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

**Held at Felindre Village Hall as a hybrid meeting.**

**on the 11th of July 2024 at 7.30pm**

**In attendance**

Cllr. Nick Pritchard- Chair

Cllr. Mike Bugler- Vice Chair

Cllr. Will Lloyd

Cllr. Peter Varcoe

Cllr. Rachel Harding

Cllr. Grahame Day

Also in attendance, Cllr. Will Lloyd in his capacity of Gwernyfed County Councillor

and Mrs Keren Bender (Clerk)

1. **Declarations of Interest**

None

1. **Apologies**

Cllr. Chris Jones

1. **Minutes of the meeting held on the 13th of June 2024**

With the exception of the omission of the attendance of Cllr Day at the meeting, the minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

1. **Matters Arising from the meeting held on the 13th of June 2024**

With reference to the recruitment and retention of Clerks, the Clerk will meet with Cllr. Varcoe to discuss a person specification, job description, salary grades and job advertisement. This information will be used by a sub-committee when the Clerks position becomes vacant.

**Action Cllr. Varcoe and Clerk**

1. **Correspondence and Information**
   1. Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service – Op Dawns Glaw – **Noted**
   2. Welsh Government Consultation on Draft Priorities for Culture 224-30 – **Noted**
   3. Brecon National Park – Consultation on application to divert public footpath no.10. Initial discussions identified the diversion would create a steeper drop. As Councillors had not been able to fully read the consultation paper as it was only presented to them at the meeting, Councillor will correspond with each other over Teams and contact the Clerk should a response to National Parks be required.

**Action All Councillors**

* 1. Correspondence received from Emma Palmer, Chief Executive of Powys County Council, informing the Community Council, that going forward a Link Officers has been assigned to a locality and will act as a facilitator and named contact to the Community Council for matters requiring escalation. Our Link Officer is Sharon Powell. The Clerk will contact the Link Officer acknowledging the letter and extend an invitation to attend a future meeting. As the correspondence was received through the post the Clerk will scan the letter and forward to all Councillors.

**Action Clerk**

1. **Gwernyfed Wood Update**

With no further issues having been identified and has there is no further action required from the Community Council at this time, this item will be taken off the agenda.

1. **Planning Applications**

27/0731/HH - Erection of extensions and alterations to dwelling at Ash Cottage, Glasbury, Hereford HR3 5NX. Following a discussion Councillors raised no objections or observations.

1. **Training.**

Councillors are in the process of populating the Community Council Training Matrix. Once completed, a decision will be taken to determine what courses Councillors should attend to ensure the Community Council has the skills required to carry out its duties, apart from the mandatory courses, which are New Councillor Induction and Code of Conduct. Decision will be taken at the September Meeting. Additionally, it was agreed that training will become a standing item on every agenda.

1. **Annual Report**

All Councillors have accessed the template for the annual report and continue to populate it, the Chair requested all Councillors make additions or changes to any parts of the report they felt necessary. The annual report to be agreed and published at the September meeting.

**Action All Councillors**

1. **Three Cocks Matters Summer Show - 13th July 2024 from 12-4pm**

The Chair thanked Councillors for their commitment to attend the show and man the tea and coffee stall. It was also agreed Councillors would take the opportunity to promote the work of the Community Councils and advertise the Community Councils vacancy. The New Logo for the Community Council will be launched at the show along with the Community Councils new banners being on display.

1. **County Councillors Report**

County Councillor Will Lloyd spoke to his report and highlighted salient points.

There had not been a County Council meeting for two months and along with the general election campaign there was little to report with the exception of:

* Reported the blocking of pavement and bus stop in Glasbury. H bar has been booked and awaits marking, asked for cones to be put on place until job is complete.
* Drains in Felindre and Llanigon have been cleared by Highways team.
* Cllr Lloyd has been working with Three Cocks Matters Community Group, to secure the adoption of the Bus Stop, relocation of bins and new benches. Team met the Chair on Tuesday and have identified three sites ready to place the benches.
* Contacted Highways about passing places, however there is no budget for this currently, just because there is no budget now, doesn't mean there won't be in the future.
* Two residents have reached out to report overhanging trees in the area and the other regarding a hedge that needs cutting in Three Cocks.
* Cllr Lloyd has followed up the email to SDF regarding the expression of interest for a grant for completing the Place Planning Exercise in the Gwernyfed ward.
* Concerning the bus stop at Glasbury, all Councillors agreed that an alternative proposal should be put to Lyn Parry of the Highways Department. The Chair to compose an email and circulate to all Councillors for their approval before forwarding to the Clerk to be sent to Lyn Parry in the name of the Community Council.

**Action All Councillors and Clerk**

1. **OVW Regional Meeting Report**

The Area Committee is undergoing change. Barbara Lloyd was elected as the new Chair with Mark Hammond remaining as Vice-Chair. The Regional Committee discussed the way forward for Sustainable Powys.

The committee received a presentation on Upskilling Digital Competence.

There was some discussion around the possibility of merging some Community Councils to work in partnership on some issues, these discussions are very much in an exploratory stage.

1. **GCC Aims Update and Following Years Aims**

The Chair shared the agreed Aims from 2023 and invited Councillors to familiarise themselves with them. Progress from several of the aims was discussed.

All Councillors to revisit the aims, with a view to discuss further at a future meeting.

**Action All Councillors**

1. **Annual Audit 2023 Appeal Response from Wales Audit Office**

The Clerk received a response from the Wales Audit Office concerning the qualified judgment awarded to the Community Council by the Wales Audit Office. The response stated that the original judgement was correct. There being no other avenues open to appeal the judgement, this matter is now closed.

1. **Financial Matters**
   1. **Bank Balances**

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

Reserve Account - £9773.40, Current Account - £ 7563.85.

* 1. **Invoices and payments for approval**
* K Bender- Clerks Salary and HMRC Payments
* Vodaphone – Broadband Direct Debit –July and August – total £54.92
* Cllr. N Pritchard – Microsoft Office 365 monthly payment for June, July and August – Total - £54.92
* Cllr. N Pritchard – Roller Banner - £47.98 and £89.98

All payments were approved.

**Next meeting –Thursday 12 September 2024 at 7.30pm.**

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