CYNGOR CYMUNED GOETRE FAWR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT GOYTRE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 22nd JANUARY 2018

Present:	Community Councillors, Owen Dodd, Syd Welford, Jan Butler, Peter Daniel, Nigel Morrey, Colin Deakins, Andy Barnes, Nicola Awni, Rose Thayers, Lucyann Rands, and Roger Howells
In Attendance:	Clerk – Jonathan Lazenby
Apologies:	County Councillor Bryan Jones and Community Councillor Robert French
Guests:	Sue Parkinson, Waste & Recycling, Education & Awareness officer, MCC

		ACTION
1	Apologies for Absence	
2	Declarations of Interest The Chair asked members present whether they had any declarations of interest to make, over and above those already recorded (and published on the web site). The Chair reminded those present that they should also notify the meeting of any additional interests which became apparent during the progress of the meeting. Councillor Barnes stated that he had an interest in planning application DC/2017/01450 on tonight's agenda (one of the signs is on his property). No further interests were declared.	Clerk
3	Chairman's Remarks The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
4	Litter Champions - presentation by Sue Parkinson, MCC At this point the Chair temporarily suspended standing orders to allow Sue Parkinson to present information about Monmouthshire's litter champions. Sue explained the two key issues in the locality were the busy roads (A4042 and A472), the canal, and the relatively large populations in a rural situation. A new strategy is being developed by MCC to be more proactive on education, and changing the way it operates, with increased enforcement. The existing litter bins are slowly being replaced across Monmouthshire with combined litter/recycle bins. The Champions 'project' currently has 100 litter volunteers - MCC provide litter pickers, bags, high- vis jackets and signs to show where they've been. They provide a valuable resource in rural areas. MCC can also provide small litter pickers for children – (perhaps for the Scout Group?). To be a volunteer people should contact Sue Parkinson on 07826 914981 or email:- <u>susanparkinson@monmouthshire.gov.uk</u> The Chair thanked Sue and the meeting was reconvened at 7.45pm	
5	Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 11th December 2017 Proposed by Councillor Daniel and seconded by Councillor Barnes.	
6	 Matters Arising Item 7.2 - Newtown Road – speed strips – Councillor Welford advised that these had now been installed on Newtown Road by its junction with Fairfield. Item 7.2 - Speed bumps – e-mail received from Paul Keeble 15/12/17 advising he would make enquiries to see if the speed 'cushions' could be reinstated as soon as possible. Clerk to follow up if no action by end of month. Item 7.3 – Tree at the top of Newtown Road which is interfering with BT lines. Mark Cleaver at MCC advised Clerk that generally BT are quite relaxed about lines and trees but he will add to their list to make sure it is OK from their perspective. Clerk to check for an update by end of month. 	Clerk Clerk
	 4. Item 7.5 - Weeds in Little Mill. Clerk has chased for an update but weeds appear to have died - not clear if from action by MCC or the winter weather. 	

10	 Planning Applications DC/2017/01450 - Advertisement Consent - Advertisements in relation to new residential development - 1 Folly View Close, Penperlleni, Goytre, NP4 0BW There was some discussion as to whether three signs were really necessary in addition to the yellow (AA type) road signs. However it was agreed that as David Wilson homes was now applying for the proper permissions no objections should be raised. 	Clerk
9	 Jack & Jill's – update 1. Response finally received from Will McLean on 20th December, apologising for the length of time it had taken to progress discussions. He confirmed that work is being taken forward by MCC estates and property services team and a date would be sought for a meeting in January to allow all parties to understand the scale of investment required to bring the property back to use. He also said "I believe that this is an area we will be able to make progress on in the New Year." A meeting between Kathryn Edwards (Chair of Governors), Nicola Sutherland (Headteacher) and Ben Winstanley of Mon CC (Phil Kenney unable to attend) was held 19th of January. Confirmed J&J is not lined up for demolition & site clearance. However estimate now looking to cost £75k to fix. Any asset transfer would take about a year and would require funding source to be agreed – Andy Smith will look at possible funding options. Overall a positive meeting. 	
	 The new noticeboard has arrived and is now ready to be 'cemented' into place. Brickcraft Ltd has quoted £100 plus Vat for the installation. Proposed by Councillor Welford and seconded by Councillor Butler. It was agreed that the old one should be removed and disposed of. It has been 'established' that repairs to the village hall fence along the front by the car park are the responsibility of the village hall. Councillor Thayers reported that the Fairfield salt box is still empty - County Councillor Jones had previously made a note of this to action. The Little Mill playground safety surface is in a poor condition. Clerk to investigate if it can be cleaned or needs replacing. The Millennium seat installed by the WI in Little Mill Park is 'sloping'. Clerk to contact the WI to advise. 	Clerk Clerk Clerk
8	Monmouthshire County Council update 1. No update due to the absence of County Councillor Jones . Maintenance	
7	 Councillor Dodd has established a contact to ask for the `gritting routes' to be reviewed – now out of date resulting in Plough Road being left un-gritted. 	
	 A weekly craft class (As much of a social group as a serious craft class). A weekly Wednesday / Friday evening Bingo and social occasion. A monthly 'scrap book club' – (very popular). A twice weekly bowls club Clerk has advised Age Cymru. 	
	 7. Item 10.1 – Speed indicator on School Lane – County Councillor Jones was not in attendance to provide an update. Clerk to carry forward. 8. Item 16.3 - Tackling loneliness amongst older people. Clerk has contacted the village hall which has advised of the following activities that are particularly well attended / enjoyed by the more senior members of the Community. 	Clerk
	 Item 9.1 – Fence & disused telephone kiosk in Little Mill - Clerk has e-mailed Openreach with an acknowledgement received 19/12/17 under ref.C4721366. Full response was due within 5 days, but no reply yet. Clerk has chased. 	Clerk
	5. Item 7.7 – Crossing between Car Park & Goytre Park – Phaedra Cleary (PC) has reviewed and MCC would not support providing an additional pedestrian crossing point as it is not considered a safe place to encourage / facilitate pedestrians to cross Fairfield. Existing dropped kerb crossing facility is considered to be at the optimum position in terms of safety and visibility but PC has agreed to consider provision of a new ramp from the car park to ensure DDA compliance. Will add to list to be considered this for possible future funding. When opportunity arises Clerk to ask PC to look at other crossing points in the locality to check appropriate / sufficient.	Clerk

