CYNGOR CYMUNED

GOETRE FAWR

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD BY TELECONFERENCE ON MONDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2020**

## **Present:**  Community Councillors, Owen Dodd, Andy Barnes, Jan Butler, Rose Thayers, Nicola Awni, Colin Deakins, Roger Howells and Syd Welford

**Apologies:** Community Councillors, Janet Robins, NigelMorrey, Peter Daniel and Lucyann Rands

**In attendance:**  Jonathan Lazenby (Clerk)

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|  |  | **ACTION** |
| 1 | **Apologies for Absence**As above |  |
| 2 | **Declarations of Interest**The Chair asked members present whether they had any declarations of interest to make. Councillor Awni stated that she had an interest in the agenda item on drainage in the village. The Chair reminded those present that they should notify the meeting of any additional interests which became apparent during the progress of the meeting.  | Clerk |
| 3 | **Chairman’s Remarks**The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.  |  |
| 4 | **Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 27th July 2020.** The meeting minutes were proposed as a true and correct record by Councillor Barnes and seconded by Councillor Welford. | Clerk  |
| 5 | **Matters Arising**1. Item 5 (iii) – the public conveniences in the village have reopened.
2. Item 6 (i) – the resurfacing of Star Road has been completed with the exception of the railway bridge surface. Clerk has queried this with MCC but has had no reply as yet.
3. Item 6 (ii) – Pedestrian Crossing on Star Road. There has been no response from MCC to the Clerk’s query on whether it was positioned correctly.
4. Items 6(iii) – The hedge in Little Mill along the main road by the pedestrian crossing has been cut back.
5. Item 6 (iv) – MCC have logged the requirement for the drains to be cleared in the village.
6. Item 8 (iii) – Proposal to remove public payphone in Goytre.BT have advised that the calls made from the phone have been to standard land line and mobile numbers. No calls have been made to Childline. Councillor Butler felt that notwithstanding this, and the low usage, it was still an important amenity / public service within the village and should be retained. This was proposed by Councillor Butler and seconded by Councillor Thayers.
7. Item 8 (v) – Installation of fence at the house by the railway bridge corner. This was logged under the June enforcement notice. The enforcement officer has advised that the development has today submitted an application for a new fence. This will be available to view on the web site shortly.
8. Item 11 – The ANPR camera is due to be removed tomorrow.
 | Clerk |
| 6 | **Maintenance**1. Councillor Welford reported that the pavement on Newtown Road by the double yellow lines is being pushed up by tree roots.
2. Councillor Awni reported that a number of road signs on School Lane and the A4042 are now obscured by hedging. Clerk to report to SWTRA and MCC.
3. Councillor Barnes reported that the hedges along the dog exercise area and in the park needed cutting back. Clerk to advise MCC
4. Councillor Deakins advised that a number of local footpaths need attention, (Clerk to report all) specifically: - Path 88 along Ty Gwyn Road and the Railway line – is now very overgrown.  - Path 80 where it meets the railway on the eastern side has a locked wicket  gate. It is unclear if the padlock and chain was installed by Network Rail or  the landowner. If it is to remain locked it requires a stile. - The path between Ty Draw Gardens and the railway is so overgrown it is  now impassable.

 - Path 89 from the Halfway House Pub to Clos Melin Coed is also barely  passable due to overgrown vegetation. 1. - Councillor Thayers asked if Newtown Road was due to be resurfaced –  Clerk to enquire.
2. Councillor Dodd reported that the footpath at the top of Longhouse Barn (between no’s 15 and 16) is still overgrown. Clerk to chase MCC
 | ClerkClerkClerkClerkClerkClerk  |
| 7 | **Finance**1. Review of accounts / cashflow.

The latest cashflow statement was presented to the meeting. The Clerk identified the following over / underspends for consideration, either by Council, or the Finance Committee (scheduled to meet on 6th October).* Forecast income from the Olde Pounde shop for 2020/21 will reduce by £1729 to £4286.
* The VAT refund (forecast at £2500) was £1767 based on actual spend.

