CYNGOR CYMUNED YSTALYFERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at

Ystalyfera Development Trust and online via Zoom on

17th July 2025 at 7pm

Present

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

Apologies

Name	Reason
Cllr. Simon Prothero	LOA
Cllr. Cathy James	Working
Cllr. Ann Jenkins	Personal
Cllr. Steve Thomas	Working

		ACTION
4953.	**Welcome, Declarations of Interest and late Apologies:** Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Members for their thoughts whilst she was unwell. She started the meeting at 7pm. Cllrs R Davies and A Llewelyn declared an interest in item 7, Planning, as member of NPTCBC to avoid predetermination. Cllrs J Jones and R Llewelyn declared an interest in item 6 Finance (Grant applications) due to involvement with the Llais. **Resolved.**	
4954.	**Members of the Public:** Simon and Leigh attended the meeting to let Council know about their plans for a One Planet Development of 34 acres, at the top of the mountain at the end of Alltygrug Road. They reported that they have already cleared a lot of the land and planted 4,300 trees. Members were pleased with this. They explained that the building will be timber frame and built on stilts. Cllr H Morgan asked what size this would be. 6.5m x 9.5m. Any buildings will be hidden by plants. They will have a planting schedule and will produce 30% of their own food. They will make 65% of their financial needs from the land-based business. Simon and Leigh plan to have a herd of Blue Grey Cattle – this breed don't need barns and are foragers, which will boost biodiversity. They plan to breed Welsh Pigs (an endangered species) as they would thrive in this environment. They also plan to breed Christmas Turkeys. There will not be intensive farming. They have planted 21 fruit trees as well as red currants, black currants and gooseberries. Cllr R Llewelyn stated that she admired their enthusiasm. Members asked why planning permission had been refused in the first place for this project. They explained that their supposed expert had submitted irrelevant plans. They are now putting in a new planning application Chair asked if there would be any community incentives. They plan to get schools to visit to experience life 100 off-grid. There will be solar panels, water source	

	from the nant. Chair stated that Godre'r Graig School have outdoor learning projects which might benefit from this. Simon and Leigh will also provide an honesty box at the entrance to the site where they will sell any excess produce as well as honey. Cllr J Jones suggested that they speak to the pet shop owners as they also live off-grid and may have some helpful tips for them. Cllr J Jones asked if there was a right of way at the site. There are public footpaths running through it. Members wished Simon and Leigh well with the project. – **Resolved noted.** Simon and Leigh thanked Members for their time and left the meeting.	
4955.	**Minutes of Previous Meeting & Matters Arising:** It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 19th June 2025 were a correct record – **Resolved.** **Matters Arising:** • Further to minute 4946 Matters Arising – Cllr J Jones reported the parking issues at Ynysydarren Road are now lessened due to older pupils have finished exams. She will keep Members updated. **Resolved noted.** • Further to minute 4946 Matters Arising – Cllr A Llewelyn reported that the sinkhole should now have been repaired. **Resolved noted.** • Further to minute 4946 Matters Arising – Clerk reported that Leon Vincent had explained that the links to the digital versions of the Community Mag and Ystalyfera Magazine are updated with the new magazines each month. Cllr R Llewelyn suggested that the article written by Clerk be placed on the website as well. **Resolved noted.** • Further to minute 4946 Correspondence – Cllr A Llewelyn stated that there was no more news on the Broom & Wade site at this time. NRW did not commit to coming back on this issues. Cllr A Llewelyn will keep Members informed of developments. **Resolved noted.** • Further to minute 4952 Correspondence – Clerk reported that Sovereign Play will be installing the Climbing Wall at Parc y Gnoll on 15th September and the Timber Trail at Carreg yr Afon Park on 16th, 17th and 18th September. **Resolved noted.** • Further to minute 4952 Correspondence – Clerk reported that Handyperson will complete the Pesticide Training course over the Summer. It is a Level 2 Award and will cost £275 + VAT. Members agreed that Council fund the training. **Resolved.** • Further to minute 4952 Correspondence – Cllr A Llewelyn reported that he has contacted D Lewis regarding a meeting regarding the Heritage Fund. **Resolved noted.**	Cllr J Jones to liaise. Clerk to put on website. Cllr A Llewelyn to liaise. Clerk to liaise. Cllr A Llewelyn to liaise.
4956.	**Project Group** **Parks & MUGAs:** • Clerk reported that S Mattick went to pick litter at Ystalyfera MUGA after reports on Facebook. There was quite a mess there. All cleared now. He has also cut back some of the overgrowth but reported that it is a large job that may need a contractor to complete. It was suggested that Our Tree Company and James Bayliss be contacted to give quotes. **Resolved noted.** • Cllr A Lewis reported that the verge outside the MUGA fence needs cutting and strimming as it looks untidy Cllr A Llewelyn reported that Tai	Clerk to liaise. Clerk to liaise.

