

Gwehelog Fawr Community Council Minutes Meeting Number 365

Venue: Gwehelog Village Hall on 27 February 2019 at 8.00pm

**Present: Chair : Cllr.S Carbury, (SC) Cllr.J.Kershaw (JK) Cllr. M Godwin (MG)
Cllr.C.Kirby, (CK), Cllr.J.Bayliss (JB) Cllr.R. Marfell (RM) Cllr. R.Carbury (RC)**

In attendance: the Clerk Ms. Awni, (NA), MCC County Councillor V Smith (VS)

Members of the Public attending 2 (Note: Monmouthshire County Council is MCC)

Item No.	Item	Action
1	<p>Apologies for Absence: None Declarations of Interest - None declared</p>	
2	<p>Approval of the Minutes from the previous meeting no.364 held on 30 January 2019 at 8.00pm. There were no proposed corrections to the minutes and they were approved as a correct record proposed by Cllr JK seconded by Cllr MG. Minutes were approved.</p>	<p>Clerk to circulate</p>
3	<p>Matters Arising from the minutes of the last meeting :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Highways – Pothole reported at the last meeting has been filled in. Others are appearing unfortunately. b) Planning – The Beeches, Wainfield Lane, planning application has been approved. 	
4	<p>Questions from the public : Standing orders were suspended on the agreement of all members to allow questions to be raised by the public at this point. Fly tipping has been noticed over the hedge in a field at Llancayo. It is on private land near Trostrey Court. There is no further update available on the judicial review of the Llancayo site. The clerk confirmed that compliments had been fed back to MCC re the recent verge and hedge trimming. These were gratefully received and acknowledged.</p>	
5	<p>MCC update : Cllr VS confirmed that a review of the 18 Monmouthshire public toilet facilities had been undertaken with a view to having a local strategy. The needs of those with disabilities will inform the policy. Proposals to school catchments has resulted in public meetings and some robust discussions. The meeting in Usk was attended by over 60 people. Revamp of recycling- all residents will receive letters this week to explain the new arrangements. A handout on recycling was given to the Clerk. Members expressed a wish to consider whether inviting the MCC lead to a future meeting, would assist with the overall implementation. SWFA has a budget of around £74m. A decision is awaited on the financing of pension arrangements A meeting to receive and consider the MCC Local Council Boundary review has been held. It was confirmed that the proposals are to disband Gwehelog Community Council and split the current Gwehelog seats between Raglan and Bettws Newydd. Councillors feedback that they believed that this would be detrimental to the overall community resulting in a reduced representation of residents.</p>	
6	<p>Finance and governance – a) The range of fees for audits of Community Councils has now been published and the fee rate charges set out between £140 - £280. It was acknowledged that the higher level charged for 2017-2018 reflected the alteration made to the Annual Return. The 2 Wales Audit Office reports had been circulated to members and it was of note that there had been a number of Community Councils who had unsatisfactory finance and governance arrangements in place. Themes of focus for the 2018-19 audit will be ‘Compliance with Standing orders and delegation to Committees.’ b)Cllrs RC and Cllr JK had undertaken the Audit Policy review and the Policy was subsequently updated. The document was previously circulated to members. Cllr MG proposed that the Policy review be approved and adopted by the Council.</p>	

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	<p>Cllr JB seconded this. All present approved adoption. Cllr. RC confirmed that he had drafted a Working Group Policy for members to consider. This sets out the arrangements under which members may undertake a piece of work on behalf of the Council. Cllr MG proposed that the Working Group Policy be approved and adopted by the Council. Cllr JB seconded this.</p> <p>Cllr RC confirmed that both of the documents meet with audit requirements.</p> <p>c) Cllrs. were given the monthly Expenditure and receipts documents which details the invoices and costs for February and the building society balance. Cllrs were circulated these for approval and authorised signature to pay. The Clerk confirmed that an invoice had been received which was not detailed on the spreadsheet, relating to the website hosting for £79.20. The website had originally been funded through a Welsh Government grant, that had now expired. The cost had not been factored into this year’s budget. Cllr JK said that he was very pleased with the website arrangements and the way it was set out. He proposed that the website arrangements remain and this was supported by the other members.</p> <p>d) The Clerk had previously made members aware of a Council cheque being returned by MBS and remaining unpaid. The cheque was for £39.36. The Clerk had made a formal complaint to MBS since it was their process failure. A letter of apology had been received which the Clerk passed round to members. The Clerk had made a specific trip to the MBS Cwmbran branch to rectify the matter. This resulted in the cheque being reissued. Cllrs were required to re-authorise both the credit made and the payment reissued.</p> <p>A proposal that payments be approved and the passbook signed was made by Cllr CK and seconded by Cllr JK.</p> <p>The Chair checked the passbook balance and duly signed as a correct record.</p> <p>e) The Clerk had previously circulated details of the year to date forecasted spend (2018/9) and an update of the budget position. A paper outlining the potential implications for the budget for 2019/20 was circulated. Attention was drawn to the additional costs that had become apparent for this financial year with rises in OVW and SLCC membership, website costs and the potential for other increases in costs. Cllr JB asked whether the payroll cost would be the same for 2019/20. The Clerk agreed to request a breakdown from the providers.</p> <p>Councillors agreed to retain and approve the budget proposals for 2019-2020 set out and approved at the October 2018 meeting.</p>	<p>Clerk to action</p> <p>Clerk to action</p> <p>Clerk to action</p>
7	<p>MCC Review of Town and Country Councils -: The Clerk handed to the Chair a copy of the Review report in 2 volumes. Welsh language copies were placed in the hall. Cllr JK outlined that given all the administrative costs it was only about 1.3p per £1 that was actually spent on the Community. The rationale behind the boundary review is to seek to minimise costs. Councillors noted the contents of the letter from the Local Democracy Manager at MCC, which had been previously circulated, on this matter. The review recommendations will go forward to be considered by the Welsh Government.</p>	<p>Clerk to action</p>
8	<p>Highways: – Cllr MG confirmed the state of the roadside in some areas of the neighbourhood required repair. Cllr CK, JB and JK expressed their concerns. Cllr JK asked members to send through the location of issues which he would then send to the Clerk.</p>	<p>Clerk to Report</p>

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9	Reports : Village Hall - It had been agreed that the village hall minutes would be circulated to the Clerk. The Beatles tribute act is on next month and details have been posted on the Council website. A Police report update had not been received.	
10	Planning Planning Application: DM/2019/00225 Alice Springs Golf Club change of use and plans - previously circulated to members. The Clerk confirmed that there were 20 documents on the planning portal in relation to the application and shared some of these with the Chair. Cllr RM confirmed that the site layout did not appear to differ from that looked at in the draft preliminary documents previously seen. Cllrs raised no objection. Notification of Site Meeting - Application DM/2018/01641: - Trostrey Court Farm Barns Appeals received – APP/E6840/A/18/3215360 Raglan	
11	Correspondence list : Emails circulated. The Clerk circulated a list of all the MCC committees which send through Agenda, Minutes and accompanying documents. Members confirmed their wish to continue to receive correspondence relating to these.	
12	Events and training : OVW training list has been circulated. The Clerk will attend training on social media and websites on the 7/3. The Clerk gave the Chair and Deputy Chair the summary booklets which accompanied the free LDP training for Councillors, delivered by Planning Aid Wales.	
13	Matters for the next meeting: Site Meeting Trostrey Barns	
	The meeting was declared closed at 9.27pm Next meeting : 27 March 2019 at 8pm	