

GOETRE FAWR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT LITTLE MILL VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 24th APRIL 2017

Present: Community Councillors Roger Howells, Owen Dodd, Rose Thayers, Robert French, Colin Deakins, Roger Price

In Attendance: Clerk – Jonathan Lazenby

Apologies: Community Councillors Syd Welford and Roger Ogden.
County Councillor Bryan Jones

Guests: Lucyann Rands

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| 1 | Chairman's Remarks Chairman, Robert French welcomed everyone to the meeting. | |
| 2 | Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting Proposed by Councillor Deakins. Seconded by Councillor French. | |
| 3 | <p>Matters Arising</p> <p>1. Speeding in Little Mill Mrs Rands advised that new monitoring strips had been installed on Berthon Road, although it was not known by whom. County Councillor Jones had advised the clerk that the council had agreed to pay for the installation of a vehicle activated speed sign (DFS 700). It was assumed that MCC would cover the ongoing maintenance costs but the Clerk is to confirm. Councillor Howells proposed that the Clerk be given plenary powers to negotiate and agree the installation of a second DFS 700 unit to cover traffic flowing in the opposite direction on Berthon Road, based on the cost estimates provided at the March meeting. This was seconded by councillor Dodd. It is hoped that a 'discount' might be achieved if both units are installed at the same time. The Clerk agreed to keep councillors updated on costs and proposals by e-mail prior to the next meeting. It was suggested that consideration be given to siting one of the new units further into the village than the existing speed sign near the railway bridge. Councillor Dodd also suggested that the council review the overall approach to managing speed in the Community. This could include the re-siting of the existing Little Mill speed signs onto alternative sites – perhaps Plough Road. The Clerk will add this to the agenda for the May meeting. In the meantime the speeding Task Group had responded to the Clerk's e-mail to say that although they had no power to assess individual cases, they were looking to organise a public workshop to discuss overall speeding policy and would send an invite once the date was known – this would be after the elections and likely nearer June. Councillor Howarth had also responded personally – unfortunately it appears the original petition had been lost but he now had a second copy which would be duly considered.</p> <p>2. Goytre AFC The Clerk had advised Mr Melmoth of the council's decision to donate £3000 by e-mail on 29/03/17. However it appears he did not receive / see this and in the interim had contacted Councillor French to ascertain the council's position. Councillor French had advised of the donation, and of the possibility to re-visit the situation further into the financial year. Unfortunately it appears that this conversation was taken by Mr Melmoth as confirmation of a further donation, and Mr Melmoth had advised the Clerk by text that as a result he had placed an order for the seating, and ground works clearance had already begun. The council confirmed that at this stage only £3000 had been committed to the project, but that a further review could be undertaken at a future date.</p> <p>3. Goytre Car Park The Clerk had provided MCC with the details of several number plates following the downloading of the video footage. Unfortunately it appears that these weren't followed up by MCC as there was a concern the DVLA might query the volume of enquiries. However another vehicle has now been</p> | <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> |

