**Gwernyfed Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held on 7th January 2014**

**Velindre Village Hall, Velindre**

Present Mr Derek Price (Chair)

 Mr Eric Hoole

 Mr Andy Jones

 Mrs Margaret David

 Mrs Cheryl Hyde

 Mr Ray Jeffries

 County Councillor Geraint Hopkins

 Mr Graham Day

 Mr David Edlin

In Attendance Mrs Rachel Jones (Clerk)

1. **Opening Comments**

DP welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2 Declarations of Interest**

None

**3 Apologies**

None

**4 Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2013**

It was noted that the numbering of the minutes had gone awry with no item 9. The minutes were signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Matters Arising

Item 5 - CH informed the meeting that members of the Velindre community were applying to retain a bridleway through the forestry land above the village. Forms had been received from the National Park for this purpose and anyone wishing to submit one in support of this should contact CH for a form. RJ queried whether the Community Council should provide a response and it was agreed that as the views of the local community had been taken, that CH should complete a form on behalf of the Community Council.

Item 11 – The Clerk had produced a draft procedure for members of the public wishing to speak at Community Council meetings. It was agreed that some amendments be made to the procedure, removing a reference to notifying the Clerk of a wish to speak, and also the time limit on speaking.

**Action**: Clerk to amend the procedure as discussed and re-distribute.

Item 11 – DE reported that Glasbury Community Council would be discussing the proposed speed limit works at their meeting on 15th January. He suggested that this matter be discussed further under Item 8 – 2014-15 Precept.

**5 Planning Matters**

13/10143/FUL – Replace the deteriorating existing brick coal shed and concrete garage with linking passage way to main house, with one single lean-to timber structure – 10 Wood Villas, Velindre, Brecon (amended plans)

There were no observations on this application.

**6 Literature & Information Received**

(i) One Powys Plan Consultation

 There was a discussion regarding the manner in which this consultation was being undertaken. It was felt that a disproportionate amount of money had been spent on a glossy publication at a time of serious financial pressures. Whilst the need for consultation was accepted, it was felt that the use of Red Kite for publicising this consultation would have been a better use of resources. GH explained that the idea behind the Local Service Board was that organisation within Powys would work together to establish what the priorities for the area were and take these to the Welsh Government so funding could be targeted.

**Action**: Clerk to draft a letter of concern to go to Powys County Council, for the attention of the Local Service Board, regarding the use of resources in the current financial climate.

(ii) Buckingham Palace Garden Parties

 This item was noted

(iii) One Voice Wales – Brecon & Radnor Area Committee Meeting

 The date of this meeting was noted and it was agreed that AJ would attend.

(iv) Council Tax Reduction Scheme

 This item was noted

(v) One Voice Wales – Devolution of Services meeting

 This item was noted.

DE commented that in the case of the last two items, the date for consultation had already passed. It was suggested that should items be received, where a relevant date will pass before the next Community Council meeting, then these should be forwarded to the Chair for his attention.

**Action**: Clerk to submit items to the Chair if relevant dates will lapse prior to the next meeting.

**7 Glasbury Public Conveniences**

Following the receipt of a letter from Glasbury Community Council regarding the establishment of a Trust to operate the public conveniences, DP had responded to Glasbury Community Council regarding the lease of the Bont and asking where Gwernyfed Community Council would fit into the overall picture of the management of this facility. A response had been received that the Trust would be independent of both Community Councils. Concern was voiced by the meeting regarding the status of the Community Councils in this process and the information being received, for example, interested parties hadn’t been informed of the extension of time to the end of March 2014 for the public conveniences to be taken over or closed. It was felt that this is an important facility for the whole village, and if a financial contribution is being expected then full discussion must take place. DP explained that by linking the Bont to the process, then this would automatically involve the canoeists, an important partner and possible contributor to the process.

RJ commented that Glasbury House have indicated that their cleaners could be used if they had direct access to the building, but it wasn’t clear if Glasbury Community Council had responded to this offer. He also commented that Heads of Outdoor Centres could be approached and that there were other possible sources of support that could be investigated. He suggested that the two Community Councils should meet, and it was agreed that this is essential, if Gwernyfed Community Council was expected to financially contribute to this facility.

