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

**Held at Felindre Village Hall as a hybrid meeting on the 11th April 2024 at 7.30pm**

In attendance Cllr. Mike Bugler - Chair

Cllr. Nick Pritchard

Cllr. Will Lloyd

Cllr. Peter Varcoe

Cllr. Graham Day

Also, in attendance County Councillor Will Lloyd and Mrs Keren Bender (Clerk)

1. **Declarations of Interest**

None

**2.**  **Apologies**

Cllrs. Rachel Harding and Chris Jones

**3. Minutes of the meeting held on the 14TH March 2024**

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

# 4. Matters Arising from the meeting held on the 14th March 2024

Responses from the letter concerning the proposed 30mph limit through Three Cocks have been received from both MS James Evans and Jane Dodds, Fay Jones MP Brecon and Radnorshire and Matt Perry the Chief Officer of Powys County Council. Still awaiting a response from Ken Skates the newly appointed Minister for Transport at the Welsh Government. Clerk will put all responses in a file and forward to all Councillors for future discussions.

**Action Clerk**

Clerk has made contact with Justin Horrell, the recently appointedDigital Project Manager for OVW to establish if he can make a presentation to a future Community Council Meeting. Mr Horrell will attend the meeting on the 13th June 2024.

Mr Horrell also extended an invitation to the Community Council to take part in a pilot scheme to assess how Councils are currently working with respect to digital items. It was agreed that the Chair and Cllr. Pritchard would represent the Council on the pilot. Clerk to inform Justin Horrell.

**Action Clerk**

Grant to Penyrheol Chapel for £300 paid.

Payment of £220 for rent of Felindre Hall paid.

Clerk had written to Powys Childrens Services, Powys Housing Department and Dyfed Powys Police concerning unsupervised children on the A438, , thanking them for their responses and suggesting a collaborative approach between Powys County Council and the police.

Concerning the flooding at the Gro, Mr Legge reported that Welsh Water has come back to him with an idea for a solution to the discharge of sewage from the manhole cover.The Community Council will await futher updates.

All Councillors have received their allowances.

# 5. Correspondence and Information

Loose Manhole Cover on the A438 near the church at Glasbury.

The issue has been logged with Highways Department and a report reference given, County Councillor Lloyd is awaiting a response.

**6. Openreach**

The modem at Felindre Hall has now been moved to a secure place, Clerk to purchase an extension lead. Cllr. Pritchard will design a poster to be placed on the Hall noticeboard displaying the WIFI code.

**Action Cllr Pritchard and Clerk**

**7. Planning Applications**

There were no applications to consider.

**8. Concerns raised by residents concerning the pavements from the Old Railway Garden Centre to the bridge at Glasbury on the A438.**

Concerns by residents were raised regarding the narrow width of the payment from the Old Railway Garden Centre towards the Bridge at Glasbury on the A438. It was proving difficult for mobility scooter users to navigate. Cllrs. Lloyd and Pritchard volunteered to look into the issue and hopefully work towards a solution.

**Action Cllrs Lloyd and Pritchard**

**9**. **Education Matters**

Gwernyfed High School is working towards coming out of Special Measures with a recent return visit from ESTYN looking hopeful. The High School has introduced an A Level in Farming.

The High School is open to suggestions of a community space.

Ysgol Y Mynydd Du Primary School has 104 pupils on roll and are working within a cluster arrangement with 6 local Primary Schools.

**10. County Councillors Report**

The County Councillor has not been in attendance at the Community Council meeting for the past months due to work commitments and thanked the Community Councillors for their patience.

Cllr. Lloyd assured the Community Council that he was pursuing Powys County Councils Planning Department in relation to Gwernyfed Wood, along with the ongoing issues around the logging operations and highways damage arising from it, which are causing problems to residents in the Felindre area. The Planning Officer visited the site on the 15th March, the Senior Planning is awaiting an update. Both the Planning Enforcement Officer and the Portfolio Member are now involved.

Cllr Lloyd reported that Powys County Council has its Corporate Leadership Team in place and are in the process of appointing its Heads of Services.

Cllr Lloyd has also logged issues with Powys County Council Highways Department concerning the loose and broken manhole cover, see item 5 above, and a blocked drain at Wood Villas junction.

**11. Financial Matters**

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

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

Reserve Account - £9737.76 Current Account - £ 1728.65. The Current Account included a payment from Three Cocks Matters and Powys County Council of £583.33 from both to cover two thirds of the cost of a Topographical Survey. It was also reported that a reclaim of VAT for £873.96 had been received.

**b. Audit Report**

The Clerk reported the Wales Audit Office had issued a Qualified Audit for years 2022-2023.

The basis of the qualified audit was that in the opinion of Richard Harries, Director of Wales Audit who stated :

“In my opinion the Annual Governance Statement is not consistent with the Councils internal controls and governance arrangements for the year.

* Assertion 3: The Council has not provided evidence that it submitted to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) a schedule of payments made to members. “

Despite the Clerk explaining to the Auditor, prior to the judgement that no payments were made to Councillors and also forwarded minutes to that effect, the Auditor issued a Qualified Audit Report.

The Community Councillors were obviously disapointed with the judgement as in their opinion all financial issues regarding the Audit were not in dispute and the judgement did not appear to have any material effect on the business of the Community Council. Community Councillors asked the Clerk to lodge an appeal and also contact OVW to ascertain if other Community Councils had received the same judgement.

**Action Clerk**

**c.** **Invoices and payments for approval**

K Bender- Clerks Salary and HMRC Payments

Vodaphone – Broadband Direct Debit –£24 April Payment

Cllr N.Pritchard – Microsoft monthly payment £17.64

K.Bender – Hall Heating - £6

K.Bender – Ink Cartridges - £32.49

K.Bender- Microsoft Annual Subscription - £59.99

All payments were approved, with the exception of Microsoft Annual Subscription as the Community Council is now covered with a monthly payment of £17.64, which covers all Councillors plus the Clerk.

**Next meeting – preceded by the AGM on Thursday 9th May 2024 at 7.30pm.**

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