**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 14TH MAY 2024**

Those attending the meeting: Councillors Lowri Wynn Morgan (Chair), Jude Rogers (Vice-Chair), Jan Williams, Jamie Edwards, Margie Barker and Nicholas Jones. Also present were County Councillor David Hughes-Jones, Peter Clarke, Jane Moggridge and Russell James.

1. **To accept apologies for absence**
Witek sent apologies for absence in advance of his operation. GCC clerk Robert Wade, our Clerk/RFO, again sent his apologies, citing ongoing illness after contracting Covid-19. Wishes were expressed for his good health. Jude Rogers took the minutes in the absence.
2. **To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in items of business listed below**To be dealt with as and when as per our usual meetings.
3. **Discussion on matters arising from the Police Report and police issues generally**

Report read and no actions required.

1. **To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting on the 11 June 2024**Agreed by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Williams.
2. **To consider matters arising from the Minutes of the Meetings on the 11th June 2024**ACTION: The Chair to take photos of the issues at Kentchurch Bridge to send to Steve Baldwin.
Other matters were dealt with under the agenda items.
3. **To consider the progress of the work relating to the Town Hall Project, the Highlight Report and the Partnership Agreement**

Outline plan as of July 2024: to begin work in October, subject to builder. Sue Price is also still waiting for payment from the clerk.

GCC also approved **i**n principle the Community Green Energy fund application to Grosmont Futures, which will then be delegated to sign off in coming weeks. (The Chair proposed to approve, seconded unanimously by all councillors, delegated to Alex and Peter at GF.)

The water heater’s inability to heat water currently was also discussed, in view of the old kitchen being removed when building works begin.

ACTION: Clerk/RFO to pay Sue Price for work carried out so far ASAP, as she is still waiting.
ACTION: Contact to be established with builder asap to confirm start date.
ACTION: Councillor Edwards to look into acquiring temporary water heater for town hall. If not possible, a note to be put in town hall kitchen.
4. **To receive items of correspondence**
No correspondence received from the Clerk/RFO.

The Chair has received correspondence from Audit Wales, which was also cc’d to the Clerk/RFO. Other emails have been sent from Audit Wales to the Clerk/RFO over the last three years, which are items of correspondence, which haven’t been passed on to the council. These should always have been listed as formal correspondence.

This correspondence states that the Clerk/RFO has been called to a meeting at Audit Wales on Friday 19th July, in person, to present accounts for GCC for the three years he has been in employment (see item 11 below). The Chair has not seen confirmation as yet that the Clerk/RFO is going to attend but has seen correspondence from Deryck Evans (Technical Officer at Audit Wales) as to why the Clerk/RFO hasn’t being able to attend previous dates suggested. The Chair will be attending this meeting either by Teams or in person.  as will the chair of Langstone Community Council.
ACTION: A reminder that all correspondence to the Clerk/RFO regarding council business is required to be mentioned under this agenda item.
5. **To discuss Grosmont Online**

Thanks given to Councillor Jones for the latest Link magazine, which has been well received.
Website build continuing and drone footage of Grosmont to be taken this month.
Llangattock Lingoed contacts discussed for newsletter/website updates.

ACTION: Councillors to put extra copies of Link in Angel or Grosmont village shop.
ACTION: Councillor Jones to pass Councillor Rogers contact details for Catherine Pearce of Llangattock Lingoed.
6. **To discuss, approve and adopt policy documents**ACTION: The Clerk to remove this standing item from the next meeting.
7. **To consider matters relating to Planning.**Application discussed and no comments required.
8. **To agree expenditure and other accounts matters**

The Chair has again asked the Clerk/RFO for the accounts from the internal auditors in Abergavenny for the recent year, and for the two previous years, and has not received an answer.

Audit Wales has been requesting these missing documents for the last two months:

*Accounting statements fully completed and all audits completed from the years:
2021-2022
2022-2023
2023-2024*Audit Wales has also asked the Clerk/RFO for bank details, without answer, but The Chair has now provided these bank details. No councillors can provide further financial information as only the appointed RFO can do this.

The work being done by Audit Wales in terms of the correspondence having to be done to acquire this paperwork, and the subsequent external audit they now have to do, requires a cost to GCC, and therefore a cost to the public. These costs are mounting as time is going on, with replies not forthcoming. Costs will be in the hundreds, if not thousands. The councillors are doing everything they can to assist Audit Wales in the speedy completion of their work, including in phone calls and emails.

The Chair said she is of course happy to talk to any one in the GCC area about the current investigation.
9. **To discuss the state of the roads in and about Grosmont**

The Chair to speak to Mr Baldwin about Kentchurch Bridge as listed above in item 5.
Hedge cutting discussed, as some areas not done yet. David Hughes-Jones commented on the rolling programme, through a contract with MCC, not having reached all areas yet.
10. **To discuss Footpaths**
Andrew Stumpf’s work with Paths To Wellbeing/Ramblers/MCC continuing.

ACTION: Attention to be drawn to current routes that villagers are being encouraged to walk to aid maintenance – listed on Grosmont Noticeboard.
11. To receive and consider any other business

Russell James mentioned a concern about anti-social behaviour in village late at night. No details are wished to be divulged by those involved, but councillors were made aware.

ACTION: Councillors to be attentive to any further developments.

GCC reminded everyone of Grosmont Events picnic on 21 July, and praised the organisation for their wonderful organisation of the Village Day in June.
12. To decide the date of the next meeting – following our usual summer break, this will be on **10th September 2024.**If any EGMs are required in the interim, these will be publicised online and posted on village noticeboard.

ACTION: Any EGMs needed to be publicised as required.