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**Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held at Gilwern Community Centre on June 14th 2021 at 7pm– Llanelly Community Council**

Present: Cllr R Dixon (Chair), Cllr J Pratt, Cllr G Nelmes, Cllr N Curtis, Cllr P Bell, Cllr F Morgan, Cllr L Dainton, Cllr H Stockham, Cllr D Williams.

Attendance:

Clerk – N James,

1. **Apologies:**

Cllr A Thomas, Cllr H Jarvis, Cllr T Corfield, Cllr K Rose.

1. **Declaration of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

1. **Open Session**

There were no members of the public in attendance and no items had been forwarded to the Clerk for discussion.

**4. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the AGM and the Ordinary meeting of the 10th May were approved, and signed by the Chairman.

**5. Matters Arising from 12th April meeting**

* 1. Para 5a– appropriate notices regarding dogs on the playing fields had been put up.
  2. Para 8 –the Council had signed a three year contract with Thomas Waste and, as their costs were competitive, would retain this contract and review at the end of the 3 year period.
     + 1. **Planning**
  3. 21/19480/OUT – construction of two properties at land adjacent to Ffynnon-y-wenallt, Gilwern - application withdrawn.
  4. 21/19837/FUL – summerhouse at 5 Allerford Grove, Gilwern – permission granted.
  5. 21/19598/FUL – two storey extension at Garden House, Saleyard – permission granted.
  6. 21/19642/FUL – canopy over shopfront at 18-20 Main Road, Gilwern– permission granted.
  7. 21/19614/ADV – Maps at top of Main Road and on public toilets wall at Gilwern – permission granted.
  8. 21/19813/FUL – removal of oil tank, addition of roof to tank wall and installation of solar panels at 1 Troedyrhiw, Lower Station Road, Clydach – permission granted.
  9. 21/19869/FUL – two storey extension at 1 Fairholme, Gilwern – no comments received.
  10. 21/19929/FUL- retrospective application for decking area at Cambrian Inn, Clydach – no comments received.
  11. 21/19969/FUL – proposed front extension to be partly used as an ice cream serving kiosk at The Bridgend Inn, Gilwern – it was noted that the Bridgend Inn was now named The Towpath Inn and councillors were concerned that installing a kiosk at the front of this building would reduce car parking slots and mean that extra cars would be parked on the Main Road, impacting on public safety and further exacerbating the parking issue in the road. **Action: NJ.**
  12. 21/20013/FUL – single storey extension at 2 Bruant Road, Clydach – no comments received.
  13. 21/19956/TPO – reduce crown of sycamore tree at 61 Mametz Grove, Gilwern – no comments received.
      + 1. **Finance**

