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GOETRE FAWR

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD AT LLANOVER VILLAGE HALL AND BY TELECONFERENCE ON MONDAY 19th MAY 2025, FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL STATUTORY MEETING**

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

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

**Apologies**: None.

**Absent without Apology:** Community / County Councillor Jan Butler and Community Councillor Scott Grayland.

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|  |  | **ACTION** |
| 1 | **Apologies for Absence.**  As above. | Clerk |
| 2 | **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. |  |
| 3 | **Chairman’s Remarks.**  The Chair had no further comments at this stage of the meeting. |  |
| 4 | **Minutes.**  Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 28th April 2025.The minutes were proposed as a true and correct record by Councillor Daniel, seconded by Councillor Barnes, and carried by all those Councillors present at the April meeting. (Councillors Robins was not in attendance and so did not vote). | Clerk |
| 5 | **Matters Arising.**   1. Item 6 (i) – Goytre Toilets – The persistent leak in the toilets has now been repaired. Clerk to contact TAPS Plumbing, as we have not yet been invoiced. 2. Item 6 (ii) – The Clerk has reported to Monmouthshire County Council (MCC), the issue of dogs escaping into the main park through the gaps in the gate. | Clerk |
| 6 | **Maintenance.** (including items previously reported, but not yet addressed).   1. The Clerk, under advice from the Chair, has reported to MCC that the seat under the children’s cabin/slide has broken and needs to be repaired/replaced. In addition, one of the cross bars on the access gate to the dog exercise area is broken, and needs to be welded. MCC have acknowledged receipt and will organise repairs in due course. He has also notified MCC that both the goal ends and the adult exercise equipment are not yet recorded on the iPad, which is used by the park inspector for his health and safety inspections. 2. Councillor Carter asked the Clerk to confirm whether the broken fence in the corner of St Batholomew’s (which had allowed the cows to enter the graveyard) had now been fixed. Clerk to check. He will also enquire whether it is the farmer’s intention (as he had indicated), to pay for the re-instatement of the broken headstone. 3. Although not strictly maintenance, Councillor Dodd raised the issue of cold calling in the Goytre, noting that a transit van had been seen circulating in the village. Councillor Robins was also aware of a potential scam incident with one of her neighbours today. There are still a few cold calling stickers in evidence around the village, but it was suggested that we might try to obtain some additional notices to display. It would also be helpful to define what activity is or isn’t allowed in a ‘No cold calling area’. Clerk to contact MCC. | Clerk  Clerk |

