**GROSMONT FAWR 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 7:00 PM ON THE 26TH JANUARY 2023**

Those attending the meeting: Councillors Witek Mintowt-Czyz (Vice-Chair), Jude Rogers, Janet Williams, Jamie Edwards and Margaret Barker and the Clerk to the Council, Robert Wade. On the floor of the meeting were Janet Chatfield and Philip Hodgkinson.

1. **To accept apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Lowri Wyn Morgan. The Vice-Chair was in the chair for this meeting. There were no apologies from Councillor Martin Davies. The Clerk said that he had written specifically to Councillor Davies, pointing out particularly that the residents in his ward had no representation, but had received no reply. Since Councillor Davies had now missed six meetings, he was automatically disqualified from being a Councillor.

It was therefore agreed that the procedure should begin to co-opt another Councillor, which meant a public notice providing for 28 days notice for applicants. The Clerk pointed out that that the vacancy was the Llangattock Lingoed seat, although the public notice would not need to be restricted to that seat. The Clerk said he would draft the notice and send it out, for inclusion in the web-site, with a hard copy to be placed on the main Town Hall notice-board, and asked The Vice Chair if he would be kind enough to put a copy on the notice-board at Llangattock Lingoed himself, which he agreed to do. The Vice Chair said that he had spoken to a couple who were keen to be involved.

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 Vice Chair noted that there were only two matters mentioned. He also noted that we had information about a new neighbourhood team. He asked if the Police Report could in general be made public before the meeting, in the same manner as the Agenda, or at least a summary of its contents. The Clerk said that his experience with Llantilio Pertholey Community Council was that the police did not like this to be done, but he would check with Chris Walters.

1. **To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting on the 7th December 2022**

The Vice Chair proposed that the Minutes should be taken as a correct record of the meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Rogers, and agreed.

1. **To consider matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting on the 7th December 2022**

Item 14 (b) – Councillor Barker raised the issue of the defibrillator. She had made enquiries, and had made sure that the machine was registered with the Welsh Ambulance Service and was on its database. If it was used, they would ensure that the pads were replaced. The initial cost of £39.60 had already been paid by her, and there would be a further charge of a like amount every two years even if it was not used. It was agreed that she should be reimbursed what she had already paid, and that the ongoing cost would be met by the Council. Councillor Barker said that Grosmont Events were going to arrange courses for the benefit of the village to ensure that people knew how to use the machine. The Vice Chair thanked her for her work.

Item 14 (d) – the Clerk read out the response he had received from Welsh Water concerning the sewers and drains. This basically suggested that they were keeping a regular check on them. The Vice Chair remarked that this did not really answer the important point of what the capacity was for new development, and from the floor Philip Hodgkinson asked the same question and suggested that the matter be referred to the County Council. It was agreed that the Clerk should raise this issue with the Monmouthshire County Council.

Item 14 (e) - The Vice Chair said that a similar issue arose in relation to the electrical installations, and mentioned his personal experience of the likely lack of capacity to deal with fresh development. The Clerk had raised the issue with National Grid, whose reply suggested that the installations were being checked on a regular basis. However, in a similar vein to the action proposed under Item 14(d), the Clerk was asked to write to the County Council to ask about the ability of the electrical installations to cope with new development.

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

The Vice Chair said this should be considered with item 8. A full report had been submitted by Peter Clarke, and The Vice Chair proposed that it might be noted and accepted. This was agreed without dissent.

The Vice Chair said that there was an important issue in relation to the view of the Steering Committee that the loan of £30,000 which had been agreed at the meeting of the Council in January 2022 was going to be required, and that it should be made available during the year 2023/4. The Clerk said that the documentation already produced by the Vice Chair seemed to make it clear that detailed costings would be required and also public participation. The Vice Chair said that he thought there was already considerable public participation, and from the floor Jan Chatfield mentioned the event that had been arranged by Gosmont Futures and the Council jointly on the weekend of the 3rd to 5th March, 2023, for the community to see the plans and look at ideas for activities, and to give them the opportunity to express their views. Grosmont Futures were looking at the plans tomorrow. Some queries had been raised by the Heritage Fund Officer – for instance, can the stairs be removed – and would clearly need to be answered.

The Clerk was requested to download the appropriate form from the Senedd for a Treasury Loan, which could be done with the benefit of the documentation he had distributed before the last meeting, and to consult with Alex Minford, the Chair of the Steering Committee, regarding the costings and other details.

The Vice Chair also mentioned the issue of the money allocated by the Council to Grosmont Futures. It now appeared to be agreed that this was originally £5,000, from which should be deducted the cost of the preliminary and final Bat surveys (£810.50) and the money paid to the Clerk for acting as secretary to the Steering Committee (£270). This left £3,919.50, which the Vice Chair asked should be minuted so that it was now clear.

