**GROSMONT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**CYNGOR CYMUNED GROSMONT FAWR**

**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 21st July 2022**

Those attending the meeting: Councillors Lowri Wynn Morgan (Chair), Jude Rogers (Vice-Chair), Witek Mintowt-Czyz, Janet Williams and Jamie Edwards and the Clerk to the Council, Robert Wade. Also present was Jane Moggridge.

1. **To accept apologies for absence**

There were no apologies.

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

None were given at the start of the meeting. It was agreed that these would be given as and when the issue arose during the course of the meeting.

1. **The Public Forum**

Jane Moggridge asked about whether there was a defibrillator serving the area. It was confirmed that there was one, situated by the main doorway to the Town Hall. Councillor Mintowt-Czyz said he understood it was scheduled for renewal, and asked if the Clerk could check this and its ownership. Whose responsibility was it to undertake the renewal? Jane Moggridge suggested that the church might have some input so far as that was concerned. Councillor Rogers said that the “use by” date should be clearly marked on the machine.

Jane Moggridge said that Councillor Rogers had agreed to take over the web-site from the beginning of September. Councillor Rogers confirmed this, while saying that, in view of the number of responsibilities she now had, she would want to drop out of the Steering Committee.

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

The Chair said that the report did not appear to show anything of great moment. She again expressed concern at the distraction burglaries described in the April, and wondered if there had been a follow-up. It was generally agreed that the Council should meet the police officer concerned, and the Clerk said he would see if the officer could attend the next meeting.

1. **To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th June 2022**

The Minutes of the meeting were approved as a true record.

1. **To consider matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th June 2022**
2. Page 2 – 4 – there was a general discussion of the issues relating to the Town Hall project. The last application for the grant had gone in, and the meeting gave retrospective approval to the delegation to Peter Clarke of decisions in relation to the same.

Councillor Mintowt-Czyz said that there was an outstanding issue relating to the application to the Architectural Heritage Fund in that it required biographies for the trustees, and it was also required that there should be formal approval of their appointment, supported by a Minute of meeting. He said he would attend to this.

The Chair referred to the Halls Together project, which was being organised by Deb Neville, which she thought could be of help to the Council generally. It was suggested that Deb could come to the next meeting to promote her plan. Councillor Mintowt-Czyz proposed (seconded by the Chair) that Deb should be appointed to act as representative for the Town Hall in respect of any discussions for this project, although any formal decisions would still have to be referred to and ratified by the Council before they could become binding on it. This was agreed.

Councillor Mintowt-Czyz said that there also needed to be a formal Minute to the effect that the Partnership Agreement should be signed.

1. 5(a) Councillor Rogers confirmed that she would be meeting with Jane Moggridge by the September meeting, to take over the conduct of the web-site. Councillor Mintowt-Czyz said that his understanding was that the web-site had been funded originally by Grosmont Events, having been set up by Gaynor. It was generally agreed that the Council should now pay for it. The Clerk asked that, whatever other changes were brought about, the current diary system for bookings for the Town Hall should be maintained. A query was raised as to whether former Councillor Daisy Learmond might maintain the Facebook page. The Chair suggested that the whole system should be looked at afresh.
2. As a general comment, the Chair asked about document control, especially with GDPR being so significant. She asked if Jan Chatfield and Peter Clarke might put a package together, and asked the Clerk to check on this. Documents generally were to be placed in Drop-Box and accessed from there. The Chair also asked about the need for Zoom and whether a Family subscription for Teams would not be better. No formal decision was made in relation to this.
3. **To consider the progress of the working to the Town Hall Project**

This was dealt with under the heading of Matters Arising from the Minutes of the last meeting.

1. **To receive items of correspondence**.

There no items under this heading.

1. **To consider the resignation of Councillor Daisy Learmond and the need for co-option**.

The Chair reflected the Council’s sadness at the resignation. The need for co-option was clearly there. Councillor Mintowt-Czyz queried whether there was a need for the formal advertisement route or whether it could be dealt with in a more informal way. The Clerk said he would check and report back to the next meeting.

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

There no items under this heading. However, comments were made at the meeting relating to the ongoing issue with the Post Office application. As before, the major problem appeared to be the access via the church-yard to which the Church PCC had predictably objected. There was some uncertainty as to what the Council had actually said in its comments on the application, and the Clerk was requested to check on this. Councillor Mintowt-Czyz said that his understanding was the problems that still feel to be considered and approved included the question of it being a Star Listed Building, the access through the church yard, parking generally, the viability of the shop and the issue of storage.

There was also some anxiety because, whereas the shop was open, the Post Office section wasn’t and this had to be promoted. Councillor Rogers said that it was important that lines of communication were kept open because any Post Office was very much a hub for a village.

1. **To consider the Clerk’s Salary**

This item was put off until the next meeting, at the Clerk’s request

1. **To** **agree expenditure and other accounts matters**.
2. The Clerk said he was still awaiting confirmation that the Chair and Councillor Rogers had been accepted by the bank as signatories to cheques. He would check on this.
3. The meeting approved the payment of the Clerk’s salary, and gave authority to the Chair to approve the payment of administration expenses and the payment to the cleaner which would be notified to her by the Clerk.
4. The issue of money which was ring-fenced was raised and would be discussed at the next meeting

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

It was agreed that Councillors Edwards and Davies would be the “Czars” to deal on behalf of the Council with any queries under this heading, and their status in that respect should be made clear on the web-site.

Specific reference was made to the main drag through Cupid’s Hill to Skenfrith and then down to Llangua, and also to verges which were overgrown, and clearly should be attended to. People were having to drive in the middle of the road, and the drivers of school buses had reported particular problems. The recently-developed 20 mph speed limit was also thought to be a problem. All this should be brought to the attention of Mr Hand of Monmouthshire County Council. Councillor Mintowt-Czyz said that so far as he was concerned the County Council was obliged to keep the roads clear, and should be held to account for their disrepair, if need be by announcing the problem on the web-site, and the verges were a priority.

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

There was no other business

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

It was agreed that there was no need for a meeting in August, but the next meeting would take place on the **8th September 2022 at 19:30 hours**.