CYNGOR CYMUNED

GOETRE FAWR

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

# MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT GOYTRE FAWR COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 24th FEBRUARY 2020

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

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

**Apologies:** Community Councillors Rose Thayers and Lucyann Rands

**Absent without apologies:** Community Councillor Roger Howells

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|  |  | **ACTION** |
| 1 | **Apologies for Absence**The Chair opened the meeting. Apologies were given on behalf of Councillors Thayers and Rands. |  |
| 2 | **Declaration of Acceptance – Councillor Janet Robins**Councillor Robins completed the formalities by signing her declaration of acceptance of office. The pro-forma advising of any ‘interests’ has already been completed and will be added to the register of members’ interests.All members, together with the Chair welcomed Councillor Robins to the Council. | Clerk |
| 3 | **Declarations of Interest**The 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 Chair reminded those present that they should also notify the meeting of any additional interests which became apparent during the progress of the meeting.  |  |
| 4 | **Chairman’s Remarks**The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. At this point (7.35 pm) the Chair suspended standing orders to allow a number of local residents to comment on the latest update on the proposed Network Rail fence along Newtown Road. The residents in attendance were Emma Tapper and John and Julie Kirby |  |
| 5 | **Network Rail Fence on Newtown Road - update**The programme is now on hold pending a consultation / review with MCC and it is unlikely that any further work will take place this financial year. MCC and Network Rail have now made contact with each other. It is hoped that MCC will have some alternative highway barrier solutions which prove more sympathetic to the location. It is anticipated that a further risk assessment (hopefully jointly with MCC) will take place, but it may be that the original 2009 review (leading to no action) was under-scored. However, Mr Kirby felt there were a number of inaccuracies in the 2019 assessment and is to send these to the Clerk to forward to Network Rail for comment. The Clerk’s request that a representative from GFCC be involved in any assessment / design reviews has been accepted by MCC. Clerk will continue to chase for a meeting to take place as soon as practical. | Clerk |
| 6 | **Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 20th January 2020 (including the confidential ‘closed’ session).**The minutes were proposed as a true and correct record of the meeting by Councillor Daniel and seconded by Councillor Morrey. | Clerk |
| 7 | **Matters Arising**1. Item 5.4. The old trough by the chip shop has been removed (thanks to Councillor Deakins) and the new one installed. The cost to fill with compost is between £30 and £50 depending on the nutrient level of the chosen compost. It was agreed that the Clerk should proceed up to a maximum of £50 and this was proposed by Councillor Morrey and seconded by Councillor Robins.
2. Item 5.5. Double yellow lines on Newtown Road The contractors are still waiting for fine weather to enable the completion of the double yellow lines. Disappointingly, vehicles continue to be parked on both the lines and in the ‘gap’. MCC are aware of this problem.
3. Item 5.8. MHA have sent a map through to confirm that the land at the front/side of the surgery belongs to MCC. Clerk is to contact MCC.
4. Item 5.11 – Speed bumps on Star Road. Clerk has been advised that these will be replaced when the road is resurfaced following the installation of the pedestrian crossing – likely in the summer.
5. Item 5.13 – Speed strips on Newtown Road – Clerk is still waiting on the recommendations as to the best position for them. The Chair is to follow up.
6. Item 7.1 – The three glass bus shelters (2 x Penperlleni, 1 x Little Mill) have now been cleaned, although the etched-on ‘graffiti’ remains. The car park and adjoining roads have also been cleaned of weeds etc.
7. Item 9.1 - Utility Aid have been sent the Council’s details and have provided the following recommended (fixed price) quotes (effective from 1st August):
* Option A - SSE (100% renewable energy) – 5 years at projected annual cost of £265 (+£54 over current contract)
* Option B - Opus Energy – (Not 100% renewable) - 3 years at projected annual cost of £224 (+£13 over current contract)

