**GROSMONT FAWR COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**CYNGOR CYMUNED GROSMONT FAWR**

**Chairman/Cadeirydd Clerk/Clerc**

**Councillor David Hughes Jones Mr R Wade**

**Cartref 12 Crawshay Bailey Close**

**Llanvetherine Gilwern**

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE GROSMONT TOWN HALL ON THE 14TH MARCH 2022**

Those attending the meeting: Councillors David Hughes Jones (Chairman), Andrew Farr, James Beavan, Paul Sheridan, James Stark and Witek Mintowt-Czyz and the Clerk to the Council, Robert Wade. Also present was Janet Chatfield, a member of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

1. **Declaration of interests**.

It was agreed that these could be given as and when the occasion arose during the meeting.

1. **Public Forum**

Janet Chatfield raised a number of issues:

1. She had thought to hire the Hall for an event in support of Ukraine on the 12th March, but in the event they had used the church, and raised £2,055.

1. She asked if there were now any Covid restrictions in place for the use of the Hall. The Chairman said that he was unsure, but believed that whatever there were. they would be removed by the end of the month.
2. It was agreed that she could get together a group to do a spring-clean of the Hall.

1. It had previously been agreed that Grosmont Events would have some time in the Hall free of charge. This had been interrupted by the pandemic, and she asked how much time was left. Councillor Farr said that he believed this would last until Christmas.
2. There was to be a meeting at the Angel Public House at 6 p.m. on the 15th March to decide what should be done about the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. PS said he would attend if possible.
3. She asked about the Post Office. The Chair said that his understanding was that the shop’s new owners had appointed somebody to run the Post Office side of the business, and that person should be in place by April or May.
4. **Discussion on matters arising from the Police Report and police issues generally**

The police report had been distributed by e-mail. The Clerk mentioned the experience with Llantilio Pertholey Community Council regarding police reluctance investigation of damage less than £5,000, but the feeling of the meeting was that the police did attend and investigate satisfactorily in the area covered by Grosmont Community Council when asked to do so.

1. **To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on the 8th November 2021.**

The Minutes were approved.

1. **To consider matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on the 8th November 2021**

The Minutes were approved save for the wrongful spelling of the name of Councillor Mintowt-Czyz, which the Clerk said was entirely down to him. He apologised and said this would be corrected.

1. **To receive items of correspondence**

The Clerk said that the only issue which was of importance was the forthcoming election. Some concern was expressed as to online nominations, and the Clerk said he would resolve this and notify all Councillors. Councillor Sheridan said that he would download the information and distribute it, which was generally felt to be extremely helpful.

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

DM/2022/00259 - an application by Dilwyn Tranter of Gelli Llwyd for a steel frame storage barn for hay. Councillor Farr said this essentially for information only, as he probably did not need permission just for an open-sided barn. It was generally felt that there was no difficulty so long as it was reserved for hay only.

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

Clerk’s salary £1,125

Clerk’s pay for dealing with the proposed Town Hall Hub business £270

Admin £143.88

One Voice £137

Cleaner £297.19.

The Clerk also sought retrospective authorization for the payment of £397.34 to close the 3 Mobile Broadband account. Councillor Sheridan said that this might be helpful in future, to ensure Broadband connection and this was generally acknowledged, but it was decided to leave it to the next Council.

Demands had been received form IONOS for £51. This was not clear, and the Clerk said he would investigate further. It was a point of concern to him that communications of this sort often came with no or no adequate contact details for a reply. He was authorised to pay it if it was indeed due.

**10 To consider the proposed Partnership Agreement with Grosmont Futures and the Project generally**

Councillor Mintowt-Czyz moved to accept the Agreement which had been drawn up. This was seconded by Councillor Farr, and agreed unanimously.

Councillor Mintowt-Czyz asked about the loan of £30,000 which had been agreed by the Council at its meeting on the 10th January. No decision had been made as to how this money would be spent, of when the application should be made. Councillor Stark said that the loan would have to be spent in the financial year in which the application was made, so it might well be that the application might not be made until April 2023, and Peter Willis, the coordinator dealing with the Hub project, had advised that it shouldn’t be made anyway until other grant applications had been decided.

There was a question mark as to whether a public works loan could be spent on repairs. Councillor Mintowt-Czyz asked whether it could be used for improvements, such as the lift. It was recognised that it was going to take 6-8 weeks before the result was made known of the application for the initial grant of £14,000 which would cover research into what the project could cover, and there was the Planning aspect to be considered as well, which might add as much as six months to the time-scale.

Councillor Farr said that, even if the grant applications failed, we would at least have £30,000 to put towards the basics. Councillor Mintowt-Czyz said it would be good to find out what other funding might be available. Councillor Stark said that Peter Willis had agreed to help with this, and to assist in filling in forms etc if needs be.

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

1. The Clerk asked if it was solely his decision as to bookings of the Hall, and was told that it currently was. There was a table of charges on the Council notice-board.
2. The Clerk enquired about Halls Together, having received an e-mail with regards to a meeting. Jan Chatfield said that this was designed to combine experience of the use of Town Halls in Monmouthshire. There would be an online portal.

**12 Rural Roads**

This was agreed as an extra item on the agenda. The Clerk said he had been unaware that it was a standing feature to past Council agendas, and agreed to this late insertion. **Councillor Farr** expressed considerable concern over the state of the roads in and around Grosmont, and asked that the person responsible for roads at Monmouthshire County Council should be pressed into action. Particular points of concern were:

1. The Hand Road, Grosmont has much water running onto it and this seems to be a long-standing issue to be resolved with Welsh Water. The road also needs potholes filled in and re-surfacing.
2. Pothole near Point Farm, Campston Road
3. Road approaching Tressenny Farm from Grosmont (Town Farm Pitch) has potholes.
4. Potholes near Clark’s Barn on the road from Grosmont to Skenfrith

1. There is a need for a Road Narrows sign on the Grosmont side of the narrow part near Clark’s Barn.

1. Pothole near Llangua Bridge on the A465
2. Mill Farm bridge, work needs to be completed and the road surface improved
3. Caggl Street Llanvetherine, need to be surfaced.

1. **Date of the next meeting of the Council**

The Chairman said that the next meeting would be the first General Meeting of the newly-elected Council on **Monday, 9th May 2022 at 7:30 p.m.**

In closing the meeting, the Chairman commented that, because of the removal of Llanvetherine from the Grosmont area and its incorporation into the Skenfrith area, in the recent boundary changes, he would not be nominating himself for election to the Council at the next election, so this would be his last meeting, ending an association with the Council lasting some 40 years, similar to the period that Councillor Farr had spent as a Councillor. He said that the experience had been fulfilling and rewarding, and he thanked everybody for their co-operation, and Councillor Farr in particular for having been his Vice-Chairman, and thanked the Clerk for his help. Councillor Farr offered the Chairman all best wishes for the future with his new Council and his work on the County Council.