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| | <p>'dumped' although it appears to be taxed and MOT'd. MCC have placed a £30 penalty notice on the car and will now post a removal notice on the vehicle. They are making enquiries as to the owner and will advise the Clerk in due course. Clerk to contact Police Community Liaison Officer to check that no illegal activity is involved.</p> <p>4. Public Conveniences / Tree Roots Only the roots on the pathway leading to the Car Park were addressed by the Council. MCC car park manger Amanda Perrin is to review the state of the path, although Clerk suspects that any further work will fall to GFCC to fund. Clerk to monitor and update as required.</p> <p>5. Dog Bins Two bins installed so far – one outside Little Mill Village Hall, and one at the top of Newtown Road. Unfortunately the latter was placed on the field side, rather than the pavement side of the fence – Sue Parkinson will arrange for it to be moved. The remaining bins are due to be installed shortly and Clerk will advise Merlin Waste of the additional locations.</p> <p>6. Litter Bins Unfortunately no 'letter box' bins are currently available for us to use to approach the Spar with the suggestion of a trial run, in the hope that these would not attract the deposit of household rubbish. Clerk has asked Sue Parkinson to monitor for ongoing availability.</p> <p>7. Road sign cleaning Update awaited from Councillor Jones</p> <p>8. School Lane Traffic No contact made from Graham Kinsella or Gwent Police. Clerk to retain issue in 'outstanding folder' and follow up as required to ensure item remains active.</p> <p>9. Standing Orders Now updated following last month's resolution and sent to Councillors.</p> <p>10. Web site Continues to be updated. Clerk has requested if Councillor Howells can ensure all traffic to old site is now automatically re-directed to the new (Spanglefish) site, and that the new site now opens as a full screen page.</p> <p>11. Defibrillator Application submitted 30/03/17. It is anticipated we should hear outcome within the next couple of weeks</p> <p>12. Maintenance The pot holes in Pentre Lane and Croes-y-pant Lane have been repaired</p> | <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> |
| 4 | <p>Reports <u>Monmouthshire County Council</u> 1. Nothing to report</p> <p><u>Little Mill Village Hall</u> 1. Table Tennis table has now been erected and has already been used. 2. The AGM is being held a week tomorrow (2nd May), and all are welcome to attend. 3. The Hall Committee are holding a 'Picnic in the Park' (as last year) on 1st July. Councillor Dodd pointed out that this clashes with the Goytre Fete organised for the same day. Councillor Deakin is to raise this with the Hall Committee.</p> <p><u>Goytre Village Hall</u> 1. Nothing to report</p> <p><u>Goytre School</u> Unfortunately Councillor Dodd was unable to attend the last meeting. However he understands that the school intake for this September is over-subscribed.</p> | |

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| | <p><u>Goytre Community Centre</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The window where the boiler vents has now been bricked up with Councillor Howells commenting on the good standard of work. The re-plastering has now largely been completed – Clerk is to meet with Brickcraft on Wednesday to discuss the repair of the plaster in the top room and some additional work that requires addressing in the main hall. Councillor Howells mentioned that they had taken advantage of the system being drained to replace the faulty valve / actuator which the heating engineer had thought was the cause of the recent boiler breakdown. 2. The accounts for the Community Centre (CC) for the year ended 31/03/17 have now been completed and show a surplus of approx. £270. The CC Treasurer noted that this was despite an error which resulted in no receipts from GASC for the 2016 summer term. It was therefore agreed that the CC committee need to convene a meeting to agree a more appropriate rent for GASC to ensure all operating costs are met but without generating an excessive surplus. 3. In light of the above it was agreed that for the time being the school should only be charged a nominal £5 rent (rather than the current £10) for their weekly use of the centre. <p><u>Goytre After School Club</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Numbers still positive. See also item 2 under Goytre Community Centre above. <p><u>Goytre Scout Hut.</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the absence of Councillor Ogden (committee member) it was noted that the Scout Hut committee are still evaluating what they want to do. <p><u>Public Conveniences</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. These are still being regularly attended to by the cleaner and maintained in a good state of cleanliness. 2. Councillor Dodd advised that Richard at the pub will be leaving shortly and so the suggestion of providing him with a key to enable the toilets to be kept open later in the evening has been put on hold. | Clerk |
| 5 | <p>Other Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. None | |
| 6 | <p>Nomination of Council Representative to Little Mill Village Hall Committee</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The CC had been approached by the LMVH committee to nominate a member to serve on the management committee. The LMVH committee commented that Councillor Deakins had been the nominated representative for many years and continued to be an asset to the work of the committee. Normally this nomination is made at the GFCC AGM (next month), but LMVH were keen to be able to appoint their representatives at their AGM. It was therefore proposed by Councillor French that Councillor Deakins continue in his role and this was seconded by Councillor Dodd. It was agreed that Councillor Deakin's nomination would be confirmed at the GFCC AGM on 15th May. Clerk to advise LMVH committee | Clerk |
| 7 | <p>Elections</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clerk confirmed that only 6 nominations were received for the 9 seats available in Goetre ward. As a result the election was uncontested and therefore Councillors Dodd, French, Howells, Ogden, Thayers and Welford had been elected. The 3 remaining seats would be notified as vacancies following the election and a process of co-option would begin. 2. Only 2 nominations were received for the 3 seats available in the Mamhilad ward, and Councillor Deakins was re-elected, together with Mrs Lucyann Rands. The 1 remaining seat would be notified as a vacancy and a co-option process run alongside that for the Goetre seats. 3. Clerk advised that councillor Kostanjevec had tendered his resignation from the council with immediate effect. 4. Clerk will provide the election expenses documentation at the next meeting for councillors to complete. 5. Clerk had received an invite for Code of Conduct training to be run by Robert Tranter, Monitoring officer and Head of Legal Services at MCC. This was mandatory for all new councillors, and the Clerk suggested it would be sensible for all to attend to ensure everyone was up to date to help avoid conflicts of | Clerk |

