**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 26TH MARCH 2024**

Those attending the meeting: Councillors Lowri Wynn Morgan (Chair), Jude Rogers (Vice-Chair), Witek Mintowt-Czyz, Jan Williams, Margie Barker and Nicholas Jones. Also present were Peter Clarke, Jan Chatfield, Jane Moggridge and Russell James.

1. **To accept apologies for absence**

Councillor Jamie Edwards sent his apologies.

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

It was agreed that these could be raised as and when the need occurred during any of the ensuing discussions.

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

The Clerk had distributed the report, just received that morning, Councillor Rogers remarked on an increase in accidents on the A465 and for this to be brought up with the police the next time they attend a meeting. It was hoped that a police representative might be present at the next meeting.

4. **To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meetings on the 22nd February 2024**

A discussion about the minutes was had, with Councillor Mintowt-Czyz saying that they were not accurate which was unacceptable. The Clerk said that he was being bullied by Councillor Mintowt-Czyz, and he had asked Councillor Mintowt-Czyz to specify which parts of the Minutes were inaccurate. In order to prevent a heated discussion disrupting the meeting., the chair brought the discussion to a close, with the minute issue to be discussed away from the public meeting.

**5**. **To consider matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting on the 12th December 2023** No matters were regarded as worthy of mention separately from issues already to be discussed.

**6.** T**o consider the progress of the work relating to the Town Hall Project, the Highlight ` Report and the Partnership Agreement**

(a) The Chair confirmed that the Partnership Agreement had been signed and placed on Dropbox.

(b) Peter Clarke, invited to address the meeting from the floor, asked if Sarah Browne and Sue Price had been requested by the Clerk to proceed with work. The Clerk confirmed that they had. Peter asked to be copied into further correspondence with them. It was confirmed that the Clerk could henceforth act on instructions from Peter as Project Manager.

(c) Peter said that there had been slight alterations in the proposed plans, and that the cost had been reduced from the original £300,000 to £298,000.

(d) Reference was made to the celebration party on the 13th April. It was agreed that Wayne Hill should be asked to attend. Councillor Mintowt-Czyz confirmed that some VIPs had been invited. The Chair asked that these should include the High Sheriff of Monmouthshire, who was a recent appointee. A plea was made for people to “mind” the VIPs which the councillors agreed to. Jan Chatfield asked if the Chair could be there to accept a cheque and make a speech, which was agreed. She also suggested that a gesture of appreciation should be made to Peter Willis, and it was agreed that he would be given a card and a bottle of wine.

(e) The Clerk asked for and was given formal authority to accept the new offer from the Architectural Heritage Fund of an additional £20,000.

(f) On a proposal from the Chair, seconded by Councillor Jones, it was agreed that the £500 which was to be made available to Grosmont Futures should be paid by the Clerk into the Grosmont Futures bank account. Oliver Huntsman would be asked to supply the bank details for the transfer.

(g) Councillor Rogers said that in future if the Council members who attend the GCHMG meetings are not available, their absence would be relayed to fellow councillors on WhatsApp, to hope that someone else could stand in.

7.  **To discuss an Application for Borrowing Permission**

This had been agreed in principle, but Councillor Mintowt-Czyz said that it could really only be done once a specific capital project was to be put forward. It was agreed that this item should be kept on the Agenda for future meetings.

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

(a) Councillor Rogers had previously sent out an e-mail regarding her quest for a new web-site designer. After consulting three local companies, she said that the Media Agency in Abergavenny were by far the best – quick to respond and set up a meeting and answer queries, and also the cheapest by far. Their quote for the provision of the site was £2,500 + VAT and an ongoing cost of £25 + VAT per month. What she was looking for was a site that was simple for different organisations to use, and with a booking system for the new Town Hall. Documents could be deposited on the site instead of Dropbox, which Councillor Jones said was really not fit for the purpose. Councillor Mintowt-Czyz proposed, seconded by Councillor Jones, that the Media Agency should be given the commission, and this was agreed.

(b) Councillor Jones said he had sent out e-mails, asking for contributions to the new Link magazine by the 27th May. He had also prepared flyers for the Party, and asked for them to distributed by the 2nd April. It was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Rogers, and agreed, that the invoice for printing those flyers should be sent to the Clerk and paid.

**9. To receive items of correspondence**

The Clerk said there was nothing other than what would be referred to under other headings in the Minutes

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

The Clerk said there were no Planning matters to discuss.

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

The Council requested more clarification on figures in the Financial Statement distributed by the Clerk. It was decided that this list should be discussed at the next meeting.

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

The Clerk was requested to repeat this request and to write to Steve Baldwin of Monmouthshire County Council to attend a meeting with members of the Council about potholes. It was noted that the County Council appeared to be concentrating on patching up rather than doing repairs of a more permanent nature.

Councillor Jones left the meeting at this point.

**13. To discuss Footpaths**There were no issues noted under the item.

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

(a)The Chair asked if anybody had come forward to take on the role of Responsible Financial Officer, as previously suggested. The answer appeared to be in the negative.

(b) The Clerk said that the Horological Society had written, asking for a date at the Town Hall in October. He had already written to say that this was not possible, but had been told to hold onto the cheque. Councillor Barker said that she understood they would be going to the Angel, and the Clerk was asked to correspond with the society about this and arrange for the return or disposal of the cheque.

(c) Councillor Mintowt-Czyz said that he had noticed that the key in the key-safe was broken. Jane Moggridge offered to see Tracy to get the key from her so that a fresh copy could be made.

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

It was agreed that the next meeting should take place on the **9th April 2024 at 7:30 pm**.