	Tarian own the land there. Clerk will contact them to cut the verge. **Resolved noted.**	
	• It was suggested that S Hopkin be asked if she would be willing to clear rubbish at the MUGA. **Resolved noted.**	Clerk to liaise.
	• Clerk reported that the see-saw at Carreg yr Afon Park is out of warranty according to Sutcliffe Play. She has received a price for the replacement spring £1,211.40 + VAT including delivery and installation. It was suggested that installation could be carried out by Handyperson but Members thought it would be best to get the company to carry out the repair to maintain the guarantee on the spring. Repair approved by Council. **Resolved.**	Clerk to liaise.
	• Clerk reported that the Trustees do not have any paperwork concerning the lease of Carreg yr Afon play area. Clerk will look further into this. Cllr A Lewis suggested asking One Voice Wales for assistance. **Resolved noted.**	Clerk to liaise.
	• Clerk reported that James Bayliss met with Cllr S Thomas at Carreg yr Afon Park and will quote for new gate and ramp as soon as possible. **Resolved noted.**	Clerk to liaise.
	• Clerk reported that James Bayliss will quote for works at Alltygrug Park over the Summer. Cllr R Llewelyn asked if a quote for a new fence could be provided as the fence is in poor condition. **Resolved noted.**	Clerk to liaise.
	• Cllr EW Williams reported that there is no news as yet from either school. He will follow up when term starts in September. Cllr R Llewelyn stated that dates are needed to pass on to school. Cllr D Davey stated that he will work out the dates and pass on to Cllr EW Williams. Cllr J Jones stated that YG Ystayfera pupils will not be able to do anything until September. **Resolved noted.**	Cllr EW Williams to liaise.
	Christmas 2025	
	• Cllr R Davies asked if there could be more lights put on Cilmaengwyn tree. Clerk will liaise with A Gough. **Resolved noted.**	Clerk to liaise.
	• Cllr EW Williams reported that the Cilmaengwyn tree has had a crown reduction and now looks like a bush rather than a tree. It was suggested that Council have the tree trimmed into a better shape. **Resolved noted.**	Clerk to liaise.
	• It was suggested that Simon and Leigh at the One Planet small holding be asked if they will grow some small Christmas trees for Council. **Resolved noted.**	Clerk to liaise.
	• Clerk reported that she is currently filling out the forms for the Christmas event and lighting so that they are ready to submit at the start of September. **Resolved noted.**	Clerk to complete forms.
	Remembrance Sunday 2025	
	• Cllr R Llewelyn stated that she is happy to arrange a meeting mid-September to discuss the plans for the event. Chair, Cllr S Thomas are usually involved but all Members welcome to assist on the day. **Resolved noted.**	Cllr R Llewelyn to arrange.
	• Clerk confirmed that she will submit event forms for NPTCBC and book road closure with Core Highways. **Resolved noted.**	Clerk to liaise.
	• Chair suggested that Tesco or ASDA may be willing to donate hot dogs or rolls for the event. **Resolved noted.**	Chair to liaise.
	• Chair reported that T Hewitt had contacted her to ask about painting the flagpole in time for this year's ceremony. Clerk will liaise with Handyperson. **Resolved noted.**	Clerk to liaise.

	Tennis Courts • Cllr A Llewelyn reported that the tennis lessons had gone very well. Clerk reported that Council have paid for the first tennis lesson sessions and YDT will pay for the second lot of sessions. **Resolved noted.** • Chair suggested that a post be placed on Facebook to say how well the sessions had gone. Cllr A Llewelyn reported that he has already put some content on Facebook. **Resolved noted.** **Planters** • Clerk reported that the Planters and baskets are looking good. Watering of the baskets has cost £231 so far. Members were pleased with this. It was suggested that the planter adopters be thanked on Facebook. **Resolved noted.** • Cllr EW Williams suggested repurposing the baskets next year to go lower down on signposts so that watering would not be an issue. Members thought this was a good idea. **Resolved noted.** **Volunteer Awards 2025** • Clerk reported that she had contacted the Clerk of Clydach Community Council to enquire about their volunteer awards. Clerk of Clydach CC stated that it was the County Councillors that arrange the awards ceremony. Clerk has emailed them to find out more. Cllr R Llewelyn stated that she will also email one of the County Councillors. **Resolved noted.**	Clerk to post message. Cllr R Llewelyn to liaise.
4957.	**Strategic Partnerships** • Clerk read out information given by Ystalyfera Bowls Club. Members happy to consider the club for a Strategic Partnership. **Resolved noted.** • Decision to be made on awarding of Strategic Partnerships once all information is known from all groups. **Resolved noted.** • Cllr R Davies suggested that the bowls club advertise in the Community Mag, Ystalyfera Magazine etc to gain more Members. **Resolved** that Clerk pass on message.	Clerk to liaise with groups.
4958.	**Finance** • Clerk reported that the bill for broadband this month will include the new XLN Broadband and final payment to BT so total cost will be higher this month. **Resolved noted.** • Clerk reported that she has sent away the External Audit documents to Audit Wales. Outcome in due course. **Resolved noted.** • Clerk reported that the Council laptop is overheating and crashing. She has costed a new laptop £375+VAT. Members were pleased with this price and agreed that a new laptop be purchased as soon as possible. **Resolved noted.** **Accounts: RESOLVED**	Clerk to order. Clerk to make BACS payments.