	 17/15605/FUL (BBNPA) - Planning Permission - Erection of single storey rear extension to bungalow for provision of en-suite bathroom and extend second bedroom - The Croft Bungalow, Saron Road, Penperlleni Pontypool Monmouthshire. No objections or concerns were raised. 	Clerk
	 Monmouthshire Local Development Plan – Consultation on draft report. Is open for public consultation until Monday 5th February – Clerk will send copy of letter to all Councillors and will compile response on behalf of the council 	Clerk
11	 Finance <u>Review of accounts</u> At the Finance meeting on 16th Jan the latest cashflow statement (as at 31st Dec 2017) was verified to the closing balances in the MBS passbook at the end of Oct, Nov and Dec and the UTB statement at the end of Dec 2017, with Councillor Barnes signing to confirm in accordance with section 2.2 of the Community Council Financial Regulations (Wales). Olde Pounde Shop rent – Increased from Jan 2018, but old rate received into MBS (rather than UTB as requested) in Jan. Clerk to speak to Mr Naveed after his return from holiday on 22nd Jan. 	Clerk
	The latest cashflow statement was then presented to the meeting and was received without further comment or observation. Payments made since the previous meeting £ 1. SSE (Electricity for Public Conveniences) 85.56 2. Monmouthshire County Council (Comm Centre Rates) 12.50 3. Monmouthshire County Council (Little Mill SIDs camera) 2816.22 4. Goetre Fawr Community Council (A/C at Unity Trust) 9500.00	
	5. Signs of Cheshire Ltd (Noticeboard magnets)19.996. Merlin Waste101.707. Signs of Cheshire Ltd (Noticeboard)930.008. Thomas Waste Management45.609. Monmouthshire County Council (4 x dog poo bins)429.6010. James Price (mole catcher – LMVH)122.0011. Monmouthshire CC (2017 Election costs recharge)209.7612. Monmouthshire CC (Ground Maintenance LM Park)452.542 - Update from Finance Meeting	
	 <u>General update</u>: a). Clerk is investigating the possibility of arranging OVW to run a local Code of Conduct Training Course (with attendees from other community councils) as they have no scheduled courses for the first half of 2018. b). Precept – Request for £31k submitted and confirmed by MCC. 	Clerk
	 <u>2. Risk Review</u> a).The Clerk's salary is such that he must be enrolled into a workplace pension (WP) unless he elects to 'opt out'. The following figures apply:- Minimum Employer contributions (based on qualifying salary) would be £4.88 per month rising to £9.76 in 2018/19 and £14.65 in 2019/20. Maximum Employer Contributions (based on full current salary) would be £9.78, rising to £19.56 in 2018/19 and £29.34 in 2019/20. (All figures are based on current salary and HMRC regulations / limits). 	
	We have been professionally advised that a WP <u>must</u> be set up, (for which Beverley & Williams (payroll) will charge $\pm 450 + VAT$, (plus $\pm 10 + VAT$ ongoing monthly admin fee), only after which the Clerk can opt out, so the initial set up costs cannot be avoided. The Clerk has undertaken the appropriate due diligence and established that NEST (National Employers Savings Trust) is a suitable WP scheme. It was agreed that the Council should formally approve the setting up of a WP with contributions set at the minimum monthly amount, and to revisit at the March meeting. This was proposed by Councillor Morrey, and seconded by Councillor Barnes	Clerk
	B&W will liaise with NEST and manage payment of the relevant contributions.	

