**GROSMONT FAWR COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**CYNGOR CYMUNED GROSMONT FAWR**

**Chairman/Cadeirydd Clerk/Clerc**

**Councillor Lowri Wynn Morgan Mr R Wade**

**1 Poorscript Lane 12 Crawshay Bailey Close**

**Grosmont Gilwern**

**Monmouthshire Abergavenny**

**NP7 8LQ Monmouthshire**

**Tel: 07851 675883 Tel: 01873 269568**

**e-mail:lowri.wynnmorgan@gmail.com e-mail:grosmontcouncil@hotmail.com**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE GROSMONT TOWN HALL ON THE 16th MAY 2022**

Those attending the meeting: Councillors Lowri Wynn Morgan (Chair), Jude Rogers (Vice-Chair), Martin Davies, County Councillor David Hughes Jones and the Clerk to the Council, Robert Wade. Also present were a number of members of the public, including Janet Chatfield, Witek Mintowt-Czyz, Jane Moggridge, and Peter Clarke.

County Councillor David Hughes Jones, chairing the meeting to begin with, thanked everybody for their attendance and their support over the last five years, and for his election as County Councillor. He asked the new Councillors to introduce themselves.

1. **To accept apologies for absence**

Apologies were given by Councillor Daisy Learmond, who had child-minding problems.

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. **Signature of Declarations by Councillors**

Councillors Lowri Wynn Morgan, Jude Rogers and Martin Davies made their declarations of acceptance of office. It was agreed that Councillor Learmond could give her declaration at a later date, not later than the date of the next Council meeting.

1. **Election of Officers for the Ensuing Year:**
2. **Chair** – Councillor Rogers proposed Councillor Wynn Morgan for the post of Chair. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Davies and agreed unanimously. Councillor Wynn Morgan signed the Declaration of acceptance of the post of Chair.
3. **Vice-Chair –** Councillor Davies proposed Councillor Rogers for the post of Vice-Chair. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Wynn Morgan and agreed unanimously.
4. **Members of Committees** – in view of the small number of Councillors it was agreed that all Councillors would be on all committees for the time being.
5. **Consideration of the issue of co-option of Councillors to fill the three vacant seats**

The Clerk said that the proposal to co-opt had to be advertised. It was agreed that Councillor Rogers should draw up a form of notice, which should be published as widely as possible; reference was made to the notice boards, the local newspaper (the Abergavenny Chronicle) and Facebook. Councillor Wynn Morgan said that applicants should be asked to write a letter saying what they could bring to the rôle.

1. **Public Forum**

Mrs Chatfield asked about (a)the progress of the Post Office, and when this important resource might once more be available**.** This did not appear to be clear. Councillor Rogers said she would make some enquiries (b)**t**he event which had been arranged to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of HM The Queen. She confirmed that Cadw had agreed that they could use the Castle grounds until a later time than originally proposed. The Clerk read out a lengthy e-mail from her, describing the nature of the event, and said that she hoped Councillors might be prepared to judge the hat competition. The general view was that something could be arranged, and (c) the Agenda, which talked of the “proposed” Partnership Agreement between the Council and Grosmont Futures, whereas she understood the Agreement was now a firm deal. The Clerk confirmed that this was an error in the Agenda wording.

Mrs Moggridge said that consideration should be given to people who did not have computers, to ensure they were aware of all events going on, by way of things in writing such as notices and flyers. This was generally agreed.

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

The Chair expressed concern at the distraction burglaries described in the report, and wondered if there had been a follow-up. The Clerk said he would write to the officer, and would also see if he was prepared to attend the next meeting. Councillor Davies said that he was concerned that incidents such as theft of quad bikes were not always investigated properly, but that speeding more often was.

1. **To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on the 14th March 2022**

None of the Councillors had been at that meeting, but the Clerk reported that the Minutes had been circulated and approved by the then Councillors, so the members present said they were prepared to accept the Minutes as a true record.

