CYNGOR CYMUNED

GOETRE FAWR

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD BY TELECONFERENCE ON TUESDAY 27th SEPTEMBER 2022**

**Present**: Community Councillors, Andy Barnes, Morgan Chandler   
and Scott Grayland.

**Guests** None

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

**Apologies**: Community Councillors Owen Dodd, Jan Butler, Nigel Morrey and Janet Robins (all at Community Centre meeting, being representatives appointed by the Community Council), Peter Daniel and Youth Representative Chloe-Marie Tapper

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|  |  | **ACTION** |
| 1 | **Apologies for Absence**  As above. |  |
| 2 | **Declarations of Interest**  In the absence of Councillor Dodd, The Council Vice Chair, Councillor Andy Barnes, Chaired the meeting. The Chair commenced by asking the members present whether they had any declarations of ‘interest’ to make, which includes previous declarations already made. The Chair reminded members that they should notify the meeting of any additional interests which became apparent during the progress of the meeting. No interests were forthcoming. | All / Clerk |
| 3 | **Chairman’s Remarks**  The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for confirmation that the Council was quorate, which the Clerk confirmed. However, given the low numbers of Councillors in attendance, the Chair suggested that those members who were present may wish to defer decisions on any issues which were not pressing and might benefit from wider input from the Full Council. |  |
| 4 | **Approval of minutes of the Council meeting held on 18th July 2022** The minutes were proposed as a true and correct record by Councillor Barnes, seconded by Councillor Chandler and carried unanimously. | Clerk |
| 5 | **Matters Arising**   1. Item 6(ii) – The footpath by the Scout Hut is apparently the responsibility of Countryside Services. The issue has been passed to them and ‘chased’ by the Clerk. The Clerk will continue to monitor. 2. Item 7(iii)a – Conduct Training, organised by MCC, has now been arranged for either Sept 26th (run last night), and Oct 6th. Councillor Grayland confirmed his availability for the presentation on 6th October. Clerk to reserve a place via Alison Jones at MCC. 3. Item 7(iii)g – OVW confirmed that Chloe, as Youth Representative, should complete a declaration of ‘interests’. This is still awaited. 4. Item11(i) – The tree surgery work on ‘Ton Land’ recommended by MCC, has now been undertaken and the bill for £500 paid.   There were no other matters arising. | Clerk  Clerk  Clerk |
| 6 | **Maintenance**   1. The hedges at Ton Land require cutting. James Price has offered to undertake the work at a cost of £150 + VAT. This appears in line with previous costs for similar work. Using section 4.1 of the financial regulations, the Clerk has previously sought permission to proceed from the Chair or Vice-Chair. This was duly received and James Price advised to go ahead. 2. Councillor Butler has previously flagged to the Clerk that the large round planter by the park gate, opposite the chip shop, has now fallen apart, and queried whether the Council wished it to be replaced. It was agreed that in the absence of Councillor Butler, and the fact that the issue was not pressing (at least for the planting of spring flowers), this item should be deferred until a later meeting. | Clerk  Clerk |
| 7 | **Finance**   1. Payments made since the previous meeting.   The Clerk confirmed the following payments have been made.   **£**       1. Review of accounts / cashflow The Clerk presented the meeting with a copy of the July/August 2022 cashflow.   Although savings’ rates of interest are poor by historical standards, the Clerk suggested that it would still be beneficial to transfer some of the ‘excess’ funds being held on the current account, and recommended a transfer of £5,000 for the time being. This was proposed by Councillor Barnes, seconded by Councillor Grayland, and carried unanimously.  There was no further comment or observation.   1. Councillor Allowances inc attendance at Community Centre Meetings   The Clerk has now forwarded the required HMRC documentation to Beverley & Williams and will be arranging to pay the £150 Councillor Allowances shortly. Waiver forms, (a legal requirement), for those who have not completed the HMRC starter forms are still outstanding from Councillors Dodd, Daniel (both absent from the meeting), and Grayland. The Clerk asked that these be forwarded as a matter of priority.  After discussion with the IRPW, it was recommended by the Clerk that attendance at Community Centre meetings should not be included as part of any attendance allowance claims. Although the Community Centre Trust Deed allows for the appointment of Councillors to the Committee, they do not represent the Community Council, but are independent Trustees of the Centre Management Committee, and should therefore fall outside of the scope of attendance allowance payments. This was acknowledged, but again it was felt by the three members present, that, given the potential impact, this item should be deferred until the October meeting. Clerk to arrange.   1. Audit Update The Clerk delivered the additional books and papers to Wales Audit (required as part of the more in-depth three-yearly transactional audit), at the end of August. At present there has been no further communication from Wales Audit. | Clerk  Clerk |
