

**Gwehelog Fawr Community Council Minutes Meeting Number 381
Held virtually on line: Wednesday 27 January 2021 at 7.30pm**

Present: Chair Cllr J Kershaw (JK), Cllr. R. Marfell (RM), Cllr P Stevens (PS), Cllr K. Backland (KB)

In attendance: the Clerk Ms. Awni, (NA) (Note: Monmouthshire County Council is denoted as MCC)

Item No.	Item	Action
1	<p>The meeting was held virtually via Starleaf and began at 7.30pm. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Bayliss (JB), Cllr. C. Kirby (CK) and County Cllr V Smith Declarations of Interest – none The Chair welcomed all members to the meeting and wished everyone a happy new year.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting 380: The minutes were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting held virtually on the 25 November 2020, proposed by Cllr PS and seconded by Cllr RM.</p>	Clerk to action
3	<p>Matters arising: The clerk has received no further contact from the member of the public regarding the cllr. vacancy. The council agreed to the proposal by Cllr PS, that the clerk should proceed to readvertise the vacancy for Gwehelog/Llancayo ward as soon as practically possible. This was seconded by Cllr RM.</p>	Clerk to action
4	<p>Covid 19 update: The Chair confirmed that information continues to be circulated to update all members on the local and national situation.</p>	
5	<p>Councillor remuneration: The clerk confirmed that the form for receipt/refusal of the annual allowance had been circulated to members. It was requested that all outstanding forms be returned by the 17 February.</p>	Cllrs to action
6	<p>Finance and governance: The Clerk confirmed that all papers relating to finance and the annual external audit, 2019-2020, had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. The Clerk asked the Council to formally receive, accept and approve the conclusion of the external audit including the auditor’s report, Annual Return and issues arising from the audit for the year 2019-2020. The clerk confirmed that there were no actions arising and the advertisement of the conclusion of the audit had been placed on the council website and the auditors informed. It was proposed by Cllr RM, to accept and approve the report, findings and Annual Return This was seconded by Cllr PS. All members agreed. The regular payments for approval were confirmed on the accounts sheet shared with members during the meeting. The position against budget remains healthy and the third and final precept payment is expected to be updated in the account book. Cllr RM proposed to approve payments and the accounts presented, this was seconded by Cllr PS. The clerk will organise payments once signature slips are signed and returned by post. The clerk confirmed that the changes to the authorised signatories have now been made. It was agreed by members, to commission the audit services of the previous internal auditor for the year 2020-21. A draft engagement letter had been circulated to members and it was requested that reference to the council review be removed before sending. The appointment and actions were proposed by Cllr PS and seconded by Cllr KB. Use of the Starleaf video conferencing system - Members had met virtually since November using the app.and were happy with the performance of the system.</p>	<p>clerk to action</p> <p>Clerk to action</p> <p>Clerk to action</p>
7	<p>Finance and Planning Working groups: The Chair confirmed that the Finance working group had met for the first time. Cllr PS has now undertaken the OVW finance training</p>	

Signed Chair Date

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	and Cllr RM is looking to book a February session. The Clerk confirmed that it was very useful to have members reviewing the processes. The Planning working group will only meet as and when required and the Chair urged all to try to attend if they could do so.	All to action
8	Consultations and Notifications: The Chair noted that until the revised LDP timetable had concluded, MCC was still working to the 2019 LDP.	
9	Reports: The Police report previously received, had been circulated and details of the new locality officer, Sara Mason, who was unfortunately unable to attend tonight. The Clerk had attended the virtual OVW meeting and heard the very interesting presentation given by the land registry. A copy of the presentation had been circulated and members found it valuable.	
10	Highway matters: All previously notified. The Chair had received communication from a councillor on Llanarth Fawr CC, a subsequent discussion led to a suggestion that both councils might undertake an audit of footpaths. He asked whether members were interested in undertaking an audit of footpaths, rights of way etc within our area. This would use existing maps to ascertain the state of paths, stiles, gates etc. and would be a useful form of local knowledge and information. All members expressed a wish to help and assist on this and the Chair agreed to provide the necessary maps and documents. It might provide an opportunity for collaborative working.	Chair to action
11	Planning – Application: DM/2020/0800 Homestead, Wainfield Lane, Cllr KB declared an interest in this item. This item is on the MCC planning committee meeting agenda - 2/2. The clerk had circulated details received from MCC together with the officer's report to the planning committee and a summary of the Council comments and submissions. Members expressed their concern over the application, as some of the issues raised, remain unresolved. The Chair proposed that a further objection should be made to the planning committee by the Council, encapsulating concerns and made in accordance with the MCC requirements, previously sent round to members. He confirmed that it is important for the Council to highlight that the development could fail to comply with the current LDP. The Chair agreed to draft the response and circulate for any additional comment before submission by the 1 February 2021. This action was proposed by Cllr RM and seconded by Cllr PS. The Clerk had received no further communication on the Llancayo site. No Appeals notified.	Clerk to action
12	Questions from the public: none received	
13	Correspondence : All received circulated. The clerk outlined there was lots of work in progress around the county on climate change mitigation.	
14	Matters for the next meeting : Climate change group feedback	
	The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.43 pm Next meeting : 24 February 2021 at 7.30 pm via Starleaf app.	