**Draft Minutes of Gwernyfed Community Council Meeting**

**Held in person at Felindre Hall and online.**

**on the 13th of February 2025 at 7.30pm**

**In attendance**

Cllr. Nick Pritchard- Chair

Cllr. Peter Varcoe

Cllr. Will Lloyd

Cllr. Grahame Day

Cllr. Rachel Harding – over Teams

Cllr. Chris Jones

Cllr Keri Doell – over Teams

Cllr. Mike Bugler – Vice Chair

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

and Mrs Keren Bender (Clerk)

Mrs Sue Thomas, the incoming Clerk was also in attendance.

The Chair welcomed Cllr Doell to her first meeting along with the incoming Clerk Mrs Thomas who is undertaking a handover period.

1. **Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

1. **Apologies**

None

1. **Agree Minutes of the 16th of January 2025 as a true record**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

1. **Matters Arising**

The Clerk confirmed she had forwarded the Precept request to Powys County Council and that an acknowledgement from PCC had been received.

The Clerk emailed Lyn Parry on the 14th of January for an update on the Community Councils proposal for the construction of a new footpath by the bus shelter at Glasbury Garage, Lyn Parry had forwarded the proposal to the traffic and passenger department and was awaiting a response. As the Clerk had received no response from Lyn Parry she was asked to escalate this issue to the Cabinet Member of Highways, Cllr Jackie Charlton. Cllr Lloyd said he would also investigate the issue.

**Action Clerk & Cllr Lloyd**

Developing a Grant application form for Gwernyfed Community Council **–** This remains an ongoing action and aims to be drafted for discussion for the March meeting.

**Action Cllr Harding and Cllr Bugler**

Three Cocks Green Spaces Lease – Expression of Interest was submitted in preparation for the Strategic Asset Board on the 18th of December, however no acknowledgement has been received. Cllr Pritchard has asked for an update from the Head of Housing Andy Thompson concerning the lack of communications, awaiting a response.

Cllr Bugler and Cllr Day asked if it was possible to set up a means of notifying members when there is an update/notification on Teams. Cllr Bugler asked the Clerk to let everyone know when there are updates on Teams.

**Action Clerk & Cllr Lloyd**

1. **Correspondence**

**Love Glasbury -Rejecting Grant**. An email was received from Love Glasbury explaining they no longer required the grant of £1500 to aid the purchase of hand dryers- Noted.

**Trudy Davies PCSO 8014 Report** - Noted

**One Voice Wales – Invitation to attend Buckingham Palace Garden Party –** It was unanimously agreed to nominate Cllr Day to attend.

**Action Clerk**

**One Voice Wales - Electoral review programme consultation**. The paper presented offered no information of changes to the Gwernyfed Community Council boundaries, Clerk was asked to contact Sandra Matthews of PCC to enquire if there was a plan for Gwernyfed Community Council.

**Action Clerk**

**One Voice Wales – Survey of Member Councils.** Clerk was able to provide answers to questions 1-17. Answers to questions 18-26 to be forwarded to the Clerk by the Community Councils representatives on the OVW Area Committee, Cllrs Harding and Pritchard, the Clerk will the respond accordingly to the survey.

**Action Cllrs Harding & Pritchard and Clerk**

**Hay & District Dial a Ride – Invitation to attend its 30 Anniversary**. Cllrs Varcoe and Doell to represent the Community Council, Cllr Varcoe will respond.

**Action Cllr Varcoe**

1. **Penyrheol Baptist Chapel, Funding Request**

Councillors had received all information requested and agree to support the request with a donation of £300. **Action Clerk**

1. **Planning Applications**

**Application 25/0160/HH- Extension to balcony and associated works- the Boathouse, Glasbury, HR3 5NP** – There were no concerns or objections raised.

1. **Personnel Sub Committee**

It was agreed the members of the committee would be Cllrs Varcoe, Jones and Harding. A draft Terms of Reference has been drawn up by Cllr Pritchard and is available in the files.

1. **Education Update for both the Primary and High School**

**Primary School** – The Acting Head Tara Morgan has now been appointed as the permanent Head Teacher for the school.

Pupil attendance is an issue for the viability of the school as is the reduction in numbers of pupils enrolling. A number of events are taking place to engage with parents including after school clubs. The school is experiencing a high number of ALN children.

