CYNGOR CYMUNED

GOETRE FAWR

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD BY TELECONFERENCE ON MONDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 2020**

## **Present:** Community Councillors, Owen Dodd, Andy Barnes, Jan Butler, Rose Thayers, Colin Deakins, Janet Robins, NigelMorrey, Peter Daniel, Nicola Awni and Syd Welford

**Apologies:** Community Councillor Lucyann Rands

**Absent without apology:** Community CouncillorRoger Howells

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

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|  |  | **ACTION** |
| 1 | **Apologies for Absence**  As above |  |
| 2 | **Declarations of Interest**  The Chair asked members whether they had any declarations of interest to make. The Chair reminded those present that they should notify the meeting of any additional interests which became apparent during the progress of the meeting. |  |
| 3 | **Chairman’s Remarks**  The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. |  |
| 4 | **Approval of Minutes of the Main Council Meeting held on 12th Oct 2020.** Item 10 – add ‘proposed by Councillor Awni’ to the title  Item 14 – the title should read ‘Wales’ and not ‘Waled’ The minutes of the meeting were then proposed as a true and correct record by Councillor Daniel and seconded by Councillor Morrey. | Clerk |
| 5 | **Approval of Minutes of the Closed Session of the Meeting held on 12th Oct 2020.**  The closed session minutes were proposed as a true and correct record by Councillor Welford and seconded by Councillor Robins. | Clerk |
| 6 | **Matters Arising**   1. Item 7 (iii) – Councillor Deakins has confirmed that all the paths have been cleared, and to a very good standard. 2. Item 7 (v) – MCC provided an update on the adoption of Folly View Close, Pleasant Retreat and Cae Melin. The response has been circulated to Councillors. 3. Item 7 (vi) – Lapstone Road sign – MCC have advised they have insufficient budget to provide street nameplates for every street in the county, and with no properties addressed to it, they would not consider the installation of a street nameplate in this location. The Road Traffic Regs Act 1984, does not give the CC authority to install ourselves, but OVW believe we could install a brown tourist sign to encourage tourism under the Local Govt Act 1972 s144. However, this is less than straightforward. Given its location we would need approval by both MCC and SWTRA (as the sign would be pointing from the A4042). It costs £100 just to ask MCC to consider it, plus planning, but SWTRA would require visibility assessments which would likely add significantly to the costs. SWTRA have promised to call Clerk to provide an outline of the costs. Councillors agreed that we should wait for the indicative costs from SWTRA before making a decision. 4. Item 8 Councillor Dodd advised that a broken kerb by the shop was reported on a Tuesday using ‘Fix My Street’ and repaired by MCC on the Thursday, further confirming the efficiency of this method of reporting maintenance issues. 5. Item 9 (vii) – Little Mill Park bench – Councillor Deakins has spoken to the WI who have confirmed that they are to replace the bench. Councillors agreed that the site of the current bench was the best location for the replacement seat. 6. Item 11 – Goytre Fawr Primary School Governors have now been advised of the appointment of Councillor Daniel as the CC’s representative. 7. Item 12 – The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales have been advised that the GFCC is content with their current proposals for 2021/22. | Clerk |
| 7 | **Maintenance** (items reported but not addressed) (i) Clerk to chase MCC on the provision of the gritting route around Penperlleni.  (ii) Councillor Thayers requested the Clerk follow up on the promise that MCC had made some time ago to trim the trees in the park near the shelter because of the amount of bird droppings on the pavement by Star Road.  (iii) Councillor Deakins mentioned that he had been unable to get the recently MCC supplied interactive footpath map to work. The Clerk has contacted MCC but they did not have a detailed users guide. Clerk will forward the map to see if any other Councillors have more success.  (iv) Clerk to ‘chase’ Sue Parkinson to undertake the pavement spraying as soon as possible | Clerk  Clerk  Clerk  Clerk |
| 8 | **Finance**   1. Review of accounts / cashflow.   The latest cashflow statement was presented to the meeting. This included an additional column to show re-forecast budget income / expenditure.  Clerk advised that he would transfer £360 of the budget under Councillors payments and £150 from the Chair’s / Vice-Chair’s honoraria to the HMRC budget line to cover the tax liability under these payments (the budget was originally set on the basis of gross payments i.e. inclusive of income tax), and will make the corresponding adjustments to the 2021/22 budget (see below). This was proposed by Councillor Butler and seconded by Councillor Morrey.  There was no further comment or observation.   1. Payments made since the Oct 12th meeting £      1. Audit report  The report has now been received from Accountants BDO / Wales Audit. It confirms that there were no matters which required the issuing of a ‘separate additional issues arising’ report.   