The following suggestions were made to be considered by the Finance Committee and to propose an amended budget. a) Donations – increase from £1500 to £3.5k or even £5k? – do we adjust other budget lines or take from reserves?b) Newsletters (under Comms/ Engagement) – remove the £1000 allowance?c) Reduce Merlin Waste by c£600 to reflect only fortnightly collections through the summer (weekly collections were budgeted May to Aug).Councillors Awni and Thayers asked that these be considered by the Finance committee at their Oct meeting. There was no further comment or observation.1. Payments made since the July 27th meeting£

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| Wages | 39.39 |
| Wages | 265.47 |
| J P Lazenby (Salary) | 875.16 |
| Newhall Janitorial (hand sanitizers) | 83.39 |
| Merlin Waste | 156.00 |
| Goytre Village Hall - Pop-up Post Office rental (PofWB) | 48.00 |
| Little Mill Village Hall | 2000.00 |
| MCC Non-Domestic rates (for public conveniences) | 58.00 |
| Blitz Media Ltd (Little Mill park signs) | 66.00 |
| Nest (Clerk's Pension) | 46.67 |
| Merlin Waste | 156.00 |
| Goytre Village Hall - Pop-up Post Office rental (PofWB) | 48.00 |
| Wages | 39.39 |
| Wages | 265.47 |
| J P Lazenby (Salary) | 875.36 |
| Ocean Business Supplies (toilet cleaning supplies) | 80.13 |
| Tod Fire & Security (ANPR camera on School Lane) | 192.00 |
| SSE / SWALEC (Public conveniences electricity) | 12.10 |

1. Salary & WagesBased on the newly agreed national pay scales, the Clerk’s salary for 2020/21 (backdated to 1st April) will be £16.75 per hour. It was agreed that the staff wage rate should remain the same, but to budget for £9.15 an hour for financial year 2021/22 based on the possible suggested minimum wage.

These were proposed by Councillor Awni and seconded by Councillor Barnes. | Fin. Com.Clerk |
| 8 | **Planning Committee** – 1. To accept the responses of the planning committee meeting held on 24th August 2020.

The Council considered the planning committee’s report from their meeting of the 24th August. The Chair of the committee, Councillor Barnes, moved that the responses in the minutes from the meeting be accepted by Full Council. These covered the following proposals:1. Ref. No. DM/2020/00991. Improvement works to building facade.1 The Haven, Fairfield, Penperlleni, Goytre, Pontypool, Monmouthshire, NP4 0AR

Acceptance was proposed by Councillor Awni and seconded by Councillor Dodd. 1. Installation of non-porous driveways without planning permission.Concern was expressed at the impact this has on the water drainage system in the village – potentially overloading it and leading to flooding issues. Clerk to circulate guidance from the planning authorities to be included in the next edition of ‘The Diary’ so that residents are aware of the potential consequences, and the need in many cases for planning permission to be obtained.
2. Drainage and Drain Maintenance in GoytreClerk to contact Welsh Water to establish current maintenance schedule, including emptying of sumps etc
 | ClerkClerk |
| 9 | **Folly View Close / Pleasant Retreat**Clerk asked to contact MCC to establish the timescales for the adoption of both the developments and clarify whether MCC has now assumed responsibility for the maintenance / timing of the street lights. | Clerk |
| 10 | **Local Boundary & Democracy Review**OVW have now confirmed the response received from Julie James, Minister for Housing and Local Government, following their request that she orders a review of the proposed boundary changes. However, disappointingly the Minister does not believe that the arguments put forward are sufficient to change her decision to implement the new boundaries. One Voice Wales has now sent the correspondence regarding this issue to its team of legal advisors to seek advice on how to proceed and will update us as soon as it is received. |  |
| 11 | **Equality & Diversity**Councillor Barnes made a short presentation on the aspects of the Code of Conduct which cover Councillors’ obligations for Equality & Respect for others, and as such he felt that the One Voice Wales policy document (previously circulated) was effectively redundant. The discussion also looked at the potential need for equality impact assessments on all the Council’s activities. The Clerk will re-circulate a checklist forwarded by Councillor Awni for Councillors to consider and to pick up at the next meeting.  | Clerk |
| 12 | **MUGA**Councillor Butler has been in touch with County Councillor Jane Pratt regarding the difficulty in liaising with MCC Estates Dept, and the amount requested by them for the lease of the ground for the MUGA. Councillor Pratt is therefore now aware of the issues and is looking into them on our behalf | Cllr. Butler |
| 13 | **Community Council Plan for 2021/22**Clerk suggested it would be beneficial to have a Community Plan which outlines a set of aims and objectives and priorities for the provision of local services and support. This would ensure that decisions made at Council were taken within the context of an overall plan – many of our decisions are taken on an isolated basis (they are not necessarily wrong as a result, but it is hard to assess what their effectiveness is to the success of our service delivery aims, or the priorities of residents). This would ensure a more joined up approach and consistent decision making. Councillors Barnes and Thayers expressed an interest in being involved in an engagement / planning committee. Clerk to obtain a copy of Usk Town Council’s plan and circulate as an example. | Clerk |