1. **To consider matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on the 14th March 2022**
2. Clause 10 Councillor Rogers asked about the issue of bookings. The Clerk said this was a concern of his, and he had been hoping that he could formalise the issue of bookings so that everybody knew what was happening, and so that, for example, the Yoga group did not have to be ejected because there was a Council meeting, as had happened on the 14th March. He wondered if there might be a possibility of having a form of diary on Mrs Moggridge’s web-site, and Mrs Moggridge confirmed that that might well be possible and that she would confer with the Clerk about it.
3. Clause 12 Some concern was also expressed as to the disrepair of the roads. The Clerk said that an e-mail had been sent by the former Chair to the Highways Department of Monmouthshire County Council concerning that problem. It remained to be seen if it was acted on.
4. **To receive items of correspondence**.

There no items under this heading apart from the letter from Janet Chatfield regarding the Platinum Jubilee already referred to

1. **To consider matters relating to Planning**.
2. DM/2019/00769 and DM/2019/00768 – Alma House - installation of a heat pump; this was agreed on the basis that the noise was estimated to be no more than a fanning sound, and the box itself was inconspicuous.
3. Witek Mintowt-Czyz from the floor of the meeting mentioned the planning application for the Post Office which had been considered by the previous Council. The Chair said she would certainly be interested to see the documents relating to that application, and the Clerk said he would make sure that was done.
4. **To agree expenditure and other accounts matters**.
5. **Financial statement**

This had already been distributed by e-mail, but the Clerk supplied the Councillors with further hard copies. He said that he would up-date the statement as the year progressed. He had tried to finalise the statement for 2021/22, but was lacking some of the bank statements. That would be dealt with as quickly as possible, and he hoped to have an account ready for the next meeting.

1. **Expenditure**

The following payments were agreed:

Admin (Stamps + envelopes) - £20.13

Tracie Vaughan – cleaner – wages £282.56

Clerk’s salary – 12.5 hours per week at £10 per hour x 9 weeks =£1,125

1. **The Bank Account**

The Clerk said he would need two signatories for the cheques. It was agreed that could be Councillors Wynn Morgan and Rogers. The Clerk said he would procure a form of mandate for them to sign.

1. **To consider the Partnership Agreement with Grosmont Futures and the Project generally**

The Chair invited Mr Peter Clarke to address the meeting on the issue of the Partnership Agreement and the grant applications. He said that the aim of Grosmont Futures was to look after the Community and to modernise the Town Hall and make it generally accessible. Repairs were required – the problems could be clearly seen in the peeling walls – and the roof was leaking. It was estimated that between £200,000 and £250,000 was going to be required just to bring the Grade 2 Listed Building back into line, and then there clearly needed to be an ongoing programme of maintenance. The Council and Grosmont Futures had made an agreement to combine their resources and talents, and the Partnership Agreement set out the scheme by which this should be done.

He emphasised that the finances remained the responsibility of the Council. The trick was to find the money other than from local people. There were complications in that some funds allowed money for repairs and others did not. That was where Rural Futures came in – their job was and would remain finding the appropriate sources.

It was noted that there was to be a meeting on the 19th May to set up the Capital Development Grant, so that work could be started to meet with the architect and surveyor, and work out what had to be done. It was agreed that, if at all possible, there should be a representation from the Council. The Chair said that she was engaged in a court case and was unlikely to be able to attend at 11:30 a.m., which was the current proposed time. The Clerk said that he would check if a later time was possible. He would also send all Councillors a copy of the Partnership Agreement and the Grant application. Peter said he would be happy to brief the Council on the general scheme if they wished him to do so, and that was generally felt to be a good idea.

It was also noted that there was to be a meeting with the Architect on the 10th June to discuss the way ahead. Councillor Rogers would be attending that meeting on behalf of the Council.

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

There was no other business

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

The next meeting had to be prior to the 21st June in order to ensure that the time limit for co-option was not breached, which would result in the Council having to pay money for Monmouthshire County Council to take over the process. However, it was agreed that the next meeting would not be on the second Monday in June but on the **9th June 2022 at 19:30 hours.** The Council would meet at 18:30 to consider the applications for co-option.