

**Gwernyfed Community Council
of Meeting held on 1st June 2021
Over a Virtual Zoom Meeting**

Community Councillors Present

Mr Mike Bugler (Chair)

Mr Peter Varcoe

Mrs Margaret David

Mr Grahame Day

Mr Eric Hoole

Mrs Carol Wheeler

Also in attendance and Mrs Keren Bender (Clerk)

1. Opening Comments

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Alistair Legge was in attendance to talk about Flooding issues at Glasbury Bridge. Item 8 on the agenda.

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Apologies

Cllr Andrew Jones

4. Minutes of the meeting held on the 4th May 2021

The minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

5. Matters Arising

a. Correspondence had been received by Cllr. Jones from John Williams, Head of Gwernyfed High School in respect of the grant under discussion to be awarded to the school. The papers to be circulated to all councillors for discussion at the June Meeting. Still awaiting a formal request for the grant from the school.

Cllr. Jones was not present to give a report, will be discussed at the July meeting.

Action Cllr. Jones

b. Cllr. Evans has reported illegal grazing of horses on the Pound Field to the relevant County Council department. Awaiting a response. Cllr. Evans was not present to give a report, will be discussed at the July meeting.

Action Cllr. Evans

c. Cllr. Wheeler presented an update on road verges. She had contacted Martin Draper from "On the Verge" based in Talgarth who stated the Contact in Powys County Council was Allun Jones who had been very helpful. Firstly, there is a need to establish whether the verges in question are trunk road agency property. Martin has also offered planting advice.

Cllr Hoole will take to the next Gardening Club Meeting.

To be placed on the agenda for the July meeting.

Action Cllr. Hoole

6. Correspondence and Information

a. Update on canoe launching from Upper Glas-y-Bont.

Cllr. Day reported he had attended a meeting with Sian Barnes of Powys County Council, where she was unable to answer questions of a technical nature around the Habitat Regulations Assessment. Cllr. Day has since written to Mr Drewett of RNW for clarification on a number of issues. Awaiting a response. Clerk to forward the correspondence sent to Mr Drewett to all Community Councillors. Clerk to also forward the correspondence to Mr Drewett and Sian Barnes in the name of Gwernyfed Community Council.

Action Clerk

7. Planning Matters

There were no planning applications to consider.

8. Flooding at Glasbury Bridge

The Chair has written to all Councillors with a report of a meeting he had attended.

Following the meeting Alistair Legge and the Chair visited a contractor in Penybont which was 1 hour away. The contractor quoted for a tractor, pump and 2 people at £90 per Hour.

An alternative was also looked into, which was for the Community Council to purchase a pump for around £5600. A local farmer is prepared to help should the Community Council purchase the pump.

The financing of the options can be justified through Section 137.

Both the solutions are open to debate. Defer a decision to a future meeting.

Cllr Hoole will visit the site to get a better idea of the problem and Cllr Varcoe will look into the Powys County Councils assessment.

Clerk to forward the Section 137 document to all councillors.

**Action Cllrs Hoole and Varcoe
Action Clerk**

9. County Councillors Report

Cllr. Evans was not available to present his report.

10. Council Website Update

Cllr. Day presented 3 options.

1. Stay with the Community Councils existing website train up users and remain with existing hosting and domain name costs.

2. Outsource to someone else by going out to tender.

3. Continue with the design of a new template used by a neighbouring Council, designed by Cllr Day.

It was agreed to go with option 1 and pursue option 3.

Clerk to contact Jackie Hatten for access details.

Action Clerk

11. Pollution Incident at Afon Llynf

NRW has responded to the Community Councils questions, however the response has not been acceptable to the Community Councillors. Awaiting a response from County Councillor James Evans who is pursuing with both NRW and Powys CC. Cllr. Evans was not available to give a report. Defer to July meeting.

Action Cllr. Evans

12. Safety Issues

It was reported that bikes and cars are speeding through Felindre Village. There are a number of horses on the road and it is feared that there will be an accident. The rumble strips are not effective. Clerk to report the issue to the Highways Department and contact the PCSO.

Action Clerk

13. OVW and SLCC Conference Report

The Chair gave a report of the virtual conference he attended on behalf of the Community Council. The following topics were discussed.

General Power of Competence, there are significant changes for Community Councils going forward, Clerks must be qualified, there will be a requirement for training and development of both Clerks and Councillors.

Remuneration of Councillors is under review.

Registration of unregistered land that may belong to Community Councils.

Managing financial risk.

14. Training Plans

All training of Councillors and Clerks must be recorded and reported, training needs to be identified and budgeted for.

15. OVW Regional Meeting Report

No report as Cllrs. were not able to attend.

16. Future Meetings

It was agreed to continue with Zoom meetings at this time and to review the position going forward. The item to remain on the agenda.

17. Financial Matters.

a. Bank Balances

Bank Balances of the Current and Reserve Accounts were reported to the meeting.

b. Audit 2021

The Clerk informed the meeting that the Internal Auditor had completed the Internal Audit, which was signed off with no issues. The Clerk presented the Audit line by line, the Councillors accepted the report and there were no supplementary questions, Councillors instructed the Chair and Clerk to sign off the Audit. The 2021 Audit will be lodged with the external auditor by the 30th June 2021. The Letter of Engagement was signed by the Internal Auditor.

15. Invoices for approval

It was agreed to approve the following for payment.

- a) Zoom Meeting - £14.39
- b) J Hughes Internal Audit- £50

Next meeting 6th July 2021 at 7:30pm
This will be a Zoom Meeting.

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