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| | <p>7. Kate O'Sullivan – PhD researcher at Cardiff University, undertaking Energy Resilience Research in the Brecon Beacons National Park has submitted two small posters which Clerk has posted on the notice boards. Councillor Dodd has also mentioned the research to the school.</p> <p>8. Sustrans survey – Sustrans have sent through an e-mail on the proposed development of the walking and cycling route between Usk & Pontypool. A link to a survey was enclosed and it has been confirmed that individual replies (rather than a collective council response) are appropriate. Clerk will forward the e-mail / survey and invite councillors to respond.</p> <p>9. Velethon – Abigail Barton, Comms officer at MCC has asked if we would like someone from the Velethon organisational team to address a meeting/discussion to update everyone on the plans/road closures of the event, scheduled for 9th July. It was thought to be a good idea, but would probably require the organisation of a separate meeting, possibly at LMVH. However it was agreed it was first necessary to confirm the route to gauge the likely effect on residents to confirm the need and agenda for the meeting. Clerk to confirm route.</p> | <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | <p>Review of Accounts</p> <p>1. The latest cashflow was presented to the meeting and received without comment.</p> <p>2. Payments to be made this month:</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>1. Merlin Waste</td><td>£47.46</td></tr> <tr><td>2. Thomas Waste Management</td><td>£55.20</td></tr> <tr><td>3. Select Security</td><td>£54.00</td></tr> <tr><td>4. Wales Air Ambulance</td><td>£500.00</td></tr> <tr><td>5. Gwent Young Farmers' Clubs</td><td>£100.00</td></tr> <tr><td>6. MCC (Chairman's Charities)</td><td>£100.00</td></tr> <tr><td>7. Society of Local Council Clerks (membership fees)</td><td>£38.00</td></tr> <tr><td>8. St Peter's Church Goytre (Graveyard maintenance)</td><td>£500.00</td></tr> <tr><td>9. St Illtyd's Church Mamhilad (Graveyard maintenance)</td><td>£500.00</td></tr> <tr><td>10. British Gas</td><td>£20.64</td></tr> <tr><td>11. Salary – Clerk</td><td>£678.64</td></tr> <tr><td>12. Salary – Cleaner</td><td>£260.00</td></tr> <tr><td>13. One Voice Wales (Conduct training for Clerk)</td><td>£35.00</td></tr> <tr><td>14. Information Commissioner (for CCTV)</td><td>£35.00</td></tr> <tr><td>15. Travel expenses – Clerk</td><td>£17.55</td></tr> <tr><td>16. 1st Goytre guides (Leanne Wood Baden-Powell challenge)</td><td>£30.00</td></tr> </table> <p>3. Finance Committee – Full council had been preceded by a meeting of the Finance Committee where the following actions had been discussed:</p> <p>Risk Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Electrics - the Clerk highlighted the need for the electrics to be checked in the public conveniences. Councillor Howells & French to provide names of suggested contractors to enable quotes to be obtained - Tree safety – the tree by the public conveniences has been checked and confirmed to be safe. Clerk to check the position on the tree at the front of Jack & Jill's and any on the land at Ty Cooke <p>Cashflow verification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Councillor Price (non-signatory) had reviewed the cashflow account and verified the closing balances for Jan / Feb / March 2017 against the Monmouthshire Building Society passbook. <p>4. The meeting queried whether any section 106 monies would be payable for the Pleasant Retreat development. Clerk agreed to research and report back.