CYNGOR CYMUNED

GOETRE FAWR

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD BY TELECONFERENCE ON MONDAY 27TH JULY 2020**

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

**Apologies:** None received

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

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **ACTION** |
| 1 | **Apologies for Absence**  The Chair opened the meeting. No apologies have been received by the Clerk. |  |
| 2 | **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. Councillor Deakins had previously advised that he had an interest in the ‘Donations’ application from Little Mill Village Hall as the Chair of the Hall Committee. The Clerk confirmed that although Councillor Rands sits on the same committee, she does so as the Community Council’s representative, and as such therefore has no conflict. 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. | Clerk |
| 3 | **Chairman’s Remarks**  The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. |  |
| 4 | **Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 13th 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. Items 6(i) & (ii) – The weeds in Goytre were treated on the 29th June and in Little Mill on the 11th June. However, MCC have concerns as to whether the treatments being used are effective. Councillor Rands has already sent through a number of photographs of the situation in Little Mill which have been forwarded to Nigel Leaworthy. Clerk to continue to liaise. 2. Items 6 (iii) – The hedges / verges were cut by MCC. Previously MCC cut all road hedges on x3 occasions per year but now only undertake x1 cut, with the timing agreed by the County Council. Where there is no verge MCC apply just a 1 metre high cut to the base of the hedge. Nigel Leaworthy advised the Clerk that MCC get inundated with complaints regarding overgrown hedges and verges due to egress by vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians. Councillor Butler expressed concern that the timing of the cutting was poor due to the impact on wildlife and plants. 3. Item 7 (iii) (a) (ii) – The Public Conveniences were chlorinated on Thurs 23rd July. The wall mounted hand sanitisers have just been delivered. Once they are installed the conveniences can re-open. 4. Item 9 – The Local Democracy & Boundary commission have been advised of our review comments. One Voice Wales have written to Julie James, Minister for Housing and Local Government, requesting that she orders a review of the proposed boundary changes. She has promised a full response by 7th August. | Clerk  Clerk |
| 6 | **Maintenance**   1. Councillor Butler is to contact County Councillor Jane Pratt to ask when the re-surfacing of Star Road will take place. 2. Paul Keeble, Group Engineer, Highway and Flood Management at MCC visited the site of the semi-constructed pedestrian crossing in Goytre today. Some residents are concerned at the potential light pollution from the belisha beacons, and one of the beacon posts has the potential to disrupt access to the cottage gate opposite. Councillor Barnes advised that he believed the original approval for the crossing was nearer to the bridge. Clerk to investigate the situation. 3. Councillor Deakins said that a (private) hedge on the Little Mill main road by the pedestrian crossing needs cutting back as it is obstructing the pavement. Clerk to advise Highways. 4. Councillor Awni requested that walking around Goytre village it appeared that many of the drains needed clearing. Clerk to advise Highways. | Cllr. Butler  Clerk  Clerk  Clerk |
| 7 | **Finance**   1. Payments made since the July 13th meeting The following payments have been made since the July meeting.  £        1. Olde Pounde Shop The Clerk has discussed support packages with the tenant, and with the re-opening of local facilities, it is anticipated that business will improve over the summer, and a one-month reduced rent would be sufficient.  It was agreed that a discount of 50% (to £247.50) would be applied to the rental due on 1st August. This was proposed by Councillor Daniel and seconded by Councillor Butler and was carried by all Councillors. Clerk to advise tenant and follow up with letter to amend the current lease agreement. 2. General Finance Update The Clerk will look to review the 2020/21 budget over the summer months, as well as preparing the first draft of the 2021/22 budget and will present both to the Finance Committee at their meeting on 6th October. | Clerk    Clerk |
| 8 | **Planning applications**   1. 20/18776/FUL (BBNPA) – Proposed construction of all-weather turn out for horses. Hillgrove, Folly Lane, Mamhilad NP4 8RB This is an isolated property which already has stables and is looking to provide an additional fenced area on the site. It was confirmed that no objections have been lodged on the BBNPA planning site. It was agreed that the Community Council has no issues or concerns and this was formally proposed by Councillor Barnes and seconded by Councillor Deakins. 2. Proposal by BT to remove the public payphone in Goytre.  The Chair said a notice of potential closure had been posted on the phone box in November, but no comments had been made. Whilst it is acknowledged that on average only 3 calls were made each month, Councillor Butler was concerned that the nature / context of these calls is unknown.  The phone could be a vital resource for a young child to call Childline (many at-risk children from poor backgrounds don’t have a mobile phone as an alternative). Councillors requested the Clerk contact BT / MCC to ask for additional information regarding these calls – the day of the week / time of day / number called. This was proposed by Councillor Morrey and seconded by Councillor Deakins. 3. Councillor Awni expressed concern that many residents in the Community were installing large non-porous driveways (which impact on local drainage), without the required planning permission. Clerk to add to September’s agenda. 4. Councillor Butler asked what action was likely to be forthcoming regarding a recently installed fence on the new property by the railway bridge, which it is felt obscures the line of site around the bend for road users. Clerk advised that any action was the responsibility of the Enforcement Officer. Past experience in the village suggests that an order could be made to reduce the height of the fence. The Clerk will follow up to try and obtain further information. | Clerk  Clerk  Clerk  Clerk |
