

GROSMONT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GROSMONT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE GROSMONT TOWN HALL AT 7:30 PM ON THE 10th SEPTEMBER 2024

Those attending the meeting: Councillors Lowri Wynn Morgan (Chair), Jude Rogers (Vice-Chair), Jan Williams, Margie Barker and Nicholas Jones. Also present were County Councillor David Hughes-Jones, Peter Clarke and Russell James.

1. To accept apologies for absence

Councillors Edwards and Mintowt-Czyz have sent apologies, as did the clerk, who has another meeting with Langstone Community Council. Councillor Rogers took minutes in his absence.

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

To be dealt with as and when as per our usual meetings.

3. Discussion on matters arising from the Police Report and police issues generally

No police report received by councillors.

Action: The Chair to follow up with clerk.

4. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting on the 9 July 2024

Date on top of the last minutes to be changed to 9 July 2024. Minutes otherwise agreed by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Williams.

Action: Councillor Rogers to correct date on last minutes.

5. To consider matters arising from the Minutes of the Meetings on the 11th June 2024

To be discussed as the meeting progresses.

6. To consider the progress of the work relating to the Town Hall Project, the Highlight Report and the Partnership Agreement

Report sent to councillors as always by Peter Clarke. Face-to-face meeting with builder and architect to happen this month. Grosmont Futures have been successful in their July application to the Community Green Energy Advisory Group for a grant of £11,364 to go towards an audio visual system. Jan Chatfield in charge of what funds will be spent on.

Issue of Town Hall piano discussed, which came up in the steering committee. Russell James confirmed was a gift from Dr Steven Pickford, now deceased. Disposal was suggested by GCHMG, but councillors keen on other options. Chair proposing it be kept as a resource for the community.

Action: Peter Clarke to speak to the architect about where it would fit if it is kept.

Action: Councillor Jones to email Andrew Harter and Rev Mary to see if they can look after the piano during building works and whether we want to keep it.

Action: Councillor Rogers to put agenda item on by next time to discuss piano.

7. To receive items of correspondence

No correspondence received from the clerk. Honeycomb Printers have requested payment three times. The invoice was raised in June. Councillor Jones emailed the clerk on 13th August and 9th September regarding non-payment, without reply.

The Chair has received correspondence from Tracy, the town hall cleaner, who has not been paid.

Peter Clarke reported that the contract for electricity has been renewed.

Action: The Chair to chase the clerk regarding correspondence and payment to Honeycomb and Tracy.

8. To discuss Grosmont Online

Councillor Rogers met The Media Agency, who are constructing the new village website, in August. The front page of the website is now designed with drone footage and menus and events. A document that contains screenshots and instructions to groups to tell them how will be able to post content and events to the website has been made. A tutorial will also be available on the new website. A final site should be ready early October for a final review. With scope to hand over the completed site by end of October. This should leave plenty of time still for testing and any changes before your January launch of the booking system.

9. To consider matters relating to Planning.

No correspondence received from the clerk.

Action: The Chair to check if any planning applications have been sent.

10. To agree expenditure and other accounts matters

No correspondence received from the clerk. Payments have still not made to Councillor Barker requested in April. Lowri to request payment for defibrillator and keys cut for Town Hall.

Action: The Chair to ask for monies for defibrillator, keys and Councillor Barker's expenses, further to the monies requested in agenda item 7.

11. To discuss the state of the roads in and about Grosmont

No correspondence received from clerk. The Chair sent an email and photos of the issues at Kentchurch Bridge in July to Steve Baldwin, with no response as yet.

Action: The Chair to chase Steve Baldwin.

12. To discuss Footpaths

Andrew Stumpf has emailed his monthly update. The walking group now has access to brush cutters and trimmers so can deal with overgrown paths if reported. A number of members of the community are regularly walking the two Patchcare routes and some of the Paths To Well-being routes. We could do with more people surveying either these routes, or their own favourites on a periodic basis, around three times a year, so that issues can be reported and sorted.

The issue of cars blocking visibility on both sides of the interchange between the village road and The Hand were reported.

Councillor Barker brought up the issue of overgrown trees by Castle Aspect, opposite Swan Cottages requiring attention.

Action: Council to consider how to intervene.

13. To receive and consider any other business

Tracy spoke to Councillor Barker in August about the defibrillator, which wasn't working, so Councillor Barker spoke to the Chair. New batteries have been bought but its green light is not staying on. Councillor Barker has tried the numbers for service on the defibrillator, which are unobtainable.

Ian Park, who has full credentials, has replied on Grosmont Noticeboard on FB that he can help do our servicing work. He was coming up on weekend to look at the issue.

MCC have put up new lights on the town hall to replace the ones broken earlier this year by the lorry in the village. They are not in keeping with the building's listed status, which given all the work Grosmont Future and GCC have put into the plans for the town hall refurbishment are disappointing. More pressingly, the cables are taped up in a way that doesn't look safe. The Chair asked David Hughes—Jones about who to speak to at the council and he will respond with the correct person in the lighting department. Councillor Rogers also encouraged locals to report the issue at the MCC street lighting site: <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/street-lighting/>

Action: The Chair to check with Ian Park regarding the defibrillator service.

Action: David Hughes-Jones to send The Chair the correct contact at MCC.

14. To decide the date of the next meeting

This will be Tuesday 8th October, depending on the availability of Councillors Edwards and Mintowt-Czyz, as Councillors Barker and Williams will be absent.

Action: Councillors to check with Councillors Edwards and Mintowt-Czyz to see if they can make this date.