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	 b) Assets (Insurance) - Due for renewal. Clerk has reviewed the assets currently insured which appeared to be out of date. The new asset list is: The Olde Pounde shop (not contents) - £74,819 Public Toilets - £62,043 3 x metal & 1 x brick bus shelter - £19,410 6 x seats / benches - £5,414 2 x noticeboards - £3,200 1 x laptop - £600 11 x dog waste bins £1,969 5 x defibrillators and cabinets £7,000 Little Mill playground equipment (includes public liability) £37,000 	
	Zurich Insurance has agreed to no change in the original quote of £965.67	
	c). Health & Safety – electrical testing of the Olde Pounde Shop – Clerk to speak to Mr Naveed to arrange via Gwenlecs Electrical testing and will present quotation to Council in due course.	Clerk
	d). DDA Issues – Clerk is liaising with MCC to build DDA compliant crossing at top of Fairfield which will make a more convenient / accessible route between car park and Goytre park.	
	 e). Community Centre Committee. Clerk believes this requires increased governance and suggested two possible options: Leave committee as a separate entity, but with significantly greater governance and transparency. Bring management of the centre back within the full Community Council as a formal sub-committee making recommendations, but with the final decisions taken by full council. 	
	It was agreed that the first step should be to hold an AGM and the members of the committee confirmed that this should be on Monday 5 th February at 7.45pm. Clerk to advise Councillor French (Chair), and to request an agenda for publication a minimum 7 days beforehand.	Clerk
	 <u>3. Renewals</u> The following annual renewals are now due:- a). GFCC insurance policy with Zurich Insurance £965.67 (with price amended as required to accommodate changes to insurable assets). b). Web site (Spanglefish) £29.50. c). CCTV servicing contract with Select £130.80. 	Clerk
	It was proposed by Councillor Deakins and seconded by Councillor Howells that all three should be renewed at the prices quoted.	
	<u>4 Proposal to Open a 'savings' account with Unity Trust Bank (UTB) plc</u> It has been proposed by the Clerk that a second 'savings' account be opened at UTB by transferring funds from the Mon. Bdg. Soc. Account. This would hold 'surplus funds' and would currently attract an interest rate of 0.2% compared with 0.1% at the MBS. It was suggested and agreed that the account should be opened with an initial sum of £10,000. The members confirmed that they had read and accepted the following terms and conditions and relevant UTB declarations (all previously distributed by the Clerk).	
	a). The Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). b). The account opening terms and conditions. c). The Telephone and Internet Banking declaration. d). The declaration on behalf of GFCC – 'Your Declaration'.	
	It was then formally proposed by Councillor Welford and seconded by Councillor Daniel that GFCC should open a savings account with $\pm 10,000$ on the basis of the accepted terms, conditions and declarations.	Clerk
	5. Ton Land A report received from Williams Associates in Abergavenny indicated the value of the land was approx. £250 per annum. It was proposed that at the	

