CYNGOR CYMUNED YSTALYFERA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at Ystalyfera Community Hall & online via Zoom on 15th January 2026 at 7pm

Present

Cllr. Rachel Townsend (Chair) Cllrs. Hayley Morgan, Rhian Llewelyn, Ann Lewis, Julie Jones, Cathy James (online), Kim Hopkins (online), Rosalyn Davies (online), Alun Llewelyn (online)

Apologies

Name	Reason
Cllr. Simon Prothero	LOA
Cllr. Steve Thomas	Working
Cllr. Dan Davey	Working
Cllr. Ann Jenkins	Personal
Cllr. Geraint Williams	Sickness
Cllr. Emyr Wyn Williams	Sickness

		ACTION
4995.	**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 7, Planning, as member of NPTCBC to avoid predetermination. There were no Members of the Public in attendance. **Resolved.**	
4996.	**Minutes of Previous Meeting & Matters Arising:** Clerk noticed one error on the minutes where information had been duplicated. She will amend. It was proposed and seconded that the remainder of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 18th December 2025 were a correct record – **Resolved.** **Matters Arising:** • Further to minute 4989 Matters Arising – Cllr R Llewelyn gave an update on the former Jerusalem Chapel site. The Presbytarians contacted her stating that the land is estimated to be worth £15,000 - £20,000. She stated that it will be included in the NPTCBC Place Plan and Cllr A Llewelyn hopes it will be taken on by NPTCBC. Ideas needed as to what could be done at the site. A plaza with circular seating in the centre with room for a Christmas tree was suggseted. A canopy was also suggested so that people can shelter in bad weather. Chair suggested that people could contribute towards benches if they are placed in memory of local people. It was stated that railings will be needed at the rear of the site as there is a steep drop. Cllr A Llewelyn will provide suggestions to NPTCBC and Cllr R Llewelyn will assist with images etc. **Resolved noted.** • Further to minute 4989 Matters Arising – Clerk reported that James Bayliss is willing to move the item of equipment in Carreg yr Afon Park at the same time they do the gate. Costs will be kept as low as possible if taking this option. Members agreed to go ahead. **Resolved noted.** • Further to minute 4989 Matters Arising – Handyperson has taken the Defibrillator cabinet up to the Bowls Club. He will fix to the wall for them but they will have to get the electrics hooked up via an electrician. There	Cllrs EW Williams & R Llewelyn to liaise. Cllr A Llewelyn to liaise with NPTCBC. Clerk to liaise. Clerk to liaise.

	seems to be some confusion – the Bowls Club think that the Community Council will provide the defibrillator itself as well as the cabinet. This was not agreed. Only the cabinet was to be provided free of charge by the Community Council. The Bowls Club will need to apply for funding for the defibrillator themselves. **Resolved noted**. • Further to minute 4989 Matters Arising – DR James now have the plans of the land at Prospect Place but they also need the exact size of the plot. It was suggested that measurements be given. **Resolved noted.** • Further to minute 4989 Matters Arising – Clerk reported that she had spoken to Pathfinders and they will be taking their raised planters and garden equipment in the next couple of weeks. They have managed to get a plot at Skewen Park so can rehome the items there. It was stated that the grounds of the hall be left in a tidy state once the items are removed. **Resolved noted.** • Further to minute 4994 Correspondence – Clerk spoke to SSE regarding the £5,000 bill. They stated that there had not been any meter readings for over ten years and all bill were estimated. Clerk gave meter reading and a new bill will be sent out. Clerk has also arranged a smart meter to be fitted at the site so that bills are accurate moving forward. **Resolved.**	Clerk to liaise. Clerk to liaise.
4997.	**Project Group** **Parks & Trees:** • Cllr R Davies reported that she had asked the Clerk to get quotes for new equipment in Carreg yr Afon Park as she is expecting a Members grant from NPTCBC of approx £25,000. Clerk explained that she has arranged a meeting with Sutcliffe Play on Tuesday to talk through options and see if both the multi-play unit and the surfacing underneath it could be done for £25,000. She will update Memebrs in due course. **Resolved noted.** • Clerk asked if Cllr A Llewelyn had thought about what he would like to do with his £25,000 Members grant. He explained that as Ystalyfera and Cwmllynfell are under one ward, he will need to discuss with Cllr S Grounds to decide on a project to move forward. He will update Members in due course. **Resolved noted.** • Clerk reported that she followed up with Our Tree Company regarding the trees at Alltygrug Park but is still awaiting a response. She also asked them to corwn and trim the Christmas tree at Cilmaengwyn as well in order to bring down the height of the tree and to reshape it. Cllr R Davies stated that as this is on NPTCBC land, we will need permission for the works. Cllr R Davies happy to ask for permission on behalf of the Council. **Resolved noted.** **Christmas** • Clerk reported that she had spoken to A Gough, Centregreat about the situation with the Cilmaengwyn Christmas tree. He explained that it had now grown too tall to safely be accessed by the cherry picker as it is too close to the overhead powerlines. Dressing the tree would breach health and safety. Clerk enquired whether, if the tree was crowned significantly and reshaped, if they would then consider dressing it. He explained that once works are carried out, he will need to visit and assess the tree and access to it. If it will be accessible, then he will give prices on new lights for the tree ready for Christmas. **Resolved noted.** • Cllr H Morgan reported that she has taken the lights off of the tree at the bottom of Alltygrug and they are still working so she has kept them to be	Clerk to get additional quote and liaise. Cllr A Llewelyn to update Members. Cllr R Davies to liaise with D Hutchings. Clerk to liaise.

