**GROSMONT FAWR COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**13th MAY 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 Cllr Martin Davies

Cllr Margie Barker

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

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

None.

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

None declared.

The meeting was suspended by the Chairman, at 7:38pm to permit the Public Forum.

**3. Public Forum:**

* Janet Chatfield-Enquiring if Council would support an initiative for a small play area in the castle grounds. Has contacted CADW and Savills.
* **Resolved**: To put matter on the agenda for next meeting.
* Jane Moggeridge-Enquiring who is responsible for/owns the defibrillator?
* **Resolved**: Clerk to find out.
* Janet Chatfield- Apology on behalf of Grosmont events -decorating unable to take place due to insurance problem. Redecorating will now happen in the Autumn.
* The meeting was resumed by the Chairman at 7:52pm

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

Short presentation and update on the ‘Shaping Grosmont’ report by Peter Willis from Rural futures. Further meetings on this are to be held in the Nave on 23rd May (a reminder/repeat session) and the 5th June (please note change of date). Both 7-9pm.

Will run bespoke session for Council only on Tuesday 21st May in Town Hall at 6:30pm to discuss Council’s role in project. Clerk to check if Town Hall free.

National Lottery have earmarked £100,000 for Grosmont projects. Ideas so far are good but need developing. This is a golden opportunity for Grosmont.

Mr Willis additionally offered to put the Town Hall forward for an energy efficiency audit with an organisation linked to Rural futures. This is a free service.

**5**. **To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the previous meeting held-11th March2019.**

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

**Resolved**: That the minutes of the full Council meeting held on the 11th March 2019 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

To

**6. To consider Matters Arising from the minutes:**

* Payments to Councillors. Correspondence received from One Voice Wales stating Councillors wishing not to receive their allowance, must opt out of their entitlement to payments in writing. Forms were handed out to Councillors – to be returned to the Clerk if Cllrs do not wish to receive the allowance.

Cllr Mintowt-Czyz raised the issue that the return of such forms must be strictly a private and confidential matter.

* Reply from Michael Collins (MCC Highways Department) regarding the speed survey and the ATC (Automatic Vehicle Counter). His reply states that between the 14th and 20th of March 2019, on the B4347 from just before the junction with Bevan Court to the 2nd turning on the right past St Nicholas’s Church, 4,096 vehicles were recorded with an average speed of 22mph. His conclusion is that no further action is therefore required. Cllrs queried whether the survey was done at the most appropriate place and Cllr Mintowt-Czyz suggested and Council agreed, to reject this report and request that survey is redone. This time in the vicinity of the Town hall and the Angel pub.

**Resolved:** Clerk to ask for survey to be redone in different location.

* Kentchurch Council have been contacted regarding steep drop who have advised Herefordshire Council of such and a hedge has been replanted. The spot light has been lowered. Both matters now resolved.
* Building work due to start on the Town Hall on the 3rd June. Will take approx 5 weeks. New key required to be put in key box to keep Hall secure.
* Cycle race unable to use Hall toilets due to building works therefore negotiating with the Angel regards using the public/ Angel toilets.
* A policy for charitable giving by the Council has been drawn up and sent to Councillors.

**Resolved:** Cllrs resolved to adopt this policy.

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

* Notice of funding available from Community Green Energy Advisory Group applications welcome from 1/06/2019 to 14/07/2019.
* Membership of One Voice Wales-renewed for 2019-2020 with invitation for nominations from member Councils to put forwards up to two motions for their AGM on 5/10/19 (Must be sent in by 20/06/19). (Position vacant).
* Monmouthshire County Council - The Draft Revised Affordable Housing SPG (Supplementary Planning Guidance) is available for public consultation from 11thApril to 28th May.
* MCC: Housing Allocation Policy Stakeholder Focus drop in session being held at County Hall Usk 3rd June 10-2.
* Monmouthshire County Council: Notification that the Draft Infill Development Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)is available for public consultation from 28th March to 13th May2019.
* The contract has been renewed with Monmouthshire County Council to cut the grass bank opposite the Angel pub. The invoice for this will be at the end of the cutting season.
* Request to carry out Community ‘Hot Desking’ by police at Town Hall when town hall not in use will result in improved police presence.

**Resolved:** Cllrs unanimously agreed.

* Correspondence from Abergavenny Town Council regarding MCC considering taking on the collection of dog waste in the future. Financial assistance will be required from Community Councils. Invitation to attend relevant meeting.

**Resolved**: Cllr Mintowt-Czyz to take on this role.

* Valuation Office - Request for information regarding Town Hall to enable setting of fair rateable value. Form filled in and returned by Clerk.
* North Monmouthshire Planning Policy 2019 Workshop Booklets received and handed out to Cllrs.
* One Voice Wales - Training courses (List emailed to Cllrs).

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

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

Cllr Farr

-Reported resurfacing needed on road up by the old school-damage resulting from excess water on road.

-Reported road crumbling away near Point farm/Tressenny buildings on Campston road. Needs attending to.

- Tree cutting and planting on Llangua to Crucorney road queried why and who is deciding this needs doing?

Cllr Mintowt-Czyz-

-Reported a pothole at the bottom of the hill near the Hand turn/Point Farm.

Cllr McVann-

-Reported water running on the road at Cupids Hill. This is damaging the road edge. Can MCC address drainage, water gullies and damage to road edge.

-Reported potholes in Poorscript lane.

- Requested that road graffiti is removed from the road near the Doctor’s pitch.

