

CYNGOR CYMUNED GOETRE FAWR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT LITTLE MILL VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 2019

Present: Community Councillors, Owen Dodd, Andy Barnes, Peter Daniel, Syd Welford, Colin Deakins

In Attendance: Jonathan Lazenby (Clerk)

Apologies: Community Councillors Nigel Morrey, Robert French, Jan Butler, Lucyann Rands and Nicola Awni

Absent without apologies: Community Councillors Roger Howells and Rose Thayers

Guests: None

		ACTION
1	Apologies for Absence The Vice Chair, Councillor Barnes, opened the meeting. Apologies were given on behalf of Councillors Nigel Morrey, Robert French, Jan Butler, Lucyann Rands and Nicola Awni. The Chair subsequently advised that Councillor Awni had had an accident in Thailand, whilst on holiday and needed time for the wound to her foot to heal properly. This followed on from a series of stressful events over recent months and, as a result, she has decided to take a short period of leave to recover properly her health and well-being. Councillor Awni hopes to return to either the November or December meeting. This was acknowledged by the members present.	
2	Declarations of Interest The Vice Chair asked members present whether they had any declarations of interest to make, over and above those already declared and now published on the web site. The Vice Chair reminded those present that they should also notify the meeting of any additional interests which became apparent during the progress of the meeting.	
3	Chairman's Remarks The Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
4	Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 15th July 2019 The minutes were proposed as a true and correct record of the meeting by Councillor Daniel and seconded by Councillor Welford.	Clerk
5	Matters Arising <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Item 5.2 – The clerk applied for the £100 bursary to cover some of the cost of the CILCA training and this has now been received. Item 13 – Councillor Rands had previously advised the Clerk that she is still waiting for 'Go Safe' to review recent speed recordings and will ask for the item to be added to the agenda when they have been received. Item 16.1 – Unfortunately, time constraints prevented the production of the Summer edition of the newsletter. However, it is hoped that a further edition will be published shortly. Item 16.2. – Merlin Waste have confirmed that they could empty the dog bins weekly in the summer months in 2020. This would add approximately £135 per month to the existing cost. Councillors agreed that this should be arranged for the months May to August (inclusive) at an additional cost of c£540 and this was formally proposed by Councillor Barnes and seconded by Councillor Daniel. Clerk to budget for the additional cost in 2020/2021 and advise Merlin Waste. Item 16.3 (iv) - Sarah Storey has confirmed that it is still their intention for the Guides to clean the 'glass' on the village bus shelters. Item 16.3 (iv) - Nigel Leaworthy has subsequently advised that the price he gave for the installation of a park bench (at £565 inc base), was incorrect. It is now confirmed as £980 with base and £815 without. Item 17 - The Clerk confirmed that he did not need to use any of the plenary powers provided to him at the previous meeting. 	Clerk

