**GROSMONT FAWR COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**11th March 2019 GROSMONT TOWN HALL – 7.30 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**Present:**  Cllr. James Beavan Cllr. Andrew Farr (Vice-Chairman)

C. Cllr. David Hughes Jones (Chair) Cllr. Vernon Jones

Cllr. Peter McVann Cllr. Witek Mintowt-Czyz

Cllr. Paul Sheridan

**In Attendance:**  Mrs Melanie Mercer (Clerk) and Mrs Frances Lambert (Clerk).

**1. To accept apologies for absence:**

Cllr. Mrs Margie Barker and Cllr. Martin Davies.

**2. To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in items of business listed below:**

None declared.

The meeting was suspended by the Chairman, at 7:35pm to permit the Public Forum.

**Public Forum:**

Matters brought to the attention of the council included:

* Grosmont Events enquired about space for storage cupboard.

Resolved: Cllr A Farr stated ample storage space available where new future lift to be.

* Grosmont Events had queries on decoration of the upstairs of the Town Hall. Council grateful for help whatever can be achieved by the volunteers. Flexibility and communication required to carry out work around existing bookings.

Resolved: £400 allocated for materials, neutral colours please. Standard required to last for 5years. Ceiling and down the stairs to be done as well if possible.

* Request that public chairs are sited nearer to council to help anyone hard of hearing.

The meeting was resumed by the Chairman at 7:45pm

**3. To approve and sign minutes of the meeting of previous meeting held 14th January 2019– full council meeting**

The Chairman confirmed that members had received the minutes of the meeting and Members agreed that they were a true record.

Resolved: - That minutes of the full council meetings held on the 14th January 2019 be confirmed.

**4. Matters Arising from the minutes**

* Appointment of New Clerk – Mrs Frances Lambert, minimum wage / probationary period for 6 months. 5 hours per week. Handover / training period with current Clerk, Mrs Melanie Mercer – 3 months (until 31/5/19).
* Resolved: Ratify appointment of new clerk. All agreed.

**5.To receive and consider Correspondence:**

* Independent Remuneration Panel – determination for 2019/20
* All Community Councils must make available a payment to each of their members of £150 per year as a contribution to costs and expenses.

Community Councils can pay financial loss compensation to each of their members, where such loss has actually occurred, for attending approved duties – up to £54 for each period not exceeding 4 hours, up to £108 for each period exceeding 4 hours but not exceeding 24 hours.

Members in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary from a principal council cannot receive any payment from any community council other than travel and subsistence expenses and reimbursement of costs of care.

* Offer from Matthew Phillips – MC to meet with Clerks on Thursday 23rd May – 10am to 3pm for training, information dissemination discussions and generally anything useful.
* Rights of Way – free training – 23/3/19 – Newtown, 24/3/19 – Glasbury on Wye.

**6. To consider matters relating to Highways / Rural:**

* Mike Collins, Monmouthshire County Council Highways – apologised that the speed survey was not included in last batch of surveys and will arrange for this to be done this week.

Resolved: The Clerk is to enquire if there was a vehicle counter line on the road through Grosmont recently.

* Cllr Farr reported a hedge has been removed past the Bridge Inn car park. Need road marking to warn of steep drop next to road now. Also, there is a problem with a spot light from Bridge Inn facing into road -? dangerous for drivers.

Resolved: The Clerk to advise Kentchurch council.

* Cllr Jones reported that the road to Llangua had burst water main-already fixed.

Matters for the Clerk to report to M.C.C. Highways Dept: -

* Cllr Farr; enquired again about MCC removing the Grosmont sign from Beech Hill as people get stuck in ditches. Cllr. Farr has asked for a sign at the top of straight mile but the wrong sign was put up. The correct sign is to be requested.
* Cllr Sheridan praised MCC for recent speedy repair of sinkhole in road.(4m deep).
* Cllr Mintowt-Czyz reported that the Bridge has been repaired at Mill Leach.
* Cllr McVann reported potholes in Poorscript lane need filling and gullies up at cupids are clogged with leaves need cleaning.
* Cllr McVann has researched road graffiti. Graffiti in 1980 highways act classed as unauthorised paints or marks sign etc on road or tree. Fine applicable of £100. Council may remove any unauthorised marks. Cllr Hughes Jones remarked that MCC has a machine that removes graffiti from roads.
* Cllr Hughes Jones reported that at Marlborough farm there is grit on road- this needs to be removed.