| 9 | **Equality & Diversity** One Voice Wales have confirmed that the template/base document on which the Clerk had proposed the CC’s policy was based on that drawn up by a leading E&D lawyer. OVW were not aware of any deficiencies in its content but would welcome us notifying them of any out of date content etc. Rather than repeatedly propose the same or similar policy the Clerk had asked the members for a Councillor Sponsor(s) to champion a policy instead. None were forthcoming. Councillor Morrey proposed that we adopt the policy from OVW which has been previously circulated. However, Councillor Barnes felt that as E&D was covered in the Code of Conduct a separate policy may not be required. Councillor Morrey agreed to withdraw his proposal to allow Councillor Barnes to investigate further and report back at a future meeting. | Cllr. Barnes |
| 10 | **MUGA** As requested, the Clerk sent the proposal for an annual peppercorn rent of £1 to MCC. Nigel Leaworthy subsequently advised that MCC Estates department were looking for c£800 per annum. With the annual cost of grass mowing (c£400), this adds £100 a month to the MUGA running costs (excluding cleaning and maintenance of the MUGA itself). Clerk has asked Nigel Leaworthy if there is anyone we can ‘negotiate’ with directly, but has had no response to date. It was agreed that Councillor Butler would speak to County Councillor Jane Pratt to see if she could help resolve the situation. If not the Chair and Clerk will prepare a letter to send Paul Matthews (CEO) | Cllr. Butler |
| 11 | **ANPR**  Clerk has emailed Councillor Howells to see if he will allow the CC to use the School Club broadband which would enable remote interrogation of the system, (significantly reducing the time required to monitor cars movements), but has had no response. Clerk has subsequently suggested the idea to Joan Howells, Senior Playleader at the School Club (with a monthly payment of £5) who thought this would be OK. However, we will need the support of Cllr. Howells to allow admin access to the modem/router. Clerk is also reviewing a more advantageous long-term lease on the camera/equipment (24-month lease at £114 pm + VAT – instead of £160 + VAT per month). This would include free installation of the remote facility (normally a flat fee of £200 + VAT). Councillor Morrey queried whether it was felt the camera was a deterrent. Councillor Rands also suggested local residents could consider setting up a Speedwatch group, although these are aimed at enforcing speed limits. However, Councillor Awni did not feel that it was the responsibility of the Community Council to ‘police’ School Lane and that the money could be better spent on providing other facilities for the Community, and proposed the camera be removed. Councillor Barnes agreed and seconded the motion, which was carried with seven Councillors voting in favour. Clerk to contact Tod Security to have the camera removed. | Clerk |
| 12 | **Reports – questions based on previously distributed update.**   * **Little Mill Village Hall**    + No report submitted. * **Goytre Village Hall**   + Councillor Awni has advised that she has resigned from the Hall Committee. Councillor Butler proposed that Councillor Dodd be the Community Council’s representative on the committee and this was seconded by Councillor Thayers. The vote was carried. * **Goytre School Governors**    + No report submitted. * **Goytre Community Centre**   + A meeting is to be held on Weds 5th August in Goytre Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Currently Councillors Dodd, Morrey, Deakins and Butler are Community Council representatives on the committee. The Chair advised that Councillor Robins should also be formally approved as a representative of the Community Council. This was proposed by Councillor Butler and seconded by Councillor Thayers and carried unanimously. * **Other Reports**   + There were no other reports. |  |
| 13 | **Donations**   * **Little Mill Village Hall** – Have resubmitted their donation application – this time requesting £2000 towards the cost of enhancing the kitchen facilities in the annexe to create a Community Business Hub (total cost £2492.50). Councillor Rands explained that at the moment the annexe currently just has a sink and cupboard and the money will enable it to be turned into a useable kitchen, providing an opportunity for businesses to use a kitchen facility in the hall. It will also be used by a local caterer to provide takeaway food for the village and surrounding areas, as well as a click and collect vegetable service by another operator. Unfortunately, the Village Hall didn’t realise they were eligible for the Govt’s Business Support Grant and missed out on £10,000 of funding. Councillor Rands explained that the Village Hall is the only community facility (there is no shop or food outlet), and as such villagers rely on it as the key service provider for the community.   A donation of £2,000 was proposed by Councillor Butler and seconded by councillor Morrey. (There were no other proposals). The proposal was carried unanimously (Councillor Deakins did not take part in the vote). | Clerk |
| 14 | **Communications**   * A resident has complained about a large van which is regularly parked over the double yellow lines on Newtown Road. Clerk has advised that enforcement is down to MCC, but officers can only take action by issuing a ‘ticket’ when they patrol the area. * The Clerk has received another batch of ‘no cold-calling’ stickers. These have been delivered to the Chair who will arrange for them to be distributed to key collection points for residents. |  |
| 15 | **Plenary Powers to Clerk during summer ‘recess’**  It was proposed that the Clerk should be provided with plenary powers to undertake the work of the Council in the absence of the council members during the holiday period. The Clerk to advise Councillors asap of any actions taken under these powers. A spending limit of £500 to apply. The Clerk confirmed to councillor Morrey that all payments would still be subject to the normal authorisation procedures through Unity Trust Bank.  This was proposed by Councillor Daniel and seconded by Councillor Thayers. | Clerk |
| 16 | **Date of next meeting & close –** Monday 7th September 2020 at 19.30.This will also be the date of the Annual Statutory Meeting | All |

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