CYNGOR CYMUNED

GOETRE FAWR

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD BY TELECONFERENCE ON MONDAY 12th JULY 2021**

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

**In attendance:**  Mark Hand, Head of Placemaking, Regeneration, Highways and   
 Flooding at MCC, Craig O’Connor, Head of Planning MCC, and

Jonathan Lazenby (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Community Councillor Lucyann Rands

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **ACTION** |
| 1 | **Apologies for Absence**  As above. |  |
| 2 | **Declarations of Interest**  Because of the late arrival of the Chair due to ‘connection issues’ the Vice-Chair asked the members present whether they had any declarations of interest to make. None were forthcoming. The Vice-Chair reminded members that they should notify the meeting of any additional interests which became apparent during the progress of the meeting. The Clerk said that he had now posted the updated Register of Interests on the web site. Only Councillor Dodd has yet to make a declaration. | All |
| 3 | **Chairman’s Remarks**  The Vice-Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. |  |
| 4 | **Monmouthshire Replacement Local Development Plan 2018-2033.** At this point the Vice-Chair agreed to bring forward the item on the Local Development plan (scheduled for later in the meeting), to enable Mark Hand and Craig O’Connor from MCC to inform the meeting and contribute to the discussion. Standing Orders were therefore suspended at 7.35.  Craig O’Connor started by showing the slides of the preferred strategy and explained that the purpose of the RLDP is to allocate land for different types of development. It will run from 2018 to 2033, so for 15 years, compared to the current 10-year plan. The growth options were consulted upon from January, the preferred strategy is now being consulted upon (until 31st Aug), and from the summer of 2022 the location of the sites will be known. The key strands informing the strategy are:   * Affordability – the current average house price in the County is £300k. * The County has an ageing demographic. * The Growth modelling looks at household formation rates, the commuting ratio, migration rates and housing affordability. * The strategy will be population led. * There will be a growth need for between 7605 and 8366 new houses of which 2450 will be ‘affordable’ – 58% being on the primary settlements (Monmouth/Abergavenny/Chepstow), 28% Severnside, 5% secondary (includes Penperlleni), and 9% rural (includes Little Mill). * The plan is to encourage ‘placemaking’.   The next steps are:   * The current consultation on the preferred strategy (runs until 31st Aug). * A second call for candidate sites. * A report on the consultation and preferred strategy in November 2021. * Preparation of the detailed plan in the summer of 2022.   Mark Hand encouraged everyone to engage now whilst the groundwork is being done. There are a number of drop-in sessions (one today in Usk) and Raglan will be on 29th July. People need to book because of Covid.  At this point the meeting opened up and the following questions were asked.   * Would the selection of sites be purely a desktop exercise or will planners visit the site? MH confirmed site visits would be undertaken. * Is the Mamhilad Park development being taken into account? MH confirmed yes, and MCC are currently consulting with Torfaen (who are now working on their own LDP), plus BBNPA and the Forest of Dean regarding Chepstow. * Regarding site selection, CO’C advised that each site must be able to deliver against a range of criteria which are determined by Welsh Govt. * Is there a policy on shared ownership and over-55 developments? MH confirmed not at the moment, but these were being looked at. * MH said that he would forward a copy of the currently submitted candidate sites for Penperlleni. CO’C shared a satellite map of the village. The Chair felt that improved access to the A4042 would be a necessity for any increase in housing. When asked, MH said that he was not aware of any proposed changes to the route of the A4042.   At this point, Councillors asked MH some questions regarding the proposed pedestrian crossing in Goytre, which the Clerk has recorded under the agenda item later on in the meeting.  MH & CO’C left the meeting, with the Councillors thanking them for their time this evening. Standing Orders were reconvened at 8.13. |  |
| 5 | **Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14th June**. The minutes of the meeting were proposed as a true and correct record by Councillor Daniel and seconded by Councillor Welford. | Clerk |
| 6 | **Matters Arising**   1. Item 8 (i) – Defibrillator Training. The Clerk has been unable to contact the Cariad Trainer. He has spoken to St John’s Ambulance who promised a return phone call, which didn’t materialise. Has chased again this morning. It appears the community training section ‘closed down’ during the pandemic, so have a huge backlog. They have only one trainer, but have promised to come back to us in due course. 2. Item 8 (iii) - Dog Exercise Area and Goytre park grass cutting. The grass in both areas has now been cut. 3. Item 8 (iv) – The tree by the footpath/passageway next to the surgery has now been cut back. 4. Item 8 (v) – Large Tree(s) by the junction of Highfield/Longhouse Barn. MCC have advised that they will not be able to reduce their height unless there were signs of disease or damaged boughs, as per the MCC tree policy. 