**7. To consider matters relating planning as listed below:**

* DM/2019/00186 – Removal of condition 1 of Outline Planning Permission 8731 and repeated upon the Reserved Matters decision 7241 as it does not serve an effective planning purpose; is no longer enforceable, necessary or reasonable thus failing tests prescribed by WGC 16/2014; and it places unjustifiable burdens upon the applicant whereby its continued retention can no longer be justified. Maes Y Nant, Old Court Rad, Llangattock Lingoed. Resolved: Members of the council recommended this application for APPROVAL.
* DM/2019/00196 – To clad the outside, south facing stone wall of barn with feather edge timber. This is indicated in Red ad labelled “a” on the photographs. Later option to also clad the lower section indicated in Blue and the letter “B” on the photographs if required. The roof will need to be extended on the gable end by approx. 1.5m to accommodate the cladding. The Old Dairy, Well Farm Barn, Grosmont.

Resolved: Members of the council recommended this application for APPROVAL.

* DM/2019/00200 – 2-bedroom annex bungalow to main house with shared access and facilities – Greig View, Cefn Llaithan Road, Grosmont. -
* Resolved: Members of the council recommended this application for APPROVAL.
* DM/2019/00201 – Demolish the existing prefabricated 3 bed Woolaway bungalow and replace it with a new cottage with two residential units on the same footprint but with additional living space – Maes Y Nant, Old Court Road, Llangattock Lingoed.

Resolved: Member of the council recommended this application for APPROVAL.

* DM/2019/00234 – Proposed extension – Church Cottage, Church Lane, Llanvetherine. Resolved: Members of the council recommended this application for APPROVAL.

**8. To consider matters relating to Grosmont Town Hall.**

Progress on Town Hall Toilets project-

* Cllr Farr: Had meeting with the architect regarding the refurbishment It was hoped that work would have started today. The delay is due to the Conservation Officer being required to discharge the paperwork – this is expected to happen imminently. The Chair thanked all concerned.
* The Clerk asked if there was to be any effect on hirers of the upstairs of the town hall and there was a question over the water supply. Also, there will be some noise and downstairs will be open so bottom stairs door need to be locked to keep upper room secure. Work will take approx. 5 weeks once the work starts.

Resolved: Need to inform users that there will be a new key in box for bottom stairs once refurbishment begins.

* Stair lift has been serviced. We have been warned it is obsolete and company will repair as long as possible but this will not be indefinitely.

9. **To consider matters relating to the Review of Community Council Boundaries: This report proposes to:**

* Add a small part of Llanvihangel Crucorney Ward into Grosmont FCC – Llangattock Lingoed Ward
* Loose the Llanvetherine Ward into Community of Skenfrith (amended/ renamed Llantilio Crossenny area).
* Absorb the Llangua Ward into Grosmont Ward due to small electorate – dissolving the Llangua Ward.

This report / consultation is now at the Welsh Assembly level. The Council can make representations until 14th March 2019. The purpose of the report is to try and equal out representation: councillor ratio. Grosmont Fawr Community Council would still retain 7 Community Cllrs if all changes were to be carried out.

Resolved: The Clerk is to send an email to objecting to proposals – the same objections as before.