| 8 | **Planning**   1. To accept the responses of the planning committee meetings held on 15th and 30th August to consider the following:  * DM/2022/01098 [Llan Farm](https://www.google.com/maps/place/51%C2%B044'10.7%22N+2%C2%B057'46.8%22W/@51.7360176,-2.9623921,648m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0x128677a939d57176!8m2!3d51.73631!4d-2.9630042), Llanvair Road, Goytre, Usk, NP15 1QD Proposed two storey extension to Farmhouse, proposed single storey garage to rear, proposed siting of greenhouse to the SE and movement of the curtilage southern boundary. Change of use to residential garden. * DM/2022/01149 – 53 Longhouse Barn, Penperlleni, Goytre, Monmouthshire. Two storey side extension to incorporate car port and bedroom.   Acceptance of both sets of minutes (previously circulated), was proposed by Councillor Chandler and seconded by Councillor Grayland.  In his role as Planning Committee Chair, Councillor Barnes mentioned that the owner(s) of the large property known as Springfield, which is being constructed next to the football ground on Plough Road, had applied for a number of the conditions regarding its construction to be discharged. These largely related to landscaping, biodiversity and trees. There was still no update on the decision to divert the existing footpath.   1. Any other updates –The Planning Committee are due to meet tomorrow evening (28th Sept), to discuss a planning application submitted by the Secret Garden (DM/2022/00966), to build a new covered area for additional retail space. |  |
| 9 | **Old Pounde Shop (Goytre Chip Shop / Tandoori)** – Consideration of application from the leaseholder, requesting permission to sell alcohol from the premises (subject to approval from MCC licensing committee).  Councillor Butler has been approached by Mr Naveed (The leaseholder of the Olde Pound shop [Goytre chip shop]), to ask if we will grant (under the terms of his lease), permission for him to sell alcohol from the premises (subject to MCC licensing). He would like to be able to offer a small selection of beers, ciders and wines to his customers. He intends to have them stored in the bottom half of his fridge so as not to be visible to younger customers (they will be below counter height). Section 14.6 of the current lease requires our consent (there is a general principle being that permissions shouldn't be unreasonably withheld).  Councillors did not feel that this would be a problem and that residents would welcome the opportunity to be able to buy an alcoholic drink to enjoy with their food. Our permission only clears the way for Mr Naveed to approach MCC Licensing, who will no doubt examine any application carefully, before granting a licence. Granting the required ‘permission’ was proposed by Councillor Barnes, seconded by Councillor Grayland, and carried unanimously. Clerk to advise Mr Naveed. | Clerk |
| 10 | **Lease for Ton Land – next steps** Once the hedges have been cut, the land will again be available for rent, whilst the issue of the allotments is considered. It is proposed that an initial 12-month period is offered, with applications by email to the Clerk. The ‘advert’ will state that fence repairs (to be the responsibility of the successful lessee), will be necessary to provide a secure environment for any livestock. It is suggested the land be put to tender, with a minimum amount of £30 per month, with the lease being awarded to the highest bidder. This will ensure that the Council receives the best value and avoids the need to somehow choose between numerous interested parties.  This was proposed by Councillor Barnes, seconded by Councillor Chandler, and carried unanimously. Clerk to prepare an advert for wider circulation.  In the meantime, the Clerk has written to Mr Jamie Lewis to see if there is sufficient interest locally to the setting up of a residents’ allotment association to enable us to explore that option further. However, at this stage, it does not appear that there is an organised group of residents who would be interested in co-ordinating / running such an association. | Clerk |
| 11 | **Post -16 home-to-school transport – Chloe Tapper – Youth Representative** Unfortunately, Chloe was unable to make the rearranged meeting due to her university commitments, but has asked that the agenda item be carried forward to October. Clerk to include on the October agenda. | Clerk |
| 12 | **St Bartholomew’s:**   1. Update on removal of soil and stone waste left by Co-op Funeral Services  Someone (the Clerk presumes MCC) has now removed the soil and stones. If billed by MCC, the Clerk intends to seek re-imbursement from the Co-Op (otherwise residents will effectively be left to pick up the bill). 2. Graveyard safety Check Following a visit by Nigel Leaworthy (NL), and the Clerk to the site, MCC have confirmed that the cost of undertaking a gravestone safety check (using two cemetery trained members of staff to inspect every monument, make records and document/photograph any which fail) will be £1100 (plus VAT). Any monuments which ‘fail’ will cost £150 (+VAT) each to secure with a metal band (or can potentially be laid over). However, having informally inspected a good number of monuments, NL did not anticipate many ‘failures’. Approval to go ahead was proposed by Councillor Barnes, seconded by Councillor Grayland, and carried unanimously. 3. Approval of Tablet Designs submitted by Gwent Memorials (GM).   GM have forwarded two ‘tablet’ designs for approval. These will replace two existing stones in the graveyard. The designs had previously been circulated to the members by the Clerk. Approval was proposed by Councillor Grayland, seconded by Councillor Chandler, and carried unanimously. Clerk to advise Gwent Memorials who have already forwarded the fee of £60.  It was further agreed that the Clerk should be authorised to give approval to any future headstone / tablet submissions, provided that they met the published criteria regarding size / shape and were not unduly ornate (i.e. were in-keeping with the other headstones in the graveyard). This was proposed by Councillor Grayland, seconded by Councillor Chandler, and carried unanimously. | Clerk  Clerk  Clerk |