061	DD	NPTCBC Hall Council Tax	£312.00
062	BACS	James Bayliss - grasscutting	£1,588.00
063	BACS	NPTCBC Tennis Lessons	£300.00
064	DD	XLN Daisy Communications Broadband	£77.99
065	C327	J Austin - Honorarium Farteg Park	£100.00
066	BACS	T.A. Handford - Honorarium Alltygrug Park	£100.00
067	BACS	G. Griffiths - Honorarium Penyrallt Park	£100.00
068	BACS	P. Griffiths - Honorarium Carreg Yr Afon Park	£100.00
069	BACS	S. Mansell - Honorarium Parc Y Gnoll	£100.00
070	BACS	A. Phillips - Honorarium Ffynnon Cwmtwrch	£100.00

	071	BACS	Ynysmeudwy FC - Honorarium GG MUGA	£100.00
	072	BACS	S. Hopkin - Honorarium Farteg Park	£100.00
	073	BACS	BT Payphone	£133.32
	074	BACS	BT Broadband	£108.48
	075	BACS	E-ON Gas	£42.74
	076	BACS	Currys - laptop	£448.99
	077-80	BACS	Staff Wages & Expenses	£2,963.25
	081	BACS	HMRC Tax & NI	£532.93
	082	BACS	City & County Swansea Pensions	£616.56
	083	DD	Dwr Cymru	£146.23
	084	BACS	Fergusons & Peters Internal Audit	£780.00
	085	PP	eBay - Hammerite for flagpole	£9.85
	Financial Assistance Grants Applications: **Resolved** that grants be awarded as follows: - Ystalyfera Bowls Club: £300 (larger sum than usual agreed as this year the club needs a lot of help with equipment etc). - Ystalyfera Park Run: £200 - Cerebral Palsy Cymru: £25 - Pathfinders Cymru: £200 - Llais (Papur Bro): £100 It was suggested that Community Council projects be reported to the Llais. **Resolved noted.**			Clerk to pass on info.
4959.	**Planning - Resolved** that there be no objection to the following application: P2025/0443 - Proposed demolition of existing single-storey rear extension and development of rear two-storey extension, and alteration to fenestration on eastern side elevation. Proposed increase in ground level to the rear of the property - 3 New Street, Godre'r Graig SA9 2DB – no objection.			Clerk to liaise with NPTCBC.
4960.	**Community Hall** • Clerk reported that Handyperson has put a new handle on the Gents outer toilet door. All working fine. **Resolved noted.** • Clerk reported that M Hunt from the Pontardawe Heritage Centre had collected 10 of the old chairs from the hall. She is going to ask groups if they would like any. It was suggested that a skip be ordered for the end of September for the remaining chairs if not taken by then. **Resolved noted**. Chair stated that a scrap merchant would be happy to take the metal from the chairs and the plastic could then go into the skip. **Resolved noted.** • New broadband now installed and working well. **Resolved noted.** • Clerk reported that the general cleanliness of the hall has improved slightly. Floor is now bleached every Monday evening ready for Tiddlywinks on a Tuesday. It was suggested that disinfectant would be better than bleach. Members agreed that a steam cleaner also to be ordered. **Resolved** that Clerk raise this with Caretaker.			Clerk to liaise. Clerk to liaise.
4961.	**Correspondence** • Cllr R Llewelyn – request for defibrillator at Ystalyfera Bowls Club. It was suggested that the bowls club apply for a grant from Calon Hearts for the defibrillator itself. Members offered to donate the extra cabinet (in need of electricity) to the bowls club as long as it is installed outside on the			Clerk to liaise.

	side of the building so that it can be accessed by members of the public at all times and maintained by the bowls club. **Resolved noted**. It was suggested that a map of defibrillators be placed on Council website and Facebook with What3Words details added for ease of finding the defibrillators. **Resolved noted.** • M Griffiths, Ambulance Service – request for meeting to discuss maintenance of defibrillators. **Resolved noted.** • Cllr R Davies – new battery needed for defibrillator at Ynysmeudwy FC. **Resolved** that Clerk liaise with M Griffiths regarding this in the meeting. • One Voice Wales – upcoming training. Clerk to forward to Members. **Resolved noted.** • F Pickwell – request as to whether or not Council will be holding an event to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VJ day in August. Members decided it was too late to arrange anything. **Resolved noted.** • J Godding – Request to purchase parcel of Council land at Prospect Place. Members agreed to sell a small plot to be used for Car Parking. **Resolved.** Clerk will contact One Voice Wales for advice with regards the sale. • T Hewitt – painting of the flagpole at the cenotaph. Members agreed to paint. **Resolved noted.**	Clerk to liaise. Clerk to liaise. Clerk to liaise with One Voice Wales.
	The meeting ended at 8:40pm. Chair thanked all for attending the meeting. Next Meeting will be held on 18th September 2025.	