The school cannot access Riverside swimming provision due to the costs. Cllr Pritchard in his capacity as a school governor is trying to get a Service Level Agreement with Powys CC at the Riverside similar to one in place at Brecon Leisure Centre to help reduce the additional cost in travelling to Brecon Leisure Centre.

Nature Child is currently their biggest project at the primary school providing opportunities for the children to learn while outdoors. It is anticipated that this will help with the ALN provision.

**Gwernyfed High School** – Whilst pupil attendance is an issue due to the current sickness levels, pupil numbers are up and continue to rise. The Head Teacher has been on secondment with Powys CC around 6th form provision in Powys, updates to follow in due course.

The building still requires heavy investment due to the current condition, however the morale of the staff and pupils is very good. Cllr Pritchard has directly raised the David Edlin fund with the Head teacher where the council gave a total £1500 over a three-year period several years ago. However, the council never received acknowledgement of where or how this funding was used. The head has indicated she will look into this and confirm what happened to this money.

1. **Endorsement of Financial Regulations 2024**

This item is deferred until the March meeting, however the Clerk reported that one area of non-compliance was the online authorisation procedures which will be dealt with when the Community Councils address is changed to the incoming Clerks address at a visit to the bank in Brecon. The need for 2 signatories in online banking is to be investigated as an area of current noon-compliance.

**Action Standing and Incoming Clerks**

1. **County Councillor Report**

Powys CC cannot set the Council Tax until the Welsh Government informs them the level of - funding they will receive ..

Two or Three residents have been in touch with Cllr Lloyd regarding flooding from the road in front of their houses at Ty Glas. Powys CC have put down a load of tarmac for which the residents have given their thanks. The flooding is being exacerbated by run-off from agricultural land and two or three culverts have had to be cleared out. Additionally, some property owners had put in flood measures that diverted run-off from the highway. Cllr Lloyd is driving the route regularly to monitor the situation.

Cllr Lloyd is meeting with the David Chadwick MP (Brecon, Radnor and Cwm Tawe) on 14th February 2025. They will be going to Three Cocks to discuss the speeding issue. Powys CC is waiting for approval from the Welsh Government regarding Speed Limits. The MP is campaigning on behalf of other councils. Cllr Bugler noted that the MP was also leading on the hospital issue at Brecon Memorial and Bronllys and asks that Cllr Lloyd keeps this at the front of the MP’s mind where possible.

**Action Cllr Lloyd**

1. **Training Report from Councillors – All Councillors who have attended recent Courses.**

The Clerk reported she had received training requests from Cllrs Jones and Doell along with the incoming Clerk. Clerk to book training courses via OVW. Cllr Varcoe requested a note to be prepared to lay out the costs of the various training courses e.g. ILCA and FILCA for the new Clerk.

**Action Clerk**

1. **Flooding at Gro Letters to be issued to NRW, PCC and Welsh Water regarding the flooding issues at the Gro in Glasbury.**

It was agreed by all Councillors that as events had overtaken the circumstances that arose to the letters being compiled, all letters would be deferred unless/until the problem reoccurred. This is due to Welsh Water being on site and investing into their assets and it appeared this action has been successful but is yet to be tested. Cllr Lloyd and Bugler noted the proactive actions from residents that is also helping this matter. All councillors agree to monitor the situation.

1. **Website Update- Cllr Day**

Councillor Day continues to evaluate website providers and will report back to the March.

**Action Cllr Day**

1. **Forward Look**

Requests for Agenda topics:

* Update the Council’s aims (April)
* Small Grants (March)
* Comms and Website (March)
* How to get Powys CC to be more proactive
* Update on Transport Consultation
* Council Merger

1. **Financial Matters**

The following were reported to the meeting:

1. **Bank Balances** as at 13th of February 2025

Reserve Account £9,854.89, Current Account £16,501.96 includes VAT refund of £110.15.

1. **Invoices and payments for approval**

Clerks Salary and HMRC payments plus new Clerks handover Salary

Vodaphone – Broadband DD- £25.90 January Payment

Nick Pritchard - Monthly Microsoft Fee- December £52.92 and January £52.92 Payment

OVW – Training – Invoice 8849- £40 and invoice 8860-£40

K Bender – Stationery Files -£10, Ink Cartridges - £31.95, Postage – registered mail £8.35

* + All payments were approved.

1. **Meeting**

Meeting closed 9.20pm.

Next Meeting 13th March 2025 at 7.30 pm

at Felindre Village Hall as a hybrid meeting over Teams