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GOETRE FAWR

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD AT LLANOVER VILLAGE HALL AND BY TELECONFERENCE ON MONDAY 14th JULY 2025**

**Present**: Community Councillors Nigel Morrey, Lewis Carter, Andy Barnes, Peter Daniel, Owen Dodd and Janet Robins.

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

**Apologies**: Community / County Councillor Jan Butler.

**Absent without Apology:** None

**Members of the Public:** Ms Maureen Willcox – candidate   
 for Goytre Ward

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|  |  | **ACTION** |
| 1 | **Apologies for Absence.**  As above. | Clerk |
| 2 | **Chairman’s Remarks.**  The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Ms. Maureen Willcox who has joined the meeting as an observer, having submitted her nomination papers for the vacant council seat. Nominations closed at 4pm on Friday 11th July, and at this stage we are still waiting to hear from MCC whether an election has been triggered (by two or more valid nominations having being submitted). The Clerk will chase the Democratic Services Team at MCC to establish the position. The Chair also mentioned the email received from Councillor Butler regarding the ‘Heads of Agreement’ terms for the proposed new lease to the Community Centre (directly between MCC and the Centre Management Committee). As this was received too late to put on the agenda, at this stage councillors can only recognise that activity is taking place, but cannot debate the issue. |  |
| 3 | **Declarations of Interest.**  The Chair, Councillor Morrey, commenced the meeting by asking the members present whether they had any declarations of ‘interest’ to make, which includes previous declarations already made. No declarations from the members were forthcoming. |  |
| 4 | **Minutes.** Approval of the minutes of the Annual meeting held on 16h June 2025. The minutes were proposed as a true and correct record by Councillor Daniel, seconded by Councillor Barnes and carried unanimously. | Clerk |
| 5 | **Matters Arising.**   1. Item 5 (ii) – The Clerk confirmed that the corner seat under the small house/slide in the park had been repaired. 2. Item 6 (i) – The Clerk reported the builders sign on the park fence, and it has now been removed by MCC. 3. Item 10 - The Graveyard regulation signs have been placed on the gates of the churchyard and distributed to the two main undertakers who arrange for funerals at the church. 4. Item 12 – Somewhat to our surprise, the ten signatures calling for an election were received by Monmouthshire County Council. If the County Council receives more than one set of valid nomination papers, the election will be held on Thursday 7th August. The Clerk will contact MCC tomorrow the confirm the situation. | Clerk |
| 6 | **Maintenance.** (including items previously reported, but not yet addressed).   1. Councillor Daniel raised the issue of the school requiring two more disabled parking spaces, (as reported under item 13, subsection ‘School Governors’ below). It was confirmed that the school will need to speak to the Highways Team at MCC, who will be able to consider the request. 2. Councillor Dodd commented that the Centre Management Committee is unable to commit to the proposed lease from MCC which requires it to be responsible for both internal and external maintenance, as well as decoration and the replacement of all internal window frames, doors and doorframes. The Community Centre update under section 13 below (and its accompanying email) appeared to imply that the new lease had been agreed by the Centre Management Committee, but Councillor Dodd advised that it hasn’t). In addition, the proposed lease would see a significant increase in the rent, which the centre would struggle to meet, even with a 95% discretionary grant (which of course could always be withdrawn). Councillor Carter advised that the new terms need to be discussed again at the next committee meeting, which is scheduled for 29th July. | Cllr. Daniel  Cllr. Carter |
