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

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

**on the 10 th of October 2024 at 7.30pm**

**In attendance**

Cllr. Nick Pritchard- Chair

Cllr. Will Lloyd

Cllr. Peter Varcoe

Cllr. Grahame Day

Cllr. Rachel Harding

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

and Mrs Keren Bender (Clerk)

1. **Declarations of Interest**
2. **Apologies**

Cllr. Mike Bugler- Vice Chair and Cllr. Chris Jones

1. **Minutes of the meeting held on the 12th of September 2024**

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

1. **Matters Arising from the meeting held on the 12th of September 2024**

An email has been sent to Lyn Parry of the Highways department regarding a proposal for a new footpath construction by bus shelter in Glasbury,awaiting a response.

It was reported that the movement of heavy haulage through Felindre, appeared to be lighter over past weeks.

Residents of Felindre reported smoke coming from Gwernyfed Wood which was immediately resolved following the report being received.

Cllr Day will identify three website companies to redesign the website and invite them to pitch their ideas to full council at a future meeting, prior to the commencement of the tendering process. Cllr Day continues to gather information on the specifications required for the redesign of the website. **Action Cllr. Day**

1. **Correspondence and Information**

One Voice Wales -Town and Community Councils, noted as correspondence, to be discussed under item 11.

Information received from PCSO 8014, Trudy Davies concerning Hate Crime Awareness Week- **Noted**

1. **Planning Applications**

23/1090/HH- Decision Notice- The Old Stables-new vehicle access – Refused**. Noted**

24/1405/TPO- Work to a tree subjected to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), The Old Works, Pontithel- There were no objections or concerns raised -**Noted**

1. **Clerk Recruitment- Advertisement, Person Specification and Job Description**

Cllr.Varcoe circulated a pack containing the person specification, job description and advertisement for the recruitment of a new Clerk in preparation for the retirement of the present Clerk. It was agreed Councillors would forward any questions to Councillor Varcoe for clarification and a meeting of Cllrs. Varcoe, Bugler and Pritchard, would be held to finalise the advertisement prior to the November meeting.

**Action all Councillors**

**8. Training Matrix Update**

Councillors continue to populate the Community Council Training Matrix. It was discussed which courses all Councillors should attend on a mandatory basis. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that the courses all councillors should attend are New Councillor Induction along with modules 1, 2 and 9 these being, The Council, The Councillor and Code of Conduct. Councillors to forward training requests to the Clerk, who will book their place with One Voice Wales.

**Action All Councillors and Clerk**

**9. Annual Report**

All Councillors agreed the final version of the Annual Report. Clerk to add the report to the website. **Action Clerk**

**10. County Councillors Report**

Prior to the meeting, County Councillor Will Lloyd had forwarded his written report.

He had met with the trustees of Felindre Hall on 18th September to discuss the future of the Hall, as there was a threat of the Hall closing as the community aren’t using it on a regular basis. There was around 10-12 people present. Cllr Varcoe then reported that further meeting had taken place where post holders had been identified along with a Board of Trustees.

On Monday, 23rd September, County Councillor Lloyd attended a PCC Depot meeting at Boughrood. It was an opportunity to report new Highways issues and to lobby for others already reported. There was also positive news about upcoming resurfacing investments. In Gwernyfeds CC case, the news related to the planned carriageway overlay on the U0113 out of Felindre from Rivendale to Upper Crikadarn at an estimated cost of approximated £45,000.00

News is coming through of the replacement or refurbishment of Glasbury bridge in the next 2-3 years. Cost was in capital programme originally at 4-5 million pounds, now escalated to £12M+ but depends on shape of final scheme. This will be very disruptive to the area as there is no practical route if the crossing is closed for a period, but this is essential as the bridge structure is deteriorating badly. More details requested.

**11. Brecon & Radnor Area Committee 18th September 2024 feedback from Cllr Pritchard**

The Leader of Powys County Council addressed the meeting focusing on the road to sustainability, highlighting the County Council were facing extreme cuts and his expectations to work closer with Town and Community Councils to enable the delivery of services. The Meeting continued with the Area Committee discussing two key areas, Review of Town and Community Councils looking at governance along with a proposal from Welsh Government with a proposal to reduce the number of Councillors from 8 thousand down to 3 thousand, this is in the very early stages and will be consulted on in the future. The Chair of the Area Committee asked all members to identify the 3 main issues affecting their Town or Community Councils and to bring them to a future meeting for further discussion.

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

The Chair recapped the Community Council aims identifying time scales and Councillor leads for each aim. This was agreed by all. It was agreed that Councillors would feedback on their actions twice a year in September and March.

**13. Education**

Gwernyfed High School - Cllr Pritchard relayed back the positive news regarding the school coming out of special measures back in late July. This has provided a massive boost in morale due to all the hard work across the school in the last 18 months and the amazing results this year from GCSEs and A levels. While this is a major milestone for the school, a key component to achieving this has been the new Head Teacher Mrs Retallick. In this short period of time Mrs Retallick has created a positive and inclusive culture. Cllr. Pritchard recognised this good work but noted there are still a variety of improvements and challenges remaining.

The Primary School- The head count of pupils has recently dropped below a hundred to ninety-four. With this issue the governors are exploring the provision of after school clubs to make the school more attractive to working parents. There is a upcoming event on the 22nd of October to engage with parents on the future plans of the school which also include swimming and improving the outdoor spaces. Cllr Pritchard is supporting these initiatives as well as leading the working group reviewing the letting spaces for the school.

**14. Financial Matters**

* 1. **Bank Balances**

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

Reserve Account - £9809.94, Current Account - £ 12786.56.

* 1. **Invoices and payments for approval**
* K Bender- Clerks Salary and HMRC Payments
* Vodaphone – Broadband Direct Debit –October - £25.90
* Cllr. N Pritchard – Microsoft Office 365 monthly payment for October - £17.84
* One Voice Wales – Conference Fees - £95
* K. Bender- Heating Felindre Hall to cover September and October Meetings - £11

All payments were approved.

**Next meeting –Thursday 14th November 2024 at 7.30pm.**

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