**GROSMONT FAWR COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**CYNGOR CYMUNED GROSMONT FAWR**

**Chairman/Cadeirydd Clerk/Clerc**

**Councillor Lowri Wynn Morgan Mr R Wade**

**1 Poorscript Lane 4 The Coach House**

**Grosmont Penoyre Estate**

**Abergavenny Cradoc**

**Monmouthshire Brecon**

**NP7 8LQ Powys**

**Tel: 07851 675883 LD3 9LP**

**e-mail: lowri.wynnmorgan@gmail.com 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 7:00 PM ON THE 7TH DECEMBER 2022**

Those attending the meeting: Councillors Lowri Wynn Morgan (Chair), Jude Rogers (Vice-Chair), Witek Mintowt-Czyz, Janet Williams, Jamie Edwards and Margaret Barker and the Clerk to the Council, Robert Wade. On the floor of the meeting were Russell James and Jane Moggridge.

1. **To accept apologies for absence**

No apologies were received. There were no apologies from Councillor Martin Davies. The Clerk said that, since he had now missed six meetings, strictly he was automatically disqualified from being a Councillor. However, the Clerk was requested to check the legal rules to make sure that this was correct and should then should e-mail Councillor Davies to advise him of this.

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

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 Report and police issues generally**

The report had been circulated by e-mail previously. The Chair noted that there were only two matters mentioned. The financial value of the burglary seemed very high, although Councillor Rogers said that she understood that the bicycles were e-bikes.

The Chair said that an e-mail from the police had given the information about the new police station in Abergavenny which had been requested at the previous meeting. It was noted that the station was intended to be open 24 hours a day. The new neighbourhood team still had to be set up, and it was noted that the Clerk would be informed when that happened.

1. **Public Forum**

The Chair requested members of the public present to make their representations as and when issues arose during the meeting rather than in the “slot” in the meeting as the agenda appeared to provide.

1. **To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting on the 9th November 2022**

The Chair proposed that the Minutes should be taken as a correct record of the meeting. The Clerk said that there were two matters of which he had been advised by County Councillor David Hughes Jones. It had not been Jan Chatfield who had been present at the meeting but Jane Moggridge, and also the £32,000,000 spent on the new 20 mph limit which had been mentioned by him was not money incurred by the County Council but by the Welsh Government. Subject to these two alterations, the Minutes were agreed.

Councillor Witek Mintowt-Czyz asked that the Minutes should be brought out within a week of the meeting in question. The Clerk said the Minutes of the last meeting had been approved by the Chair within two days of the meeting, and sent to Councillor Rogers for addition to the web-site within the week. Councillor Witek Mintowt-Czyz said he hadn’t seen these Minutes and asked that all Councillors should be circulated with the new Minutes the moment they were available in future.. This was agreed. The Clerk said he had no problem with this in principle, but he wanted to put it on record that this should not be taken as an opportunity for a Councillor to propose a form of wording that simply put the same point that he had made into different words.

**6. To consider matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting on the 9th November 2022**

Item (10) (b) – Councillor Rogers thanked Councillor Edwards for sorting out the waste bin at Llangua, which had not been damaged irreparably as had previously been thought, but only needed a little work to be done.

Item 12 (b) - Councillor Witek Mintowt-Czyz referred to the documents he had sent out in the week prior to the meeting regarding the requirements for the loan of £30,000 which had been agreed by the previous Council. He said that there was a need to look at the sort of loan to be taken out, because there were significant differences between those available. He thought that Grosmont Futures might assist, having made applications themselves recently. The Clerk said that his understanding was that a loan from the Welsh Government at least had to be used within the financial year in which it was taken out. The Chair and Councillor Witek Mintowt-Czyz said that they understood that the money only had to be *drawn down* in the same financial year, which obviously made a considerable difference. The Clerk referred to the guidance notes from the Welsh Government which he himself had sent out to all Councillors, which seemed to indicate the contrary. However, in view of the confusion, the Clerk was asked to check on this point. Councillor Witek Mintowt-Czyz said that a Treasury Loan would be at a lower interest rate than a commercial loan – possibly only 60 points over the Bank of England base rate. He said that the Council in January had said they didn’t want to burden future generations of Councillors with the repayments on a large loan. It was agreed that this should be put onto the agenda for January.

Item 13 –The Clerk said that he had e-mailed Mark Hand about the lines on the junction adjacent to the Town Hall. He had been told that the matter was being dealt with, and that he would be informed when that was going to happen.

Item 14(b) – Councillor Barker said that the bag of confidential waste from the previous Council had been found and would be drawn to the attention of County Councillor David Hughes Jones.

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

The Chair said this should be combined with item 9. There were no issues to raise. Peter Clarke had made a report which was very clear, and there were no additions to the Highlight Report. She understood that it was intended to obtain a quote from a Structural Engineer, presumably through Sarah Browne, and to make a further grant application. She expected that Peter would clarify these two aspects at the meeting due to take place on the 12th December.

1. **To discuss Grosmont Online**

Councillor Rogers said that the proposed survey asking villagers about how they find out about activities and events in the village online had been drafted. She has decided with the sub-committee to send it out in the New Year after the busy Christmas season is over, and her intention was to e-mail in the New Year groups already involved with the web-site – Grosmont Events, the Gardening Club, the Church and so forth - for feedback and amendments, before sending it out to all villagers. She would be meeting with the Rev Gaynor in the New Year to discuss church communications. She didn’t want to overcomplicate things. They would then have a meeting to finalise the survey and send it out.

There was a Facebook Page established by the Grosmont Community Hub, which is now being used by the Council, Grosmont Events and Grosmont Futures all together, and she was posting on that. There were two administrators as well as her – Victoria Barker, secretary of Grosmont Events, and Deb Neville.

