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GOETRE FAWR

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT LLANOVER VILLAGE HALL & BY TELECONFERENCE ON MONDAY 22nd MAY 2023 @ 20.15**

**Present**: Community Councillors, Owen Dodd, Andy Barnes, Morgan Chandler,
Nigel Morrey, Peter Daniel, Janet Robins, Scott Grayland and Community / County Councillor Jan Butler

**Guests** None

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

**Apologies**: None.

**Absent without Apology:** None.

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|  | The meeting commenced slightly late at 20.23, the Annual Statutory Meeting having over-run by a few minutes. | **ACTION** |
| 1 | **Apologies for Absence.**As above.  | Clerk |
| 2 | **Declarations of Interest.**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. Councillor Barnes re-declared an interest in the MUGA as, depending on its siting, (if on the lower section of the park), he was likely to object on the grounds of noise. No further declarations from the members were forthcoming. | All / Clerk |
| 3 | **Chairman’s Remarks.**Councillor Dodd took the opportunity to welcome everyone to the meeting.  |  |
| 4 | **Minutes**1. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 24th April 2023The minutes were proposed as a true and correct record by Councillor Morrey, seconded by Councillor Barnes and carried by all those eligible to vote (Councillors Daniel, Butler and Grayland did not vote as they were not in attendance on 24th April).
 | Clerk |
| 5 | **Matters Arising.**1. Item 5(i) – Goytre Railway Bridge Road Surface. Councillor Butler advised the members of a potential new JCB machine/system for filling potholes. It can repair several metres at a time, and more robustly than the usual process of filling individual potholes. Tony Kear at MCC is to trial the machine, although it is not known whether it will be permanently adopted. However, Councillor Butler is looking to see if it could be tested on the bridge to effect a longer lasting repair as part of its trial. Councillor Butler is to email/What’sApp a video clip of its use.
2. Item 6(ii) – The Clerk has forwarded planning guidance on the insertion of farm gates to Mrs Smith, which is available on the Wales.gov web site (both MCC and BBNPA refer to this advice rather than having their own policy). The Clerk has also added a ‘Public Rights of Way’ button to our web site, with links to the MCC footpaths map and also to Gwent Ramblers.
 | Cllr. Butler |
| 6 | **Maintenance** (including items previously reported but not yet addressed).1. Flooding at junction of Star Road / School LaneThe flash flooding caused by the recent exceptional downpours was discussed. Councillor Butler advised that the MCC flooding team were on site the following day. It is thought that one of the issues is the drain which runs diagonally across the football pitch to the corner of the village hall by ‘The Haven’. In 2015 there was a blockage to this system which caused flooding of the hall, and it is thought this problem may have reoccurred. The flooding Team will be making further investigations and talking to NRW to find a solution.
2. Vandalism of the Gents toilet door of the Public Conveniences (Emergency Repair)Since the last meeting, the Clerk has obtained the following quotes for the replacement of the front door and the installation of a lock to the attic hatch:
	1. Contractor 1 - Ian Williams Ltd- £667+ VAT
	2. Contractor 2 – Paul Lewis - £550 (no VAT) – wooden door OR £675 (no VAT) uPVC door

In addition, two other potential contractors did not respond to contact from the Clerk. After due consideration of both tenders, it was agreed to award the contract to Contractor 2 for the wooden door option, and this was formally proposed by Councillor Butler and seconded by Councillor Chandler. Councillors voted in favour, with the exception of Councillor Morrey who abstained (Mr Lewis is a neighbour) and Councillor Robins who also abstained. Clerk to contact the company to advise. | Cllr. ButlerClerk |
| 7 | **Finance**1. Payments made since the previous meeting.

  **£** 1. Review of accounts and cashflowThe Clerk presented the cashflow account as at 30th April. There was no further comment or observation
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|  | 1. Internal audit - updateThe Clerk is pleased to report that we have now received our internal audit, which gives us a clean bill of health with positive comments regarding our record keeping. The only recommendation was that the payment from Zurich Insurance, for the VAT element of the wall repair (paid to us in error), should be accounted for separately as other income/expenditure. The Clerk had previously posted both the receipt and repayment under the graveyard budget lines. An updated Cashflow and Audit spreadsheet were subsequently sent to the accountants, who have now signed off our accounts. The Internal Audit Report, with updated Cashflow and Audit Spreadsheet, were then presented to Council for acceptance. These were proposed by Councillor Daniel, seconded by Councillor Morrey and carried unanimously. The Clerk will now prepare the External audit for presentation and sign-off at our June meeting.
 | Clerk |
| 8 | **Planning.**1. Updates / future meetingsThere have been no planning meetings since Full Council met in April. A meeting is scheduled for May 30th at 6.30pm to consider the following application.

