**Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held at Gilwern Community Centre on January 13th 2025 at 6pm– Llanelly Community Council**

Present: Cllr R Dixon (Chair), Cllr K Rose, Cllr G Nelmes, Cllr H Stockham, Cllr N Curtis, Cllr D Williams, Cllr M Wells, Cllr K James. Cllr S Harris, Cllr A Thomas.

Attendance:

CCllrs MA Brocklesby and S Howarth; Clerk, N James and Mr and Mrs A Wilson.

In welcoming everyone the Chair wished to express formal thanks to Cllr Curtis and fellow councillors who had given so much time recently to erect/dismantle Christmas trees and install lights on them.

1. **Apologies:**

Apologies were received, and accepted, from Cllr M Fulton.

1. **Declaration of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

1. **Open Session**

There were no matters raised nor any matters forwarded which were not raised later in the meeting.

**4. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting of the 9th December were approved and signed by the Chair.

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

* 1. Para 5a – the Active Travel meeting with MCC had taken place that day in which MCC advised that £75k was available for active travel issues in Gilwern but had to be spent by 31 Mar 25. At the meeting the Council had agreed that the priority had to be to refurbish the footpath along Ty Mawr lane to the School. Following discussion it was agreed that the Council should write to MCC seeking a formal statement as to when the £75k had been made available, and seeking assurance that, if it were not possible to spend the funds this year given the short timescale, they could be rolled over until 25/26 and would be still allocated specifically to Gilwern. **Action: NJ.**
  2. Para 8b – the Clerk still waited a response regarding a meeting with the trustees of the Ebenezer Trust Fund. He was aware that one of the trustees had been in hospital but he would chase again. **Action: NJ.**

**6**. **Planning**

* 1. 24/22816/FUL- shepherds hut at Penrhiw Farm, Llanelly Hill- permission granted.
  2. 24/23298/FUL – install air source heat pump at 37 Mametz Grove, Gilwern – permission granted.
  3. 24/23279/FUL -proposed new porch at 38 Malford Grove, Gilwern- permission granted.
  4. 24/23280/FUL -replacement kitchen at 1 Park Place, Maesygwartha -permission granted.
  5. 24/23462/FUL -install conservatory at 2 New School Road, Gilwern -no comments received.

CCllr Howarth had advised of the planning application for wind turbines in the Abertillery area which would affect those living in Llanelly Hill.

**7. Finance**

1. Cheques/Payments –the following payments had been signed/authorised by Cllrs Dixon, Nelmes and Rose on behalf of the Council since the last meeting on the 9th Dec: **108-24/5** - N James-Keys cut- 8.00; **109-24/5 -**Merlin Waste-1339.20; **110-24/5** -City illuminations -6136.20; **111-24/5** -Thomas Waste -5.20; **112-24/5** -MCC -402.76; **113-24/5** -Webbs Glass-274.80; **114-24/5** -HMRC-255.60; **115-24/5** -E Keen- 365.70; **116-24/5** -Digital Systems -19.93; **117-24/5** -Thomas Waste -30.40; **118-24/5**- Merlin Waste- 1071.36; **Chq 3190**- Holders Xmas tree-45.00; **SO** – Country Bookkeeping – 5.00; **SO** – Salary –1022.30; **DD** – Octopus Energy Oct and Nov -996.22; **DD**- Octopus Energy- Dec -609.22; **DD** – EON – 25.27; **Bank Charges** -7.00. In addition £15000 had been transferred from the current account into a new savings account with Nat West Bank.
2. The bank reconciliation and financial report as at the end of December had been circulated, and the Clerk discussed the main points.
3. The triennial external audit had been completed by Audit Wales and no issues had been raised. Cllr Nelmes thanked the Clerk on behalf of the Council for his conscientious management of the accounts.
4. MCC had issued its quotation for the grounds maintenance of the playing fields and pump track. The cost for 25/26 was £2238+VAT. Following receipt he had tried to obtain a quote from a local company who had recently taken on the grounds maintenance at Gilwern School but unfortunately that company was taking on no more contracts for the time being. Given that, and the general efficiency of the MCC contract, it was agreed to accept that. **Action: NJ.**

**8** . **Reports from Members on Outside Bodies**

Cllr Stockham reported that there were still no applications to the Ty Hooper Fund from local families and it was agreed to advertise again the details of this charity. **Action: NJ.** Cllr Nelmes reported that the inspection of the primary school before Christmas had gone well and reminded the Council that a letter of support for the School to MCC in its requirement for security fencing was still outstanding. **Action: NJ.**

1. **Reports from County Councillors**
2. CCllr Howarth advised that he had received a complaint from a resident that the waste bin in the main Gilwern car park had been removed. He was attempting to find out from the MCC department why this had happened.
3. CCllr Brocklesby advised that she would continue to chase the WG regarding the disposal of the Navigation pub, in particular so that the car parking space could be utilised whilst a decision was made on a sale of the pub. Cllr Curtis advised that the WG had told him that no sale would be forthcoming until after the Heads of the Valleys road was fully completed. The local speed monitoring group were proving effective and, as with other areas where similar groups had been established, speeds were generally reducing. Finally, she explained the continuing budgetary difficulties especially due to the burgeoning costs of social care but advised that collaborations with other councils would hopefully help in trying to continue to provide the public services required.
4. **Correspondence received**
   1. Emergency closure of Church Road, Gilwern.
   2. OVW Training dates for Jan-Mar.
   3. Review of Senedd constituencies consultation document.
   4. Police and Crime Commissioner’s Survey into the police budget.

**13. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 10 February at Llanelly Hill Village Hall. **Action: NJ.**

**R DIXON, Chair N JAMES, Clerk**