| 7 | **Finance.**   1. Payments made since the June meeting **£**   All are regular monthly payments, with the exception of the Q1 Tax and NI bill. There were no comments or observations.  Review of Cashflow as at 30th June 2025. The Clerk presented the meeting with a copy of the June 2025 cashflow. He confirmed that the Cashflow balances had been verified to the closing balances in the Unity Trust Bank statements at the end of Apr/May/June 2025 during the Finance Committee meeting on 8th July, with Councillor Carter signing to confirm this, in accordance with section 2.6 of the Community Council Financial Regulations (Wales). There was no further comment or observation.  The Clerk mentioned that the forthcoming election would impact the Council’s  finances, with the costs estimated by MCC to be in excess of £3000. Once the final figure is known, Councillors will be able to decide whether to take the costs from reserves or reallocate some existing budgets (or a combination of the two). A decision can also be taken in the upcoming budget setting process for 2026/27 about whether to raise the precept to cover some or all of the cost in the next financial year.   1. Finance Committee update inc Risk & Health & Safety reviews from its meeting on 8th July.   The following updates were provided from the finance meeting and recommended for acceptance by Full Council.   1. Precept.   The first payment of the 2025/26 precept was received in April 2025.   1. Salaries / Wages.   Clerk has updated one wages standing order with the other now paid by individual monthly payment as the net amount can vary slightly from month to month.   1. Councillors Allowances.  (Ex)-Councillor Grayland has now advised the Clerk/RFO by email of his decision to decline the Councillor Allowance for 2024/25. Clerk/RFO has sent the official declaration form for completion & signature (not yet returned). However, there is now, at least, some formal documentation on record. As a result of the latest development the Clerk has sent the annual return of Councillor Allowances to the DBC, and has posted it on line and on the noticeboards as is required by law. 2. Training of Clerk / Staff.   The Training Plan continues to be regularly reviewed and updated by the Clerk / RFO and published on the web site. The latest update was on 5th July.   1. Health & Safety.   Dan Sainsbury from MCC (who surveyed the trees back in 2022) was scheduled to survey the trees again the w/c 30th June, and will report back to Council with any recommendations to be actioned as required.   1. Data Protection Legislation (GDPR). ICO registration renewed 1st June 2025. 2. Community & Town Councils Duty under Section 6 of the Environment Wales Act 2016 (Bio diversity plan).   An updated plan is due at the end of this year and should reflect the Green Corridor initiatives which are taking place across the ward. These include wildflower beds and trees in Goytre Park (& dog walking area), the green at Rhyd-y-Meirch and St Bartholomew’s graveyard, as well as other small selected sites.  **The Health & Safety Checklist.**  As above, the four Oak Trees on Ton Land need to be safety assessed this year and this is in hand via MCC (see ‘(e)’ above).  The Risk Assessments and Health & Safety updates were accepted by the meeting and formally proposed by Councillor Robins, seconded by Councillor Morrey, and carried unanimously.   1. 2026/27 budget – initial thoughts. The Clerk will begin his budget projections for next year after the summer recess, and asked Councillors to give some thought as to whether they wished for specific items or projects to be budgeted for in the financial plans for 2026/27. | Clerk  All |
| 8 | **Planning.**   1. The following applications were considered at the meeting of the Planning Committee on 17th June.   **Application Number DM/2025/00644** - Planning Permission  Retention of works to provide a Hydrotherapy Unit, retention of extension to existing barn, conversion and extension of curtilage.  Brook Farm House, Old Abergavenny Road, Pencroesoped, Llanover, Monmouthshire, NP4 0JG.  **Application Number:** [**DM/2025/00596**](https://planningonline.monmouthshire.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage) - Planning Permission.  New drive entrance access to improve visibility & highway safety. Existing access to be permanently closed. Improvements to parking & turning on site. Change of use of land for new drive access.  [The Old Vicarage](https://www.google.com/maps/place/51%C2%B046'59.4%22N+2%C2%B059'39.4%22W/@51.7832602,-2.9930278,704m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m4!3m3!8m2!3d51.783174!4d-2.9942711?entry=ttu&g_ep=EgoyMDI1MDUwNy4wIKXMDSoASAFQAw%3D%3D), Llanover Road, Llanover, Monmouthshire. NP7 9BY  **Application Number: DM/2025/00699** - Householder Construction of proposed stable block within the residential curtilage.  Ty Llwyd, Llanvair Grange, Llanover, Monmouthshire, NP7 9DG  All the reviews concluded with no issues or concerns being raised regarding any of the proposals.  Acceptance of the minutes was then proposed by Councillor Morrey, seconded by Councillor Daniel, and carried unanimously.   1. The stile by the property known as Springfield on Plough Road. MCC’s Rights of Way team have advised that historically there has always been a stile on the route, but MCC cannot require it be swapped for a gate. However, as it is necessary for the path to be diverted to accommodate the new development, a path order will need to be made at some point. This order will specify a gate, as in compliance with the Equality Act, MCC no longer authorises stiles. If a successful order is to be made, the stile will, therefore, need to be swapped for a gate. |  |
