thanked him for this. **Resolved noted.** • Cllr G Williams reported that the grass needs cutting around the smashed planter on Gnoll Road. Cllr R Davies stated that she will raise this with NPTCBC. **Resolved noted.** • Clerk reported she has received 2 quotes for the watering of the hanging baskets: Siôn Nicholls: £3,040 for 19 weeks watering James Bayliss: £77 per watering **Resolved** that James Bayliss be awarded the work and asked to water once a week but if there is a dry spell, then he be asked to water twice a week. **Christmas Decorations** • Clerk reported that A Gough, Centregreat Ltd, has still not sent images of the possible options for new decorations. It was suggested that Council order mostly garlands and 4 more frame decorations up to the value of £5,000. **Resolved noted.** **Volunteer Awards 2025** • Clerk reported that Gemma Richards, NPTCVS will let her know when the NPTCVS volunteer awards will be taking place. If Cllr R Llewelyn is not available to attend, then Cllr A Lewis offered to attend in her place. **Resolved noted.**	Clerk to order. Clerk to order. Clerk to liaise. Cllr R Davies to liaise. Clerk to liaise. Clerk to order. Clerk to liaise.
4940.	**Strategic Partnerships** • The possibility of a strategic partnership with Pathfinders Cymru was discussed. Clerk read out email explaining what the group do for various members of the community and what they have achieved thus far including: 40+ families supported, 100+ AQA Unit Award certificates earned, 30+ volunteering participants, 25 EBSA (Emotionally Based School Avoidance) learners re-engaged, 1,059 library books borrowed, 62 new library members, Sensory garden, Inclusive community library, Resource lending hub, Not-for-profit 3D printing service. Age ranges of people supported as follows: Under 25s: 65%, Adults (25–64): 30%, Older Adults (65+): 5%. Activities they provide include: Creative & therapeutic workshops (art, Lego, storytelling), Life skills (cooking, budgeting, communication), Social skills & peer mentoring sessions, Community gardening and nature wellbeing, Volunteering & employability support→ Currently over 10 young people with learning challenges in active	

	volunteer roles, Family advocacy and service signposting, Inclusive events, exhibitions, and awareness campaigns. Members were very impressed by the work and services offered by Pathfinders Cymru. **Resolved noted.** • It was suggested that more groups be looked at in future Council meetings and then a final decision made after all groups have been considered. **Resolved noted.** • It was also suggested that the information from each group be forwarded to Members so that they can review. **Resolved noted.**	Clerk to liaise. Clerk to forward info.
4941.	Finance • Clerk reported that the accounts and 2024-25 documents are now with Fergusons and Peters for internal audit. Resolved noted. • Clerk stated that the cost of Audits will be greater due to the new triannual audit cycle. Every three years, Council are likely to need to pay close to £900 for a full Audit with Audit Wales. Members asked if we could have the full audit carried out by a different company. Clerk explained that Council has no choice on this matter as it is mandatory for all Councils in Wales to be audited by Audit Wales. Cllr D Davey suggested putting an amount of approx. £500 per year aside into reserves to cover external Audit costs. Members thought this was a good idea. Resolved noted. • Clerk reported that she has received a quote for the Council's Business Broadband from Uswitch with Focus Group Broadband for £36.50 + VAT. Members were pleased with the quote as it is much cheaper than the current deal (£57.07 + VAT) and agreed to move provider. Resolved noted. • Clerk reported that the Council iPad had reached the end of its life, and some information had been lost. She had contacted the Chair and Vice-chair for approval to purchase a new one at a cost of £245+VAT. Members were pleased with this price and were glad that the Clerk now has a working iPad. Resolved noted. **Accounts: RESOLVED**	Clerk to liaise. Clerk to put funds into reserves. Clerk to liaise Clerk to make BACS payments.

023	DD	NPTCBC Hall Council Tax	£312.00
024	BACS	Currys - iPad	£328.99
025	PP	eBay - signs for planters & pens	£20.51
026	BACS	Ystalyfera Development Trust - room hire	£20.60
027	BACS	Simons Electrical Services	£2,770.00
028	BACS	Viking Office Depot	£103.18
029	BACS	James Bayliss – grass cutting	£1,357.00
030	BACS	E-ON Gas	£147.38
031	BACS	S Mattick - reimbursement materials	£66.05
032	BACS	Sovereign Play Ltd	£860.72
033	BACS	Sovereign Play Ltd	£3,888.43
034	BACS	Urdd Gobaith Cymru	£50.00
035	BACS	Turtle Engineering Ltd - Defibrillator cabinet	£492.00
036	BACS	Gallagher - Council Insurance	£3,105.75
037-40	BACS	Staff Wages & Expenses	£3,028.22
041	BACS	HMRC Tax & NI	£454.52
042	BACS	City & County Swansea Pensions	£603.60

4942.	**Planning** • P2025/0266 - Temporary siting of a static caravan on the land at Cwmtawe Ganol Farm for the provision of welfare facilities and ad hoc sleeping accommodation associated with the care of horses at the stud farm. Cwmtawe Ganol Farm, Godre'r Graig SA9 2NY – no objection. **Resolved noted.** • P2025/0313 – Rear infill extension and front canopy roof – 44 Gnoll Road, Godre'r Graig SA9 2PA – no objection. **Resolved noted.**	Clerk to liaise with NPTCBC.
4943.	**Community Hall** • Clerk reported that Hourglass will come out to provide a quote for the lower part of the wall underneath the main hall window. **Resolved noted.** • Clerk reported that no-one is interested in the old chairs in the hall. Chair contacted scrap merchant. He doesn't want them due to there being so much plastic on them. It was suggested that they be advertised on Facebook as free of charge to anyone who wants them. **Resolved noted.** • Clerk reported that there was damage to one of the toilet doors in the ladies toilet as there had been a child stuck inside and they had to break the door to get her out. Clerk stated that Handyperson is having a look at it to see if it can be fixed. There may be need for a new lock. **Resolved noted.** • Members took the opportunity to have a look around the building. It was suggested that some areas need a deep clean. Cllr A Llewelyn state that the pot-hole on the drive needs filling. Clerk will contact Swansea Valley Tarmac as they did this before for Council free of charge. **Resolved noted.** Cllr R Davies asked why the piano was in the foyer. Clerk explained that Pathfinders Cymru pushed it into the foyer as some of the young people they work with have noise sensitivity. **Resolved noted.** It was suggested that the piano in the kitchen be offered to the recycling centre in Glanrhyd. **Resolved noted.** It was suggested that a skip be hired to get rid of general waste from the hall. **Resolved noted.**	Clerk to liaise. Clerk to advertise. Clerk to liaise. Clerk to liaise. Clerk to liaise & order skip.
4944.	**Correspondence** • 2 phone calls – asking regarding old Broome & Wade site. Land has been cleared with no regard for nesting birds or wildlife. Cllr A Llewelyn reported that there was only outline planning approved for the site – the site has not had a full planning application approved. He explained that it is unclear if the land has changed ownership. NPTCBC Planning are sending out Planning Enforcement Officers to assess the land. **Resolved noted.** • Phone call from H Williams – asking if hall car park will be available to use on 31st May 2025 as his family have lots of people visiting for a wedding party. There is a party booked in the hall on the same day, so Members approved parking after 6pm. **Resolved noted.**	Cllr A Llewelyn to keep Members updated. Clerk to liaise.
	The meeting ended at 8:35pm. Chair thanked all for attending the meeting. Next Meeting will be held on 19th June 2025.	