6	<p>Monmouthshire County Council – update</p> <p>In the absence of County Councillor Jones, the Clerk provided the following updates:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Pedestrian Crossing on the A4042 – The email addresses have still not been received so the Clerk has contacted SWTRA direct. It appears that Mark Emmet has now moved on, but a new address has been provided – Clerk to contact for an update. 2 Double yellow lines on Newtown Road. There is no sign yet of any public consultation (signs on lamp posts etc). Clerk to check on progress. 3 Pedestrian Crossing at School Lane / Star Road junction. This is now with the design team. Once the detailed drawing / plans are completed a legal consultation notice will be posted on site for the required 21 days. The cabinet member will then sign (after considering any objections). No timescales are available at this stage. 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
7	<p>Maintenance</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clerk was requested to confirm with MCC Highways when the resurfacing work on Star Road is to take place (perhaps waiting for the works to finish?). 2. The hedges along Little Mill Park need cutting back. Councillor Deakins asked if they could be cut back a little further this year. Clerk to contact Roger Davies and MCC for a quote. 3. There is broken glass on the steps in the Goytre Park. Clerk to advise MCC asap 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
8	<p>Planning applications:</p> <p>The Council considered the planning committee which met on the 8th August and 5th September. The Chair of the committee, Councillor Barnes, moved that the following responses from each of the meetings be accepted by the meeting:</p> <p>8th August</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DM/2019/01040, 23 July 2019 Retention of two steel shipping containers. Land Adjacent to Park Y Brain Lane, Park Y Brain Lane, Goytre, Mons NP4 0BJ The unanimous conclusion of the Committee was that there were no concerns with the proposal. • DM/2019/01144, 1 August 2019 Two storey rear extension to existing dwelling. 37 Chapel Mead, Penperlleni, Goytre, Pontypool, Monmouthshire, NP4 0BR The unanimous conclusion of the Committee was that there were no concerns with the proposal. • DM/2019/01230, 1 August 2019 Two storey rear extension. Midfield, Penperlleni, Goytre, Pontypool, Monmouthshire, NP4 0AS The Committee noted that this proposal will negate an earlier approved proposal, reference DM/2019/00114, to erect a two-storey extension to the front of the property. The documents reviewed included the 'Public Comment' objection to the proposal posted on the MCC planning website. The unanimous conclusions of the Committee were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The committee would request clarification on the proposed impact on the garage as it appears to be made smaller, and thus less useful, as a garage by the proposal. ▪ The neighbour concern regarding the impact of the proposal on light to the rear garden would seem to carry some justification. A decision on this application has not yet been made as the case officer is on leave until 24th Sept. Andrew Jones at MCC has confirmed that a decision will not be made until they have responded to the CC. <p>5th September</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DM/2019/01308, 21 August 2019 Conversion and extension of redundant agricultural building (former milking parlour) in to residential use. Redundant Agricultural Building, The Gelli, A4042 T Pencroesoped To Goytre, Goytre, Monmouthshire, NP4 0AD The unanimous conclusion of the Committee was that there were no concerns with the proposal. However, the following points were noted in discussion which the Clerk will advise to MCC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Bat and Nesting Bird Survey Report - 'Required Actions' section 6 - various actions to mitigate possible impacts on wild life. 	<p>Clerk</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structural Report - a piped stream at the corner of the building might need diversion. Public Rights of Way – a Public Footpath runs through the property. It was otherwise observed that the site egress onto the A4042 road might need to be upgraded for safety reasons. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19/17756/FUL (BBNPA) 21 August 2019 Replacement of existing outbuilding with new outbuilding Y Bwthyn, Pen-Croes-Oped Road, Pencroesoped, Llanover, NP7 9EL The unanimous conclusion of the Committee was that there were no concerns with the proposal. However, the following points were noted in discussion which the Clerk will advise to BBNPA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was noted that the proposed building is larger than that existing, but not unacceptably so. The Ecological Impact assessment reports – “There is no ecological objection to approval of the application subject to the imposition of a planning condition to secure biodiversity enhancement measures.” Further comments on lighting, bird boxes etc. were noted. DM/2019/00241 22 August 2019 Demolition of existing bungalow and domestic garage and construction of replacement dwelling Springfield, Plough Road, Penperlleni, Goytre, Pontypool, Monmouthshire NP4 0AL The unanimous conclusion of the Committee was that there were no concerns with the proposal. However, the following points were noted in discussion which the Clerk will advise to MCC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a very significant proposal to replace an existing derelict bungalow with a large 5/6-bedroom house on a site which, other than the bungalow, is not within the existing Local Development Plan. Should the proposal be approved, the (Community) Council would not expect to see further development proposals on or near this site. In particular section 4 (Reasonable Avoidance Measures and Mitigation) of The Ecological Assessment was reviewed and it was noted that some tree and hedgerow removal had already taken place and which will require remediation. <p><u>Review of the operation of the planning Committee (including its terms of reference)</u> The Planning Committee has now been in operation for two months and has met on two occasions. The general feeling is that the system has worked well, providing the time and opportunity for much greater scrutiny of applications than Full Council allows. It was agreed in July to undertake a review at this meeting to consider whether its remit should be extended (or possibly withdrawn). Prior to the meeting Councillor Butler had expressed an opinion to extend its operation to include ALL applications (irrespective of the timescales involved), whereas Councillor Awni wished to continue with the existing remit. After discussion, and to ensure that all applications receive the same level of scrutiny it was agreed that all applications be considered by the committee in future (but again with another review at the end of the year). All other terms to remain the same. Clerk to amend the Terms of Reference accordingly. Clerk also to research PC projector options so that plans / documents from the various planning sites can be projected for all to see. The proposal to extend the remit of the planning committee was formally proposed by Councillor Daniel and seconded by Councillor Deakins.</p> <p>As a result of the above, it was agreed that application 19/17759/FUL, forwarded by to BBNPA should be referred to the planning committee to review.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
9	<p>Goetre Fawr Place Plan</p> <p>The Clerk has obtained a copy of the Pentyrch questionnaire together with the main and summary reports. This had cost c£3500 for 2700 printed bilingual questionnaires, translation and an online version and the prep of the report. By contrast Goetre Fawr has some 1136 properties. To help gauge the likely cost Cardiff Research Centre have asked that we review the existing questionnaire to determine its size and number of open / qualitative responses (which are more expensive to administer). At this stage the Clerk guestimates that we may be looking at a cost of</p>	