| 9 | **County Council update - County Councillor Jan Butler.**  In the absence of Councillor Butler, the updates on the A4042 and the Mon & Brec canal had been provided in advance by email.   1. Goytre A4042 Pedestrian Crossing Status. Cllr, Butler is continuing to contact SWTRA, as are Peter Fox and Laura Jones. There is no change from the current position that they are still waiting to include it in their schedule of works. 2. Mon and Brec Canal.   The debate took place in the Senedd on 9th July. Cross party support given and Deputy First Minister is arranging to get stakeholders around the table asap to reach a permanent solution. Cllr. Butler thinks this is likely to get escalated to include DEFRA and Westminster Government.   1. Llanover Pedestrian Crossing. Councillor Carter advised no real update at present with the Stage 1 assessment results due by the end of July. He is currently waiting for Catherine Foulkes (our MP), to add her name to the campaign letter as one of the joint signatories. |  |
| 10 | **Annual Report 2024/25 – Review and sign-off.**  As is required by s52 of the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021, all Community & Town Councils are required to produce and annual report as soon as is practical after the end of the financial year. The Clerk distributed the proposed report following the April meeting, requesting feedback by the June meeting. Disappointingly no feedback was received with the exception of an updated report from the Chair. The Clerk therefore completed the report and distributed it earlier today. As a result, he received two suggested amendments from Councillor Carter which have now been included as draft v2.  This latest updated report was then proposed by Councillor Robins seconded by Councillor Daniel and carried unanimously. The Clerk to post on the web site. | Clerk |
| 11 | **Conclusion of any remaining statutory appointments from the Annual Meeting.** It the absence of Council Butler this item will have to be deferred again. | Clerk |
| 12 | **Donation Requests**.   1. Llanover Seniors Coffee Morning Group - £250.   The group which provides a hub for senior and retired members of the village and surrounding area to meet for a coffee/chat to help reduce loneliness. They have requested a donation of £250 to assist towards the cost of taking the members by coach to Brecon Mountain Railway followed by a buffet lunch and tour at Cyfarthfa Castle Museum and Art Gallery and grounds.  The funds will be used to offset the cost of the day trip thereby making the cost of a full day out affordable for those living on a pension. The total cost is just under £1440, with the Coffee group contributing £250 and GFCC £250, with the balance coming from the members. The trip will take place on 9th September. A similar donation of £250 was made last year for a coach trip to Weston-Super-Mare. Councillors considered this was a very worthy cause which was well organised. Recognising that the CC probably had more limited scope to provide services to the Llanover ward, it was felt that this was a good opportunity to support the residents. The donation was, therefore, proposed by Councillor Daniel, seconded by Councillor Carter and carried unanimously. (Donation to be made under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s19).   1. Cerebral Palsy Cymru (unspecified amount). The organisation has written to us again asking if we will consider a donation. For information the CC made a donation of £50 in 2022/23, but declined a request the following year due to budget pressures. Another request was made last year, and in recognition of the fact that CPC have supported residents in our community, Councillors felt that, on that occasion, a modest donation of £50 (under s137), was appropriate. It was recognised that as CPC was a national organisation with the ability to tap into different funding sources, another more modest contribution would again be appropriate if Councillors wished to contribute. Councillor Morrey therefore proposed a £50 donation under s137, which was then seconded by Councillor Robins and carried unanimously. | Clerk  Clerk |
