

**Gwernyfed Community Council of
Meeting held on 1st February 2022
Over a Virtual Zoom Meeting**

Community Councillors Present

Mr Mike Bugler (Chair)

Mrs Margaret David

Mr Grahame Day

Mr Andrew Jones

Mr Peter Varcoe

Mrs Carol Wheeler

Mr William Lloyd

Also, in attendance Mrs Keren Bender (Clerk)

1. Opening Comments

The Chair welcomed Mr Chris Jones to the meeting as an observer, Mr Jones had expressed an interest to standing as a Co-opted Community Councillor.

2. Co-option of Councillor

Community Council unanimously confirmed William Lloyd as a co-opted Councillor. Cllr Lloyd thanked the Councillors for allowing him to join previous meetings as an observer and for the warm welcome he had received.

3. Declarations of Interest

None received.

4. Apologies

None Received

5. Minutes of the meeting held on the 4th January 2022

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

6. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

7. Correspondence and Information

a. David Barlow – Love Glasbury. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the Community Council remains supportive and should Love Glasbury find they face a financial crisis in the future, the Community Council would be open to discuss future support. It was felt that the bank balance held by Love Glasbury was more than sufficient for the revenue and capital expenditure envisaged. At this time the Community Council needs to be prudent with its finances. Clerk to inform David Barlow of its decision.

Action Clerk

b. Request for representation from Powys County Council at Gwernyfed Community Council- Following the resignation of County Councillor James Evans, the Community Council has not received representation from PCC. The Clerk has written to the leader of PCC requesting representation at future meetings. Awaiting a response.

8. Welsh Air Ambulance Funding Request -Annual Report.

Councillors received a request for funding along with its annual report. Following a discussion, it was unanimously agreed to award £500 in support of the work carried out by Welsh Air Ambulance.

9. Planning Matters

No planning applications to consider at this meeting

10. County Councillors Report

No County Councillor available to present a report.

11. Safety Issues

Awaiting a response from Powys County Councils Right of Way Officer, Martin Davies, concerning the unsafe nature of a stile located at Twin Oaks, which leads onto the nature reserve and a public footpath along the tram line.

12. Education

Cllr Jones reported he had attended a Full Governors Meeting at Gwernyfed High School. Following the recent Estyn report an improvement plan has been compiled and being followed with many of the recommendations already achieved.

Face mask wearing is being supported by all students. Teaching staff are currently at full strength. Councillor Phyl Davies, Education portfolio holder was present and responded to questions over the long-term plans for the school.

13. Recruitment of Councillors

An article has been placed in the Felindre Newsletter informing the reader of the upcoming May elections and the process to apply to become a Community Councillor. Articles will be placed in other local publications and social media platforms. Chair to forward the contact details for the St Peters publication to Clerk.

Action Chair and Clerk

14. Defibrillator at Gwernyfed

The Clerk has written to the Leader of the Council for a resolution concerning the request from the Community Council to place a defibrillator at the flats in Three Cocks. Awaiting a response. It was also agreed to call on the assistance of the neighbouring County Councillors, Cllr William Powell and Cllr Gareth Ratcliff. Community Councillor Lloyd will also approach the County Councillors for their assistance. The Clerk will write to the County Councillors.

Action Cllr Lloyd and Clerk

15. NRW Report – Pollution Incident Llynfi

The Clerk requested an update from Talgarth Town Council concerning the press release which was the agreed outcome of the meeting attended by a number of Community Councils to discuss the pollution incident. The Talgarth Clerk has phoned to say both herself and a number of Councillors at the meeting had come down with Covid and were still quite poorly, as soon as possible the press release would be completed and circulated to all in attendance.

A draft letter composed by the Chair expressing Gwernyfed Community Councils concerns at the response from the Minister of Climate Change and asking for her resignation due to the unacceptable lack of substantial remedial action. This letter to be forwarded to Talgarth Town Council requesting an endorsement from all Councils present at the original joint meeting.

Action Clerk

16. Flooding at the Groe- Update from Chair

The Chair and Alistair Legge had been invited by Geraint Christopher of NRW to meet with him at the Groe. The Clerk also invited Lyn Parry however, the email was not acknowledged. The outcome was very disappointing with culverts still remaining blocked and Mr Christopher promising to forward emails showing correspondence with his manager.

17. Financial Matters

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

b) Audit Report

The Clerk was pleased to report the Community Council had received an unqualified report from the Auditor General for Wales. The report stated that no matters had come to the attention that gave cause for concern in any material respect. However, there was one recommendation which did not affect the audit opinion, this being the Community Council prepares a contract of employment for the Clerk. This recommendation has since been actioned.

18. Invoices for approval

It was agreed to approve the following for payment.

- a) Zoom Meeting - £14.98
- b) Welsh Air Ambulance - £500.00

Next meeting 1st March 2022 at 7:30pm.
This meeting will be held over Zoom

