



GWAUN CAE GURWEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

18:30 on Tuesday, 9th January 2024

MEETING OPENED: 18:33

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cllr. S. Thomas (Chair), Cllr. B. Davitt, Cllr. S. Jordan, Cllr. D. Keeley, Cllr. A. Lacey, Cllr. S. Lane, Cllr. Ff. Lewis, Cllr. C. Petrie, Cllr. L. Preece, Cllr. L. Prescott & Cllr. S. Reynolds

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Ellen Launchbury

143. APOLOGIES (ITEM 1):

Cllr. D. Humphreys & Cllr. D. Jones.

144. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (ITEM 2):

No Declarations of Interest.

145. MEETING CONDUCT (ITEM 3):

Chair welcomed all and asked that phones be set to silent. Reminded members to raise their electronic hand to vote or indicate if they wish to speak, to wait to be called before speaking and remain on mute while not speaking. Members were reminded to treat each other with dignity and respect.

146. CO-OPTION APPLICATION (ITEM 4):

a) ELLEN LAUNCHBURY

MOTION: TO CO-OPT ELLEN LAUNCHBURY AS A COUNCILLOR.

APPROVED

PROPOSED BY: Cllr. S. Thomas **SECONDED BY:** Cllr. L. Prescott

For: Cllr. B. Davitt, Cllr. S. Jordan, Cllr. D. Keeley, Cllr. A. Lacey, Cllr. S. Lane, Cllr. Ff. Lewis, Cllr. C. Petrie, Cllr. L. Preece, Cllr. L. Prescott, Cllr. S. Reynolds & Cllr. S. Thomas.

Against: None.

Abstained: None.

147. CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS (ITEM 5):



Internet Service has changed at Cwmgors Community Centre and this seems to be causing some issues with Zoom, because of this all meetings are going to be online we don't have hybrid functionality until the issue can be resolved.

NPTCBC Cllr. Sheila Penry sadly passed away over Christmas and her funeral will be on the 24th January 2024 should any members wish to give their respects.

148. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC (ITEM 6):

No members of the public present.

149. COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORTS (ITEM 7):

a) CLLR. S. REYNOLDS:

Budget consultation finishes tomorrow, concerns regarding the budget for 2024-2025 being balanced and the state of reserves, in an attempt to cover a significant shortfall, services are going to be cut, fees will be increased and Council Tax is likely to increase significantly (possibly over 10%). Turning down/off streetlighting, car parking fees, access to parks and arts and reducing waste collections to three weekly (recycling will remain weekly).

Celtic Leisure will not be brought back in-house until at least 2025/2026. This may mean we will lose further leisure services in addition to Pontardawe Swimming Pool.

The sign at the traffic calming measure as you enter Cwmgors has been damaged again and have raised this.

b) CLLR. S. THOMAS:

Business Support event at 14:00 on 17th January 2024 at Tairgwaith Trotting Track.

Cost of Living Support update forwarded to all members.

NPTCBC Chief Executive Karen Jones has advised she will be retiring towards the end of 2024.

150. PCSO UPDATE (ITEM 8):

PCSO not present.

151. LOCAL AREA CO-ORDINATOR REPORT (ITEM 9):

LAC not present.

152. PREVIOUS MINUTES (ITEM 10):

a) ORDINARY MEETING – 20/11/2023

MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD.

APPROVED

PROPOSED BY: Cllr. L. Preece **SECONDED BY:** Cllr. Ff. Lewis

For: Cllr. B. Davitt, Cllr. D. Keeley, Cllr. A. Lacey, Cllr. S. Lane, Cllr. Ff. Lewis, Cllr. C. Petrie, Cllr. L. Preece, Cllr. L. Prescott, Cllr. S. Reynolds & Cllr. S. Thomas.



Against: None.

Abstained: Cllr. S. Jordan.

b) ORDINARY MEETING – 12/12/2023

MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD.

APPROVED

PROPOSED BY: Cllr. L. Prescott

SECONDED BY: Cllr. L. Preece

For: Cllr. B. Davitt, Cllr. S. Jordan, Cllr. D. Keeley, Cllr. A. Lacey, Cllr. S. Lane, Cllr. Ff. Lewis, Cllr. C. Petrie, Cllr. L. Preece, Cllr. L. Prescott, Cllr. S. Reynolds & Cllr. S. Thomas.

Against: None.

Abstained: None.

c) FINANCE COMMITTEE – 03/01/2024

MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD.

