**Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held at Gilwern Community Centre on April 14th 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 S Harris, Cllr M Fulton, Cllr A Thomas, Cllr K James.

Attendance:

CCllrs MA Brocklesby and S Howarth, Clerk, N James, P Thomas, A Thomas, J Peacock, A Baker, A Wilson +6.

1. **Apologies:**

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

1. **Declaration of Interest:**

There were declarations of interest from Cllr Curtis re Item 9 and from Cllr Williams re Item 8; both completed and signed a declaration form.

1. **Open Session**
   1. Given the attendance of members of the public who wished to discuss Item 9 the Chair brought that discussion forward. Mr Paul Thomas who was a boat owner and a member of the newly-formed Preserve and Protect Canal Group, updated the situation regarding water supply to the canal which had been highlighted in the media over the previous couple of weeks. The Group was looking for support from local communities given the significant impact the closure of the canal would bring, to put pressure on the WG to find a resolution to the long term problem. The Council agreed to email the WG with its support for the canal and to seek an all-party group to resolve the issue. **Action: RD/NJ/NC.**
   2. Residents of Dan-y-bont Road attended the Council meeting to seek its support to resolve the long-standing issue of the road closure. The road had been closed by MCC for three years but the County Council had failed to communicate with the residents over that time about the reopening of the road. Residents were also concerned that emergency vehicles were not able to access the road. Cllr Howarth stated that he believed the Legal Department was involved and therefore he could not make any comment. The Council fully supported the residents and agreed to write to MCC, copying CCllrs Brocklesby and Howarth, to try to resolve the issue. **Action: RD/NJ.**

**4. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting of the 10th March were approved and signed by the Chair.

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

* 1. Para 5a – a date for the follow-up meeting with the trustees of the Ebenezer Trust Fund was still awaited. **Action: NJ.**

**6**. **Planning**

* 1. 23/21884/FUL- change of use of garage to holiday accommodation at Pant Glas, Gilwern- permission granted.
  2. 25/23515/FUL –first floor extension at Blaencwm Cottage, Llanelly Hill- no comments received.
  3. 25/23592/TPO- works to trees at 17 Hooper Close, Gilwern- no comments received.
  4. 25/23656/FUL- rear extension to Shop House, Llanelly Hill- no comments received.
  5. 25/23648/FUL- install Ideal Logic at Crown Cottage, Maesygwartha- no comments received.
  6. 25/23654/FUL- modifying vehicular access at Brunant Farm, Gilwern- no comments received.
  7. 24/23260/FUL- retrospective planning for extensionat 51 Orchard Close, Gilwern- permission granted.

**7. Finance**

1. Cheques/Payments –the following payments had been signed/authorised by Cllrs Dixon, Rose and Nelmes on behalf of the Council since the last meeting on the 10th Mar: **133-24/5** - HMRC- 255.60; **134-24/5** -E Keen- 476.66; **135-24/5** -OVW- 832.00; **136-24/5** -MCC- 2844.00; **137-24/5** -SLPW- Bench- 726.00; **138-24/5**- T Morgan- 75.00; **139-24/5 –** Blackwood Fire- 318.00; **140-24/5**- MCC Cleaning-17059.24; **141-24/5-**Billy Russell- 300.00; **142-24/5**-Clydach AFC-1000.00; **1-25/6 -**Merlin Waste- 1093.68; **2-25/6 -**Digital Systems- 14.42; **3-25/6-** Viking Stationery -17.78**; 4-25/6**- MCC Rates- 3976.00; **Chq 3192-** J White locksmith- 25.00; **SO** – Country Bookkeeping – 5.00; **SO** – Salary –1022.30; DD -EON- 25.00; **DD** – Octopus Energy-548.31; **Bank Charges** -9.10.
2. The end of year Financial Report and the Bank Reconciliation as at the end of March had been circulated. The Clerk went through the details and variations in the original budget.

**8** **. Gilwern Common**

Having declared an interest Cllr Williams summarised his concerns and that of some other residents living around the Common for the state it was in. The grasscutting had been an issue in the past with what he believed was a small minority wanting to turn it into a wildflower meadow and the majority wishing to have the grass cut regularly. In its current situation with cut footpaths through it he believed it looked an eyesore; this view was supported by some other councillors. There was a wide-ranging discussion on the issue and it was agreed to call a separate meeting with local representatives for both sides of the argument, together with the county councillors and a representative officer from MCC, so that a compromise solution could be found. **Action: NJ.**

**9.Monmouth/Brecon Canal**

See para 3a above.

**10**. **Dog Bin for Clydach Picnic Area**

Cllr James advised that he had received a request from several residents in Clydach South for a dog bin to be sited by the picnic area in Clydach just prior to the Ironworks car park. The Council had a spare bin and it was agreed that this should be installed there. Before that CCllr Brocklesby agreed to get approval from MCC for locating a bin in that position. **Action MAB/NJ.**

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

Cllr Nelmes advised that:

1. work should begin on the new school gate in early May; the work would also include new fencing to separate the children from cars entering the site.
2. In addition, the new MCC H&S Officer had produced a report on the School which had reiterated the School’s contention that security was lax.
3. He reminded everyone that the School Show was on the 15th/16th May.
4. The deficit in the School’s operating budget had been reduced considerably over the last few months.
5. The task group responsible for taking forward the 6 councils Community Bus Scheme had held discussions with Brecon dial-a -ride to move the pilot forward. A number of issues still needed to be resolved before asking for a pilot grant.

**12. Report from County Councillors**

CCllr Brocklesby reminded everyone about the Public Meeting which was to take place this Wednesday, the 16th, to discuss the proposed construction on the mountain at Pwelldu. CCllr Howarth expressed concerns about the size of the land provided by MCC to the School for its community farm, given the lack of parking space around the School. Cllr Nelmes explained that the farm and its facilities were used daily by the schoolchildren to learn about agriculture and the cycle of growing .

**13.Correspondence Received**

* 1. OVW Training dates Mar-Jun.
  2. Police Report for Mar 25.
  3. WG Senedd Review- Final determinations.
  4. Details of OVW National Awards Conference 2025.
  5. Letter from resident regarding the Monmouthshire/Brecon canal and a press release from Welsh Water on the same subject.
  6. Invitation to attend a training seminar on planning and enforcement.

**14. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be the AGM and will be held on 12 May at Gilwern Community Centre, followed by an Ordinary Council meeting. **Action: NJ.**

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