DM/2023/00642: Householder: Single storey rear extension.8 Plough Road, Penperlleni, Goytre, Pontypool, Monmouthshire, NP4 0AL. |  |
| 9 | **County Council update – County Councillor Jan Butler.**1. Councillor Butler has been in contact with MCC/SWTRA regarding progress on the A4042 crossing, and is awaiting a reply. Councillor Robins advised that Lee Waters has separately confirmed that the report on the way forward should be ready by the end of the month.
2. There has been another accident on the A4042 by the Secret Garden. The Clerk was able to advise that a motorcyclist and car, both believed to be travelling north had been in collision when the car turned right into the garden centre. The Clerk has confirmed that the plans to install a deceleration lane for southbound traffic and a middle refuge area for cars travelling north/turning right were still planned. However, this will require the purchase of land and so are likely to be some time away from becoming a reality.
3. Councillor Butler is progressing with trying to get ‘brown signage’ on the A4042 for Goytre Wharf, and ‘Slow Down’ signs for the Bafflehaus. However, this is partially reliant on the organisations requesting this.
4. MUGA - Councillor Butler has been unsuccessful in getting hold of Mike Moran and so has approached both Mark Hand and Nigel Leaworthy regarding the SUDs assessment / report, which has still not happened. In the meantime, she has asked if the two junior football pitches could be marked on the grass for the summer season.
5. The ‘Go Safe’ campaign is working well and appears to be slowing the traffic.
6. The petition to re-open Nantyderry Station is live and has circa 150 signatures. It requires 250 signatures to be considered by the Petitions Committee, and 10,000 for the Senedd to consider. Councillor Butler to forward the link for the petition.
 | Cllr. Butler |
| 10 | **Community Engagement – Councillor Janet Robins.** The discussion was led by Councillor Robins who is keen to improve our engagement with the local community. Together with some input from the Clerk, Councillor Robins has put together a proposed survey which has been circulated to all Councillors for consideration. Councillor Butler felt we needed to be really sure if we wanted to do a survey and what we should expect from it. Councillor Robins felt that the first step was to undertake some engagement with the residents, and to this end the survey had been designed to ask residents to prioritise what we currently do, and ask for other ideas. Councillor Butler still felt unsure that this was the right time and whether this was the best approach. Eventually it was agreed to form a small working group comprising of Councillors Robins, Butler and Morrey to review and suggest a way forward for Council to consider. | Cllrs. Butler/ Robins/Morrey |
| 11 | **Churchwood / Village Surgery – update**The latest update from Llais Cymru is thatthe panel met towards the end of April, have put out an advert, and are now waiting to see if any GP Practices come forward to take over the Churchwood Surgery.  | Cllr Robins/Clerk |
| 12 | **Goytre Recreation Park**1. Sports recreation hub inc MUGA updateSee the update under item 9(iv) above.
2. Playground equipment update

Councillors Butler, Robins and the Clerk met with Johnathan Wassal (JW) from MCC in the park on Weds 17th of last week, and can report the following:* Councillor Butler has secured £2500 from the Micro Geography fund for a concrete table tennis table for the park. The funding needs to be in our account before the end of June.
* JW has confirmed that funds are available for the installation of a disability inclusive piece of play equipment. He is also to explore other funding sources for the following:
	+ Installation of Play Panels for younger children.
	+ A ‘trim trail’ on the other side of the footpath by the wildflower garden.
	+ A multi-activity play area (given the likely cost, this may be a longer-term objective)
	+ Repainting of the tractor climbing frame and the toddlers’ slide