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| 7 | **Finance.**   1. Payments made since the April meeting.  **£** 2. Review of cashflow as at 30th April 2025. The Clerk presented the meeting with a copy of the April 2025 cashflow.   There were no comments or observations.   1. Internal Audit - update on progress or acceptance and sign-off of the report, if complete.   The Clerk is pleased to advise that EH Accountancy have completed their Internal Audit of the Community Council, with their report circulated to Councillors in advance of the meeting. No issues were found, with positive comments throughout to confirm that the appropriate record keeping and governance has been maintained.  An observation was made that it may no longer be advisable to pay staff wages by standing order, as the amount of tax deducted can vary by a few pence each month. The Clerk had already identified the tax implications associated with the new wage rates and had previously arranged, where appropriate, for individual (bespoke) payments each month instead.  Acceptance of the report, together with the Auditor’s recommendations and agreed actions was proposed by Councillor Morrey, seconded by Councillor Daniel, and carried unanimously. Clerk to post on the web site.   1. Renewal of annual hand washer dryer servicing contract (£864.50 plus VAT) We have received the invoice for the annual service of the hand washer dryers in the Public Conveniences. We are currently on a three-year contract and this payment represents year 2. The money has already been accounted for in our budget forecast, but for good order, the Clerk felt it appropriate that payment should be formally confirmed by the members. The payment was therefore proposed by Councillor Robins, seconded by Councillor Daniel, and carried unanimously. 2. Consideration of tree inspection quotes for the four Ton Land oaks (closed session).   Three quotations were received for the tree safety inspection and report. After due deliberation, it was agreed to accept the tender from Monmouthshire County Council, which was the cheapest of the tenders received by some margin. This was formally proposed by Councillor Morrey, seconded by Councillor Carter, and carried unanimously.  Clerk to action and inform the unsuccessful bidders. | Clerk  Clerk  Clerk |
| 8 | **Planning.**   1. To accept the responses of the Planning Committee meeting held on 14th May. The following applications were considered:     **Application Number DM/2025/00512** - Change of Use from Class B1 Business to Class D1 – Non-residential institution (Children's Creche / Day Care.) at Hall House, Llanover Business Centre, A4042 Llanover To Pencroesoped, Llanover, Monmouthshire.  The Planning Committee concluded after due consideration, that there were no issues or concerns with the proposal.  **Application Number DM/2025/00575** - Listed Building Consent Heritage.  Proposed internal alterations and pair of doors instead of existing Window on South West elevation and 2no. rooflights on North West elevation.  The Old Vicarage, Llanover Road, Llanover. Monmouthshire, NP7 9BY  The Planning Committee concluded after due consideration, that there were no issues or concerns with the proposal.  Acceptance of the minutes was then proposed by Councillor Robins, seconded by Councillor Carter, and carried unanimously.   1. Any other updates.   The Clerk has written to MCC Planning regarding the conditions which it was believed were attached to the development of Springfield on Plough Road. The He was unable to ascertain any further details from the MCC planning portal and therefore sent an email to enquire what the present position was with the development. This has been registered as a ‘complaint’ and we await MCC’s response. The Clerk said he would forward the MCC Planning Number to Councillor Dodd who would also like to investigate further.  With regard to ‘accessible’ stiles, Councillor Carter informed Councillors that several stiles around Llanover had recently been replaced, although he wasn’t sure if this work was being undertaken by MCC or the National Park Authority. | Clerk |
| 9 | **County Council update - County Councillor Jan Butler.**  In the absence of Councillor Butler, the following updates were provided by the members present.   1. Goytre A4042 Pedestrian Crossing Status. This is still active. The hold up is believed to relate to it being unclear who owns some of the land which is required for the project. 2. Mon and Brec Canal.   As a result of the recent petition organised by Councillor Butler, this issue will now be debated in the Senedd. |  |
| 10 | **Green Corridor Project – Goytre & Llanover Biodiversity Enhancements – update.** There have been no further updates since the last report. There was some uncertainty as to when the remaining benches, bulbs, bug hotels etc were to be delivered (and where). Clerk will forward Jane Clarke’s most recent note to the members for clarity.  It was noted that the floral displays in the park are particularly impressive and have been commented upon by a number of residents. | Clerk |
| 11 | **Goytre Toilets – Repairs.** Following a recommendation from Nigel Leaworthy at MCC, the Clerk contacted a Pontypool based company, who arranged to visit the public conveniences the next day and managed to repair the leaking cistern. There is therefore, no pressing concern to remove and ‘re-box’ the cisterns behind the ladies’ toilets to obtain better access. Given that this would likely be a significant piece of work, it was suggested that this is only addressed when a further repair cannot be completed until the boxing is removed. This was agreed, and therefore no further action is required at this stage. |  |
| 12 | **Donation Requests.**  No donation requests have been received. |  |

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| 13 | **Village Committee Reports – questions based on previously distributed update.**   * Goytre Village Hall.   + AGM completed with Councillor Daniel to stay on as Chair for another year. Councillor Butler also stays on as Vice-Chair.   + Accounts have been agreed.   + Health, Fire and Safety Regulations are being completed.   + Bookings still going strong.   + Looking now for grants to complete other jobs. * Llanover Village Hall.   + No report submitted. * Goytre School Governors.   + Next week interviews to take place to elect a new Deputy Head.   + Also announced that the receptionist, Helen Zammitt has decided to retire after 20 years’ service.   + School attendance is 94% and red card numbers have dropped.   + Standards of education have remained steady. * Goytre Community Centre.   + The big screen and equipment has been installed in the Main Hall and the Committee are ready to welcome Community Council back for bi-monthly meetings.   + The new Committee is working on a 6,12 and 24-month plan.   + Fundraising events are ongoing monthly, which is improving the flow of funds.   + Getting classes going via MCC is challenging, but the florists are now becoming a group, paying the tutor directly.   + The Centre is receiving an increased level of enquiries for use.   + The garden is starting to grow. * Other Reports. * There were no other reports. |  |
| 14 | **Communications.**   1. GFCC Facebook page – latest posts / responses. As agreed at the last meeting, Councillor Lewis has shared the response from the Deputy First Minister regarding the Mon. and Brecon canal. |  |
| 15 | **Advertising – Usk and Raglan Diary Contributions July/August 2025.** There were no articles for this month. It was suggested that we prepare a report on the Green Corridor planting (with photographs), for the Sept/Oct edition. | Cllr. Carter  Clerk |
| 16 | **Date of next meeting and close.**  The next meeting is to be held on **Monday 16th June** at **19.45.**  The venue to beLlanover Village Hall, and by teleconference using: <https://meet.jit.si/GoetreFawrCommunityCouncil> | All/  Clerk |

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