

GROSMONT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED GROSMONT

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Minutes of the meeting of GCC held on 11th June 2024 at 19.30hrs

In Attendance: Councillors Lowri Wynn Morgan (Chair); Jude Rogers (Vice Chair); Margie Barker; Jan Williams and Witek Mintowt-Czyz (minute taker).

Also in attendance: Jane Moggridge, Peter Clarke, Andy Stumpf and County Councillor David Hughes-Jones.

The meeting was called to order at 19.31hrs by Cllr. Rogers taking the chair owing to the pre-announced delayed arrival of Cllr. Wynn Morgan who took over the chair of the meeting at 20.02hrs.

1. To accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. Nick Jones and Cllr. Jamie Edwards and from Cllr. Lowri Wynn Morgan for delayed arrival.

2. To disclose personal and pecuniary interests

In accordance with custom disclosures were to be made in relation to specific items of business.

3. To receive the Police report

Councillors had not been circulated with any report in the interval of 10 days since being forewarned by the Clerk of its impending availability.

4. To approve as correct the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the May meeting were approved.

5. To consider matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

6. To receive the highlight report and consider the the Town Hall Project

The highlight report Number 23 was received. It was noted that the project status was green.

ACTION: to have the Community Green Energy Fund application approved and signed by GCC at its next meeting in July.

7. To consider items of correspondence

Cllr. Wynn Morgan had circulated electronic correspondence received from Audit Wales in respect of the Council's failure to provide Audit Wales with the required documents. This matter was deferred for consideration under item 11 on the agenda.

8. To discuss Grosmont Online

LINK: Cllr. Rogers informed the council that the LINK magazine had been published and asked councillors to take and distribute their allocated quotas.

Web Site: Cllr. Rogers reported that The Media Agency (TMA) had received their first payment and the website build was progressing. The general format was based on the Abergavenny Town Council site. She asked for any requirements and suggestions for functionalities on the site to be forwarded to her.

9. To discuss and approve policy documents

Cllr. Wynn Morgan, from the chair, moved a resolution to adopt the Grievance policy and Disciplinary policy, based on model policies from One Voice Wales, previously circulated to councillors. The motion was seconded by Cllr. Williams and passed unanimously.

10. To consider matters relating to planning

Planning application DM/2024/00621 in relation to Pwll Mair cottage was considered to be not contentious.

11. To consider financial matters

1. To agree expenditure and the accounts matters

1. A spreadsheet had been sent to councillors 3 hours before the meeting.
2. In the absence of time to consider the document, consideration of it was deferred.

2. To discuss the accounts position and audit requirements

1. Council was informed from the chair that it had a statutory duty to provide information annually to Audit Wales. Such information had not been provided for two years in succession by the Responsible Financial Office (the Clerk, Mr Wade). Correspondence received from Audit Wales indicates that the Mr Wade has also failed in this duty in respect of another council. Mr Wade has been invited to attend I person at the Auditor General's and provide the required information. Cllr. Wynn Morgan will attend the meeting when it occurs.
2. To discuss the appointment of an RFO. **ACTION:**The council will take advice from

One Voice Wales on how it can best proceed given the current circumstances in order to safeguard its position, continue to meet its obligations to make payments and to acquire necessary information from the bank. Appointment of a replacement RFO will be considered at the next meeting in the light of advice from OVW.

12. To discuss the state of roads

No useful information has been forthcoming from MCC with regard to the disrepair of the bridge over the mill race at Mill Farm. This issue appears to have been conflated with footpath closures due to bridge issues on footpaths. Cllr. Hughes-Jones informed the council that he has had no reply to his own letter from Mr Steve Baldwin. Cllr. WynnMorgan undertook to write directly to Mr Baldwin.

13. To discuss footpaths

Mr Andy Stumpf informed the council that MonLife had appointed Mr Tom Arnold as liaison officer to connect landowners, communities and MCC; that MCC's budget for footpaths was £85K to be supplemented by grant funding for the successfully trained groups of volunteers working to reopen, improve and maintain footpaths 40% of which were considered to be in good order.

14. AOB

There was no other business.

15. Date of next meeting

09July 2024 at 19.30hrs.