Councillors Awni and Butler proposed option A and Councillors Deakins and Barnes proposed Option B. The two alternatives were put to the vote with option A receiving 3 votes and option B 5 votes, so option B was carried. Clerk to advise Utility Aid. 1. Item 10. Councillors noted again the absence of Councillor Howells without apology. It was proposed by Councillors Awni and Butler that a vote of no confidence be put on the agenda for next month’s meeting and this was carried unanimously.
2. Item 19 – School Governors’ report – it looks as though the breakfast club will not now be offered due to the complexities of organising it.
 | ClerkClerkChairClerkClerk |
| 8 | **Monmouthshire County Council – update**There were no updates in the absence of County Councillor Bryan Jones. |  |
| 9 | **Maintenance (inc CCTV maintenance)**1. The annual service for the CCTV outside the public conveniences is now due. The quote from Select (now Swindon based) is £149.09 + VAT (as in previous years). However, Tod Security (Mamhilad based) have quoted £110 + VAT. It was agreed that due to the lower price and being based in the community, the contract should be awarded to Tod Security. This was proposed by Councillor Welford and seconded by Councillor Awni. 2. There is some graffiti in the cubicle of the gent’s toilet. Clerk will arrange for it to be removed. 3. There are a number of pot holes at the top of Fairfield near the junction with Star Road. 4. The salt/grit container by bridge 72 needs refilling (and it is on its side).5. The weeds / gutter debris cleared from Capel Ed has been left in the road and needs clearing asap. 6. Councillors requested that the clerk organise a monthly ‘sweep’ of the village to clear weeds / litter / debris and generally tidy it up. Clerk to contact Nigel Leaworthy to action.7. There are a number of gulley pots/sumps along Berthon Road (from the SIDs unit into the village from the railway end) which need emptying. The road surface surrounding a number of the covers is also in poor condition and poses a particular hazard to cyclists.8. Flooding along the Longhouse Barn / Newtown Road footpath. Clerk to provide confirmation of the proposed works to all Councillors and to chase WW/DC for confirmation of when the works will be completed. 9. Water continues to cascade across Star Road on the outskirts of the village during wet weather. Councillor Butler has taken this up with County Councillor Jane Pratt.10. It was noted that fly tipping has started on Saron Road again.11. The MHA flats in Little Mill are scheduled to be demolished (with all the residents re-located). Councillors requested Clerk to contact MHA to determine what their plans are for the site.  | ClerkClerkClerkClerkClerkClerkClerkClerkCllr ButlerClerk |
| 10 | **Planning**1. To accept the responses of the planning committee meeting held on 17th February 2020. Disappointingly the planning committee meeting called for the 17th February to discuss application DM/2019/02018, The Former Piggery, Black Beech, Star Road, Penperlleni, NP4 0AA was not quorate, and so unfortunately no decision could be taken on behalf of the Council. Clerk will respond to MCC planning accordingly.

(Those present did conclude that there were no objections. The only issue would be the public footpath that runs through the plot to the northern edge - any encroachment, or impediment to this path would have to be avoided).Clerk advised that another planning application has been received: A proposed two storey side and rear house extension and rebuilding of outbuilding at1 Pen Y Wern Cottage, Pen-y-wern Road, Penperlleni, Monmouthshire, NP4 0AB. It was agreed that a meeting of the Planning Committee would be called on Monday 2nd March at 6.30 to consider this. | ClerkCllr. Barnes |
| 11 | **Finance**1. Review of Accounts and CashflowThe Clerk provided those present with a copy of the Jan 2020 cashflow position (now updated to reflect the minor budget changes agreed at January’s meeting). There was no further comment or observation.
2. Payments made since the last meetingThe following payments have been made since the January meeting