| 13 | **Village Committee Reports – questions based on previously distributed updates.**   * Goytre Village Hall.   + Bookings going well.   + First meeting after the AGM will be in August.   + Looking to decorate the hall.   + Has a new audio system.   + Will also upgrade curtains and some chairs to meet fire standards.   + Village club has a new chairperson and team, and is anxious to move forward to upgrade its activities. * Llanover Village Hall.   + Bookings continue to be healthy.   + Quotes being sourced for damp proofing and redecorating.   + Llanover Village Fête 12 July 1-5pm celebrating 100 years since Tre Elidyr's addition to the village (garden village) and the memorial field.   All councillors are welcome to attend.    * Goytre School Governors.   + AGM took place on the 9th July.   + Attendance rate for the academic year 94.5%.   + Big farewell to Mike Gough, Head Teacher, who’s retiring after 6 years. Alex Mills, the new Head Teacher gave a speech.  Announced that Helen Zammit, receptionist, is also retiring after 20 years’ service.   + Comment brought up that there’s a need for two more disabled spaces as the school only has one, and three families have difficulty parking and assisting their disabled children safely into school. School has asked who they should contact to request two more disabled spaces. * Goytre Community Centre.   + The first meeting of new committee took place on 1st July.   + The Repair Cafe (a community centre venture) will be holding its first session on 12th July. Set up by John Kirby who has found a team of fixers. An excellent article features in the front of this month’s Usk Diary explaining the philosophy and how it will run. The group will be approaching Community Council for assistance with start-up funding. It will rely on funding from donations from users and grants and will form part of the Welsh Repair Cafe network.   + A group has been set up to start a film club and film nights - which will bring in funding. Equipment is ready, licenses are being sought and quotes for blackout curtains are in. Will be approaching the Church in Wales for funding for these.   + A group has been set up to start up the Monday Meet and Mingle cafe. The kitchenette refurbishment is part of their remit. Looking towards a September start.   + The Committee recommends that Community Council accepts the terms of the lease from MCC so that it can move forward with its Business Plan enabling it to apply for the funding it needs to bring it up to an acceptable working standard for future generations. It’s suggested that this be from next financial year so that it can be properly budgeted for by this committee.   + Jubilee Quilters have a regular full afternoon booking for Wednesdays. * Other Reports. * There were no other reports. |  |
| 14 | **Communications.**   1. GFCC Facebook page – latest posts / responses. There have been no communications. 2. Waterloo Project Gwent Federation of WI's. The Clerk has received an email from Nicola Awni (forwarded to all Councillors on 10th July), regarding the campaign to stop violence against women. Nicola is the project lead across the Gwent Federation of WIs (37+), with 1300 members.   This year, they have been supported by the Waterloo Foundation to launch the Waterloo Project across all WI's in Wales, and they are looking for organisations and men's groups in particular, to sign up as Ambassadors, to wear the White Ribbon to demonstrate they support stopping violence against women and girls.  The email was received too late for the item to be formally included and discussed during this month’s meeting, but if councillors agree, the Clerk proposes to add it to the September agenda and invite Nicola to come along and tell us more. There was general support for this idea and so the Clerk will add it to the next agenda. In the meantime, the Clerk has circulated the Ambassador pack which contains more information. | Clerk |
| 15 | **Advertising – Usk and Raglan Diary Contributions Sept/Oct 2025.** The closing date for articles to be submitted for the Sept / Oct is a week on Friday- the 25th July. Therefore, if we wish to submit an article on the Green Corridor planting, we have only a few days left. Clerk to liaise with Councillor Carter. | Cllr. Carter  Clerk |
| 16 | **Change of February 2026 meeting data from 9th to 2nd February.** This was requested by the Clerk to enable him to take an extended period of leave covering the February half term holiday. The were no objections from any Councillors, and the change of date was then was proposed by Councillor Morrey, seconded by Councillor Daniel and carried unanimously. | Clerk |
| 17 | **Date of next meeting and close.**  The next meeting is to be held on **Monday 8th September at 19.45.** Councillor Dodd gave his apologies.  The venue to beLlanover Village Hall, and by teleconference using: <https://meet.jit.si/GoetreFawrCommunityCouncil> | All/  Clerk |

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