

**GROSMONT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**CYNGOR CYMUNED GROSMONT**

**Chairman/Cadeirydd**  
**Councillor Lowri Wynn Morgan**  
**1 Poorscript Lane**  
**Grosmont**  
**Abergavenny**  
**Monmouthshire**  
**NP7 8LP**  
**Tel: 07851 675883**  
**e-mail: lowri.wynnmorgan@gmail.com**

**Clerk/Clerc**  
**Mr R Wade**  
**4 The Coach House**  
**Penoyre Estate**  
**Cradoc**  
**Brecon**  
**Powys**  
**LD3 9LP**  
**Tel: 01874 409890**  
**Mob: 07502 590038**  
**E-mail: grosmontcouncil@hotmail.com**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GROSMONT  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE GROSMONT TOWN  
HALL AT 7:30 PM ON THE 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**

Those attending the meeting: Councillors Lowri Wynn Morgan (Chair), Jude Rogers (Vice-Chair), Witek Mintowt-Czyz, Janet Williams, Margie Barker and the Clerk to the Council, Robert Wade. On the floor of the meeting were Russell James, Jane Moggridge, Peter Clarke and County Councillor David Hughes-Jones.

Prior to the meeting, Nick Jones was presented to the Council as the only candidate for co-option and was duly approved, proposed by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Mintowt-Czyz..

**1. To accept apologies for absence**

Councillor Jamie Edwards sent his apologies for his absence.

**2. 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.

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

Two PCSOs, Gareth Llewellyn and Emma Jones were in attendance. The Clerk said that Inspector Sowrey had promised to be available for the next meeting. It was confirmed that the police report covered the entire area including Crucorney, and that in general Grosmont itself presented few problems, although the Chair pointed out a number of problems that had arisen. Whilst acknowledging that Councillors could be kept informed in general as to things of concern (for example, she knew one of her own neighbours (now deceased) had been involved in a burglary), she said that fuller

information would be reassuring. County Councillor Hughes-Jones remarked that too little information could be more alarming than full disclosure. Councillor Williams, expressing interest as a landowner, asked about the report of poaching, although the officers said they were not aware of the precise location of the incident reported, and that he would contact Councillor Williams direct after the meeting to discuss this. PCSO Llewellyn said that a new form of police report would be produced in due course. He said that contact details for officers were in the report, and could be used to clear up any misunderstandings or anxieties.

The Chair thanked the two officers for their attendance.

**4. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

The Minutes of the Meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were approved as a correct record, with the deletion of the last 11 words in section 8(b), the Chair proposing and Councillor Mintowt-Czyz seconding.

**5. To consider matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 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.

**6. To consider the progress of the work relating to the Town Hall Project**

**7. To discuss the Partnership Agreement**

These two items on the Agenda were discussed together

(a) The Chair expressed the thanks of the Council to Peter Clarke, the project manager, for attending the meeting. He said that the builders' tenders had been received, and the builder would be chosen in December and appointed formally in February. He did not yet know if they had enough money for everything they wanted to do, and there might be a need to increase the Precept in January, which meant that residents need to be consulted, and they would also need to be informed that the Hall would close for the duration of the work. Councillor Mintowt-Czyz said that there needed to be a sinking fund allowed for in the Precept as well. The Stopping Order, closing the Hall, needed to be in place six weeks prior to starting work. It was acknowledged that this would affect the pub and the two cottages next door, and of course would close the toilets. The Public Works loan was essential for the project, and Councillor Mintowt-Czyz said that he had sent a draft to the Clerk, who was asked to do what was necessary to populate it. Peter said that there was still a need to prove the ownership of the Hall, and the Clerk was asked to attend to this. He was also asked to confirm that the correct insurance cover was in place.

(b) The Chair said that the Partnership Agreement was still not quite in place, since Grosmont Futures

had some final points to make, but that good progress was being made.

(c) Councillor Rogers produced a list of items for approval, which was discussed at length:

(i) It was proposed by Councillor Rogers that, for consistency and to avoid confusion, it should be agreed that any reference to “Steering group” (SG) should be changed immediately to Grosmont Community Hub Management Group (GCHMG). This was seconded by the Chair and approved.

(ii) It was proposed by the Chair that the running of the project’s “wellbeing” activities (post build) will be delegated to GF with oversight from GCHMG. This will include responsibility for the freelance project coordinator who will be managed by a member of GF who also sits on GCHMG. This was seconded by Councillor Rogers, this was approved.

(iii) Councillor Rogers proposed that the funding for the project repairs and renovations from the Lottery Fund, Heritage Fund and other sources would be managed by GCHMG on behalf of GCC, who would appoint a treasurer. To do this, a new GCH bank account would be opened by GCC - which would have overall control (but would delegate to GCHMG to manage). The Chair questioned this, asking if this would be acceptable to (among others) One Voice Wales, bearing in mind the overall responsibility of the Council for the funds. The Clerk was asked to clarify this.