Councillor Rogers said that she was thinking that it might be appropriate for groups to post on the web-site unilaterally, although, as the Clerk commented, there were dangers in this, and it might be necessary to have one designated person for each group for security’s sake. The Chair remarked that comments could be a distraction. Councillor Rogers said that Peter Clarke was “media savvy”, and could advise on the use of different media platforms. Some pages were more difficult than others to set up and input. Nicholas Jones had agreed to join the Grosmont Online sub-committee, which will next hold a meeting in the New Year. Deb Neville was keen on the idea of a blog and photographs to make the site more attractive for people to read and add to.

She added that the Notice-Board would continue to be used for people who did not have access to computers. The Clerk asked about the diary, and Councillor Rogers said she would continue to attend to this, although she thought that the system devised by Halls Together might take over in the near future.

1. T**o consider the Highlight Report**

See 7 above.

1. **To receive items of correspondence**

The Clerk said there was nothing to consider under this heading.

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

DM/2022/01569 – The garage at Campston Mill – an application for an extension of time. Councillor Witek Mintowt-Czyz said that he was aware of the site, and could see that the garage was going to be as big as the house, and it was his fear that the garage could turn into the main house and that eventually the house might be abandoned. He commented that the application asked for a one year extension, and that the Council should ask for this to be strictly adhered to. It was agreed that the Clerk should make these representations.

1. **To agree expenditure and other accounts matters**.
2. TheClerk said there were no bills to pay.
3. The Financial Report was produced. The Clerk said that the December payment of the Precept would effectively double the profit.
4. The Clerk also said that he now had on-line banking of the Council’s account. The Chair asked if he could find out if it was possible for at least one member of the Council to be able to carry out transactions. The Clerk said that he doubted this was the case, but he would enquire.
5. **To discuss the state of the roads in and about Grosmont**

Councillor Edwards said that there was nothing new to report save for a further accident on the road down Cupid’s Hill when a BMW had collided with the bridge and sustained heavy damage. The general feeling of the meeting was that the village needed a new bridge. From the floor, Russell James suggested that perhaps reflectors on the bridge might be a solution to the problem. There was a general feeling that large lorries went over that bridge, especially from the Pontrilas Saw Mill, to avoid the main river bridge. The Clerk was requested to write to the County Council about this issue.

1. **To** **receive and consider any other business**
2. Councillor Rogers said that ongoing illness and work commitmentsmeant there would be times she could not be fully available in the first three or four months of 2023. She would continue to deal with Grosmont On line. She formally resigned as Vice-Chair. Councillor Edwards proposed, seconded by Councillor Rogers, that Councillor Witek Mintowt-Czyz should be appointed Vice-Chair in her place, and this was agreed. The Chair asked the Clerk if Councillor Rogers could remain a signatory to the bank account, and the Clerk assured her that this would continue to be the case. He had not yet had confirmation that they were signatories, and he would find out.
3. Councillor Margaret Barker said that at the recent Grosmont Events meeting the issue of the defibrillator had been raised. The question was who was responsible for it. Jane Moggridge from the floor said that was a question she had also wanted to raise. Councillor Margaret Barker said she had spoken to Stuart Chatfield, who had suggested approaching the *Welsh Ambulance Service Cardiff Public Access to Defibrillator Schem*e. Councillor Witek Mintowt-Czyz said that if they could not help then *Save A Life Cymru* might assist. Councillor Barker said she had looked inside the box and seen a mobile number which was unobtainable and an e-mail address for a Gerald Rothwell which she intended to try. She had not fiddled with any of the wiring, being unsure where she stood. Was it Council property? Councillor Edwards asked if there was a battery in it. Councillor Barker said that she had looked at this and also the equipment generally which appeared to be in good condition. The Clerk said that he believed that Peter Clarke might have some information about it. Another issue was in relation to training, although Councillor Witek Mintowt-Czyz said that he understood that there were instructions which were capable of being read by the public in general. He also mentioned another possible contact point – *First Responders* at Rowlestone. He said he thought it would be helpful for the Council to maintain a register of defibrillators. Councillor Rogers said she believed there was one in Llangattock Lingoed in the car park, funded by a local group. The Chair said she didn’t think there was one at Llangua. Councillor Wlliams said she knew of one at Pontrilas, but it was necessary for someone to phone for a code to use it, which didn’t seem to be much help in an emergency.
4. From the floor, Jane Moggridge asked if there was any news of the Post Office. It was agreed that it did seem to be taking a long time to get to a conclusion, and that this should be maintained in the Agenda so as to ensure that an eye was kept on the situation.

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1. From the floor, Russell James asked about the state of the sewers under the village generally. He understood they had been put in in 1955, and there was considerable doubt now whether they were fit for purpose. The Clerk was asked to write to Welsh Water. Councillor Witek Mintowt-Czyz said that the same might apply to the treatment works at the bottom of the hill. Russell James said he had seen tankers near there over the recent past, which might mean that something was being done about it.
2. On a similar point, Councillor Witek Mintowt-Czyz said that he wondered if the electricity supply was sufficient. He understood that no plans were afoot by National Grid to improve it. The stress of modern usage in general were also factors causing concern – for example, car electricity charging points. The Chair said that the Council needed to know because of the possible impact on future planning decisions.
3. Councillor Rogers asked if anybody wanted to be a Community Councillor for the Cross Ash School. The Chair said she was likely to be too busy. Councillor Rogers said that, if nobody else was interested she would deal with it.
4. **To decide the date of the next meeting**

It was agreed that this should take place on the **17th January 2023 at 7 p.m**., or at least should be pencilled in. The Chair said she very much hoped to be there, although personal circumstances might intervene.