5. Item 12 -Proposal to Establish an all-through School in Abergavenny. The Clerk submitted the Community Council’s response and invited comments – none yet received. 6. Item 14 - Boundary Changes – John Pearson at MCC has advised that the new ward will have 1013 residential properties in its area. The electorate is currently 1847. (This compares with 1136 properties currently and c2000 electors). The Council tax team are unable to calculate the new Band D equivalent rate based on our current precept, as the calculation takes into account several parameters which are not yet known. 7. Item 17 – Goytre Fawr School – The donation of £588 has been made and  thanks expressed from Mike Gough (Headteacher) on behalf of the school.   (viii) Item 18 (iv) – The Chair has prepared a congratulatory letter to Mike Jones   which he will hand to him personally. | Clerk  Chair |
| 7 | **Maintenance (inc. items reported but not addressed)**   1. The tree obstructing the pavement in Millbrook Court in Little Mill has now been cut back. 2. The grass in the Telephone exchange area in Little Mill needs cutting. Clerk to contact Openreach. 3. The footpath running along the railway line (just over the railway bridge) is now severely overgrown. Councillor Robins mentioned that she had cut her hedge, which had improved the first part of the footpath. Clerk to speak to MCC again. | Clerk  Clerk |
| 8 | **Finance**   1. Payments made since the previous meeting   **£**     1. Review of Accounts / Cashflow   The Clerk presented the meeting with a copy of the June 2021 cashflow.  The Clerk confirmed that during last week’s Finance meeting, the cashflow balances had been verified to the closing balances in the Unity Trust Bank statements at the end of Apr/May/June 2021, with Councillor Barnes signing to confirm, in accordance with section 2.2 of the Community Council Financial Regulations (Wales).  The Clerk has identified that the £60 budget for the Water Rates for Ton Land, although included in the budget projection, was not added to the existing £25 budget for the Community Centre rates – therefore the overall budget line should read £85, not £25. Councillors were happy to leave ‘as is’, without formally changing the budget.  There was no further comment or observation.   1. Reallocation of Graveyards budget At the beginning of the year a budget of £2000 was set aside to pay up to £500 per church for the maintenance of their graveyards. As Council took the decision not to continue with these payments (following advice from NALC), the opportunity has arisen to allocate the budget elsewhere – possibly the refurbishment of the public conveniences (which would incur additional VAT), or to cover the dog waste price increase (where no VAT is payable). The latter is scheduled to be discussed under the next item. Therefore, Councillors decided to move straight to the discussion on dog waste to enable the reallocation of funding to be agreed. 2. Finance Committee update inc Risk Review  **Dog waste collection price increase**  As previously advised to Councillors – the collection company announced (out of the blue) a 56% price increase from £4 per bin to £6.25 per bin. This would take our annual bill from £4,160 to £6,500. The Clerk attended a meeting with MCC who have asked Community Councils to consider the following options:  1. Stay with the current provider.  2. Go out to tender for another provider.  3. MCC would provide a service if the current provider couldn’t, but they   will not undercut them.  The Finance Committee were, at the time, waiting for MCC to provide the options, so did not make any recommendations during their meeting. The main financial alternatives (at least in the short term), now appear to be:  a). Continue with weekly collections and exceed the budget, i.e., spend £5860 against a budget of £4160, (so a deficit of £1700) – next year it will cost £6500, even at current prices.  b). Continue with weekly collections until the end of August, and then revert to fortnightly for the remainder of the financial year – that would bring us c£50 under the current budget.  c). Look to reduce the number of (lesser used) bins that we operate, and then have a combination of 1 & 2 above.  After discussion, Councillors decided to defer making a decision until the next meeting, when it was hoped that progress would have been made on the options presented by MCC.  It was also agreed that any decision on the reallocation of the Graveyard budget should be deferred until a final decision had been made on the dog waste collections.  **Risk review update**   1. Income (Precept) – the first payment of 2021/22 monies was received in April. 2. Legal Powers – Our Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were reviewed at the May 2021 ASM. The model Financial Regulations for Wales were re-adopted but with the emergency Covid 19 signing authority limit (£2000) for the Clerk, (adopted in March 2020), removed (now back to £500). Standing orders were updated with the current IRPW limits and re-adopted. 3. VAT Recovery – VAT repayment claim for £1454.14 now received from HMRC. 4. Staff safety – AF has now confirmed adequacy of training / equipment / protective clothing. 5. Training of Staff - Clerk advised that the CC will be required to prepare a Training Plan for 2022/23. 6. Compliance with Equality and Employment Law - Equality & Diversity course run for all Councillors 15th June. E&D Policy to be considered again at July 2021 Full Council meeting. 7. Minutes - Draft minutes now posted within 7 working days of all original meetings. 