(iv) Councillor Rogers proposed that the hall operations budget will be managed by GCHMG. This was second by the Chair, and approved.

(v) Councillor Rogers said that the hall operations income will come from a range of sources including precept, room hire and grant funding. This will include a contribution from the TNLCF revenue budget for operating costs for the duration of the project. This includes funding towards overheads and subsidised room hire. The precise amount will be confirmed at an upcoming workshop. This portion of TNLCF funding will not therefore be delegated to GF. Councillor Rogers proposed that this would be agreed, and the Chair seconded, and this was approved.

(vi) It was proposed by Councillor Rogers and seconded by the Chair that GCC will delegate TNLCF revenue funding for delivering the wellbeing project activities to GF.

(vii) It was proposed by Councillor Rogers and seconded by the Chair that the remaining Project wellbeing delivery budget would be managed by the Project Coordinator (yet to be appointed) with oversight of the GF treasurer on behalf of GCHMG, and that GF will arrange payments for the project coordinator .

(viii) It was proposed by Councillor Rogers and seconded by the Chair that it be acknowledged that any money managed by GF would not be eligible for VAT reclaim (for reference see draft TNLCF revenue budget below the meeting notes). This was agreed.

(ix) It was proposed by Councillor Rogers and seconded by the Chair that GCHMG will oversee the whole project in accordance with the partnership agreement and manage Grosmont Community Hub. This was agreed.

(d) A question arose over the fees for the use of the Town Hall, especially since the Hall would close shortly. The Council clearly wanted existing users to return once the work was done. It was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Mintowt-Czyz that the Yoga group should be offered the use of the hall for £10 a session instead of the current £15, and that was agreed. A similar concession would be offered to the Gardening Club. Peter Clarke remarked that the ultimate aim was to make the Hall self-sufficient after 3 years, and the issue of fees would be decided once the work was finished.

## **8. To discuss Grosmont Online**

(a) Councillor Rogers said that the main point was the Link magazine produced by Nick Jones, a draft of which was handed out to each Councillor. This is a revival of the once regular Church Link magazine, which ceased publication prior to the pandemic. It was planned to produce this twice a year, and to distribute it to every address in the area covered by the Council. The cost of £260 was agreed.

(b) Councillor Mintowt-Czyz repeated the comment he had made at the October meeting, 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. This should be born in mind when details were published in the magazine. Councillor Rogers also said she would contact the web domain company for Grosmont.wales to enquire if new email addresses could be acquired through that service. She will report back at the next meeting.

## **9. To receive items of correspondence**

(a) The Clerk read out an e-mail from Mr Wesley of Welsh Water regarding the sewerage works.

(b) Otherwise, he said that there were no items not already covered by other aspects of the Agenda.

## **10. To consider matters relating to Planning.**

DM/2023/01437 – Little Park Farm – two bay agricultural building – this item was approved.

## **11. To agree expenditure and other accounts matters**

The meeting approved the payment of the Clerk's salary of £1,354.17 and HMRC £270.83. The Chair said that she hoped a contract could be in place by the next meeting for both him and the Cleaner.

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

(a) The continuing concern of the community over the state of the roads was expressed by several Councillors. The Clerk read out an e-mail received from Steve Baldwin of Monmouthshire County Council which appeared to confuse the Kentchurch Bridge with the bridge at the bottom of Cupid's Hill which was the main focus of concern by the meeting. The Clerk was requested to write to Mr Baldwin, asking (a) what work was planned to be done (b) the proposed time-scale of such work (c) why it was thought that blocking the culvert was a good idea, since it would surely lead to flooding. He was also requested to suggest a meeting by Mr Baldwin with at least Councillor Edwards so that concerns could be ironed out. With regards to the Kentchurch bridge, it was suggested that Mr Baldwin could be alerted to the fact that the damage was all on the Welsh side of the bridge.

(b) The Clerk referred to a map which he had been sent by e-mail that very day and which purported to show the point at which 30 mph changed to 20 mph in the village. It was agreed that 20 mph signs were all now up, as the e-mail suggested, although their positioning was far from acceptable – for example there was still a problem around the Chantreys, where the speed of traffic remained a vital concern - and it was suggested that they should be set back off the road. On a positive note, it was seen that road lines had now been renewed and were clearly visible.

## **13. To discuss Footpaths**

No particular issues arose. Councillor Rogers said that Andrew Stumpf was still doing excellent work.

## **14. To receive and consider any other business**

(a) Councillor Williams mentioned that there was still excessive growth on hedges over the roads. It was agreed that this should be discussed at the next meeting.

(b) Peter Clarke said that the shower had now been mended and the toilets opened. He asked whether the water heater should be renewed, and in general views were against this. The Clerk asked that a quote should be provided for the benefit of an insurance claim arising out of the flooding that had taken place.

(c) The Chair said that a microwave had been kindly donated to the Town Hall kitchen by Alison and Richard Brown.

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

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on the **12<sup>th</sup> December 2023**.