All the relevant statutory notices (including the audit report itself) have now been posted on the CC web site.  Acceptance of the Audit report was proposed by Councillor Daniel and seconded by Councillor Butler and carried unanimously.  Next year, a new audit regime will come into place, with Wales Audit undertaking the external audit themselves. Clerk has forwarded the latest notification on this to Council members and is to attend a teleconference presentation tomorrow when further details will be given.   1. Olde Pounde Shop rent review due Nov/Dec (closed session) (The outcomes from this discussion will also feed into the budget proposals considered in the next agenda item). 2. Review of budget and agree Precept for 2020/21  The following updated proposal (fourth draft) was presented to Councillors (changes in bold) – see next page.       Based on the figures presented, the following comments were made:   1. Following the previous agenda item the Old Pounde Shop income figure will be amended to £6000. 2. Councillor Awni requested we request a play area survey to identify options for increasing accessibility for those with disabilities and consider purchasing any necessary equipment. Clerk advised it is unlikely this could be achieved before the next meeting when the precept must be set. In addition, the costs were likely to be significant and could not be met by reallocating existing budget - the likely alternative would be a substantial increase in the precept, or grant raising. Councillor Awni also felt we should consider the installation of a walking track around the park. Councillor Dodd felt this might be even more expensive and Councillor Deakins felt that a grass walkway was adequate. 3. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask MCC for an indicative cost for a cradle swing to assess whether this could be accommodated within the proposed budget.   After due deliberation it was agreed to delay the setting of the precept until the December meeting. | Clerk  Clerk |
| 9 | **Planning Committee – To accept the responses of the planning committee meetings held on 19th October and 2nd November 2020.**  The Council considered the planning committee’s reports from their meetings of 19th October and 3rd November. 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:   * DM/2020/01397 - 2 Frondeg, Penperlleni, Goytre, Pontypool, Monmouthshire, NP4 0AN * DM/2020/01263 - Ty Cornell (New Address), Star Road, Penperlleni, NP4 0AJ * DM/2020/01459 - 1 Pen Y Wern Cottage, Pen-y-wern Road, Penperlleni, Goytre, NP4 0AB * DM/2020/01494 - 30 Long House Barn, Penperlleni, Goytre, Pontypool, Monmouthshire, NP4 0AX * DM/2020/01438 - Land Off Ty Gwyn Road, Little Mill, NP4 0HU * DM/2020/01379 - 20 Midfield, Penperlleni, Goytre, Pontypool, Monmouthshire, NP4 0AS * 20/19160/FUL - Oakfield, Croes Y Pant Lane, Mamhilad NP4 8RE * 20/19119/FUL - Goytre Wharf, Old Abergavenny Road, Pencroesoped Llanover NP7 9EW   Acceptance was proposed by Councillor Morrey and seconded by Councillor Welford and carried unanimously.  The next meeting of the Planning Committee has been scheduled for Monday 23rd November. |  |
| 10 | **Youth Representatives – Councillor Awni.** This proposal has received broad support from Community Council members. As a result, the Clerk had drawn up a proposed advert which had been distributed to Councillors following the October meeting. Following feedback, it was agreed that it should be distributed to the following schools / organisations:   * King Henry (especially for pupils who live in or close to the Community) * Caerleon comp (ditto above) * Coleg Gwent - Usk campus (ditto above) * St Albans Pontypool (ditto above) * Monmouth School (ditto above) * West Monmouthshire Comp (Torfaen) (ditto above) * Rougemont School (ditto above) * Monmouthshire Youth Service * The Scouts / Guides * The Local Churches * Goytre Primary (for info) * Gwent Young farmers * The Diary * Community Council’s web site and both village Facebook pages.   It was queried whether the advertisement should include a reference to ‘having an interest in Goytre’. However, the Clerk commented that whilst obviously a ‘nice to have’, this is not a requirement, and wondered if this might put-off good prospective candidates who live further afield. Councillor Barnes asked what ‘selection process’ would be used in the event that more applications than the two available positions were received. Clerk advised that an adapted version of that used for co-opting Councillors would seem the most appropriate approach. It was requested that the Clerk re-circulate the proposed advertisement. Given the impact of the current Covid situation on schools, and the approach of Christmas, it was felt Council should pick this up again in the New Year. | Clerk |
| 11 | **Electrical Vehicle Charging Point - update** Councillor Robins recently attended a free online event, run by the Coalfields Regeneration Trust, for groups interested in renewable energy opportunities, and forwarded the slides from the session. The outcome was that the charging points are relatively expensive to install (£4k - £5k for a fast charger which provides about 30 miles of charge per hour), and ideally requires a guaranteed source of income to make it worthwhile. Available grants at the moment are low, and Welsh Govt. doesn’t appear that enthusiastic. Councillor Barnes felt that anyone in the village who purchased an electric car would have their own charging point, although Councillor Awni felt that we should consider people on a longer journey who might wish to stop off in the village on their journey. After some consideration it was agreed not to progress further with this item and to take it off the agenda for the time being. |  |