APPROVED

PROPOSED BY: Cllr. L. Preece

SECONDED BY: Cllr. S. Reynolds

For: Cllr. B. Davitt, Cllr. D. Keeley, Cllr. A. Lacey, Cllr. S. Lane, Cllr. Ff. Lewis, Cllr. C. Petrie, Cllr. L. Preece, Cllr. L. Prescott, Cllr. S. Reynolds & Cllr. S. Thomas.

Against: None.

Abstained: Cllr. S. Jordan.

153. MATTERS ARISING (ITEM 11):

No Matters Arising.

154. PLANNING APPLICATIONS (ITEM 12):

a) P2023/0900

No comments, concerns or questions raised.

b) P2024/0005

Discussed but no comments, concerns or questions raised.

155. COMMUNITY FUNDS (ITEM 13):

20:16 THIS ITEM WAS DISCUSSED AFTER URGENT ITEMS (ITEM 21)

a) NEATH MODEL RAILWAY CLUB – CELTIC ENERGY COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

Chair and Secretary sent apologies so not present at meeting.

Discussion about application took place and it was decided to ask for some clarity on what the



referenced “Energy Costs” are as well as to ask for a copy of the club’s accounts for the last 12 months.

Cllr. L. Preece suggested that the club may want to apply for a donation rather than the grant given the amount requested.

b) GCG BRASS BAND – DONATION

MOTION: TO DONATE £300 TO THE GCG BRASS BAND.

APPROVED

PROPOSED BY: Cllr. S. Thomas **SECONDED BY:** Cllr. C. Petrie

For: Cllr. S. Jordan, Cllr. D. Keeley, Cllr. A. Lacey, Cllr. S. Lane, Cllr. Ff. Lewis, Cllr. C. Petrie, Cllr. L. Preece, Cllr. L. Prescott, Cllr. S. Reynolds & Cllr. S. Thomas.

Against: None.

Abstained: None.

156. COMMITTEES & APPOINTMENTS (ITEM 14):

Nothing to discuss.

157. POLICIES & PROCEDURES (ITEM 15):

Nothing to discuss.

158. PROPOSED BUDGET (2024-2025) (ITEM 16):

19:16 CLLR. B. DAVITT LEFT THE MEETING

a) FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION: TO PAY COUNCILLOR PAYMENTS IN FULL IN MARCH AT THE END OF EACH FINANCIAL YEAR.

APPROVED

PROPOSED BY: Cllr. L. Prescott **SECONDED BY:** Cllr. D. Keeley

For: Cllr. S. Jordan, Cllr. D. Keeley, Cllr. A. Lacey, Cllr. S. Lane, Cllr. Ff. Lewis, Cllr. C. Petrie, Cllr. L. Preece, Cllr. L. Prescott, Cllr. S. Reynolds & Cllr. S. Thomas.

Against: None.

Abstained: None.

MOTION: TO KEEP THE CURRENT SYSTEM WHERE ANY MEMBER CAN SUBMIT EXPENSES CLAIMS FOR ANY EXPENSES INCURRED FOR COUNCIL BUSINESS AT ANY TIME THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AND THAT THE ACTING CLERK EMAIL FULL COUNCIL EXPLAINING THE CURRENT POLICY AND HOW TO CLAIM EXPENSES.

APPROVED



PROPOSED BY: Cllr. L. Preece **SECONDED BY:** Cllr. L. Prescott
For: Cllr. S. Jordan, Cllr. D. Keeley, Cllr. A. Lacey, Cllr. S. Lane, Cllr. Ff. Lewis, Cllr. C. Petrie, Cllr. L. Preece, Cllr. L. Prescott, Cllr. S. Reynolds & Cllr. S. Thomas.
Against: None.
Abstained: None.

b) PROPOSED BUDGET (2024-2025)

Cllr. S. Thomas warned members that we will need to revisit this in April once we have a clearer idea of the financial situation. Cllr. S. Thomas ran through the proposed budget explaining what it's based on.

MOTION: **TO APPROVE A PRECEPT OF 4% FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025.**

APPROVED

PROPOSED BY: Cllr. C. Petrie **SECONDED BY:** Cllr. L. Preece
For: Cllr. S. Jordan, Cllr. D. Keeley, Cllr. A. Lacey, Cllr. S. Lane, Cllr. Ff. Lewis, Cllr. C. Petrie, Cllr. L. Preece, Cllr. L. Prescott, Cllr. S. Reynolds & Cllr. S. Thomas.
Against: None.
Abstained: None.

