**GROSMONT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**CYNGOR CYMUNED GROSMONT**

**Chairman/Cadeirydd Clerk/Clerc**

**Councillor Lowri Wynn Morgan Mr R Wade**

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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 OCTOBER 2023**

Those attending the meeting: Councillors Lowri Wynn Morgan (Chair), Witek Mintowt-Czyz and Jamie Edwards and the Clerk to the Council, Robert Wade. On the floor of the meeting were Russell James, Jan Chatfield, Jane Moggridge and County Councillor David Hughes-Jones.

1. **To accept apologies for absence**

Councillors Jude Rogers, Janet Williams and Margie Barker sent their apologies for their absence.

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

None were announced at the start of the meeting. It was agreed that these could be announced as and when the situation arose during the meeting.

1. **Discussion on matters arising from the Police Reports and police issues generally**

The report for September 2023 had been circulated by e-mail previously. It was noted that none of the entries related to Grosmont. The Clerk said he had raised that with the officer, who said that the report covered Crucorney as well, and it was accepted that there was no point in requesting a report which related to Grosmont only. The Chair commented that she had not previously noted that a new Inspector had been appointed, and the Clerk was requested to invite her to attend the next meeting so that she and the Council could be introduced. She confirmed that the Welsh translation from Google appeared to be excellent, and could be used so that the report could be published in full.

1. **To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting on the 13th September 2023**

The Minutes of the Meeting on the 13th September 2023 were approved as a correct record, Councillor Mintowt-Czyz proposing and Councillor Edwards seconding.

1. **To consider matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting on the 13th September 2023**
2. Page 2 – 5(a) – The Clerk said that the money for the lost “Henry” Hoover had been refunded. It was agreed that the Chair could order a new one, and would then be refunded.
3. Page 2 – 5(b) – It appeared that the grass in the castle precincts had now been mowed by Country Wide, commissioned by Cadw, so the issue which had previously been raised was no longer a cause for concern.
4. Page 2 – 5(d) – the Clerk said that he had been on the telephone to HMRC for three hours, and had been cut off three times arbitrarily, trying to resolve the Income Tax position. He said he would persevere.
5. Page 2 – 5(e) – The Clerk said he had received a response from Mark Hand on the issue of the bridge at the bottom of Cupid’s Hill. Mark had said the issue had not been on “his radar”, which occasioned some surprise for the meeting. The Clerk was requested to convey those views in a reasonably tactful way. County Councillor Hughes-Jones said that he understood that there was a new scheme being developed to permit more water to flow and thus take the pressure off the bridge, but it was unclear when that might be implemented. Councillor Edwards said that Balfour Beatty had tidied the site up.
6. Page 4 – 13 – there was some discussion as to what action could be taken in relation to the map sent round by the Welsh Government of the new 20 mph speed limit. There was some complaint that the new limit stopped in certain places just where it was needed most. Councillor Edwards pointed to the position of the residents at the bottom of Cupid’s Hill, and from the floor Russell James referred to the occupants of Laurel Cottage whose front garden opened directly out onto the road. In response to a point made by County Councillor Hughes-Jones, the Clerk said that the Welsh Government had been told that the village was in favour of the 20 mph limit being applied, but the decision as to exactly where the new limit would come in was one entirely for the Government in accordance with the map they sent out which had been discussed at the last meeting. The Clerk said he would see what could be done. On a different, but related, point, it was pointed out that the County Council had not yet installed any 20 mph signs, and the Clerk was requested to write to ask when this might be done.
7. **To consider the progress of the work relating to the Town Hall Project**
8. **To discuss the Partnership Agreement**

These two items were discussed together

1. It was proposed by Councillor Mintowt-Czyz (seconded by Councillor Edwards) that the Highlight Report prepared by the project Manager (Peter Clarke) should be accepted.
2. The current draft of the Partnership Agreement (previously circulated) was discussed. It was accepted by all parties that the agreement was subject to regular review and revision. Councillor Mintowt-Czyz proposed that the Partnership Agreement should be formally adopted by the Council. The proposal was seconded by the Chair, and the proposal was accepted without dissent. It was noted that Appendix B was the Project Structure and Reporting Document which laid out the specific relationships and responsibilities of the several constituted bodies having responsibilities for the furtherance of the Community Hub project. From the floor, on behalf of Grosmont Futures, Jan Chatfield stated that Appendix B was still subject to consideration by Grosmont Futures. The Council agreed to consider any revisions proposed by Grosmont Futures
3. The Chair proposed (seconded by Councillor Mintowt-Czyz) that it should be agreed in principle that an application should be made for a Public Works Loan, and this was agreed. Councillor Mintowt-Czyz undertook to liaise with the Clerk to update the draft of the Borrowing Permission application. He drew the attention of Council to Section 8 of the application form, where the question was asked whether it was foreseen that there was likely to be a significant budget shortfall, so that an additional loan might be required. It was recognised that the scale of any shortfall would be determined only once tenders for building works had been received and the budget revised. Any increased borrowing requirement would necessitate further public consultation as such a circumstance would affect the precept. It was noted that the Precept for the next financial year needed to be agreed early in 2024.
4. **To discuss Grosmont Online**

The Chair read out Councillor Rogers’ brief report which comprised two issues:

1. She was finding that the report was sometimes being taken down from the notice-board.
2. Nick Jones was bringing together a 16 page Grosmont Village link magazine in full colour at a cost of £292 for all 350 households. He was hoping to include photographs of the Councillors and the Clerk and also the e-mail addresses for the Councillors. Councillor Mintowt–Czyz said that it was now law that each Councillor had to have an e-mail address specifically for Council business – he or she should not be using a private e-mail address. referred to her weekly submissions, which appeared on the Web-site.
3. On another, related, issue, the Chair commented that it would be sensible, in connection with the issue of consultation with the public, for the full costs of the work on the Town Hall to be publicized on Grosmont on line.

1. **To receive items of correspondence**

The Clerk said that there were no items not already covered by other aspects of the Agenda.

1. **To consider matters relating to Planning.**

The Clerk said there were no Planning matters to consider.

1. **To agree expenditure and other accounts matters**

The meeting approved the payment of the Clerk’s travel expenses and paper in the sum of £38.50.

1. **To discuss the state of the roads in and about Grosmont**

The continuing concern of the community over the state of the roads was expressed by several Councillors. County Councillor Hughes-Jones said that he understood there was a plan for Hand Road to be resurfaced, although there was no prediction as to when that might be done. From the floor, Jan Chatfield said that she had seen some workmen using a shovel to fill in certain pot-holes by hand. This was agreed to be of only limited help.

13. **To discuss Footpaths**

No particular issues arose**.**

1. **To receive and consider any other business**
2. The Chair asked why the toilets were closed. The recent leak had caused problems, and the stop-cock had been turned off. The Clerk said that the issue of the repair of the leak had very been taken in hand by Peter Clarke. It wasn’t clear whether it had been repaired yet.
3. Linked with the previous item, there had been a problem on Saturday 7th October when the Hororological Society had arrived and could not gain access, and had had to get water from the pub because of the leak not being repaired and the toilets being unusable. Their booking had not been in the diary. The Clerk said he would check this out.
4. The Clerk said he had looked into the issue of the rate of pay of SSE, and would distribute the e-mail which showed the contract they were proposing. This was for a total of £1,015 over 12 months, which seemed reasonable bearing in mind that the Council had spent £738 during the 6 months period April to September 2023. However, it was thought that maybe a better offer could be obtained from another company, and this should be checked out.
5. Councillor Edwards said that Marcus Percy had repaired the shower.
6. Russell James asked if representations could be made to keep the minor injuries unit open at Nevill Hall – there was an online petition going.
7. Russell James said that Welsh Water had sent two tankers to take away sewage from the works. He recollected that a letter had been written to Welsh Water about this, and he thought the reply that had been given was somewhat misleading. The Chair said it was good if precautions were being taken to ensure that the excess sewage did not go into the river, but nevertheless it was obviously right that this should be questioned.
8. Jan Chatfield asked if it was definitely now accepted that there should not be a lease to Grosmont Futures by the Council, but instead a Management Agreement should be drawn up. It was accepted that this should be done by December.

**15. To decide the date of the next meeting**

Councillor Mintowt-Czyz proposed (seconded by the Chair) that Standing Orders should be amended so that the Council meetings should be on the second Tuesday in the month. This was agreed. On that basis, the next meeting would be on the **14th November 2023**.