| 12 | **Proposed temporary closure of School Lane to support safe (socially distanced) arrival and exit of Goytre Fawr Primary School parents and pupils – update.** This now appears to have been agreed by MCC and will commence on Monday 30th November, using volunteers as ‘stewards / marshals’ to ensure road users comply with the road closure (Clerk queried whether the School or MCC was providing appropriate insurance for them). Councillors expressed concern that neither the CC or local residents appear to have been consulted on the proposals, despite a request from the school that this should happen. Councillor Dodd is trying to obtain the email address of the MCC officer who is liaising with the School to organise the closure. Councillor Daniel also advised that he has a meeting with the headteacher on Thursday (19th) and would raise with him. | Cllrs. Dodd & Daniel. Clerk |
| 13 | **A4042**   1. Secret garden turning SWTRA has confirmed that design work is under way - it is proposed to use the grass verge / land at the side of the north bound carriageway to widen the road and create space for a centre turning zone.  Detailed designs are anticipated by the end of the year, which they will forward to us. Once approved by WG they will add to their programme of works, likely late next year, and possibly into 2022 to spread the cost due to the high expense. 2. Suggested Penperlleni – Mamhilad Park footpath / cycleway WG have said our proposal would need the support of MCC to include in their future Active Travel mapping (Integrated Network Map). If included as part of the approved mapping, WG would review with regard to feasibility and prioritise accordingly. Clerk suggested that we should approach MCC when the secret garden designs (above) have been received to see if this could be taken as an opportunity to incorporate into the overall design to help minimise costs. | Clerk |
| 14 | **Equality & Diversity – next steps** Councillor Barnes had circulated the E&D checklist, (as used in the NHS), for Councillors to consider whether it would be appropriate for it to be used as part of CC decision or policy making. He also presented the background to the Equality Act, explaining the protected characteristics. These were reinforced by the Nolan principles, and although none specifically focus on discrimination, they do include:   * Upholding the Law * The proper stewardship of resources * The need for respect for others, reinforcing the requirement for positive duties to eliminate unlawful discrimination.   It was suggested that all Council decisions should be assessed and documented against E&D principles (although not necessarily during meetings). After some discussion it was agreed that we should approach OVW to provide training on E&D / discrimination following which we could make a more informed decision on what level of policy / type of approach was appropriate. Clerk to contact OVW. | Clerk |
| 15 | **MUGA** The Chair and Clerk recently held a teleconference with Mike Moran (MM) to discuss the charges MCC plan to levy for the lease of the land, and to ask whether he still supported the venture. MM confirmed that he was disappointed at the proposed fee, feeling as we did that the MUGA was for the benefit of the Community so should not be subject to this type of charge. He also advised that MCC are wary of what he described as traditional MUGAs (which use a booking system), which they believe are generally under-utilised for the expense involved (although Councillor Deakins advised that the Little Mill MUGA was fairly well used with this system). However, MM felt that an ‘open access’ play area would be supported, which if necessary, could at a later date see the introduction of a booking system for organised groups / teams wishing to use the area for instruction or as part of a league. MM agreed to approach MCC Estates / Legal regarding the proposed lease fee and report back to us. Although the MUGA was supported by local residents, Councillor Morrey felt that MCC had been unsupportive all along, and had done nothing to encourage the project, even to the extent of effectively blocking progress. A number of other Councillors agreed. Clerk / Cllr Dodd to keep in contact with MM to obtain a final decision on the lease. | Clerk / Cllr Dodd |
| 16 | **Community Council Plan for 2021/22**  The Clerk has distributed a Community Plan which he put together as part of his CiLCA qualification, and which is based on actual Council activities. However, he acknowledged that as it stood, it was rather more ‘operationally’ than ‘strategically’ focussed, and would benefit from the inclusion of some resident priorities. However, given the current Covid situation it was recognised that now was probably not the best time to try and undertake some wider community engagement, and it was agreed to ‘park’ this agenda item for another 3 months. Clerk diarise for Feb 2021. | Clerk |