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| 14 | **Reports – questions based on previously distributed update.*** **Little Mill Village Hall**
	+ No report submitted.
* **Goytre Village Hall**
	+ No report submitted
* **Goytre School Governors**
	+ No report submitted.
* **Goytre Community Centre**
* Mr Paul Robins is the new Treasurer.
* The Centre is now open again but its use is being restricted to GASC only due to the Covid-19 requirements.
* The committee are investigating possible sources of funding
* The boiler and heating system have been inspected by 24/7 who have quoted £1840 to service and repair pipework. They will inspect and report on the 12 wall heaters, which may need parts. This would potentially take the total cost up to c£2500.
* The floor also needs to be inspected and may require maintenance
* Annual General Meeting to be held 22nd September at 7.30 by Zoom.
* **Other Reports**
	+ There were no other reports.
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| 15 | **Donations**At the beginning of the discussion it was noted that this year’s ‘donations’ budget has already been exceeded due to the payment to Little Mill Village Hall in July. The Clerk suggested that in these exceptional circumstances the CC could consider setting up a separate Covid-19 budget (with payments from reserves), to cover pandemic related payments which support the Community. This was proposed (with a budget of £5000) by Councillor Deakins and seconded by Councillor Butler. The proposal was carried unanimously. * Mike Jones and the Reverend John Collier, (Parish of Mamhilad with Monkswood with Glascoed) have requested a donation of c£225 to cover the purchase of 12 pink dustbins for residents to use to donate food items through the winter as part of the ‘can on a wall’ campaign. The Clerk suggested that if approved the CC should purchase the bins and make them available to the Community. The item was discussed at length, and the case was made that this would be an action in support of a response from the people of the village. The purchase would be made under the power of well-being. This was proposed by Councillor Deakins and seconded by Councillor Butler. Clerk to investigate the best price obtainable for the bins within the agreed budget limit.
* The Scout Group have approached the CC to request a donation of £1000 to purchase additional equipment to remove the need for Scouts / guides etc to share items, thereby complying with the Covid-19 regulations. However, it was noted that an application to the Welsh Coronavirus Resilience Fund for £5000 (which it appeared would provide sufficient funding) was still outstanding. Councillors therefore felt that in the event this was unsuccessful, or the award insufficient they would be comfortable in underwriting any shortfall up to £1,000.
 | ClerkClerkClerk |
| 16 | **Communications*** Mike Jones is putting together a committee to look at installing a permanent war memorial in the village and has asked if a Community Councillor would like to be part of that committee. The CC itself has no powers to provide funding for a war memorial, only for its cleaning and maintenance. As agreed at the Annual Statutory Meeting it was confirmed that Councillor Daniel would go along in the capacity of an ‘observer’ and report back to Council. Council Awni asked that any report / feedback be sent in good time for the following Council meeting.
* South Wales Argus Campaign to take additional road safety measures (reduce speed limit / pedestrian crossing) on the A4042. It was agreed to support the campaign and that the Chair, Councillor Dodd, should act as the spokesperson on behalf of the Community Council. This was proposed by Councillor Thayers and seconded by Councillor Awni.
* Lapstone Lane Car park – a request has been made to MCC on behalf of a resident for a road sign indicating the direction to this very popular car park by the canal. Clerk to chase.
 | Clerk Cllr. DoddClerk |
| 17 | **Advertising - Usk and Raglan Diary contributions Nov / Dec 2020**It was proposed that the following items be included in the next copy of the diary.* Regulations regarding the installation / replacement of driveways at the front elevation of a house and which leads onto a highway.
* Community Council support for the campaign to improve safety on the A4042 through the village.

Any further items should be advised to Councillor Welford no later than Friday 25th Sept.  | All |
| 18 | **Date of next meeting & close –** Monday12th October 2020 at 19.30.Councillor Deakins requested that this be a face to face meeting. However, the latest guidance from One Voice Wales and the legal advice published in the current edition of ‘The Clerk’, is very clear that face to face meetings should be avoided where remote meetings are a viable alternative.  | All |

Chairman: **…………………………………….……………** Date:**…………………….**