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

**Held at Felindre Village Hall as a hybrid meeting on the 14th March 2024 at 7.30pm**

In attendance Cllr. Mike Bugler - Chair

Cllr. Nick Pritchard

Cllr. Chris Jones

Cllr. Peter Varcoe

Cllr. Graham Day

Cllr. Rachel Harding

Also, in attendance Mrs Keren Bender (Clerk)

1. **Councillor Co-option** A resident had shown interest in becoming a co-opted councillor, however had to retract his interest due to illness.
2. **Declarations of Interest**

None

**3.**  **Apologies**

Cllr. Will Lloyd

**4. Minutes of the meeting held on the 8TH February 2024**

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

# 5. Matters Arising from the meeting held on the 8th February 2024

No update from Open Reach, it was agreed to keep this item on the agenda.

The agreed letter by all Councillors, concerning the proposed 30mph through Three Cocks to be forwarded to Lee Waters, MS Deputy Minister for Climate Change for the Welsh Government; both MS James Evans and Jane Dodds, Fay Jones MP Brecon and Radnorshire and Emma Palmer Chief Executive Powys County Council.

**Action Clerk**

Clerk to contact Justin Horrell, the recently appointedDigital Project Manager for OVW to establish if he can make a presentation to a future Community Council Meeting.

**Action Clerk**

A Notice Board has been installed in the Bus Shelter at Glasbury; spare keys can be collected from the Garage.

A year 10 boy from Gwernyfed High School has won the Logo Competition and has been invited to work on the digitalisation of the Logo over the next month.

# 6. Correspondence and Information

**a.** Request for a grant from Penyrheol Chapel.

A request for a grant from Penyrheol Chapel, accompanied by their annual accounts had been received. It was unanimously agreed to support the request with a £300 donation.

**Action Clerk**

**b.** Request for payment from Felindre Village Hall for Hall Hire 2023/24

The treasurer from Felindre Village Hall has forwarded an invoice for Hall Hire at £220 for the period 1st April 2023 to 31 March 2024 the payment was agreed by all Councillors.

**Action Clerk**

**7. Community Hall Proposal**

It was agreed the utilisation of the canteen at Gwernyfed School should be explored in further conversations with the school when the time and conditions were right but in any event as soon as possible.

**8. Update on release of sewage at the Gro**

The Chair reported, Mr Legge, owner of one of the properties affected, had been pursuing the issue with both Welsh Water and Metro Rod.

Mr Gareth Morris, an engineer with Welsh Water said he had now exhausted his efforts regarding the bolt down covers. However, there has been an assessment carried out at a higher level, and they are waiting for large scale investment on a risk-based element for a long term solution. He added that that in the meanwhile, should there be heavy rainfall, he urged residents to log the call with Welsh Water.

Clerk to write to Welsh Water to acknowledge what had been said and to inquire what their investment cycle is and to lodge a claim for compensation based on monies paid out by the Community Council in preventing flooding at the Gro.

**Action Clerk**

**9. Responses concerning unsupervised children on the A438 from Powys Childrens Services, Powys Housing Department and Dyfed Powys Police.**

Councillors have now received all responses. It appears from the responses that although the different replies acknowledged the problems, it did not suggest that they would be working together to solve the issues. It was agreed to reply to each letter, thanking them for their response and suggesting a collaborative approach between Powys County Council and the police.

**Action Clerk**

**10.** **Planning Matters**

Application 240076/HH – proposal to replace a 2 bed caravan with a new single storey extension at Caeronen Farm, Felindre. Councillors stated they had no objections to the Planning Application.

**11. County Councillors Report**

Cllr Lloyd was not in attendance to deliver his report as he had work commitments, however the Clerk will contact him concerning the ongoing issues around the logging operations and highways damage arising from Gwernyfed Wood, a family company based in Felindre and causing problems being complained of by residents in the Felindre area.

Cllr Lloyd had forwarded to the Council, following the February meeting, copies of correspondence received from the Principal Planning Officer advising that the Powys Enforcement Team who were required to see the site of the problems and had not yet done so at the time of the correspondence. The 12 week response time had passed for which she apologised but the new Enforcement Team were now clearing a backlog of 100s of cases.

However to ensure the highest priority was being given to this long outstanding matter the Clerk was asked to write to the Senior Planning officer to ensure this.

**Action Clerk**

**12. Ecologist Report Presentation on the phase one mapping survey carried out across Three Cocks by Carola Hoskins and Danny White of Just Mammals**.

The background to this presentation was to inform the Council of one of the many steps in achieving the project **‘Three Cocks Recreational and Environment Improvement’** and recorded in the Three Cocks Matters Community Group Business Plan 2024.

The presentation was made to update the Community Council on their work commissioned by Three Cocks Matters as part of the plan requirements. The presentation included the current biodiversity situation and identified future opportunities. Councillors agreed this was a useful presentation with the Chair thanking both presenters for their valuable time. The Council will receive updates as the project proceeds.

**13. Financial Matters**

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

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

Reserve Account - £9726.94 Current Account - £ 2159.71.

The Clerk reported that an invoice had been forwarded to Three Cocks Matters and Powys County Council for £583.33 each to cover two thirds of the cost of a Topographical Survey (another one of the steps in the **‘Three Cocks Recreational and Environment Improvement’** paid for by the Community Council. It was also reported that a claim to reclaim VAT for £873.96 had been registered.

**b.** **Invoices and payments for approval**

K Bender- Salary, HMRC – Tax

Vodaphone – Broadband Direct Debit –£24 March Payment

Cllr N.Pritchard – Microsoft monthly payment £17.64

One Voice Wales – Membership-£189

The Clerk informed the Council that six Councillor Allowances would be paid by 31st March 2024.

All payments were approved.

**Next meeting – 11th April 2024 at 7.30pm.**

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