**10. To consider matters relating to the Monmouthshire County Council review of the Local Development Plan:**

* Cllrs Farr, McVann and Mintowt-Czyz have attended training on the Local Development Plan and felt that this was a useful exercise. A “Places Plan” can be developed locally and once in place Monmouthshire County Council would be bound to abide with recommendations in the plan. The Council can develop a Places Plan in consultation with the community and the Rural Futures Project. Once this is adopted into Local Development Plan it is felt that the community will “have a voice”. There is a web site available that gives step by step procedure on how to create a Places Plan.
* A further training session is available on 16/3/19 at the Melville Theatre, Pen y pound, Abergavenny.
* Resolved: - The Clerk will forward this email to Cllrs and also to consult the Rural Futures Co-ordinator regarding this matter and they can be requested to feed back relevant information to the council.

Resolved: - The Clerk will invite Mr Peter Willis, the Rural Futures Co-ordinator to the next council meeting.

It was noted that the land adjacent to Poorscript Lane, Grosmont has been submitted as a candidate site in the Local Development Plan.

The pre-deposit plans should be available in November 2019.

**11. To consider matters relating to Grosmont Events:**

* The group have made several requests to hire Grosmont Town Hall – occasionally these are some months in advance and may in the future stop other paying hirers. It was reiterated that the Grosmont Town Hall is booked on a first come first served.
* Members are happy with the situation regarding bookings from Grosmont Events and noted that the bookings have only been approved as free for one year - bookings in lieu of decorating hall.
* Cllr Mintowt-Czyz enquired if the hall toilets can be made available for the cycle race. It was noted that historically the hall had to be hired to get access to toilets.
* Resolved: Cllr Mintowt-Czyz is to advise the Cycle Race organisers of the need to hire the hall to get access to hall toilets.
* Grosmont Market- Cllr. Hughes-Jones attended the event and noted that stewards were helping with parking and this seemed to work well.

1. **To consider matters relating to the Rural Futures Project:**

No progress on event / survey held in December 2018. Still waiting for report. See above point 10.

1. **To agree expenditure and other accounts matters including donation request from Teenage Cancer Trust and Wales Air Ambulance:**

* Grant consideration: - It was noted that there was an allocation of in the 2018/19 budget of £380 for charitable donations. Members considered the need for a policy on charitable donations by the council. Resolved: The Clerk is to formulate a policy/guideline on grants / donations for the next meeting; based on giving only to local charities that are either from or directly benefit the local communities.

1. Teenage Cancer Trust
2. Wales Air Ambulance
3. Abergavenny eisteddfod

Resolved: - Members did not approve grants / donations to the above organisations.

* The Clerk gave members an overview of the Bank Reconciliation to 28/2/19 and the Chairman confirmed all figures as correct.

Resolved: - Members approved the Chairman to sign the Bank reconciliation dated 28/2/19.

* The Clerk gave members an overview of the Budget Spend control sheet – dated 28/2/19.

Resolved: - Members approved the Chairman to sign the Budget Spend Control Sheet.

* The Clerk gave members an overview of the Statement of Reserves dated 28/2/19.

Resolved: - Members noted and approved the Statement of Reserves dated 28/2/19.

Payments for approval:

* Monmouthshire County Council (Building Regs) £ 210.00
* Morgan and Horowskyj (Architect Fees) £1,140.00
* One Voice Wales (Yearly Membership) £ 118.00
* H.M. Revenue & Customs (3 mths Tax) £ 133.40
* Mrs M Mercer – Salary & Exp. (February) £ 183.01
* Mrs M Mercer – Salary & Exp. (March) £ 176.05
* Mrs E. F. Lambert – Salary (March) £ 135.85

Direct Debits: -

* Swalec (Toilets, January) £ 11.55
* Swalec (Toilets, February) £ 11.55
* Swalec (Town Hall) £ 160.73

Resolved: - that the above accounts be approved for payment (Signed by the Chairman).

**14. To consider Any Other Business:**

* Cllr Mintowt-Czyz reported that the timing of street lights has gone awry. Resolved: Clerk to contact lighting officer to report matter.
* Chair thanked all for attendance and continued efforts on all matters.

Meeting closed - 21:00.

**Date of next council meeting**

13 May 2019– 7.30 p.m. Grosmont Town Hall– A.G.M. and full council meeting.