 £1. Appointment of Internal Auditor. Helena Fox (Clerk at Pentyrch Council and SLCC trainer) has agreed to undertake our internal audit again. This year the price will be £110 (it has been £100 for the past three years). Helena has put us on notice that next year will be the final year she undertakes this work before retirement. Helena’s appointment was proposed by Councillor Daniel and seconded by Councillor Butler.
2. One Voice Wales Membership.Our Membership fee £371 (last year £339) is due. It is calculated on 1106 dwellings (based on the valuation list, not electoral register) at 33.6 pence per dwelling. Renewal was proposed by Councillor Awni and seconded by Councillor Butler.
3. Audit CommitteeAnother meeting is due asap so that a report can be compiled before the March meeting to sign off for the end of financial year internal audit. Councillors Daniel and Butler to contact Councillor Thayers to arrange. Clerk to send reminder together with last year’s documents.
 | ClerkClerkCllrs Butler / Daniel / Thayers |
| 12 | **Biodiversity**1. Meadow / Wild flower planting in Goytre / Little MillThe Clerk had previously distributed the costs of the various scheme options to Councillors. The Clerk is also to apply for a Local Places for Nature package (the butterfly garden option). MCC have supported this and it is hoped it may help offset some of the seed / bulb costs. Councillor Thayers has also generously offered to purchase the two benches in memory of her late husband who passed away only recently. Councillor Robins mentioned that the Community Garden had purchased benches (with concrete bases) for substantially less than the £600 per bench quoted by MCC and will investigate further.

It was agreed that the CC should proceed with the scheme as follows:Flower Beds: Goytre Park / Bus stop by the A4042 / Little Mill bus stop: £1495Trees in Goytre park: 8 x Fruit (£520) 5 x Pollinator (£375) This was proposed by Councillor Awni and seconded by Councillor Butler1. MCC Climate emergency groupCouncillor Awni advised that this group had been set up by MCC to support the recently declared climate emergency. The group has representatives from various organisations including Friends of the Earth. They are looking to create an action document with workable initiatives for residents. For example, if every household was to plant a tree, this would offset the losses due to Ash die-back. They are also looking at the positioning of charge points for electric vehicles. The Clerk is to ask MCC if Goytre Car Park could be considered for such a unit.
2. MCC Climate ChampionsThis is a larger group and includes representatives including Extinction Rebellion, Planning Consultants etc.
3. Local Nature Partnerships (LNP)

Councillor Awni is to approach the Village Hall Committee to see if they would be prepared to host an event.  | ClerkClerkCllr Awni |
| 13 | **MUGA – update** The Chair / Clerk met with Nigel L (NL) & Johnathan W (JW) from MCC and Neil Pigdon from Kampan to look at designs. It was agreed to ask for a quote for a 36m x 19m pitch with 3 m high ends and 2 m sides with dark green fencing all round and with wheelchair access. The quote will be passed to MCC for them to add in construction costs for a final price. MCC also to arrange for representatives from two other companies to request alternative quotes based on their own designs. NL/JW have asked for MCC Estates to look at leasing the MUGA footprint and immediate surrounds of the park to GFCC so we become the ‘landowners’ and able to apply for planning permission once the final design has been agreed. However, MCC Estates want us to lease the entire bottom field, which will incur us with mowing costs of say c£450 per year (Clerk is querying why). It was agreed that we should ‘resist’ taking on responsibility for the whole of the bottom pitch, but this should not ultimately be allowed to prevent the project proceeding. A SuDS (sustainable drainage system) application will also be required as part of the planning process. | Clerk |
| 14 | **Local Democracy and Boundary Commission – Community Boundary Review**Although the new local boundaries have now been signed off by Welsh Govt., One Voice Wales have agreed to make representations to them calling for a fresh Community Review to be undertaken, provided sufficient Town & Community Councils call for this. Abergavenny TC have recently passed a motion in favour of this, and given the strength of feeling at the recent Boundary Commission meeting, the Clerk anticipates that many others will follow suit. As well as having some illogical boundaries (based on service/facility usage), the basis of allocation of councillors (partly based on density of population) will see a significant fall in our Councillor No’s, which may cause workload issues and make the staffing of committees more difficult. For example: * Llanbadoc with 1085 electors and a precept of <£15k will have 9 councillors
* Goetre Fawr with 1713 electors and a precept of £34k will have 8 councillors