</p> <p>5. Wales Audit Office – letter received explaining the reason for the 2015/16 fee increases for external audits as this had been queried by a number of councils. (The fee charged to GFCC was £168.45). In addition the letter also highlighted the focus areas for forthcoming audits, which for 2017/18 will be the level of reserves held and to ensure that these are taken into account when setting the precept.</p> | 1. Merlin Waste | £47.46 | 2. Thomas Waste Management | £55.20 | 3. Select Security | £54.00 | 4. Wales Air Ambulance | £500.00 | 5. Gwent Young Farmers' Clubs | £100.00 | 6. MCC (Chairman's Charities) | £100.00 | 7. Society of Local Council Clerks (membership fees) | £38.00 | 8. St Peter's Church Goytre (Graveyard maintenance) | £500.00 | 9. St Illtyd's Church Mamhilad (Graveyard maintenance) | £500.00 | 10. British Gas | £20.64 | 11. Salary – Clerk | £678.64 | 12. Salary – Cleaner | £260.00 | 13. One Voice Wales (Conduct training for Clerk) | £35.00 | 14. Information Commissioner (for CCTV) | £35.00 | 15. Travel expenses – Clerk | £17.55 | 16. 1st Goytre guides (Leanne Wood Baden-Powell challenge) | £30.00 | <p>Clerk</p> |
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| 11 | <p>Planning Applications</p> <p>1. DC/2017/00473 – Discharge of planning conditions Fair Oak, Rumble Street, Monkswood, Usk NP15 1QG Sent to us as a matter of courtesy as the property borders the community boundary, but is actually in Llanbadoc. Applicant is stating that the conditions of original application have now been met which the Planning team will check. No response is required from the CC.</p> | |
| 12 | <p>Donations</p> <p>1. Both St Peter’s Goytre and St Illtyd’s Mamhilad have written in to request funding to support the maintenance of the church grounds / graveyards. The Clerk is to send a cheque for £500 to each in accordance with the churchyard funding budget for 2017/2018 agreed at last month’s meeting.</p> <p>2. £30 to be sent to 1st Goytre guides to support Leanne Wood’s Baden-Powell challenge – see item #1 under Communications.</p> <p>3. As Councillor Dodd had not been able to attend the School Governors’ meeting it has not yet been ascertained whether the school will be attending the annual Abergavenny Eisteddfod.</p> | |
| 13 | <p>Advertising</p> <p>1. Nothing to report in the absence of Councillor Welford.</p> | |
| 14 | <p>Maintenance</p> <p>1. The bus shelter in Little Mill requires attention to the fascias and soffits. Councillor Deakins is to obtain a quote from a local handyman and will bring to a future meeting.</p> <p>2. The glass on the bus shelter by the village hall also needs cleaning.</p> <p>3. The issue of speeding along Plough Road is to be added to the next meeting</p> <p>4. Councillor Dodd raised the issue of the poor road surface of the railway bridge in Goytre.</p> <p>5. The road surface as you start to climb the hill on plough road (approaching from the Rumble Street end and after the sharp right hand bend) has pot holes.</p> <p>6. Horses have started to appear in Goytre Park. Clerk to investigate who has the key to the chain and padlock and to explore whether a notice banning animals can be placed at the entrance.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 21.40 pm</p> | <p>Clerk Clerk Clerk Clerk</p> |
| 15 | <p>Date of Next Meeting Monday 15th May 2017 at Goytre Community Centre following the AGM</p> | All |

Chairman:

Date: