CYNGOR CYMUNED YSTALYFERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at

Ystalyfera Development Trust and online via Zoom on

18th September 2025 at 7pm

Present

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

Apologies

Name	Reason
Cllr. Simon Prothero	LOA
Cllr. Cathy James	Working
Cllr. Geraint Williams	Sickness
Cllr. Steve Thomas	Working

		ACTION
4962.	**Welcome, Declarations of Interest and late Apologies:** Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. She started the meeting at 7pm. Cllrs R Davies and A Llewelyn declared an interest in item 6, Planning, as member of NPTCBC to avoid predetermination. **Resolved.**	
4963.	**Cllr S Grounds:** Chair welcomed County Councillor S Grounds to the meeting. Cllr S Grounds asked with regards to the situation on the old Jerusalem chapel site. It was explained that the railings are still there and the owners (Presbyterians) are difficult to get hold of and pin down for a meeting. Cllr EW Williams gave an overview of the Heritage idea, explaining that it could be made into a small plaza with seating and heritage information boards where Christmas events could take place, which both Members and Cllr S Grounds were keen on seeing happen. He explained that he has contacted numerous people over the years but it is very difficult to get anyone to attend a meeting regarding the site. Cllr S Grounds explained that Jane Dodds MS had asked her to attend the meeting to speak to Council as there is some money available that could potentially be used on the site. Cllr R Llewelyn asked which fund this would come from. Cllr S Grounds explained that money had been left by a private donor. Cllr J Jones reported that the Presbyterians are short of money and don't have the funds to save or demolish buildings. She suggested that maybe they might release the land to the community. Cllr R Llewelyn raised the point that of the land was released to the Community Council, that we would have to maintain it. It was suggested that the land be released to NPTCBC. Cllr R Davies stated that it important that locals realise that it is not the Community Council's fault that the site is currently unkempt. Cllr A Llewelyn	

	stated that the site is included in the Place Plan for Ystalyfera for renovation, tidying up etc. Members were pleased with this. Chair suggested that if Cllr S Grounds could work with Cllr EW Williams on this, so that the funds could be used to tidy up the site. **Resolved noted.** Cllr S Grounds passed on email address to Clerk to share with Cllr EW Williams. She thanked Members for their time. Chair thanked Cllr S Grounds for attending the meeting. Cllr S Grounds left the meeting. **Resolved noted.**	Cllr EW Williams to liaise.
4964.	**Minutes of Previous Meeting & Matters Arising:** It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 17th July 2025 were a correct record – **Resolved.** **Matters Arising:** • Further to minute 4954 Members of Public – Clerk reported that Simon and Leigh are happy to grow Christmas trees for Council. Members were pleased with this news. They will take several years to grow. Clerk explained that she would have to wait until October to order as the saplings are only available at the end of the year. Members agreed to order 20 saplings (at approx. £5 each). **Resolved noted.** • Further to minute 4955 Matters Arising – Cllr reported that people have been complaining again with regards to the parking on Ynysydarren Road. She will have a discussion with the school and liaise with Ystalyfera RFC. **Resolved noted.** • Further to minute 4955 Matters Arising - Clerk reported that she has now placed the article on the Council website as well. **Resolved noted.** • Further to minute 4955 Matters Arising – Cllr A Llewelyn reported that the site is being cleared in order to be sold. He will check if a sale has taken place. Cllr EW Williams stated that he had noticed surveyors there a couple of weeks ago. NRW have not responded on the issue. Cllr A Llewelyn will keep Members informed of developments. **Resolved noted.** • Further to minute 4955 Matters Arising – Clerk reported that Sovereign Play are currently in the process of installing the Climbing Wall at Parc y Gnoll and the Timber Trail at Carreg yr Afon Park. She explained that the contractors had stated that the timber trail will have to be installed at a slight angle due to proximity of overgrowth and knotweed. **Resolved noted.** • Further to minute 4955 Matters Arising – Clerk reported that Handyperson will complete both Pesticide Training courses this month. **Resolved noted.** • Further to minute 4955 Matters Arising – Cllr A Llewelyn reported that he will follow up with D Lewis regarding a meeting regarding the Heritage Fund. **Resolved noted.** • Further to minute 4957 Strategic Partnerships – Clerk reported that Pathfinders Cymru have pulled out due to the group relocating to Skewen. Members were disappointed with this news. Cllr A Jenkins reported that the Ystalyfera Bowls Club now have 6 new volunteers. Members were pleased with this news. Resolved noted. • Further to minute 4961 Correspondence – Clerk asked if Ystalyfera Bowls Club want the defibrillator cabinet. She confirmed that the club would like to accept the cabinet with thanks. **Resolved noted.**	Clerk to order. Cllr J Jones to liaise. Cllr A Llewelyn to liaise. Clerk to liaise. Cllr A Llewelyn to liaise.

	• Further to minute 4961 Correspondence – Clerk reported that Clee have valued the small section of land at Prospect Place at between £1,000 - £2,000. Members agreed that the land be offered to the resident for £1,000 plus solicitor's costs. Resolved noted. Cllr R Davies reported that the overgrowth needs cutting back on the site. A gentleman has asked permission to grow flowers on one section of the site. Members happy to allow this. **Resolved noted.** • Further to minute 4961 Correspondence – Clerk confirmed that the flagpole has now been painted. **Resolved noted.**	Clerk to liaise.
4965.	**Project Group** **Parks & MUGAs:** • Clerk reported that the timber trail and climbing wall are currently being installed. The spring on the see-saw in Carreg yr Afon park is also due to be replaced shortly. **Resolved noted.** • Clerk reported that James Bayliss will provide quotes for Alltygrug Park path and Carreg yr Afon park gate and ramp shortly. **Resolved noted.** • Clerk reported that that S Hopkin is now clearing rubbish at the MUGA weekly. **Resolved noted.** • Cllr R Llewelyn reported that there is a litter picking group that meet on the last Saturday of each month. They are a lovely group of people and she went along to support last month. She suggested that they need to advertise more in order to attract more volunteers. **Resolved.** • It was stated that dog mess is still a problem in the area. It was suggested that if seen, people who do not pick up should be reported. **Resolved noted.** • Cllr EW Williams reported that he will contact the schools again with regards Godre'r Graig Country Park. Cllr D Davey stated that they meet every Sunday at 10am in dry weather only. Cllr R Llewelyn suggested setting up a WhatsApp group in order for volunteers to communicate. **Resolved noted.** **Christmas 2025** • Clerk reported that she has completed the forms for NPTCBC. She is awaiting approval of the event. **Resolved noted.** • Clerk reported that she has asked Our Tree Company to reshape Cilmaengwyn tree. **Resolved noted.** • Clerk has asked A Gough for additional lights for the Cilmaengwyn tree. **Resolved noted.** • Clerk reported that she has completed the festive lighting forms for NPTCBC and submitted. **Resolved noted.** • Clerk will amend Santa Tour poster in preparation for advertising the event. **Resolved noted.** • It was suggested that Tesco may be willing to donate some boxes of chocolates. Cllrs J Jones and R Davies stated that they will donate a box each as well. **Resolved noted.** • It was suggested that some new battery lights be ordered for some of the small trees as some sets have now been affected by the weather. **Resolved noted.** • Chair stated that she and her family will be happy to decorate the Community Hall for the event. **Resolved noted.**	Clerk to liaise. Clerk to liaise. Cllr EW Williams to liaise. Clerk to liaise. Clerk to liaise. Clerk to liaise. Clerk to liaise. Clerk to amend. Clerk to liaise. Clerk to order. Chair to decorate.

	• It was suggested that if The Swan will not be having a Christmas tree this year, that Council should get one for Gurnos Chapel (Foodbank). **Resolved noted.** • It was agreed that the Community Council would not be responsible for the tree at Ystalyfera RFC this year. Members were happy that they funded the electricity supply, it is now up to the club to decorate however they would like. **Resolved noted.** **Remembrance Sunday 2025** • Clerk and Cllr R Llewelyn reported that most of the arrangements are now in place. G Richards MBE has confirmed her attendance on behalf of the Lord Leuitenant. **Resolved noted.** • Clerk will order wreaths and make centrepieces. Cllr R Davies asked if she will please order one for YDT as well. **Resolved noted.** • Cllr R Davies will contact Wayne Pedrick regarding a trumpeter. **Resolved noted.** • Clerk will ask Tesco if they will donate hot dogs and rolls for the event. **Resolved noted.** • Cllr A Llewelyn will contact the marching band to see if they can attend this year. **Resolved noted.** • It was suggested that T Hewitt be invited to raise the flag. **Resolved noted.** **Tennis Courts** • Cllr A Llewelyn reported that the feedback on the tennis lessons from Caryn Evans, NPTCBC was that the lessons had been very successful. 12-15 youngsters in each session. It was suggested that Council sponsor the event again next year. Members agreed. **Resolved noted.** • Cllr A Llewelyn reported that he has put some content on Facebook to say how well the lessons had gone. **Resolved noted.** **Planters** • Clerk reported that the Planters are now dying back. It was stated that there had been a positive response from the community on the planters and volunteers. It was suggested that volunteers be asked to help again next year. **Resolved noted.** • Cllr D Davey reported that he has cleared the mess from the broken planter on Gnoll Road. Members thanked him for this. **Resolved noted.** • Clerk reported that she will get tenders ready to send out for next years planting project over the next few weeks so that everything can be in place before the end of this year. **Resolved noted.** • Cllr EW Williams asked if the poles could be changed on the Godre'r Graig sign at the top of Gas Hill as it has been knocked by NPTCBC grass cutters and is falling. Cllr R Davies will follow up on this. **Resolved noted.** **Volunteer Awards 2025** • Cllr R Llewelyn will follow up on this matter. Chair asked if there was any need for a Volunteer Awards event as there are so many other already in our area. This to be discussed at a future Council meeting. **Resolved noted.**	Cllr A Llewelyn to liaise. Clerk to liaise. Clerk & Cllr R Llewelyn to liaise. Clerk to order and make centrepieces. Cllr R Davies to liaise. Clerk to liaise. Cllr A Llewelyn to liaise. Cllr A Llewelyn to liaise. Clerk to liaise. Clerk to liaise. Cllr R Davies to liaise.
4966.	**Finance** • Clerk reported that there is no news from Wales Audit as yet. **Resolved noted.**	