1. **To discuss Grosmont Online**

Councillor Rogers referred to the online survey that she had prepared, and for which she had put a link on her last e-mail, and asked if Councillors could look at it and let her have their comments by Tuesday 31st January. She had met Reverend Gaynor, the Secretary of the Gardening Club and Chlöe in the pub specifically to seek their views. She proposed to make the survey public when the Grosmont Futures leaflets were ready, and she was aiming for the middle of February. She asked that the Council should agree to fund the amount to be paid to Typeform for its online platform, which would allow for multiple responses for a period of two months and which could be downloaded, and this was agreed. She also suggested that there should be a prize draw to reward people for completing the survey. Councillor Rogers proposed that a voucher for £25 should be made available for spending on a local business, the Village shop. This was seconded by Councillor Edwards and agreed.

Councillor Rogers reminded the meeting that the Council had already agreed to fund the web-site, and she would write to the Clerk with detailed figures, already expended by Grosmont Events.

On another but related issue, Mr Nick Jones had suggested the establishment of an on-line magazine, for which Councillor Rogers was collating costings. It was agreed that this and any funding from the Council should be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

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

 See 6 above.

1. **To receive items of correspondence**

The Clerk said there were four items:

1. He had received an e-mail from Jan Chatfield relating to the public meeting at the beginning of March, and wanted confirmation that the Council would not expect payment for this, which was duly given.
2. He had also received an e-mail from Jean Price on behalf of Grosmont Events, relating to a Soup Lunch on the 25th February. As a matter of general principle, it was agreed that the Council wanted to support events that would be of general benefit to the community, and payment would only be required for such events if there was likely to be a profit from it, and then possibly a reduced amount.
3. He had received an e-mail from Andrew Stumpf regarding foot paths and waymarks. The Clerk was asked to acknowledge receipt and to thank Mr Stumpf for his e-mail, and make sure this was put into the Agenda in future as a standing item.
4. He had received an item from Scott Greenaway regarding the river bridge. He was suggesting that work should be done, and that he was more than ready to join in. He thought the repairs would cost some £40,000, and wondered if that sum might be raised at least in part by crowd-funding. The Clerk was instructed to write to Mr Greenaway to say that the Council would support this; Councillor Rogers said she would put something on the web-site, and the Clerk should write to both Monmouthshire and Herefordshire County Councils to see what could be done and also to the appropriate Parish Council, which was likely to be Ewyas Harald. It was acknowledged that both County Councils would have budgetary problems. It was also thought that Mr Stumpf might want to be involved.
5. **To consider matters relating to Planning.**
6. DM/2022/01740 – Pentre Farm – conversion of a traditional barn – this was agreed subject to the Council being satisfied that public right of way issues were satisfactorily resolved
7. DM/2022/01784 – Grosmont Town Hall – Tiled roof, lift and other matters already proposed by the Council’s architect. In view of the fact that this was the Council’s own application, this had been put in purely for information, as it would clearly be invidious for the Council to comment on its own application
8. DM/2022/01792 – Land Adjacent to Tollstone House – erection of a detached house – this was agreed
9. DM/2022/01816 – The Cottage, Great Campston – a steel portal frame agricultural building to form a feed yard. This was already being questioned by the County Council planners, and so it was not thought necessary to deal with it until that query had been resolved.
10. **To consider the Clerk’s salary**

There was doubt as to whether this should be considered in open meeting, and the Clerk was requested to put in a formal request for consideration by the Council in close session

1. **To agree expenditure and other accounts matters** and in particular the Precept for 2023/4
2. The Clerk said that the request for the Precept had to be in by the 27th January. He had produced some calculations for the Council for the purposes of discussion. It was noted that these calculations did not take into account the budget of approximately £700 for the Grosmont on Line publication costs. After a detailed and lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the figure of £30,000 should be requested for the Precept, and this was proposed by Council Mintowt-Czyz and seconded by Councillor Edwards and agreed.
3. Councillor Barker asked about the invoice from the cleaner. The Vice Chair agreed to speak to her to find out what her invoice covered and to discuss her duties and performance. There was anxiety over the cleanliness of the floor prior to Yoga. There was also some surprise at the reference in her invoice to the Defibrillator. It was acknowledged that there was no vacuum cleaner in the Hall.
4. Payments were agreed of £1,250 to the Clerk, £460.75 to the cleaner and £278.33 to the Monmouthshire County Council for cutting back the bank opposite the Angel.
5. **To discuss the state of the roads in and about Grosmont**

Councillor Edwards said that the bridge at Kentchuch was still an issue, and also line-marking in general. There were pot-holes at Cupid’s Hill and also Hard Road. He would e-mail the Clerk to talk of issues that the Clerk should raise with the County Council.

1. **To receive and consider any other business**
2. Councillor Barker said that Grosmont Events had been cleaning the cupboard downstairs in the Town Hall and had discovered a mishmash of stuff – e.g: broken crockery. She was given authority to remove what was clearly surplus to requirements.
3. She asked about the Post office – it was said that the mobile Post office was providing a useful stop-gap service on a Thursday.
4. She informed the meeting that the wall hanging was to be taken down and repaired. This was being funded by the Richard Farr fund.
5. **To decide the date of the next meeting**

 It was agreed that this should be the **8th March 2023,** to start at 6:30 p.m. to allow for the interviews of prospective co-opted Councillors.