| 13 | **Boundary Change Update**  MCC have finally confirmed to the new Gobion CC that they will not be billed for past electricity for the street lights that they purchased. They have therefore proposed the following settlement.  Balance at bank £ 5096  Less expenditure (minus VAT) paid but not  debited or due, but not invoiced - Total £1233 Net balance **£3863**  It has previously been agreed, that the final settlement calculation should be based on a figure of 20.7% of the reserves (as 128 of 619 properties from the old Llanover CC have transferred to Goetre Fawr). This therefore equates to **£799.63** and is being proposed as the final settlement figure by the now Gobion CC.  Acceptance of this figure was proposed by Councillor Barnes, seconded by Councillor Chandler, and carried unanimously. Clerk to advise Hugh Candler (Clerk to Gobion CC). | Clerk |
| 14 | **Reports – questions based on previously distributed update.**   * **Goytre Village Hall**    + All good at the present time.   + Bookings have been taken up until November.   + The Welcome Cafe thanks the Council for the donation.   + The Post Office has turned up regularly.   + The Free food hall is running well.      * **Llanover Village Hall**   + The hall bookings are going well with continued use by various groups from Yoga, Ukulele group, training support and coffee morning.  The booking fees are due to be increased from the start of October in line with energy costs (£10 p. hour minimum 2 hours for a booking).   + A small part of the roof needs attending to - awaiting a builder to come and complete.   + A new projector for the hall has been purchased.   + The success of the Jubilee day in the village has resulted in the formation of a new events group/committee being founded.  The group want to encourage all of the community to get involved in the village even if they do not use the Village hall or social club.   + A possible Christmas fair is being planned for the hall to host with an unconfirmed date of 27/11/22 being planned by the events committee.   + A new broadband provider has been found with Sky being the choice.  Now up and running.   + Upcoming Annual Flower and Vegetable show on 10/9/22.  Due to be on a different weekend in future so as not to clash with Usk show.   + A bugler has been booked for the ceremony on Armistice day that is held on Llanover village green.  The cost of the wreath to be laid on behalf of the community has been paid by the Community Council in the past, could this be arranged again this year please? Cllr. Chandler attended last year and is happy to go again to lay the wreath.   + Next meeting be on Tuesday 4th October at 1930. * **Goytre School Governors**    + No report as yet, as the school has just restarted the academic year. * **Goytre Community Centre**   + Full report awaited – the Committee is meeting this evening. However, it has been confirmed that the rear building of Jack and Jill’s has now been removed. * **Other Reports**   + There were no other reports. |  |
| 15 | **Donations**   1. Cerebral Palsy Cymru We have received an open letter from Cerebral Palsy Wales requesting a donation to their work across Wales. 2. Ronald MacDonald House Charities (UK) Similarly, we have received an open letter from Jordan Harbin, Community and Corporate Fundraiser for Wales. Jordan presented to Council a few months ago, explaining that the charity provides parents with short term accommodation whilst their child receives specialist hospital treatment away from their home location.   Councillors questioned whether either charity provided services specific to the local Community to justify a donation, but felt that other (non-present) members may be able to shed further light on the situation. As a result, it is was agreed to defer a decision until the next meeting. The Clerk to place on October’s agenda. | Clerk |
| 16 | **Communications**   1. Electricity Contract  Due to the recently announced charges cap, and support for businesses, the Clerk is waiting for the market to absorb the changes and will check what offers (if any) are forthcoming over the next few weeks. | Clerk |
| 17 | **Advertising** - **Usk and Raglan Diary contributions Jan/ Feb 2023.**  Unfortunately, we have missed the closing date for submissions for the Nov/Dec edition of the Diary. Closing dates for contributions for the next edition will be towards the end of November. There were currently no items for inclusion in the next edition. | All |
| 18 | **Date of next meeting and close:**  It was proposed by Councillor Grayland and seconded by Councillor Chandler, that the date of the next meeting be ‘slipped’ by a week to be onMonday **17th** October at 19.30. This was carried unanimously. The meeting will be held in Llanover Village Hall and by teleconference via: <https://meet.jit.si/GoetreFawrCommunityCouncil>  The proposal was carried and the change of date to be advised to the Councillors not in attendance. | All  Clerk |

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