MOTION: **TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED BUDGET (2024-2025).**

APPROVED

PROPOSED BY: Cllr. S. Reynolds **SECONDED BY:** Cllr. Ff. Lewis
For: Cllr. S. Jordan, Cllr. D. Keeley, Cllr. A. Lacey, Cllr. S. Lane, Cllr. Ff. Lewis, Cllr. C. Petrie, Cllr. L. Preece, Cllr. L. Prescott, Cllr. S. Reynolds & Cllr. S. Thomas.
Against: None.
Abstained: None.

159. REPORTS (ITEM 17):

a) ATTENDANCE REGISTER

For information only.

b) PAYMENTS

No comments, concerns or questions raised.

c) RFO Report

Cllr. S. Thomas asked why Cllr. C. Petrie (RFO) was not in attendance at the Finance Committee Meeting on 3rd January 2024 as the meeting was scheduled at the date/time of his choosing? Cllr. C. Petrie advised he was at a children's party.

Cllr. C. Petrie (RFO) advised he hasn't heard back from SBUHB yet.



Cllr. C. Petrie hasn't looked at this over the holidays.

Cllr. C. Petrie (RFO) thinks he has all the quotes for the account services now, he doesn't have the figures to hand but he will send these to Finance Committee this week.

Cllr. C. Petrie (RFO) advised he has been looking into electricity suppliers.

19:57 ELLEN LAUNCHBURY LEFT THE MEETING.

160. CORRESPONDENCE (ITEM 18):

a) OVW – DIGITAL HEALTH PROGRAMME TRAINING

Cllr. S. Thomas recommended members to sign up to this and other training opportunities that have been sent to all members.

Cllr. L. Petrie would like to attend the Canva training via NPTCVS

161. PLATES (ITEM 19):

No Plates to discuss.

162. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (ITEM 20):

No Other Business.

163. URGENT ITEMS (ITEM 21):

a) TAIRGWAITH & GCG CENTRE MAINTENANCE

MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE ROBERT & SON QUOTE OF £200 FOR TRIMMING OVERHANGING BRANCHES AT TAIRGWAITH COMMUNITY CENTRE AND REMOVE THE BRAMBLES AROUND THE OIL TANK AT GCG COMMUNITY CENTRE.

APPROVED

PROPOSED BY: Cllr. S. Reynolds **SECONDED BY:** Cllr. L. Prescott

For: Cllr. S. Jordan, Cllr. D. Keeley, Cllr. A. Lacey, Cllr. S. Lane, Cllr. Ff. Lewis, Cllr. C. Petrie, Cllr. L. Preece, Cllr. L. Prescott, Cllr. S. Reynolds & Cllr. S. Thomas.

Against: None.

Abstained: None.

b) GCG OIL

MOTION: TO AMEND THE STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS TO ALLOW THE ACTING CLERK TO PURCHASE OIL WITHOUT APPROVAL FROM COUNCIL UP TO A SET AMOUNT.

APPROVED

PROPOSED BY: Cllr. S. Reynolds **SECONDED BY:** Cllr. L. Preece



For: Cllr. S. Jordan, Cllr. D. Keeley, Cllr. A. Lacey, Cllr. S. Lane, Cllr. Ff. Lewis, Cllr. C. Petrie, Cllr. L. Preece, Cllr. L. Prescott, Cllr. S. Reynolds & Cllr. S. Thomas.

Against: None.

Abstained: None.

MOTION: **TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE AND EMERGENCY DELIVERY OF 1,750 LITRES OF OIL FOR GCG COMMUNITY CENTRE.**

APPROVED

PROPOSED BY: Cllr. S. Reynolds

SECONDED BY: Cllr. L. Preece

For: Cllr. S. Jordan, Cllr. D. Keeley, Cllr. A. Lacey, Cllr. S. Lane, Cllr. Ff. Lewis, Cllr. C. Petrie, Cllr. L. Preece, Cllr. L. Prescott, Cllr. S. Reynolds & Cllr. S. Thomas.

Against: None.

Abstained: None.

164. NEXT MEETING (ITEM 22):

a) 18:30 on Tuesday, 13th February 2024, Ordinary Meeting via Zoom.

165. MEETING ADJOURNED: 20:24

SIGNED:

DATE:

13 / 02 / 2024