Councillor Butler is also hoping to secure a further £800 to £3500 from the Micro Geography fund (in addition to the already agreed £2500).It was requested that the Clerk asks MCC to use a native seed mix in both wildflower beds this year, as the flowers will self-seed and this should cut down on future seeding costs. Clerk to contact Nigel Leaworthy. | Cllr. ButlerClerk / Cllr. RobinsClerk |
| 13 | **St Bartholomew’s Graveyard – update**A funeral took place on 27th April, which has put further pressure on the remaining burial space in the graveyard. The Llanover Estate Office has confirmed they have issued instructions to progress discussions further, and have requested confirmation of the area required, so that they can make recommendations as to the appropriate values to their client. The Clerk has responded that the outline map displayed when he visited their offices would be suitable (and has requested a screen shot). He has advised that although we don’t have any specific timescales in mind, space is now severely limited, and so it would seem prudent to avoid any unnecessary delay. However, as Council doesn’t have any specific monies set aside in this year’s budget, he explained that we were likely hoping that any payment would be of a relatively nominal amount.  A rough indication, at an early stage, of the amount being sought has been requested, in case it might prove a stumbling block. This will hopefully avoid everyone putting a lot of energy into the ‘project’ if funding is likely to prove an insurmountable barrier.  | Clerk |
| 14 | **GDPR - Review and update as necessary, of GDPR document retention policy.** Following last month’s meeting, Councillor Dodd has not yet reviewed the timescales required for the retention of electronic documents. Clerk to defer this to a future meeting.  | Cllr. Dodd |
| 15 | **Village Committees’ Reports – questions based on previously distributed updates*** Goytre Village Hall
	+ AGM to take place this coming Tuesday at 7.00 pm until 7.30. There will be a meeting afterwards once the declarations and voting have been completed
	+ The Well-being Café and Food Hall are still running successfully.
	+ Plenty of bookings up to September.
* Llanover Village Hall
	+ No report submitted.
* Goytre School Governors
	+ The Asymmetric programme is to go ahead in 23/24 academic year.

A month of consultation was conducted with the parents and the Governors, and an acceptance was agreed to go ahead. However there have been some budget issues which require re-organisation of the current staff. Otherwise, all is running well.* Goytre Community Centre
	+ A quote of £90K has been received to refurbish Jack’s building.
	+ An initial conversation has been held with The Lotteries fund.
	+ The Community Ownership Fund now allows Community Councils to apply and 80% funding of projects is allowed.
	+ Ashley Morgan has been assigned by MCC to assist us with Asset transfer. Confirmation of the leasehold agreement being sought as this is a requirement for grant applications. This is not an issue as the lease with MCC has only lapsed whilst the policy is being rewritten.
	+ Fundraising. A table at the Coronation fete and the Eurovision event has raised £250. A donation of £110 will be made to DEC Ukraine and the remainder to the Community Centre account. Further events are planned.
	+ A new treasurer and social media member are being sought for the Committee.
	+ AGM 30th May 7:30pm at Community Centre.  Please would all Community Council Committee members attend.
* Other Reports
* There were no other reports.
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| 16 | **Donation requests.**1. SSAFA, The Armed Services charity, has sent out an email within Monmouthshire, requesting a donation to help them provide support to local armed forces men/women and their families. The current cost of living crisis has led to even more people contacting them for help with the regional hub in Wales receiving around 500 enquiries per month. They are therefore appealing for a contribution towards the costs of running the hub. Specific figures for help provided locally are not available. However, it is known that the work they undertake in various communities is very well regarded. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Morrey that we make a donation of £50. This was seconded by Councillor Butler, and carried by all members with the exception of Councillor Daniel who abstained as he felt that as an ex-serviceman, he had a personal interest in supporting SSAFA.
 | Clerk |
| 17 | **Communications.**1. Freedom of Information RequestThe Clerk has received a Freedom of Information Request from Councillor Iain Mcintosh, Conservative County Councillor, Powys County Council. The email asked whether we had been consulted on the National Park’s plan entitled ‘Future Beacons 2022-2027’ (we were), and whether we were consulted on the new logo and change of name. The Clerk confirmed he had been unable to trace any communications specifically on the new logo or change of name, although he noted that Bannau Brycheiniog has appeared alongside ‘Brecon Beacons National Park’ in emails he has received going back several years.
2. Invite from MCC to Fly a flag for our Armed Forces – Monday 19th June 2023, 10 a.m., County Hall, Usk

MCC will be holding a ceremony to mark the above at the time and date stated. The Chair is invited to attend or send a representative(s) to this event, which is being held to celebrate the work/show appreciation of the armed forces. Unfortunately, Councillor Dodd will be abroad, but Councillor Daniel agreed to represent the Community Council in his absence. The Clerk to advise MCC. | Clerk |
| 18 | **Advertising** - **Usk and Raglan Diary contributions July / August 2023.** The closing date for submissions for the July / Aug 2023 edition is Friday 26th May. It was agreed that there were no articles for inclusion in the next edition. Clerk to advise. | Clerk |
| 19 | **Date of next meeting and close.**The next meeting is to be held on **Monday 19th June** at **19.45**. The venue to be Llanover Village Hall, and by teleconference via: <https://meet.jit.si/GoetreFawrCommunityCouncil> | All/Clerk |

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