CYNGOR CYMUNED

GOETRE FAWR

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD BY TELECONFERENCE ON MONDAY 22nd FEBRUARY 2021**

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

**Apologies:** Community Councillors Nigel Morrey and Rose Thayers

**Absent without apology:** None

**In attendance:**  Jonathan Lazenby (Clerk), Matt Phillips, Head of Law and Monitoring Officer, MCC and Joanne Chase, MCC.

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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. None were forthcoming. 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 Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and in particular Matt Phillips and Joanne Chase from MCC. |  |
| 4 | **Suspension of Standing Orders (7.35)** **Matt Phillips - Head of Law and Monitoring Officer – MCC – Code of Conduct.**  At the invitation of the Clerk, Matt Phillips attended the meeting to make a presentation on the Code of conduct covering the following areas:   * Councillors’ responsibilities * The Ethical Framework * When the Code applies * General Rules * Interests * Personal Interests (and what to do in these circumstances) * Prejudicial Interests (and what to do in these circumstances) * Predisposition and Predetermination * Bias * How the code is policed * The public Services Ombudsman for Wales * Outcomes * Sanctions * Tricky Issues * Where to find further information   Following a number of questions from Councillors present, the presentation ended with the Chair thanking Matt and Joanne for their time in reminding Councillors of their responsibilities in this area.  The meeting was reconvened at 8.45 pm. |  |
| 5 | **Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18th Jan 2021** The minutes of the meeting were proposed as a true and correct record by Councillor Daniel and seconded by Councillor Butler. | Clerk |
| 6 | **Matters Arising**   1. Item 6 (ii) – The issue of adding Plough Road to the village gritting routes is (according to ‘My Monmouthshire’), still under consideration, although the Clerk does not anticipate any change in MCC’s position. 2. Item 6 (iii) – Similarly the issue of water cascading from the manhole cover outside Goytre Village Hall is still under review for action. However, as an apparent long term (and seemingly non-critical issue), it is unclear if this will be addressed by MCC. 3. Item 7 (i) – The gel dispensers have now been replaced. 24/7 Plumbing attended on Friday 19th to repair the broken handle in the ladies’ toilets. 4. Item 7 (ii) – Clerk has contacted James Price (mole catcher) to visit Little Mill Park. He is extremely busy and the recent cold weather has meant the ground is too cold to set traps. He has confirmed he will visit after half term. 5. Item 7(iii) – MCC are unable to provide a vehicle to provide safety cover for the litter pickers on the A472 as it leaves Little Mill. 6. Item 7(v) – Goytre Pedestrian Crossing – Highways has advised that their legal team is to contact the lawyers for the developer to see if they will agree to a “Deed of Variation” to use their financial contribution for other footway/highway /pedestrian crossing improvement works in Star Road. This would possibly be by a controlled crossing in the vicinity of the car park/Goytre Arms. However, councillors felt that this was in the wrong place with the main volume of pedestrian traffic along Newtown Road and School Lane. Clerk to ask Paul Keeble if the crossing can be moved 6 or 7 feet towards the bridge (and away from the house opposite), whilst still retaining visibility to motorists – as per the original schematics. 7. Item 7(vi) - The Public Footpath by the railway bridge is still to be cut back. 8. Item 9 (iv)(f) – The damaged branch on the Oak Tree on Ton Land has now been removed. During the visit the tree surgeon identified a large branch which had become detached from the main tree. The Clerk gave the approval to be removed as it posed a significant H&S risk. This led to the final bill increasing to £400, with Councillor Barnes proposing, and Councillor Awni seconding the approval of the additional cost. 9. Item 9 (v) - The CC’s insurance has been renewed. 10. Item 9 (vii) – Councillors Butler, Robins and Daniel, being members of the Village Hall Committee declared an interest at this point and so did not take part in the discussions or subsequent vote. The Clerk has emailed Idwal Sheen regarding the PO ‘no-shows’. Idwal advised that this happened on three occasions in the last year (amounting to £36 for bookings where the PO did not operate). Given the small number of occurrences and the need for the room to be block-booked, the Clerk suggests that we continue with the current arrangement and accept that occasionally booking costs will be incurred when the PO is not able to attend (excluding bank holidays). This was accepted and proposed by Councillor Awni and seconded by Councillor Barnes. Clerk to advise Idwal Sheen. 11. Item 9 (viii) – The CC’s web site ‘Gold’ (no adverts) status has been renewed. 12. Item 10 - Springfield Cottage – MCC have advised that they are awaiting updated proposals for the development. 13. Item 15 – the issue with Outlook and Hotmail accounts not receiving emails from our server have now been resolved. | Clerk  Clerk |
| 7 | **Maintenance** (inc. items reported but not addressed)   1. A smart meter has now been installed in the public conveniences (free of charge), so that all future electricity readings will be made remotely / automatically. 2. The hand washer dryers in the public conveniences were serviced (as part of our contract) on Weds 3rd Feb. 3. Councillor Awni advised that a drain on Newtown road near the Church was blocked. Water is also coming through a small hole in the road. The Chair will check and report via ‘Fix My Street’. 4. Councillor Robins advised that a drain by the junction of Plough Road is also blocked. Councillor Dodd asked if this could also be reported via Fix My Street which Councillor Robins confirmed she would do. | Cllr. Dodd  Cllr. Robins |

