

# Gwehelog Fawr Community Council Minutes Meeting Number 370

Venue: Gwehelog Village Hall on 31 July 2019 at 8.00pm

**Present: in the absence of the Chair :** Cllr.J.Kershaw (JK) Vice Chair, took the Chair for the meeting, Cllr Bayliss (JB), Cllr. R.Carbury,(RC), Cllr. R. Marfell (RM), Cllr.C.Kirby, (CK),

**In attendance:** the Clerk Ms. Awni, (NA),

**Members of the Public attending 21 (Note: Monmouthshire County Council is MCC)**

Item No.	Item	Action
1	<b>Apologies for Absence:</b> Chair Cllr.S Carbury, (SC), Cllr Goodwin, County Councillor V Smith (VS)	
2	<b>Declarations of Interest -None declared</b> Prior to the meeting starting, a member of the council (Cllr CK) asked whether the Vice Chair could or should in fact Chair the meeting, given his involvement in the detail of the planning item down on the agenda (DM/2018/01641 Trostrey Court Farm Barns). Was there already a view formed and might this be perceived as bias? The Chair confirmed that he had been part of the working group asked by the Council to specifically look at all the facts of the planning application and had made observations to bring back to the Council. Cllr JK in no way felt that this could be construed as having formed a view which would override any final decision of the Council. The Chair asked each member of the Council present whether they were happy for him to continue to Chair the meeting. Each member present apart from the member who raised the question confirmed that they were happy for Cllr JK to continue to Chair the meeting. Cllr JK took the Chair.	
3	<b>Minutes of the previous ordinary meeting no 369 held on 26 June 2019 at 8.00pm</b> There were no corrections raised in relation to the minutes. They were approved as a correct record following a proposal by Cllr RC which was seconded by Cllr RM	<b>Clerk to post on website</b>
4	<b>Planning Matter DM/2018/01641 Trostrey Court Farm Barns :</b> The Chair asked how many members of the public were attending specifically in relation to the item on DM/2018/01641 Trostrey Court Farm Barns. As the majority of the public in attendance, indicated this was an item of interest, members agreed to suspend standing orders and move to the Planning item before continuing with the rest of the agenda. The Chair said that a maximum of 40 minutes would be allowed for the item. The Chair confirmed that there had been a working group of 3 members of the Council who had met at Bettws Newydd with Council representatives from Usk, Llanarth and Llanbadoc councils on the 10 July 2019. This group had been charged with setting out the observations made by the working group and bringing that information back to the full Council in order that an informed decision might be made at this meeting. The group had teased out the issues and set out a chronology of the history of the site. The Chair proceeded to read the observations out and the history of the site. Members of the public asked questions during the information sharing. One asked whether the plant could have been operating without proper approval? The Chair confirmed for the purpose of this application, the Council was not concerned with whether it had been used illegally. It is not clear whether a permit had previously been applied for. The Chair outlined that this application is large with a different process and different fuels. It is estimated that the generator will produce 7.4 megaW hours of electricity, enough to power several towns the size of Usk. There is a comment in the route management document that the actual route taken will be left up to the individual HGV drivers. There is no developer detail of the fuel to be used and the numbers of vehicles that will be needed. How can MCC approve the application without this information? What level of regulation might there be on the plant in the future? These are unknowns. It will require a National Resources Wales permit.	

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	<p>Comments were made by the public that far from agricultural diversification, this plant appears to have moved to industrial scale. The Working group expressed concern about the associated health hazards and the site sits in an area of spectacular beauty. The Chair confirmed that in his professional capacity he had added his medical viewpoint to a letter drafted by senior medical professionals who were concerned about the potential hazards to health from emissions. A member of the audience raised concerns over the effect on the surrounding land and animals that this might also have. Given the potential life of the plant, it will emit carbon and as MCC has declared a climate emergency and is committed to becoming carbon free, they should surely be clear on the details of this impact.</p> <p>A member of the public asked whether the Council had approved a plan submitted last year? It was confirmed that the Council had approved a previous amendment to the site. This plant has gone under the radar. The Chair asked members to give their views. Cllr RC reflected that it was difficult to look at this objectively with so many details omitted from the application. As it doesn't conform to economic activity then he would struggle to approve it. Cllr JB said that the site sits in a valley which is an area of particular beauty and with all the details mentioned she would be unable to support it. Cllr RM commented that all the proposals seem to be innocuous dribs and drabs. The MCC information fails to take account of the history and that he would not approve. Cllr CK confirmed he had no comment.</p> <p>The Chair concluded that the number of people present tonight are an obvious indication of the feeling in the area.</p> <p>A proposal was made by Cllr RC that the Council should not support the planning application. This was seconded by Cllr JB. There were 4 members in favour and one against the proposal. The proposal was passed.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed a draft outline of the response that would go to MCC, that reflected the working group observations. The response was proposed by Cllr JB and seconded by Cllr RC. The proposal was carried. A member of the public suggested that it be modified to cite that the assertion by Miss Bingham, MCC Planning Officer, that the site is in operation is potentially flawed and as such the analysis is flawed. It was agreed that the Chair and Cllr RC would modify the response and forward to the Clerk in readiness to submit to MCC.</p> <p>The Chair then took over the Chairmanship of the remainder of the ordinary meeting agenda.</p>	<p><b>Cllr JK and Cllr RC to amend response</b></p> <p><b>Clerk to submit to MCC</b></p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting no 369</b></p> <p><b>Community Project</b></p> <p>The Chair confirmed that he had been previously asked by the Council to explore the feasibility of the provision of a film night in the village hall. As part of this work he had sent out a letter to residences, requesting a response that would establish the level of support for such an investment. He had been very kindly assisted in this by a Llancayo resident and Cllr MG. The Chair confirmed that the overall response indicated support for the film night (only 3 seemed to be against it) and that further work was now needed to set out the level of investment that might be required to bring back to the Council in September. The Chair will bring back a full paper and proposal to the September meeting.</p>	<p><b>Cllr JK to draft a proposal</b></p>