	next renewal (due May), the 23 month lease fee should be increased to £15 per month for the first 12 months, and then £20 for the next 11, making the renewal fee £400 in total for the new term. Proposed by Councillor Morrey and seconded by Councillor Butler. Clerk said he would try to contact Janet Villars in advance to notify.	Clerk
12	 Bridges Community Car Scheme 1. The Clerk has previously sent details to the members regarding this scheme which provides, through local volunteer drivers, transport to members of the local community for an agreed fee based on the mileage involved. It was proposed that Miranda Thomason from the scheme should be invited to the February meeting to provide further details. They are looking to open an office in Abergavenny which would enable the scheme to be extended to cover the Goetre Fawr Ward (with some form of financial support from us – details still to be confirmed). 	Clerk
13	Olde Pounde Shop Update	
	 A quote for a precise survey of the property (needed to establish the exact boundaries for the purpose of registering the land) – has been received from PM Consultants Ltd, acting on behalf of the architect involved, the cost being £425 + VAT. It was agreed to proceed on this basis and proposed by Councillor Awni and seconded by Councillor Daniel. Clerk to arrange. 	Clerk
14	 Defibrillator Training – feedback and any next steps Two successful events were held at the two village halls on Sat 13th / 20th January, with approx. 80 people attending the two sessions. Clerk is to provide details of where the defibrillators are located so that these can be put on the noticeboard / web sites etc. Clerk is also to investigate purchase of additional gloves and foil blankets as recommended by the trainer. 	Clerk
15	 Internal Audit Review update Have still to meet, but have now spoken to our internal auditor and have all the information they require – a meeting is to be arranged shortly. 	
16	Rural Development programme – Superfast broadband - Expression of	
	Interest Clerk had previously sent a note to members advising the planned extension of Superfast Broadband (SFB) from the Little Mill exchange has ended leaving c100+ outlying properties de-scoped from the programme.	
	Michael Powell (MP), Rural Programmes Manager at MCC is working to extend the reach of SFB through the TV White Space project using funding from the Rural Communities Development Fund (RCDF). The service provides households with SFB via a radio signal from a local transmitter(s) - residents can apply for a grant to cover the full cost of installation (but not the ongoing monthly subscription). The capital costs are met 80% by the RCDP and 20% by the service provider, so there is no cost to the Community Council.	
	To proceed we need to submit a formal Expression of Interest (EOI) during the next 'window' which opens on the 5th April, and closes 3 months later. It is proposed that the Clerk meets with MP and prepares an EOI for submission. This was proposed by Councillor Awni and seconded by Councillor Rands.	Clerk
17	 Donations Margaret Williams, from Goytre Craft has e-mailed to advise that they have been unable to open a Bank account to deposit our £200 contribution, and has asked if they return the original MBS cheque, whether we can issue a new cheque direct to the village hall to cover their rental fees. It was agreed that the Clerk should arrange this as soon as practical. 	Clerk
	2. The School flag pole needs repairing at a cost of \pounds 182.50 +VAT and it was proposed that the CC make a donation to cover this. Proposed by Councillor Howells and seconded by Councillor Morrey.	Clerk

Juner	reports).	
•	 Little Mill Village Hall Safety electrical testing carried out has identified that 9 emergency lights need replacing before a certificate can be issued. claudio@netsolutionswales.co.uk has contacted the VH re a `Lottery Awards for All' bid. It seems as though there is money available for 	
	the purchase of large smart boards and laptops. If the VH drafts the bid (and net solutions will advise) and are successful, net solutions will supply the equipment.	
٠	Goytre Village Hall	
	 Meeting held 16/01/18. Have queried the delay in the painting of yellow lines on Newtown Road. Clerk advised that the work has been put into the 2018/19 schedule of MCC works for approval. Have also queried progress on the children playing signs for Plough Road. Clerk has confirmed these should be installed by the end of March. The VH committee have agreed not to charge the CC for the hire of the hall for the CPR / Defibrillator training. The Committee has earmarked 15th May for their AGM. Councillor Dodd is to stand down from the committee as their meetings regularly clash with other commitments that he has. It was suggested he be replaced by Councillor Daniel. 	
•	Goytre School Governors	
	• No report submitted	
•	Goytre Community Centre	
	 No report submitted 	
•	Goytre After School Club	
	 The owners of the property next to Jack & Jill's (Tamarind) have braced one of their fence posts by placing a block/plank of wood between their fence and the large beech tree (protected by a TPO) in the grounds of J&Js, (nailing it to the tree). The wood is also a trip hazard to the children). Clerk asked to liaise with MCC re potential damage to the tree. 	Cle
•	Goytre Scout Hut	
	 No further information is available at present. 	
•	Public Conveniences	
	 The small (children's) urinal is still not draining properly. 24/7 plumbing were scheduled to attend on 11th Dec. Clerk chased again on 16/01/18. 	
•	Other Reports	
	 Bryn y Cwm - Chair recently attended. However relatively little content of relevance. Questions were raised regarding ramped access to the new Morrison's in Abergavenny. It was agreed that all attendees (including the Community Councils) had voting rights. The grass routes bus service from Usk to Abergavenny was 	
	 always full early on, meaning later boarding passengers were unable to sit down. The new 'Alternative Delivery Model' is now available on the MCC web site. 	
	 One Voice wales - Newport / Monmouthshire Euan Williams was the guest speaker and talked about loneliness and isolation which affected all ages and groups, including single mums and teenagers, as well as older residents. The Welsh government is also very concerned. Sheltered Housing – there is some concern that the 	

19	Communications				
	festive lighting. Cl 2. MCC – The cost fo	erk to contact to s r the Ground mair	ing have contacted us see what they have to o itenance for Little Mill F	offer. Park will be £386.55	/ Clerk
	Councillor Deakins		8). This was agreed, ar Councillor Butler.	ia proposea by	Clerk
20	include two items: a) – CPR / Defibril b) – GFCC is to wo	lator Training. ork with MCC to try	c and Raglan Diary. Clarce y and extend the TV W Communities Developn	hite Space initiative b	
21					
21	Meeting dates 2018 1. Suggested dates a		year		
21			year Date	Venue	
21	1. Suggested dates a	and venues are:	-	Venue Goytre	
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Chairman:

Date: