**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 12TH DECEMBER 2023**

Those attending the meeting: Councillors Lowri Wyn Morgan (Chair), Witek Mintowt-Czyz, Jamie Edwards and Nicholas Jones and the Clerk to the Council, Robert Wade.

1. **To accept apologies for absence**

Councillors Jude Rogers, Jane Williams and Margie Barker sent their apologies for absence. Whilst ex officio, County Councillor David Hughes-Jones also sent his apologies.

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**

Inspector Sowrey was in attendance. There was no formal report available to the meeting, but she confirmed that there had been no reports of crime in Grosmont. The majority of their calls did not relate to Grosmont, but mainly to the A465, where there had been two arrests. The number of burglaries of farms had decreased over the previous few months, although thefts from vehicles had increased, mainly from lorries in lay-bys. An incident of poaching had been reported, but there had been no sign of a vehicle in the area. She recommended that people remained vigilant, especially on the dark nights. Councillor Edwards asked about a car crash the previous week when a black Corsa had flipped over; Inspector Sowrey said that they were investigating the issue of whether or not the vehicle had been speeding through the village. Councillor Edwards also asked about the spraying of 20 mph signs, which was an ongoing problem

The Chair thanked Inspector Sowrey for her attendance.

1. **To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting on the 14th November 2023**

The Minutes of the Meeting on the 14th November 2023 were approved as a correct record, proposed by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Jones.

1. **To consider matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting on the 14th November 2023**

The Clerk indicated that there were no matters arising from the Minutes that would not be dealt with better at other points in the Agenda.

1. **To consider the progress of the work relating to the Town Hall Project**
2. **To discuss the Partnership Agreement**

These two items on the Agenda were discussed together

(a) Consideration of the Partnership Agreement was ongoing. Grosmont Futures were proposing amendments which would be available for discussion at the next meeting.

(b) The application for Borrowing Approval was considered at length, and suggestions were made for the Clerk to draft the final version and send it through to Councillors, which he said he would do the following day. The Clerk said that he had investigated the issue of the bank account for the building work, and Paul Egan of One Voice had stated very firmly that the account had to be in the name of the Council and controlled by it. There was discussion as to whether or not there should be a separate bank account for the building work, especially in view of the difficulty of opening bank accounts, and it was agreed that this would be put onto the Agenda for the next meeting.

1. **To discuss Grosmont Online**

Councillor Jones distributed copies of the Link Magazine. The meeting expressed its thanks to him for his work. He said that there might be scope for advertisements and/or donations which would assist with the publication costs. Following on from this point, there was some discussion as to whether there might be a subscription for people living outside the community. No final decision was made on this point, or whether the magazine might be made available on the web-site.

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.**

(a) DM/2023/01390 – 2 Lawns Cottages – extension and remodelling of an existing semi-detached house, mirroring the adjacent house. This was approved.

(b) The Chair commented on the progress of the planning for the Post Office. There was still an issue as to whether there might be access through the church-yard. It was unclear whether this had been agreed by the Church in Wales.

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

The following payments were approved:

Fire Rite £316.80

Jonathan Price for valuation of the Town Hall £300

Sarah Browne £4,537.80

Honeycomb (for the Link Magazine) £210

Payment of the Clerk’s travelling expenses £64.80

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

Councillor Edwards said that the 20 mph sign at the top of the straight mile had been knocked, and the fence on the bridge by Mill Farm had blown over, and he said there were overhanging branches and hedging. 20 mph signs had been defaced. He said that some tar had been poured into pot-holes by way of what was evidently a temporary solution. The Clerk confirmed that he would write to the Council again, and in particular to Steve Baldwin to suggest a meeting, as agreed at the meeting in November.

**13.** **To discuss Footpaths**

No particular issues arose**.**

1. **To receive and consider any other business**

Reference was made to the Christmas Tree festival scheduled for the following Saturday, and there was some discussion as to the structure of the Council’s tree.

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

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on the **9th January 2024**.