It was agreed that GFCC should similarly pass a motion requesting OVW write asking for a further review and this was proposed by Councillor Deakins and seconded by Councillor Awni. Clerk to advise OVW.  | Clerk |
| 15 | **Community Council Policies**The following polices were presented for approval:1. Diversity
2. Freedom of Information
3. Health & Safety
4. Complaints Procedure

Some minor amendments were made to the proposed complaints procedure and adoption was then formally proposed by Councillor Morrey and seconded by Councillor Awni. Clerk to post on the Council web site. Councillors wished to give more time to review the other documents. Councillor Morrey agreed he would look specifically at the Health & Safety policy (Clerk to forward). Clerk advised that the Freedom of Information Document should also be a priority for adoption at the next meeting. | Clerk |
| 16 | **Renewal of CCTV on School Lane**The unit is being made available on a long-term lease. Alternative options include:* 12 months term - £118.55+VAT/month
* 24 months term is would be £62.29+VAT/month
* 36 months (plus?) £32.87 a month (plus VAT)/month
* Purchase outright at £1250 + VAT plus £110 servicing per year)

Clerk confirmed that the number of wrong-way incidences on School Lane had decreased in recent months, and with one exception there were none by the School. However, a better site is required to cover the bottom of School Lane where all the recent incidences have been recorded by the SIDs unit. Councillor Barnes agreed that we could use his property to mount the camera. Clerk will explore this with Tod Security. It was agreed that the camera should be retained for a further month on the existing terms (£40 per week + VAT under s137) while the suitability/effectiveness of the new site is established (it was noted that relocation of the unit will incur additional costs). A further decision on whether to retain the camera longer term (and on what terms) can then be agreed at the March meeting. This was proposed by Councillor Barnes and seconded by Councillor Butler. | Clerk |
| 17 | **Reports – questions based on previously distributed e-mail and updates during the meeting*** **Little Mill Village Hall**
	+ Social events calendar:
		- Picnic in the Park 27th June
		- Christmas Parties 5th December
	+ The hall is awaiting a firm date for a replacement roof on the Annexe.
	+ The date for a voluntary Litter Pick date to be confirmed.
* **Goytre Village Hall**
	+ The grant to replace the lights with LEDs had been received and will be undertaken in the hall and social club shortly
	+ New notice board is in process of being installed
	+ Baby changing facilities have been put in the ladies’ toilet
	+ Project to refurbish William Morris Lounge will be done by end of March. New pipework to be done, radiators fitted and boiler fixed.
	+ Asbestos survey was ok and was low risk. Copy of the survey is available.
	+ It was agreed electrician to PAT test appliances and to test electrics every five years.
	+ Book Swap/Coffee - Due to low numbers coffee time was being suspended for the time being and would be reviewed in April. Book exchange was popular and a monthly rota was in place to tidy the books.
	+ A donation of £70.00 had been made to MIND in memory of Becky Davies.
	+ Notice to be put up asking containers to be washed out after using nuts.
	+ Radiators in hall and social club are not efficient and should be replaced.
* **Goytre School Governors**
	+ No report submitted.
* **Goytre Community Centre**
	+ No report submitted
* **Other Reports**
	+ There were no other reports.
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| 19 | **Donations*** Abergavenny Eisteddfod have requested a donation Councillors did not wish to make a contribution direct to the organisation, but felt they would rather support attendance by the school should any requests be made. Clerk to advise accordingly
* St Peter’s has applied for the Church graveyard grant (£500) for the 2020/21 financial year. Funds for all four churches have already been allocated in our 2020/21 budget), subject to application. However, payment (post 1st April) was formally proposed by Councillor Welford and seconded by Councillor Morrey
 | ClerkClerk |
| 20 | **Communications**A number of marketing brochures have been received recently and these were distributed for Councillors to review.  |  |
| 21 | **Advertising**Articles for inclusion in the May/ June 2020 edition of the Usk & Raglan diary are due by 24th March.  | All |
| 22 | **Date of Next Meetings –** Monday 23rd March in Little Mill Village Hall, commencing at 19.30.  | All |

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