Cllr Davies-

-Reported that the road sweeping recently on Park Rd was not completed adequately. Drains need cleaning out. Can we have a vacuum?

-Reported concerns with people parking opposite the Abergavenny railway station on the A465. Potential safety issues with pedestrians crossing road.

-Reported that the Llanvetherine sign (on the East side of the village of Llanvetherine) is still not in place.

All roads have a number. Request, from Monmouthshire County Council highways, a map with road numbers on.

**Resolved**: Clerk to action this. (10 copies) and will arrange for Cllrs to have this via email and hard copy.

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

* DM/2019/00492 - Llanvetherine Court Farm, Llanvetherine, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire. NP7 8NL.

Fast track full planning permission.

Barn to have change of use from agricultural to use class D2 (with some A3).

Change of use of the adjacent covered structure from agricultural to mixed use, agricultural and class D2.

Protocol for fast track planning in between meetings was followed by Clerk. Clerk presented Planning log to Council.

Cllrs responded that although diversification is to be commended respect for all users of community is still required. Potential problems of late /all night music discussed.

**Resolved** to approve application but request sound be limited to certain hours. License should limit hours. Clerk to send comments to MCC and copy in licensing authority.

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

Progress on Town Hall Toilets project-

* Cllr Farr reported that work is scheduled to begin on June 3rd. **Town Hall toilets will be out of action for whole of June**. Upstairs will be available for users. Cllr Farr to ask pub to open public toilets for the gardening club event in June. Contractor asked for part payment.

**Resolved** Cllrs unanimously agreed to this payment.

* Need overhaul of Town Hall electrics also.
* Cllr Barker noted that the back wall of the upstairs of the hall is not drying out. Before redecoration needs fixing. Slates on roof have slipped and lead flashing on chimney need fixing as well.

**Resolved**: Cllr Farr will ask contractors to look at this matter.

* Fire Assessment and Health and Safety Policy for Town Hall (emailed to Cllrs in advance of the meeting). Proposed to adopt it formally.

**Resolved**: Cllrs agreed unanimously to adopt them both.

* Recent booking request from Steiner school for Town Hall. Cllrs were emailed (as response required in between meetings) and decided to offer another opportunity to book. (It was noted that payment had been received for the previous booking in 2016.)

**Resolved**: Cllrs happy for Steiner school to request to book the Hall if required.

* European Parliamentary Elections to be held at Town Hall on May 23rd. Polling hours 7am until 10pm.
* Yoga reducing to once a week (Thursdays) due to increase of hire costs and not able to absorb these and low numbers attending Monday classes.
* Maintenance work by Grosmont events at Town hall. Work had to be postponed (to September) due to lack of insurance for volunteers. Email from NFU (on 3rd May) received-they are willing to cover this as a one-off event with no additional premium. Grosmont Events to give dates to Clerk in due course.
* Latymer school booking Tuesday 28th May- Sunday 2nd of June. Generously offered to pay £750 for their booking.
* Cllr Mintowt-Czyz- Cycle events are aware/happy to work around the toilet restrictions. (For clarity - Cycle events are not part of Grosmont events.)

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

See above- point 10

**12. To agree expenditure and other account matters:**

The Clerk gave members an overview of the Bank Reconciliation to 30/04/2019 and the Chairman confirmed all figures as correct.

**Resolved:** - Members approved the Chairman to sign the Bank reconciliation dated 30/04/19

**Payments for approval for APRIL and MAY 2019**:

NFU (Town Hall insurance) £1086.88

MCC (Rates for Town Hall) £ 341.90

Mrs M Mercer (Salary & Exp. April) £ 183.01

Mrs M Mercer (Salary & Exp. May) £ 141.65

Mrs F Lambert (Salary April) £ 177.88

Mrs F Lambert (Salary & Exp. May) £ 234.78

Morgan & Horowski (Architects fees) £ 932.58

R Brown (Refund of Hall hire fees) £ 15.00

Direct Debits:-

Swalec (Toilets, April) £ 11.55

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Swalec (Town Hall 15/01/19-04/04/19) £135.49

Welsh Water (06/10/18-05/04/19) £ 68.92

**Resolved: -** that the above accounts be approved for payment and Signed by the Chairman.

* Proposal to pay for new Clerk’s training course costs of £99 plus VAT and membership of the SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks) costing an additional £ 76 plus a £5 joining fee-necessary for accessing the course.

**Resolved**: Cllrs unanimously agreed.

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

(Items for noting only – matters requiring further consideration will be listed for a future council meeting).

* Cllr McVann reported a problem with a water course that enters his garden. Has seen sewerage, detergent and paint in there. Comes down into a pool in Cllrs garden. Comes out into houses in Poorscript Lane. Over last 2 months seen detergent and paint in there and sewage. Unsure where this is originating from.

**Resolved:** Clerk to advise Environmental Health and Environment Agency.

* Cllrs thanked the outgoing Clerk Mrs Mercer for all her work on behalf of Grosmont Fawr Community Council (Mrs Mercer will continue as Administrator for the Community Green Energy Advisory Group).
* As raised in the public forum-request for Council support of a Play area initiative- fundraising and maintenance will be put on the next agenda for consideration.
* Chair thanked all for attendance and continued efforts on all matters.

The meeting closed at 21:00.

**Date of next council meeting**

**Monday the 8thh July 2019– 7.30 p.m. Grosmont Town Hall– Full council meeting.**