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

**Held at Felindre Village Hall as a hybrid meeting on the 9th May 2024 at 8pm**

In attendance Cllr. Mike Bugler - Vice -Chair

Cllr. Nick Pritchard- Chair

Cllr. Will Lloyd

Cllr. Peter Varcoe

Cllr. Rachel Harding

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

1. **Declarations of Interest**

None

**2.**  **Apologies**

Cllr. Chris Jones

**3. Minutes of the meeting held on the 11TH April 2024**

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

# 4. Matters Arising from the meeting held on the 11th April 2024

Justin Horrell, the recently appointedDigital Project Manager for OVW attended a meeting over Teams with Cllr. Pritchard to establish the Community Councils position regarding its use of technology. The initial assessment was positive with Mr Horrell reporting his findings back to the Community Council at its meeting on the 13th June 2024.

The issue of the overgrowth on the pavements between the Old Railway Garden Centre and the bridge at Glasbury is still to be resolved. Cllrs Harding, Pritchard and Lloyd have volunteered to organise a day where they will clear the overgrowth.

# 5. Correspondence and Information

**a.** OVW response concerning issues raised by the Community Council around the Welsh Audit Office report.

Following the qualified audit from the Welsh Audit Office, the Clerk had written to OVW asking if other Community Councils received a qualified audit on the grounds of not providing evidence they had submitted to the Renumeration Panal for Wales a schedule of payments made to members. Also if OVW believed that the judgement was fair. OVW responded that no other Community Councils had raised this as an issue with them. OVW had contacted the Audit Office and had received the reply that the qualified audit was due to a statutory requirement not beening complied with.

The Clerk to contact the Wales Audit Office with its concerns that there is a lack of consistency around awarding the qualified audit on the grounds stated.

Raise with OVW with the impact this qualified audit has had on the Council and seek support going forward.

The Chair stated he would raise this issue at the next OVW Regional Meeting.

**Action Chair and Clerk**

**b.** Air Ambulance- Conclusion of its service review. – **Noted**

**c.** Response from Jane Dodds – Speed Limit on the A438 through Three Cocks

Jane Dodds had received a response from Ken Skates, Cabinet Secretary for Transport that stated Powys County are responsible for determining speed limits on the local road network. The Welsh Government are stating that PCC have the power to change the speed limits.

The Community Council will ask the question of Powys County Council, “what is preventing PCC from changing the speed limits”.

It was agreed the Clerk would forward all correspondence received from the Welsh Government and the MP to Matt Perry, Chief Officer of Powys County Council and request a face-to-face meeting to discus this issue.

The response from both MSsand the Mp were very supportive , clerk to write to thank the MP and both MSs for their responses.

**Action Clerk**

**6. Gwernyfed Wood**

Following an investigation by Powys County Councils Planning Department Gwernyfed Wood has been asked to apply for retrospective planning permission.

The owner of Gwernyfed Wood, Mr Iain Burgess, has sent an email to Cllr Mike Bugler in his capacity of Chair, raising his concerns that he had not been contacted by the Community Council when residents raised concerns around his operations.Community Councillors have arranged a meeting with Mr Burgess to discuse the issues, and will report back to the June meeting.

7**. Planning Applications**

24//0629/FUL – alterations to steps – Gwernyfed High School. There were no objections raised.

**8. County Councillors Report**

Cllr Lloyd reported it had been a busy month with Powys County Council in the process of appointing its Heads of Services and that he is a member of the appointments committee.

A resident from Feindre had contacted him requesting repeat 20mph signs throughout the village, he has been advised to contact the Community Council.

**9. 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 the Precept of £7904.00 and a deposit from Powys County Council of £583.33 to cover one third of the cost of a Topographical Survey.

**b.** **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 for April and May at £17.64 per month.

K. Bender- Extension Lead - £9.99

K.Bender- Microsoft Annual Subscription - £59.99

Zurich – Insurance - £300

All payments were approved.

**Next meeting –Thursday 13th June 2024 at 7.30pm.**

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