**Minutes of Gwernyfed Community Council**  **Meeting**

 **Held in Felindfe Village Hall and over TEAMS**

**on the 11th May 2023 at 7.30pm**

 In attendance

 Cllr. Mike Bugler (Chair)

 Cllr. Nick Pritchard

Cllr. Chris Jones

 Cllr. Will LLoyd

 Also, in attendance Mrs Keren Bender (Clerk)

1. **Declarations of Interest**

 None

 **2.** A**pologies**

 Cllr G Day, Cllr P Varcoe

**3. Minutes of the meeting held on the 13th April 2023**

The Minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

#  4. Matters Arising

As a result of the increase in the Precept, a revised insurance renewal quote from Zurich was received for £300, this was agreed. Clerk to process the payment. **Action Clerk**

Broadband has now been installed in Felindre Village Hall. Counsellors are concerned around the vulnerability of the position of the router. Councillors Varcoe and Day to investigate an alternative location with Openreach.

 **Action Cllrs Varcoe and Day**

Rachel Carter the Local Places Nature Officer for One Voice Wales has responded to a request to address Community Council however she can only do so virtually at the June meeting. Clerk to send invitation over TEAMS.

 **Action Clerk**

#  5. Correspondence and Information

 Zoom invitation from Sustrans Cymru - walking and cycling – N**oted**

Request for financial support from Three Cocks Matters Community Group for £150 towards the hirer of Gwernyfed High School Canteen Community Centre for the Kings Coronation. Due to the declarations of interest from two counsellors the meeting was not quored and as a result the Council could not o make a decision on the request. The clerk to email counsellors Day and Varcoe for their views.

 **Action Clerk**

Grant request 2023 from St Peters Church Hall. The request was accompanied by their financial year end accounts for 2022 and following a discussion it was agreed to support the request. Clerk to process the payment. Councillors asked the Clerk to invite representatives of Saint Peters Church Hall to a future meeting to discuss their current issues and future plans.

 **Action Clerk**

 Sent a letter received from Mr Stewart Lawrie informing the council of a charitable group working to convert the old railway from Brecon to Hay as a safe walking riding route along with their contact details, he also stated he had been unable to view the Community Councils past minutes on its website.

Councillors agreed to contact the brecontohay charity for further information with the clerk looking into the website and also replying to Mr Lawrie.

 **Action Clerk**

 **6** **Planning Matters**

Decision Notice for 22/1051/HH\_ Caeronen Farm , replace existing annex with two bed single story annex - permission refused - **Noted.**

**7. Co-option Process of Casual Councillor Vacancy Update**

It was reported there had been no interest from the public and becoming a co-opted councillor it was then agreed to re-advertise the position on social media noticeboards ant to take a table top at the fete organised for the 10th of June in Three Cocks in order to promote the council vacancies and the work that it does.

A proposition was put forward to purchase two banners for the fete at £50 each this was seconded and agreed by all. **Action Chair and Cllr Pritchard**

**8. Councillor Allowances**

The Clerk had previously circulated a paper explaining Councillor Allowances. All Councillors qualify for the £150 allowance per annum which would be paid through payroll and taxable. Should Councillors not wish to receive the allowance they have to inform the Clerk in writing. The Clerk handed out payroll forms requesting that Councillors either fill in the payroll form or inform the Clerk they do not want to receive the payment.

 **Action all Councillors**

**9. Engagement with Residents / Households across Gwernyfed Ward- Update.**

# Cllr Pritchard presented a draft letter to be sent out to all households to inform residents on who the Councillors are and what the Council does and also to advertise the casual vacancies to co-opt new Councillors. The content was agreed by all. It was also agreed to use the door-to-door delivery service offered by the Royal Mail at a cost of £200.

# Printing costs of an A4 booklet and cost of brown envelopes to be investigated. As the timeframe was tight it was agreed to circulate the printing costs to all Councillors over email for a decision.

 **Action Cllr Pritchard**

# 10. Setting aims/objectives for the year for GCC – Update .

The top 20 aims and objectives, both short, medium and long term had been put into a table by Cllr Pritchard. It was agreed to circulate the table for a final signoff , and to formulate an action plan going forward.

Cllrs Bugler will work with Cllr Pritchard on the initial action plan.

**Action Cllrs Bugler and Pritchard**

 **11. County Councillors Report**

# Cllr. Will Lloyd forwarded his written report and spoke of his priorities going forward.

He reported he would be posting on social media what he had been involved with and contributed to, to mark 12 months of representing the Gwernyfed Ward.

#  12. Education.

 It was reported that Kirsty Retallick, the new Head of Gwernyfed High School is now in post. There is a clear plan in place to address all issues including the ESTYN Report. A full-time Business Manager has been appointed. Kirsty Retallick has also introduced herself to the community.

 **13. Financial Matters**

**a.** **Bank Balances**

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

Reserve Account- £1620.28, Current Account- £13,268.96. As interest is now being earned through the reserve account it was proposed, seconded and agreed to transfer £8000 from the current account into the reserve account.

**b.** **Invoices for approval**

 Pavo – Payroll Services- £30

 Zuric Insurance – Renewal -£300

St Peters Church Hall – Donation 2022-- £750

 All payments were approved

 **c. Audit**

 The Audit has been completed by the Clerk, who presented the audit papers and explained the variances that were over 15%.

The variance on receipts were explained as a result of a Powys County Council grant for IT and VAT refund claimed.

The variance on payments was explained as the difference between the grant received and the cost of new IT along with Election costs.

The variance on total cash and investments was explained as an increase in precept, the difference between the grant and the cost of new IT along with the cost of flood defences.

The variance on fixed assets explained as the purchase of new IT, a speed gun, noticeboard and a storage cabinet.

Clerk will now lodge the audit with the internal auditor, when the internal audit is completed the audit will come back to full Council for sign off before being forwarded to the Welsh audit office.

 **Next meeting – 8th June 2023 at 7.30pm**

 **This will be a Hybrid meeting held at Felindre Village Hall**

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