

Gwernyfed Community Council
Minutes of Meeting held on 5th January 2021
Over a Virtual Zoom Meeting

Community Councillors Present

Mr Mike Bugler (Chair)

Mr Peter Varcoe

Mrs Margaret David

Mr Grahame Day

Mrs Carol Wheeler

Mr A Jones

Mr Eric Hoole

Also in attendance Mrs Keren Bender (Clerk)

1. Opening Comments

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Apologies

Cllr David Edlin

4. Minutes of the meeting held on the 1st December 2020

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

5. Matters Arising

Grit Bin – Dan-y-Lan, there has been a poor response from PCC. It was agreed that if Powys County Council will not provide a grit bin, the Community Council will purchase one and ask PCC to fill with salt. Clerk to follow up with Lyn Parry, Highways Department PCC.

Action Clerk

6. Correspondence and Information

Air Ambulance Emergency Donation Request.

Following a discussion, it was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to support the request with a £400 donation.

7. Planning Matters

No Planning applications to consider

8. WIFI access to Meeting Halls

The quotes for two options of accessing WIFI were discussed

Option 1- Mobile phone coverage.

For use of portable WIFI based on mobile network, on-off cost of £45 to purchase a dongle and monthly cost of £5 for a sim card

Option 2- Use of a phone line.

Monthly cost of £18 per venue.

It was agreed to support option 1, however purchase to be deferred until Community Council can again meet in person at a premises.

9. County Councillors Report

Cllr Evans was unavailable to give his report.

10. Community Council Website Update

Cllr Day reported the website design under construction had proved to be obsolete, and another option needed to be explored. Cllr Day to investigate the Talybont-on-Usk Community Council Website and report back to a future meeting.

Action Cllr Day

11. Pollution Incident at Afon Llynf

The Community Council were disappointed with the original reply from NRW. Further correspondence on 15/11/20 has been sent to NRW

Clerk has resent the questions asked of NRW, awaiting response.

12. Financial Matters.

a. Bank Balances

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

b. Budget and Precept Arrangements

The proposed 2021/2022 budget was presented to the meeting by the Chair with entries explained line by line. Following a number of adjustments, it was agreed to adopt the budget.

The Precept was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to be set at £8350

Precept form to be forwarded to Powys County Council.

Action Clerk

c. Audit Report

The External Auditor issued a Qualified Report meaning it was not a clean report, to which the Community Councillors expressed their disappointment.

The qualifications were:-

1. The 2017/18 audit recommendations stated that no letter of engagement issued to the Internal Auditor, the Community Councillors did not agree this was material to the 19/20 audit, however it was agreed this will be addressed in future audits.
2. Community Council Minutes did not provide evidence that effective budget monitoring had taken place as part of its quarterly monitoring process, the Councils response was this item will be placed on the agenda each quarter in future meetings.

d. Response to Audit Report.

The Chair had prepared a response to the qualified report asking the External Auditor to withdraw the qualification within the Audit Report. The Chair took the Councillors through the report paragraph by paragraph. After a discussion it was agreed, with amendments, to forward the letter to the External Auditor.

Action Clerk

13. Invoices for approval

It was agreed to approve the following for payment.

- a) Zoom Meeting
- b) Air Ambulance

AOB

A report had been received that the handrail was broken on the footbridge by Likes Garage resulting in a severe risk of injury to the public. Due to the seriousness of the situation the Clerk would contact the Highways Department of Powys County Council.

Action Clerk

Councillor Jones requested recruitment be placed on the February Meeting.

Action Clerk

Next meeting 2nd February 2021 at 7:30pm
This will be a Zoom Meeting.

