**Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held at Gilwern Community Centre on April 11th 2022 at 7pm– Llanelly Community Council**

Present: Cllr R Dixon (Chair), Cllr J Pratt, Cllr G Nelmes, Cllr K Rose, Cllr N Curtis, Cllr H Stockham, Cllr P Bell, Cllr D Williams.

Attendance:

Clerk – N James

1. **Apologies:**

Cllr T Corfield, Cllr L Dainton, Cllr F Morgan, Cllr A Thomas, Cllr F Rossini.

1. **Declaration of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

1. **Open Session**

There were no matters raised by members of the public that were not addressed later in the meeting, and no additional matters had been forwarded for discussion.

**4. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting of the 7th March were approved and signed by the Chair.

**5**. **Matters Arising**

* 1. Para 5a – the Clerk had advised the Maesygwartha Group of the Council’s decisions at the last meeting but was still awaiting an update from the Group. The Clerk would chase once more for a response. **Action: NJ.**
  2. Para 5b – the control thermostat had now been installed but there was a problem with the new heater. The installation engineer had checked the system but advised that there was an issue with a major part which would need to be inspected and replaced as necessary by the manufacturer. A visit from the manufacturer was awaited.
  3. Para 5d – the Director of Audit Wales had confirmed that all previous audits had now been completed. The Council thanked the Clerk for successfully clearing the backlog.
  4. Para 7b – the Clerk had approached three companies for quotes for the drainage pipe: quotes were still awaited. **Action: NJ.**

**6**. **Planning**

* 1. 22/20738/FUL – double storey extension at 13 Tyr Common, Gilwern – permission granted.
  2. 21/20599/FUL – erection of an orangery at 61 Mametz Grove, Gilwern – permission granted.

c. Cllrs Pratt and Nelmes had been approached by local residents concerning a planning approval, given five years ago, for a fence around the lower common area in Gilwern; BBNPA 17/15575/FUL. After some discussion it was agreed that this was not a Council issue and the residents should be advised to forward their concerns to the Parks Planning Authority. **Action: JP/GN.**

**7. Finance**

1. Cheques –the following payments had been signed/authorised by Cllrs Dixon and Nelmes on behalf of the Council from 7th March: **3176** –HMRC – 256.00; **3177** – Lorne Stewart new boiler–11892.78; **3178** N Trinder- tree cutting back -100.00; **3179** – J White-faulty lock-30.00; **12-21/2** – OVW – 694.00; **13-21/2** – N James backdated pay –176.90; **14-21/2** – E Keen –393.84; **1-22/3** – Merlin Waste – 967.20; **2-22/3** – MCC- Rates -1658.50; **3-22/3** - Betterclean – 1032.00; **4-22/3** – HMRC -215.40; **5-22/3** – BT – 259.00; **6-22/3** -Thomas Waste – 5.20; **SO** – Country Bookkeeping – 5.00; **SO** – Salary – 847.05; **DD** -Welsh Water – 220.08; **DD** –Swalec Gas -60.69; Bank Charges -11.90.
2. The Clerk had circulated the end of year bank reconciliation and financial report, together with a list of variances between the budget and actual expenditure over the year. In discussion it was noted that the Reserves now stood at £56000, a little over 50% of the annual precept, and a figure that the Council felt was appropriate at this time.
3. **Reports from Members on Outside Bodies**

The next Rural futures Programme meeting would be held on 20th May. Cllr Bell would be attending although not as a council representative, and Cllrs Pratt and Nelmes also advised that they would attend.

1. **Reports from County Councillor**

Cllr Pratt advised that MCC was currently in “pre-election purdah” and hence little formal business was able to be actioned. However, the Council was putting plans in place to help a number of refugees from Ukraine. MCC had received positive support from businesses and local residents and officers were working hard to accommodate refugees.  In addition she advised that Costains would now not be leaving Clydach until this autumn.

1. **Correspondence received**
   1. Letters requesting financial support from the Gwent Federation of Young Farmers’ Clubs and Kids Cancer Charity.
   2. Letter of appreciation from Gilwern Primary School for the use of the Hall during the Spring Term.
   3. Response from the Chief Executive of the Wales Ambulance Trust to the Chair’s email expressing the Council’s concern over the proposed cuts in ambulance availability in North Monmouthshire.
   4. Road closure on Tyla Road, Govilon.
   5. A request from a Maesygwartha group of residents for financial support for small items for a Jubilee Lunch they would be holding in the village. It was agreed that, although a small, private event, any such request should be considered under a formal Grant Application. **Action: NJ.**
   6. Following the Council’s meeting with BBNPA to discuss possible financial support for refurbishing the outside of the community centre an energy audit had been completed. A meeting would be held with BBNPA at 1.30pm on 13 April to discuss the next steps to which all councillors were invited.
   7. MCC had advised that the MUGA refurbishment, for which it was paying, would be starting imminently. This would provide repairs to the surface, repainting, relining, new basketball hoops and back boards. In addition, although the original application for a grant from the FAW for floodlight replacements at the MUGA had not been successful, FAW had contacted the Council to advise that more funds were now available and to resubmit the application. That had been done and a follow up meeting with them to discuss the application would be held this week. If successful a grant would be for 70% of the costs.
2. **Date of Next Meeting**

The Annual Meeting and the next Ordinary meeting would be held on 9th May at Gilwern Community Centre. Before closing the meeting, and as it would be her last meeting as she had not stood for re-election, the Chair wished to record his thanks to Cllr Bell for her great support and contribution to the Council over the last five years. He would be writing also to thank the other councillors who had not stood for re-election.

**R DIXON N JAMES**

**Chair Clerk**