	<p>that it was still somewhat expensive for the protections required by the CC. It was therefore decided not to proceed for the time being but to keep under review.</p> <p>3. <u>NALC – Financial Regulations</u> New model financial regulations from NALC have been distributed to all Councils with a recommendation that they be adopted. Although only slightly amended from the previous version, they add a significant restriction meaning that each piece of work undertaken by professional advisors (solicitors/accountants/surveyors) must now be put out to tender. Although the change is unlikely to impact us greatly, the Clerk has referred the issue to Paul Egan at OVW. His personal recommendation to his own council will be to not adopt. The Clerk, therefore, made the same recommendation and this was formally proposed by Councillor Deakins and seconded by Councillor Daniel.</p> <p>4. <u>Olde Pounce Shop Update</u> – Everett Lloyd, Tomlin & Pratt (Solicitors), have confirmed that HMLR will not countenance including the parking space at the side of the property, nor the area immediately in front of the shop within the Land Registry title. It will therefore be up to the Council to establish title to these areas over the coming years, particularly by including both areas within the plan shown in lease document (which is renewed every three years).</p> <p>5. <u>VAT Claim</u> - Our VAT claim for 2018-19 of £2813.02 has now been received from HMRC.</p> <p>6. <u>Councillor Payments</u> The Clerk reminded Councillors that he will make the payment of £150 to each member on 1st November (as last year). If anyone does not want to receive the payment please can they advise the Clerk so that he can provide the necessary paperwork for them to sign. Also advise the Clerk if their Bank account details have changed from last year. The Clerk also reminded Councillors that the payments are taxable, and must be declared to HMRC. Failure to do so could result in both the individuals and the Council being fined by HMRC. Clerk will send this reminder to all Councillor by email.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
12	<p><u>Global warming – GFCC response / proposals</u> As reported previously, OVW feels it is probably beyond our remit to provide CC funding for an EV charge point. Mark Lloyd, Rural Programme Co-ordinator MCC, is aware of our situation and is to review with MCC Legal and Estates to see what can be done, but is not aware of any central funds that we could use.</p> <p>The other possibility is that Mon CC may be able to negotiate some arrangement with the charging point provider whereby they supply and install the point and take the income from its use in return for MCC providing the site. He is to provide a further update by the end of next week once he's had the discussions referred to above.</p> <p><u>Environment Wales Act 2016 - Community & Town Councils Duty under Section 6</u> This requires all public authorities to prepare and publish a plan setting out what it proposes to do to comply with the duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity within their current work areas. This must be done by 31st Dec this year. Further guidance will be issued shortly but a draft reporting template has been provided for those Councils who wish to begin work. Clerk to see if he can identify some simple example actions that we can implement to support this initiative.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
13	<p><u>Transport to school (MCC school buses)</u> Concern was expressed that yet again the allocation / confirmation of school bus places appeared to have been left to the last minute by the Passenger Transport Unit. Some confusion had arisen with children from Little Mill being told that their pick up point was Goytre. Others had a pass but no confirmation of the bus route. MCC phones appeared to have become overwhelmed on the Monday with queries from concerned parents who were unable to obtain clarification. Goytre Fawr Primary is to write to Mrs Lewis, the headteacher at King Henry to discuss the situation. In addition, the 'first come first served' policy for post-16 transport appeared to disadvantage students who were waiting for GCSE results before deciding whether to return to school. It was requested that the Clerk write to the appropriate cabinet officer at MCC to express the Council's disappointment at what is becoming an almost perennial event, and ask that actions are taken to prevent a recurrence.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