	• Clerk reported that the new Council laptop is very good for the price paid. Members were pleased with this news. **Resolved noted.** **Accounts: RESOLVED** 086 DD NPTCBC Hall Council Tax £312.00 087 PP PayPal Microsoft Office 365 £10.49 088 BACS James Bayliss – grasscutting & watering £1,742.00 089 BACS Ystalyfera Development Trust - room hire £60.60 090 BACS E-ON Gas £34.83 091 BACS One Voice Wales - Training £42.00 092-95 BACS Staff Wages & Expenses £2,872.53 096 BACS HMRC Tax & NI £472.34 097 BACS City & County Swansea Pensions £623.24 098 DD NPTCBC Hall Council Tax £312.00 099 DD PayPal - Lebara Mobile - Caretaker's Phone £5.00 100 BACS E-ON Gas £30.82 101 BACS SSE £2,353.52 102 BACS SSE £1,715.74 103 BACS James Bayliss – grasscutting & watering £1,742.00 104-7 BACS Staff Wages & Expenses £2,908.77 108 BACS HMRC Tax & NI £502.79 109 BACS City & County Swansea Pensions £623.24	Clerk to make BACS payments.
4967.	**Planning - Resolved** that there be no objection to the following applications: - P2025/0538 - Erection of a stable building, adjacent concrete yard to include muck store and hay bale stacking area and menage/sand school - Cwmtawe Ganol Farm A4067 From Ynysmeudwy To Godre'r Graig Godre'r Graig SA9 2NY - no objection. - P2025/0443 – Amended Plans, 2 storey rear extension – 3 New Street, Godre'r Graig SA9 2DB – no objection.	Clerk to liaise with NPTCBC.
4968.	**Community Hall** • Clerk reported that Pathfinders Cymru have now left the hall. This means a reduction in hall income of approx. £1,300 per annum. Hall is now very much underutilised. Members stated that the village has lost lots of good activities for a range of people which is disappointing. It was suggested that the hall and facilities be advertised on Facebook. **Resolved noted.** • Clerk explained that the library will also be closing due to Pathfinders leaving. They stated that they could no longer run it as only 2 people regularly attended. Activities they put on for the school were always well-attended but they cannot afford the time or volunteers to keep doing this. Members were very saddened by this news. NPTCBC will be coming out to collect the books and cabinets shortly. Cllr R Llewelyn suggested that the mobile library be invited back to the hall car park so as locals will still have access to books. Cllr A Llewelyn will liaise with the County Librarian regarding this. **Resolved noted.** • Clerk reported that Flying Start are now using the hall one afternoon per week. They are carrying out a trial run up until Christmas, and if the trial is successful, they will use the hall on a permanent basis. Members were pleased with this news. **Resolved noted**. • It was suggested that the old piano be offered to Ystradgynlais recycling centre. **Resolved noted.**	Clerk to advertise. Cllr A Llewelyn to liaise. Clerk to liaise.

	• Clerk reported that NPTCBC collected old chairs from Alltwen CC and groups within NPTCBC took all of them. Cllr A Llewelyn will speak to Cllr N Jenkins (Alltwen) regarding this. **Resolved noted.** • It was suggested that a Management Meeting be arranged in order to discuss the hall. **Resolved noted.**	Cllr A Llewelyn to liaise. Clerk to arrange.
4969.	**Correspondence** • Cllr R Davies reported that there will be a craft fair and Santa at YDT on 10th December 2025. **Resolved noted**. • NPTCBC, Small Parks Grants – Clerk has already applied for this grant (for new swing seats) due to the short deadline. **Resolved noted.** • T Hewitt – email of thanks for getting the flagpole painted. **Resolved noted.** • Pathfinders Cymru – notice of closure of library. **Resolved noted.** • Member of Public – reports on car parking issues on the path at Glan Yr Afon, Godre'r Graig. Cars parking on the footpath as opposed to the verge. Cllr R Davies will follow up on this matter. **Resolved noted.**	Cllr R Davies to liaise.
	The meeting ended at 8:45pm. Chair thanked all for attending the meeting. Next Meeting will be held on 16th October 2025.	