8. Health & Safety Risk assessment – Little Mill Park Surfaces now cleaned (cost £180). Three loose bolts reported, but all checked by Councillor Deakins and appear OK. Report suggests we consider removal of Ash tree, but Councillor Deakins advises that it appears to be in good condition. Clerk has confirmed with Johnathan Wassal at MCC that there is no need to take any action at the moment, but to keep a look out for any signs of ash die-back. Broken WI bench now replaced. 9. Data Protection – Potential data breach through JISC UK (Domain guardians). There have been no further suspicious emails. Our ICO registration was renewed on 1st June 2021. 10. Web page accessibility - Large Print options of documents now available. Information has been posted on how to enlarge documents on screen. Guidance on using Microsoft ‘Speak’ function also provided. 11. Community & Town Councils Duty under Section 6 of the Environment Wales Act 2016 (Bio diversity plan) - The pollinating trees and orchard have now been planted in Goytre Park. Seeds have been sown in the grass and the flower beds (Goytre Park/A4042 bus stop/Little Mill bus stop). Grass through the orchard/pollinating trees has been allowed to grow with a pathway mown through it.   The Risk Assessment and Health and Safety checklist updates were accepted by the meeting, and proposed by Councillor Awni and seconded by Councillor Barnes. | Clerk |
| 9 | **Planning Committee**   1. To accept the responses of the Planning Committee held on 21st June2021   The Committee met on the 21st June to consider the following:   1. Proposed single storey extension to create larger kitchen and living area. 12 The Haven, Fairfield, Penperlleni, Goytre, NP4 0AR. 2. Knock down side porch and build utility room. Delberry, 61 Parklands, Penperlleni, Goytre, Pontypool, Monmouthshire, NP4 0BE. 3. Proposed alterations & extension of existing bungalow and addition of detached garage. The Paddocks, Clwyd-y-clap Lane, Mamhilad, Pontypool, Monmouthshire, NP4 0JD. 4. Regularisation of ‘as built’ elevations. Marginal increase of roof pitch to meet minimum pitch required in accordance with slate manufacturer’s recommendations and Building Control requirements Brookside Farm, Nant-y-derry Road, Nantyderry, Goytre, Abergavenny NP7 9DP.   Acceptance of the minutes of the planning meeting held on 21st June 2021 was proposed by Councillor Deakins and seconded by Councillor Daniel.   1. Updates – The latest proposal to allow for an increased number of tractor/trailers units at ‘Ty Carol’ has been declined by MCC.   There are currently no planning meetings in the diary.   1. A4042 upgrades consultation The Clerk has requested a short on-line briefing to explain the proposals in more details. SWTRA have promised to come back with some proposed dates, but these are still awaited. As the closing date for feedback is the end of August, this will mean that full Council will be unable to meet to consider the proposal before the closing date for comments. It was therefore agreed, on this one occasion, to extend the remit of the Planning Committee to meet and consider the proposals and to respond as the members felt appropriate, on behalf of Full Council. This was proposed by Councillor Butler and seconded by Councillor Daniel and passed unanimously. The Clerk to ‘chase’ to arrange the teleconference presentation. | Planning Com’ttee  Clerk |
| 10 | **Public Conveniences – Maintenance – Closed session**  Due to the commercial sensitivity of this item, the detailed discussion of the various quotes was held in a closed meeting, which is recorded separately. However, the outcome of the discussion was a vote for the acceptance of a quote for the refurbishment of the premises (inside and out) costing £3158.14 + VAT. This was proposed by Councillor Morrey and seconded by Councillor Deakins and carried unanimously.  The Chair asked that we request any work to be undertaken outside of any school holidays. | Clerk |
| 11 | **MCC – Response to emails to Chief Executive regarding MUGA / Pedestrian Crossing** The Chair advised the meeting that he had received a response from Paul Matthews, within half an hour of his emails being sent. The individual outcomes were:   1. MUGA - Mike Moran has now responded and advised that due to a huge spike in workload, they have had to prioritise other s106 projects (based on end spend dates – the Goytre MUGA spend date is 18th October 2024). Based on current workload predictions, they aim to submit a formal planning application for the new MUGA in mid-late October, with a view to installation taking place in May or June next year. 2. Pedestrian Crossing - Mark Hand from MCC had visited the site, together with the Chair, Vice-Chair, Clerk and local residents. The latter are concerned at possible light pollution, particularly from the flashing beacons, and would like the crossing relocated towards the pub. Following the site meeting the following options were received today:   Option 1: Complete the zebra crossing in its current location.  Option 2: Relocate the zebra crossing from its current position to the location just to the east, roughly where the resident’s wall and hedge meet.  Option 3: Do not proceed with a zebra crossing at the current location. Remove the lampposts/orange beacons and leave this as an uncontrolled crossing. Provide a zebra crossing further west on School Lane between the current location and Fairfield, and build a pavement alongside School Lane from the car park entrance to the junction of Fairfield.  