CYNGOR CYMUNED GOETRE FAWR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT GOETRE FAWR COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 20TH MAY 2019

Present: Community Councillors, Owen Dodd, Andy Barnes, Robert French, Rose Thayers,

Jan Butler, Peter Daniel, Colin Deakins, Lucyann Rands, Syd Welford, Nicola Awni,

Roger Howells and Nigel Morrey

In Attendance: Jonathan Lazenby (Clerk)

Apologies: None Guests: None

| | | ACTION |
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| 1 | Apologies for Absence | |
| 2 | Declarations of Interest The Chair opened the meeting and 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. | |
| 3 | Chairman's Remarks The Chairman again thanked the members for his re-election and welcomed everyone to the meeting following the ASM. The Chair advised that he would like to produce an annual report on the achievements of the CC and it was suggested that perhaps this could be included in the next newsletter. | |
| 4 | Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 29 th April 2019 The minutes were proposed as a true and correct record of the meeting by Councillor Butler and seconded by Councillor French. | Clerk |
| 5 | Matters Arising Item 5.3. – The Olde Pounde Shop flower trough. The Clerk has investigated cheaper alternatives and has identified that Nantyderry nurseries could provide three tubs, compost and climbers with fixings at a max cost of £125. After due consideration it was decided not to replace the existing trough with an alternative 'display'. Clerk to advise Janet Robins and to arrange to have the old trough removed. Item 5.4 – Goytre Park tubs – It was noted by several councillors that the existing perennials now appeared to be growing more strongly, and as a result the members thought there was no need to replace any of the plants or supplement them with bedding plants. Clerk to advise Janet Robins Item 5.5. Emptying of the 'sumps' in the village drains – Clerk has chased again and the issue has been reported to the Area Supervisor. Item 7.1 – the broken kerbs by Longhouse Barn / Meadow Bank have now been repaired. Item 7.2 - Clerk has emailed Councillor Howells for the registration number of the car parked the wrong way on School Lane which could not be read from the supplied photo. Councillor Howells to send full resolution photo. Item 7.3 - Public conveniences – Clerk has sent an email asking the cleaners to address the problems highlighted in the public conveniences. He has replaced the broken lock and installed a replacement toilet roll dispenser in the ladies' toilets. He has also purchased a cob web duster and mop to enable the cleaners to clean the walls and ceilings and will investigate the availability of LED lighting and whether motion detectors could be installed in the toilets to save on | Clerk Clerk Cllr Howells |
| | electricity, as the lights are left on all day, every day. Councillors are to consider changing the closing hours during the winter months as the 8pm time is proving difficult for the cleaners. 7 Item 12.5 – The risk assessment for Little Mill Park has been undertaken – there were no safety issues but it was indicated that signage was absent. Clerk has queried what signage is required. | Clerk |

| 6 | Monmouthshire County Council update There was no update in the absence of Councillor Jones. | |
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| 7 | Maintenance Kevin Phillips from the Canal & River Trust (C&RT) has asked if the CC will cover the cost of emptying a proposed additional dog bin by bridge 76. The C&RT will purchase the bin. The emptying cost will be £3.75 per fortnight. This was proposed by Councillor Barnes and seconded by Councillor Morrey. Councillor Dodd advised that the recently installed SIDs unit on Plough Road has already made a huge difference to the speed of the traffic. Councillor Rands said it was possible that the road could also be a candidate site to set up a speed watch group if necessary. Councillor Butler raised the issue of heavy low loaders travelling from the transport yard on Star Road continuing to damage the road surface by the junction with Pleasant Retreat. Clerk will raise this with MCC Councillor Dodd mentioned that the street light by bridge 68 was completely obscured by trees. Clerk has already raised with MCC but will chase again. | Clerk Clerk Clerk |
| 8 | Planning applications: | |
| | DM/2019/00532 - Retrospective application for a rear garden fence. Corner Oak, 68 Long House Barn, Penperlleni, Goytre, Pontypool, Monmouthshire. Councillors felt that the fence obscured the exit from the neighbour's garage, making it difficult for the driver to see pedestrians or other traffic as they emerge onto the road. It was felt that the application should not be approved unless MCC could satisfy themselves that road traffic safety would not be compromised. DM/2019/00720 - Proposed side and rear single storey extensions to existing bungalow. 29 Parklands, Penperlleni, Goytre, Pontypool, Monmouthshire, NP4 0BB Councillors requested that MCC planning be asked to take into account whether there would still be sufficient parking on the property following the development, given the already high level of street parking on Parklands. | Clerk |
| 9 | Goetre Fawr Place Plan Councillor Awni advised that she had attended another meeting where 'Community Plans' had been discussed. These were different to 'Place Plans' as they were less formal and looked at issues not linked to the LDP (a Place Plan would). A Place Plan would need to be completed by 31/3 next year and dovetail with the LDP. In the meantime the CC could work with various community groups (e.g. WI / Social Club / Village Hall) to get feedback on important issues. It was suggested that some form of working party be set up, perhaps via the newsletter. Councillors Butler and Dodd volunteered to help Councillor Awni. Councillor Dodd confirmed that he would put an article in the next newsletter. Councillor Awni to put some further proposals together and circulate. | |
| 10 | MUGA update | |
| | Councillor Dodd advised that the decision is likely to be delayed as MCC have agreed an extension for a couple of applications, so the decision is likely to be late June, so may not be in time for inclusion in the newsletter. | |
| 11 | Finance 1. Review of Accounts and Cashflow | |
| | The latest cashflow statement was presented to the meeting. There was no further comment or observation The following payments have been made since the last meeting £ | |
| | Thomas Waste Management Ltd 46.00 | |
| | Wallgate Ltd (Hand washer / dryer service contract) 734.40 Viking Direct (stationery) 37.60 | |
| | Ink Point UK Ltd 48.00 | |
| | J P Lazenby (Clerk's expenses) 25.62 | |
| | Wales Air Ambulance 500.00 | |
| | Merlin Waste 127.50 | |
| | Zurich Insurance (Comm Council Insurance) 22.54 | |
| | MCC (Non-Domestic rates (for public conveniences) 57.00 Covtro Villago Hall Pop up Post Office reptal 50.00 | |
| | Goytre Village Hall - Pop-up Post Office rental 50.00 SLCC (Clerk's conference) 108.00 | |
| | Size (Clerk's Conference) 100.00 | |