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| 8 | **Finance**   1. Review of accounts / cashflow.   The Clerk presented the meeting with a copy of the January 2021 cashflow.  The Clerk advised that he had added additional narrative under salary to state ‘net of PAYE’, with a reference to PAYE wording now included as a descriptor under the HMRC payments budget line.  MCC have confirmed that the precept will be paid in three equal instalments this year.  There was no further comment or observation.   1. Payments made since the Jan 18th meeting   The following payments have been made.  £   1. SLCC Membership The annual membership fee is now due at a cost of £185. Renewal was proposed by Councillor Butler and seconded by Councillor Rands. 2. Wages (held in closed session). 3. Appointment of New Internal Auditor (held in closed session). | Clerk |
| 10 | **Planning Committee – updates**  Councillor Barnes advised that the next planning meeting would be held on Monday 1st March at 7pm (by teleconference). The meeting is currently scheduled to consider two applications from MCC, and will also provide input to the proposed SWTRA scheme to provide a central turning island for the Secret Garden nursery on the A4042. Councillor Barnes advised that there are currently no available drawings for the application for 18 Frondeg – Clerk to contact MCC. | Clerk |
| 11 | **Replacement MCC Local Development Plan (RDLP) – Growth and Spatial Options –** Councillors Awni advised that she had seen the presentation from MCC at a One Voice Wales meeting, which was looking to encourage an increase in allotments generally, and was asking landowners to give up land for community growing. |  |
| 12 | **Reports – questions based on update previously circulated.**   * **Little Mill Village Hall**    + No report submitted. * **Goytre Village Hall**   + No report submitted. * **Goytre School Governors**    + No report submitted. * **Goytre Community Centre**   + No report submitted. * **Other Reports**    + Councillor Awni had previously distributed an update on the MCC climate emergency group and champions meetings. |  |
| 13 | **Donations**  There were no requests to consider. |  |
| 14 | **Communications.**   1. The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales are preparing to undertake a review of the remuneration framework for Community and Town Councils, and have asked for expressions of interest from individual councils to participate so that they can select an inclusive range of Councils to consult. The Clerk asked if Councillors wished the CC to put its name forward as a potential consultee, but Councillors felt they wished to take a neutral stance on the matter. Clerk to advise IRPW. 2. Janet Milllett, (St Peter’s church) has suggested that we place Council meeting agendas (or maybe a link), on the Village Facebook site. Cllr Dodd to investigate the possibility of placing a link on the village FB pages. 3. Updated guidance on the Code of Conduct, with more detailed explanations to provide greater clarity / pertinent examples, has been circulated. Feedback is required by 28th February. However, Councillors felt that the revised guidance was ‘OK’ and did not feel the need to comment further. 4. The Welsh Government is currently consulting on its new Litter & Fly-Tipping Prevention Plan for Wales. The consultation will close on 22 April 2021. Councillor Awni is to review and Councillor Robins asked if we could add to the March agenda to discuss. Clerk to action. 5. A couple of residents have expressed an interest in the CC providing allotments. Although we have no land at present to provide this facility, the Clerk is to add to the March agenda for a discussion. He will also contact Nigel Leaworthy to see if he is aware of any possible sites. | Clerk  Cllr Dodd.  Clerk  Clerk |
| 15 | Advertising - Usk and Raglan Diary contributions May / June 2021.  Councillor Welford advised that articles should be submitted by the March meeting in time for the next edition. | All |
| 16 | **Date of next meeting & close –** Monday 22nd March 2021 at 19.30. | All |

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