	used again. She suggested that an additional set would be needed for Christmas 2026 as the tree has grown quite a bit and will need more lights. **Resolved noted.** • Cllr J Jones reported that she has taken down the Christmas flags, washed and dried them ready for Christmas 2026. Members thanked her for doing this. **Resolved noted.** • It was suggested that the tree next to the Wern Fawr should be taken down as soon as possible. Clerk will ask Handyperson to do this. **Resolved noted.** **Tennis Courts** • Carwyn has confirmed that lessons will be planned again for Summer 2026. He also hopes to run a tennis fetival for Primary School pupils to try to get them involved in the sport. It was suggsetd that both Primary Section of Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera and Godre'r Graig School pupils be invited. Cllr R Davies stated that Ystayfera Development Trust would be happy to cover the costs for this year's lessons as the Community Council paid last time. **Resolved noted.**	Clerk to order new lights. Clerk to liaise. Cllr A Llewelyn to liaise.
4998.	**Assistant Clerk** • Clerk presented a proposal for employing an Assistant Clerk for 3 hours per week. 3 options were presented where costs and Clerk reducing hours to cover some of the cost of an Assistant were considered. **Resolved noted.** • Cllr R Llewelyn stated that she would be happy to assist Clerk free of charge with everyday tasks and that an assistant would therefore not be needed. Clerk thanked her for this offer. **Resolved noted.** • Cllr C James suggested that a meeting of the Management Committee be arranged in order to discuss this matter further. **Resolved noted.**	Clerk to arrange meeting.
4999.	**Finance** • Clerk reported that A Hinder, NPTCBC has accepted the Precept request and confirmed. **Resolved noted.** • Clerk reported that she is awaiting the bill for the emergency Santa Tour replacement sleigh. **Resolved noted.** • Clerk reported that she is currently working on the VAT. Refund should be received shortly. **Resolved noted.** • Clerk stated that all Member are entitled to the £156 Members Remuneration payment. If they want to opt-out, then they must return a completed and signed form to Clerk, otherwise, their payment will be made automatically. **Resolved noted.** • Clerk explained that an additional payment of £52 can be claimed by Members to cover consumables. Members need to email Clerk if they wish to claim this additional amount. **Resolved noted.** **Accounts: RESOLVED**	Clerk to make BACS payments.

173b	PP	Adobe Systems	£29.96
174	DD	NPTCBC Hall Council Tax	£312.00
175	BACS	NPTCBC Trade Waste	£300.04
176	BACS	Old School Nursery - Christmas Trees	£990.00
177	BACS	Core Highways - Road Closure VAT Owed	£167.04
178	PP	Adobe Systems	£29.96
179	C329	L Jones - Wreaths	£100.00
180-3	BACS	Staff Wages & Expenses	£2,970.60
184	BACS	HMRC Tax & NI	£472.59

	185	BACS	City & County Swansea Pensions	£609.88	
	186	DD	E-ON Gas	£735.47	
	187	BACS	NPTCBC Lease - Penyrallt Park	£200.00	
	188	BACS	SSE - Ystalyfera MUGA	£26.40	
	189	DD	Dwr Cymru	£126.86	
	190	BACS	Eisteddfod Cwmtawe	£200.00	
	191	DD	iD Mobile (Clerk's mobile)	£37.40	
5000.	**Planning** • P2025/0888 - Proposed lawful development certificate- rear dormer extension to accommodate additional loft space and works to existing single storey rear extension - 29 Cilmaengwyn Road, Cilmaengwyn SA8 4QL – no objection. **Resolved noted.** • P2025/0907- Construction of two sets of vehicular entrance gates and associated works including pedestrian gates and means of enclosure- Dan Y Coed & Erw Fair, Tirbach Road, Ystalyfera SA9 2H – no objection. **Resolved noted.**				Clerk to liaise with NPTCBC.
5001.	**Community Hall** • Clerk reported that she had seen an advertisment from Pugh Computers that there may be small grants available for video conferencing equipment. Members keen for Clerk to make enquiries. **Resolved.** • Clerk reported that Flying Start is continuing at the centre for another term. Members were pleased with this news. **Resolved noted**. • Clerk reported that Tiddlywinks will no longer be using the hall for Cylch Meithrin as they only had one attendee so it is no longer viable. Members were dissapointed with this news. **Resolved noted.** • Clerk stated that she is currently working out what Pathfinders owe for hall hire for the part year that they used it. She will send them an invoice which will need to be settled before 31 March 2026. **Resolved noted.**				Clerk to enquire. Clerk to send invoice.
5002.	**Correspondence** • Cllr A Llewelyn – Yr Hen Bont – notification that it is hoped that the building will be demolished shortly. Members were pleased with this news. **Resolved noted.** • Cllr R Davies – NPTCBC Members Fund – grant of approx £25,000. **Resolved noted.** • A Gough, Centregreat – information on Cilmaengwyn tree. **Resolved noted.** • OVW – advice regarding Assistant Clerk role. **Resolved noted.** • Pathfinders Cymru - notice of removal of raised planters and gardening equipment. **Resolved noted.** • Mack Events – offer of stage hire for events**. Resolved noted.** • Cllr J Jones – notification of end of term as Community Council representative on the Board of Governors for Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera. Chair asked if Cllr J Jones would be happy to continue in her role for an addional period. Cllr J Jones confirmed. Members agreed that Cllr J Jones continue as Community Council representative on the board of governors. **Resolved noted.**				Clerk to liaise. Clerk to liaise.
	The meeting ended at 8:25pm. Chair thanked all for attending the meeting. Next Meeting will be held on 19th February 2026.				