2. Receive and accept the findings of the Internal Audit.

The report from the Internal Auditor, Helena Fox, for the financial year ending 31st March has now been received. The report confirms that the standard of record keeping is good and that all the relevant requirements / tests have been met. Only two recommendations were made:

- That donations made under s137/ Power of well-being be recorded separately in the cashbook. (this has already been actioned by the Clerk for 2019/20).
- The CC should allocate a realistic and reasonable sum to cover any mandatory payments for care costs (determination 51). Clerk advised that £500 has already been included in the 2019/20 budget.

Clerk advised that the fee for the hire of the Arthur Morris Room (used by the Pop-Up Post Office) had now increased from £5 to £6 an hour. Clerk to arrange for a standing order for £48 to be paid every four weeks. This was proposed by Councillor Daniel and seconded by Councillor Awni.

Clerk

12 Global warming - GFCC response / proposals

This was raised by Councillor Awni and related to a proposal made on a recent MCC County Council agenda. It is proposed that GFCC takes appropriate actions to respond to the current global climate crisis. Suggestions for the declaration could include:

- GFCC to reduce its own carbon emissions
- Promote the use of sustainable resources, remove unnecessary waste and explore alternative sources of energy
- Work with suppliers who implement best practice.

Practical suggestions could include:

- Provision of an electric car charger facility
- Encouraging the removal of single use plastics and waste in the pub/chip shop/village halls, school and GASC
- Look to install LED lights in the public conveniences and explore if they could be movement activated
- Encourage use of local tradesmen / buy local

Councillor Awni to prepare further suggestions and circulate to Council.

13 Reports – questions based on previously distributed update

• Little Mill Village Hall

No report submitted.

• Goytre Village Hall

No report submitted.

Goytre School Governors

A meeting of the Governors is scheduled for Weds 22nd. The new head teacher has come in early to support the school with their Estyn inspection.

Goytre Community Centre

Community Centre's AGM had to be postponed as it was not advertised as per requirements. A new date is to be agreed shortly and an agenda published.

• Other reports:

SLCC Conference 15th May 2019 – key areas covered were:

The proposed General Power of Competence – planned to be introduced in Wales, but to exercise Councils will need to:

- Have 2/3 of members elected (rather than co-opted)
- Have a (likely CiLCA) qualified Clerk¹
- Have an un-qualified audit for the past 2 years

| | Social media – A social media expert suggested that rather be on social media where he said your posts 'just get buried', you are much better 'just to be near it' – look at what people are posting about and in particular, to read the comments if you really want to understand what is going on and what people think. | |
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| | Future Audits From the 2020/21 financial year, all auditing work will be undertaken by the Wales Audit Office (WAO), rather than BDO which currently does the work on behalf of the WAO. The WAO are looking at whether the current audit process is fit for purpose and are considering: | |
| | Should they retain the one size fits all approach (as now) Should the audit be made to measure based on the size of the Council The amount of the audit fee, which is a regular cause for complaint. | |
| | ¹ Clerk has enrolled for the ILCA (level 2) qualification at a cost of £99. The Clerk has also secured one of a dozen or so Welsh Govt. bursaries to cover the £350 cost of the (level 3) CiLCA qualification (subsequent training fees may apply). It was similarly proposed by Councillor Butler and seconded by Councillor Thayers that the CC should be responsible for meeting the cost of the ILCA course and any associated course fees in respect of the CiLCA qualification. | |
| 14 | Donations An outline request has been received from Capel Ed Church / Community Garden for support regarding the cost of a defibrillator and cabinet at a cost of c£1200 + VAT. Capel Ed are still looking at the options, (how much they may be prepared to put towards the cost / possible grant monies etc). It was agreed the Clerk should continue dialogue with them so that a firm proposal (if required) could be put to the CC. | Clerk |
| 15 | Communications There were no communications to advise to Council. | |
| 16 | Advertising The following items were advised for notification in the July /August edition of the Usk & Raglan diary. 1. The replacement of the Silent Soldier 2. The proposed pedestrian crossing at the bottom of School Lane 3. The suggestion of a Place Plan. 4. The Community Council's response to the global warming crisis | |
| 17 | Date of Next Meetings – Monday 17 th June at Little Mill Village Hall, commencing at 19.30 Councillors French & Morrey advised the meeting that they would not be in attendance. | |
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| Chairman: | Date: |
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