There was a discussion regarding the position of the ownership of the Bont and that this still wasn’t clear, although the Clerk from Glasbury Community Council has indicated that she is in the process of establishing this.

A meeting of interested parties is to be held on 8th January 2014, and DE would be attending this. It was felt appropriate that he should request a meeting between the two Community Councils and that queries previously raised should be answered, e.g. the ownership of the Bont. GH clarified that the car park would remain in the ownership of the Powys County Council (Highways).

**8 2014-15 Precept**

It was many years since the precept had been raised, and this has resulted in Gwernyfed having one of the lowest precepts in Powys of £8.11. The Community Council was being asked to set the precept for the coming financial year, but to do this the proposed spend also had to be identified. This lead to a discussion regarding two main areas of potential expenditure; the public conveniences and the proposed speed limit works. A discussion then took place relating to the specific cost of the proposed speed limit works and whether this could be managed over two years. This would make the works more realistic and manageable and it was agreed that DE should approach Powys County Council with this suggestion once a response had been received from Glasbury Community Council regarding their possible financial input.

GH explained that Powys County Council is never again going to have the money to do the things that have been done in the past. Taking this on board it was agreed that an increase would have to be made to the precept level, however, there was concern that this was just one part of the Council Tax and that other aspects would be increasing as well. It was pointed out that many other Community and Town Council areas have precepts as high as £60 - £70, for example the precept for Brecon is £72.84

Following various calculations including the operating costs of the Community Council, the proposed speed limit works and possible financial input for the public conveniences in Glasbury, it was suggested that the precept should increase from its current level of £8.11 to £20.00 The Chair asked for a show of hands, and there was unanimous agreement with the suggestion.

**Action**: The Clerk will add the following two items to the agenda for next month’s meeting (1) Financial Management of the Community Council, and (2) Review of historical spend and financial support. Clerk to provide lasts years figures for item (2) prior to the next meeting.

**9 County Councillors Report**

GH explained that Powys County Council was having to find £20million worth of cuts for this year, and £12million and £8million for the following two years. This will inevitably result in some services being discontinued and the loss of jobs. He also explained that the Council was going through a difficult period politically with a vote of no confidence being lodged against the current leader, Cllr David Jones, following the sacking of some of the cabinet members late last year. This issue will be discussed at a full Council meeting on 10th January, following which GH may or may not retain his Cabinet position.

**10 Financial Matters**

A payment to BDO LLP of £72 for audit work was agreed

The salary of the Clerk of £100 was agreed.

**11 Any Other Business**

DE explained that he was expecting a response from Glasbury Community Council regarding the proposed speed limit works after their meeting on 15th January. He suggested that following this he should write to Powys County Council regarding the works, spreading the cost over two years and the removal of officer time from the costs. This was agreed.

**Action**: DE to write to Powys County Council regarding these works.

GD queried whether there would be any benefit in exploring the possibility of bringing Glasbury and Gwernyfed Community Councils together for joint issues. It was felt that this would be difficult, however, there would always be the possibility of joint working.

CH queried whether the rights that go with riverside ownership and access are the same for footpaths, it was clarified that this wasn’t the case.

EH reported that there is a dog mess problem in Three Cocks which was causing great concern. In part this is caused by dogs roaming freely, but also by owners not picking up after their dog. GH said he would arrange for dog waste bins to be provided. EH also explained that there were several lights out in Three Cocks, GH asked that he be informed of the reference number for any faulty lights and he would resolve this issue.

DP raised the issues of the recent correspondence in the Brecon & Radnor Express newspaper regarding one person’s views on whether canoeists should have access to the river between Glasbury and Hay. DE had drafted a response, however, DP felt that this was more an individual’s response and not a response for the Community Council to send. DP explained that the issue for the Community Council was how the matter affected the Community, and as there is extensive direct and indirect employment from the canoeists, this should be the Councils priority. It was felt that at this current time, there wasn’t a need for the Community Council to enter into correspondence about this issue, although it was agreed that should this matter progress, it could be devastating for the whole community, and so the matter will be closely observed.

Next Meeting 4th February 2014 at St Peters Church Hall, Glasbury on Wye.