14	<p>Traffic on School Lane</p> <p>Another download of data has been obtained from the SIDs unit which showed some 29,000 vehicles had used School Lane since April, of which 99.39% were travelling at under 25 mph – the maximum speed was 38 mph. However, 19 vehicles were recorded travelling in the wrong direction (maximum speed 24 mph). Having analysed the statistics there was no particular pattern to this misuse. Clerk is to look again at the Tod Security offer of renting the CC a CCTV camera, and will also speak to MCC to see what actions we can take to permanently stop this problem.</p>	Clerk
15	<p>Reported Intruder in a Property in Goytre</p> <p>The Chair made reference to an incident reported in the village via the Facebook page. The alleged incident concerned a female intruder who appeared in the bathroom behind the owner who was having a shave at the time. The policer suspect she may have been one member of a larger 'gang'. The gentleman concerned was obviously upset at the incident and residents have been warned to keep their front and back doors locked. Councillor Daniel has a contact in victim support who he will speak to for further details of the service which we will look to make known as appropriate.</p>	Cllr. Daniel
16	<p>GDPR – Use of personal devices</p> <p>The clerk had previously distributed an update on the use of personal devices in the context of the GDPR regulations sent by Matt Phillips, Head of Law and Monitoring Officer at MCC. As a result of the email, the Clerk recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Councillors will set up a dedicated (personal) email address for council related e-mails (a number of councillors already have this). • All councillors to review their Council emails on a sixth-monthly basis and delete those which are no longer required (and avoid keeping emails 'just in case'). • All Councillors to confirm to the Clerk that any relevant devices used to read / store council related emails are password protected, and where possible, have security software installed on them. <p>Clerk to send an email to remind all Councillors.</p>	Clerk
17	<p>Reports – questions based on previously distributed e-mail and updates during the meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Mill Village Hall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At the meeting on Monday 2 Sept. the cost of £5000 for roof repairs was authorised and the go-ahead given for repair to the main water supply. It is anticipated with VAT this will cost £3000. Committee are hoping to claim for some or all of the repair on the Hall insurance. Dwr Cymru have indicated that they may not charge for excess water used as a result of the leak. ○ The Committee noted that they will become responsible for payments for the Thomas Waste skip from 1st October*. ○ Apart from one member of the Committee there have been no further requests for a dog walking area in Little Mill. <p>*The Clerk confirmed that this should be 1st November.</p> • Goytre Village Hall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The next meeting is tomorrow, Tuesday 17th • Goytre School Governors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MCC are funding two additional teaching assistants due to the number of pupils. The interviews are being undertaken tomorrow, Tuesday 17th • Goytre Community Centre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Welsh classes are no longer being run on a Tuesday evening - the class lacked numbers to be viable. ○ Sewing is still running on Wednesday evenings. ○ Floristry is running on Weds mornings after half term – There is the possibility of running a second class. ○ Interest has been expressed by a resident in the possibility of running a daytime club for young children – maybe 2/3 hours per day, although no details available at present. 	

18	Donations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Community Garden / Capel Ed Church have again approached the CC to request a donation / contribution to the cost of installing a defibrillator (total cost £1400 inc cabinet). They have tried to secure funding from the National Lottery but without success. The Clerk advised that under the LGA 1894, financial support could not be provided to the Church by way of a donation – the CC would have to purchase the unit outright, and then agree to site it at the church for the benefit of the community. Clerk advised that if the CC agreed, it could face similar calls for a unit to be installed at St Peters and the Acres, both of which are similar distances from the village hall. After discussion it was agreed that the CC should again defer a decision whilst it considers a possible compromise site and is aware of the outcome of the MUGA (which may impact on the CC's capital budget). Homemakers have sent in a detailed letter outlining a major project, and although it doesn't specifically request a donation, the Clerk has confirmed that this was the purpose of the letter. After discussion it was agreed that the CC did not wish to make a financial contribution. 	 Clerk Clerk
19	Communications <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 'Voluntary Voice' (the GAVO magazine) A playground promotion from a company called Proludic. No action was considered necessary on either communication.	
20	Advertising <p>Articles for inclusion in the next edition of the Usk & Raglan diary are due no later than Friday 27th September (sooner if possible). Good quality photographs are also welcomed to be used where space permits. The best format is a .jpg file of at least 500KB size. All to advise Cllr. Welford of any articles for inclusion.</p>	 All
21	Date of Next Meetings – <p>Monday 14th Oct at Goytre Community Centre, commencing at 19.30. It was noted that the Community Centre will now be available for the December meeting, which is confirmed will be held on Tuesday 10th December.</p>	 All

Chairman:

Date:.....