Option 4:  Do not proceed with a zebra crossing at the current location. Remove the lampposts/orange beacons and leave this as an uncontrolled crossing. Provide a zebra crossing further west on School Lane between the car park entrance and the Goytre Arm’s car park entrance.  Option 5: Do not proceed with a zebra crossing at the current location. Remove the lampposts/orange beacons and leave this as an uncontrolled crossing.  Do not undertake any additional works.  Mark Hand had advised at the beginning of the meeting that no further permissions would be required for any options suggested. However, options 2,3 & 4 would require road safety audits, and new legal orders would be required for 1,2,3 & 4. Generally speaking, options 1, and 5 were not favoured by Councillors. Option 2 appeared to be the favoured location, but concerns were still expressed about the possible light pollution, although Councillor Butler showed a picture of LED lit beacons, which emit a much more directional light along the road to minimise this. Councillors asked whether the lights could be put on a timer just for certain times of the day. The Clerk to speak with Mark Hand to ascertain the lighting / timing options, and report back at the September meeting. | Clerk |
| 12 | **E&D Policy** Due to time pressures it was agreed to defer this item until the September meeting. | Clerk |
| 13 | **Appointment of Youth representative** Due to time pressures it was agreed to defer this item until the September meeting. | Clerk |
| 14 | **Plans for updating/replacing/adding play equipment in the parks.** Due to time pressures, and the absence of Councillor Rands, who was due to report on possible options for the play equipment, it was agreed to defer this item until the September meeting | Clerk |
| 15 | **Reports – questions based on previously distributed update.**   * **Little Mill Village Hall**    + No report submitted – a meeting is scheduled for tomorrow. * **Goytre Village Hall**   + Beginning to get bookings within the covid restrictions.   + Has a food bank every day to give out to anybody. Has been checked for certification ‘Food and Hygiene’ clearance. Has free use of the Arthur Morris lounge. * **Goytre School Governors**    + Last meeting for this academic year now held. Three governors retired.  Mike Gough thanked the Community Council for their donation for the bike and scooter racks, which was much appreciated. Generally speaking, accepting the pandemic, the school has done well. * **Goytre Community Centre**   + No report submitted. * **Other Reports  - Climate Change**   + Monmouth are holding a climate change festival week in September (20-26) to coincide with ‘Green Week’. They are celebrating all things local, produce, businesses etc. Anyone wanting a stall or who has a skill to share should contact the organisers.   + The Repair café is re-opening at the Abergavenny Community Centre.   + Gwent Energy are offering loans for community energy with the installation of solar panels. As it is a loan, the monies will need to be repaid. Gwent Energy charge a reduced rate for the power supplied. It is most beneficial to community centres in use every day.   **- War Memorial Committee**  First meeting held. Mike Jones has been in touch with MCC, re: planning, and it was suggested to put this through the Community Council at a cost of £150 pounds (which MCC said would be cheaper). MJ stated he would then pay GFCC for this. However, the advice from the Clerk was that using the Community Council’s account for non-CC business may well fall foul of Wales Audit and put the awarding of our General Power of Competence in jeopardy. Councillor Daniel then mentioned that Mike Jones had subsequently said that he may have another alternative and the Clerk suggested that it would be best to explore this. Councillor Daniel confirmed the plans for the memorial to be in the same place as the soldier and the design to be an obelisk, around 5 foot 8 inches high. Councillors suggested that it should include the names of the villages, as the boundaries of ‘Goetre Fawr’ will change next year.  **- Halls Together** – A scheme where local halls / community centres come   together to form co-operatives to obtain better rates for local services   etc. This is now being explored for use in the village.  **- One Voice Wales** have advised that under the present proposals, Town   and Community Councils will have to provide teleconference access to  any meetings held on a face-to-face basis. OVW are lobbying for a   change in the proposals, as many small T&CC’s do not have the facilities   to support this and installation of the necessary equipment and IT would   be expensive. |  |
| 16 | **Donations**  No requests have been received. |  |
| 17 | **Communications** No Communications have been received. |  |
| 18 | **Advertising** - Usk and Raglan Diary contributions July / August 2021.  The deadline for submissions is 23rd July. Any items for inclusion should be forwarded to Councillor Welford by this date. | All |
| 19 | **Date of next meeting and close:**  As usual, there will be no meeting in August.  As a result, 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. All payments would, of course, still be subject to the normal authorisation procedures through Unity Trust Bank.  This was proposed by Councillor Butler and seconded by Councillor Morrey. Carried.  The next meeting to beMonday 6th September 2021. | All |

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