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	<p><b>Highways</b> - The Chair confirmed that he would send the Clerk photographs of the road sign and details required, for reporting to MCC and requesting the repositioning of it. Potholes raised in June have been reported and action taken by MCC.</p> <p>Cllr CK raised the matter of the white lines which had still not been painted. Cllr JK apologised for the delay in his report of the co-ordinates to the Clerk. He confirmed that this will be undertaken before the next meeting.</p>	<b>Cllr JK and Clerk to action</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>MCC update :</b> Cllr VS had sent apologies.	
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Finance and governance –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PAYE invoice from HMRC had not been received by the Clerk in time for approval at the June meeting. The Chair apologized for not realizing the email received from the payroll provider had required passing to the Clerk. The deadline for payment was due during July and as a result the Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk utilized the facility within the Model Financial Regs to authorize that the payment be made in an effort to avoid late payment and the attraction of a penalty. Advice on the matter had been sought from One Voice Wales who advised that the payment to HMRC would fall within the category which allows for <i>'delegated authority where a due date for payment is before the next scheduled meeting of the Council'</i> The Clerk had obtained the necessary authorized signatures and the remittance had been made to the payroll provider for payment to HMRC. A proposal by <b>Cllr JB</b> confirmed that it had been necessary to make the payment this way to HMRC on behalf of the Council and this was seconded by <b>Cllr RC</b>. All members present approved the payment.</li> <li>Opt out forms for the annual 2019/20 mandatory Councillor allowance had been circulated to members by the Clerk. Where individual members did not wish to receive the annual allowance, then they were reminded to complete and return the exclusion form to the Clerk.</li> <li>The 2018-2019 external audit process is now at the point of review by the auditors.</li> </ul> <p>The Financial position for 2019/20 – The income, receipt and expenditure details for April, May June and July were circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Payments relating to OVW training, postage, clerk salary and HMRC costs totalling £378.62 were recorded during July. When all expenditure is made this will leave an available account balance of £4473.12. The proposal to pay the expenditure and sign the Council account book balance was made by Cllr RM and seconded by Cllr RC. Signatories duly authorized the withdrawal slips. The account book was initialled by the Chair as a correct record of the account balance of £4739.74 (which takes into account the £112 HMRC payment already made)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Clerk to action</b></p> <p><b>Members to action</b></p> <p><b>Clerk to action</b></p>
<b>8</b>	It was proposed by <b>Cllr RC</b> and seconded by <b>Cllr JB</b> that the Policy - Model Complaints and Disputes resolution should be adopted by the Community Council. All members approved the adoption. The Chair and Clerk signed the Policy front sheet. It was agreed by members that the working group should take the lead should any matters be raised	<b>Clerk to place on website</b>

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9	<b>Highways</b> - The Chair confirmed that he would send the Clerk photographs of the road sign and details required, for reporting to MCC. It requires repositioning on the B4598 at Llancayo to avoid HGVs missing the sign.	<b>Vice Chair and Clerk to action</b>
10	<b>Reports</b> - The Village Hall report was circulated prior to the meeting A Police report had been received and circulated to members prior to the meeting	
11	<b>Planning Application received DM/2019/01058</b> Members all agreed that there was no objection to this application	
12	<b>Questions from the public</b> – A member of the public raised that two potholes were a problem at the Hall Inn end of Wainfield Lane and required repair. The Chair confirmed that he would take photographs of them and send to the Clerk for notification to MCC.	<b>Cllr JK and Clerk to action</b>
13	<b>Correspondence :</b> A correspondence list for July was circulated prior to the meeting. The Clerk had dealt with an issue raised by a walker of low hanging lines at Clytha between meetings this has been resolved by BT	
14	<b>Events and training :</b> Online training modules now available free from OVW - details will be recirculated to members. The Chair confirmed that Code of Conduct training should be undertaken by all Cllrs.	
15	Matters for the next meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Planning Matters</li><li>- Community Project update</li></ul>	
	The meeting was declared closed at 9.30pm <b>Next meeting : 25 September 2019 at 8.00 pm</b>	