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| 17 | **Reports – questions based on previously distributed update.**   * **Little Mill Village Hall**    + A meeting was held to discuss new and ongoing regulations to reopen the village hall ensuring every safety measure is in place.   + Lots of interest in bookings for the hall which will follow the guide lines for safe opening.   + The Wrap Shack continues to be popular and is working well. * **Goytre Village Hall**   + No report - The committee has not met since the last CC meeting. * **Goytre School Governors**    + No report - The Board of Governors has not met since the last CC meeting. * **Goytre Community Centre**   + No report - The committee has not met since the last CC meeting. * **Other Reports**    + There were no other reports. |  |
| 18 | **Donations**   1. Cerebral Palsy Wales   A request to support Cerebral Palsy Cymru (previously Bobath) has been received. However, a postcode search by them suggests they don’t currently have anyone on their books from our area.  Councillors are also unaware of anyone locally that currently receives support from them. Councillor Awni proposed that we pause all donations for the time being, to preserve funding for other issues although this did not receive a ‘seconder’, with Councillor Morrey feeling it was inappropriate to take a ‘carte blanche’ approach. However, it was agreed that we should decline to make a donation on this occasion and this was formally proposed by Councillor Morrey, and seconded by Councillor Welford. This was passed with Councillor Awni abstaining. | Clerk |
| 19 | **Communications**   1. Sight Cymru (based in Pontypool) have approached us to provide a (free) 2-hour on-line training session, to raise awareness of eye conditions and the barriers that people with sight loss face, in particular as a result of the current Covid crisis. This includes problems in accessing the community during lockdown, the challenges of social distancing and the importance of accessible Covid information. The training can be provided in an evening (say 6.30 to 8.30 +/-30 mins). The general feeling was that 2 hours was a big commitment, and it was requested that we ask for the session to be reduced to 90 minutes. On this basis, Councillors Butler, Dodd and the Clerk would like to attend. Clerk to advise Sight Cymru. 2. Refill Wales – we have been approached to see if we wish to work with them. Probably the most likely approach would be to include information in the Usk & Raglan Diary to encourage people to use reusable water bottles. Clerk has requested a press release for consideration at the Dec meeting. 3. Town and Country Planning Strategic Development Plan Wales 2021 and regulations to establish Corporate Joint Committees OVW has been approached with a view to arranging a seminar for members on issues arising from the above consultation exercises and the implications for  T & CCs. Councillors Rands and Awni have already expressed an interest in attending. Councillors Deakins and Robins also expressed an interest. Clerk to advise OVW. 4. Opening of the new Grange University Hospital - Councillor Barnes queried why this hadn’t been included in the agenda or raised under this agenda item. The Clerk advised that in the interests of managing time, normally only items requiring discussion or a decision were included. | Clerk  Clerk  Clerk |
| 20 | **Advertising - Usk and Raglan Diary contributions Jan / Feb 2021**  The deadline for the next copy is this Friday, 20th Nov.  The following additional items were suggested for inclusion in the next edition.   * The proposed centre turning zone for the Secret Garden * Community Council Youth representative   Any further items should be advised to Councillor Welford | Cllr Welford / All |
| 21 | **Date of next meeting & close –** Monday 14th December 2020 at 19.30. | All |

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