1. Audit/Annual Return-the Clerk had circulated the completed Annual Return and a copy of the Internal Audit report. He summarised the main points in the Return and went through the recommendations made by the Internal Auditor, the main comment being the need to provide a clearer audit trail with the cashbook and VAT return. This recommendation had already been implemented and agreed with the Internal Auditor. He detailed the actions taken regarding the other recommendations. The Council noted the actions already taken and those still requiring completion, and approved the Annual return.
2. Councillors’ Allowances – the Chairman advised that the Council was able to approve a higher allowance of £500 for up to 5 councillors based on additional roles within the Council. He recommended that Cllr Nelmes should be in receipt of this additional allowance as he contributed significantly to the everyday administration of the Council. This was seconded by Cllr Stockham and all agreed. The Clerk reminded those who had not responded that he required confirmation or not of their taking the allowance.
3. Grant Applications
4. Gilfest – Gilwern Roots had applied for permission to hold Gilfest on the playing fields and for a grant of a little over £2900 towards the cost of this year’s festival. Before discussion took place on the actual grant the Council discussed at length the issue of the playing fields being used for Gilfest in the current Covid circumstances. Councillors expressed concern with a number of issues: the number of new cases in Wales was increasing with the new Delta variant including locally in Abergavenny; the inability to control numbers, both on the fields and in the adjoining buildings; the inability to socially distance; the potential impact on other users of the playing fields from such a large influx of people. The Council though recognised that Gilwern Roots had covered eventualities in their risk assessments but also recognised that there were so many unknowns at this time. There were two proposals put to the Council: not to approve the use of the fields and secondly, to seek further clarification and assurances from Gilwern Roots about the Council’s concerns. In further discussion, Cllr Nelmes advised that he, the Chairman and the Clerk had met a representative from Gilwern Roots and, although much work had been done by them, they acknowledged that they were not able to confirm answers to the Council’s issues and nor would they be able to until close to the potential date. In view of this the Council felt it could not support the holding of the event this year and voted not to approve the use of the fields for a Gilfest this year. **Action: NJ.**
5. Roots Cafe - Gilwern Roots had sought permission to reopen its café within GCC and had produced comprehensive risk assessments. The Council agreed that this facility could go ahead provided Roots had public liability cover. However, it was felt that, although initially the café was granted free access of the Hall and kitchen, the café had now produced profits and it was therefore appropriate that Roots paid the normal hire fee for the facility. **Action: NJ.**
6. Llanelly Village Hall – the Hall was asking for a grant of £3000 towards the cleaning of the Hall so that it could reopen. The Council was keen that the Hall should be able to reopen as soon as possible. However, the grant application had not been circulated as the Clerk still awaited responses to various follow-up questions. Once these were received he would circulate the application for councillors to decide. **Action: NJ.**
7. Clerk’s Salary Review – the Chairman advised that as the Clerk had now been in post for a year the Council had to review his salary in line with his contract. He was currently paid on Scale 25 of the council clerks salary scale and, after some discussion, it was felt appropriate that this level be retained for the coming year. Cllr Curtis, as Chair of the Personnel Committee, would arrange a suitable date to carry out an appraisal with the Clerk. **Action: NC.**
8. Cheques –the following cheques had been signed by Cllrs Dixon, Pratt or Nelmes on behalf of the Council from 10th May: **3102**–Thomas Waste – 25.60; **3103 –** C Williams Audit – 780.00; **3104 –** E Keen Security – 397.17; **3105** – Merlin Waste -480.00; **3106** – HMRC -199.80; **3107**–Ebay – dog signs – 3.98; **3108 –** EON – 20.73**; 3109 –** Betterclean – 799.32**; 3110 –** Cllr’s Allowance – 150.00**; 3111 –** Cllr’sAllowance – 650.00**; 3112** – Cllr’s Allowance – 150.00**; 3113** – Thomas Waste– 50.80; **3114** – Cllr’s Allowance – 1650.00; **3115** – SLCC Annual fee – 166.00; **SO** – CountryBookkeeping – 5.00; **SO –** Salary – 799.25.
9. **Commemorative Bench**

Cllr Dainton summarised the Council’s earlier decision to fund a commemorative bench for Mr Mal Plumley who had died during the Covid pandemic. Together with the Chairman and Clerk he had researched possible benches and discussed the location and type of bench with the family. The bench would be located in the south eastern corner of the playing fields. There were hundreds of different examples but he and the Chairman recommended a bench from David Ogilvie Engineering who had provided the very effective WW1 benches in the village. Whilst the Daffodil bench was expensive it came with a guarantee for 25 years and the Council agreed to go ahead with this purchase. In doing so it was also agreed that the Council should consider at a future meeting a formal policy for such requests. **Action: NJ.**

1. **Play Equipment for Gilwern School**

In Cllr Jarvis’ absence this item was held over to the next meeting.

1. **CLP**

Cllr Nelmes advised that many of the original requirements in the CLP had now been completed. In reviewing the Plan for 2021/22 the Council should note that the upgrade to the Pump Track would be starting on the 21st June and he was currently working with the designers on the two new maps/notice boards for Gilwern. It was recognised that, although much had already been achieved, there were still issues regarding parking, transport, energy regeneration, allotment provision and further work on the Community Centre. However, given the costs involved with these two projects this year it was agreed that no other major projects would be budgeted for this financial year.

1. **U3A Art for GCC**

Cllr Nelmes advised that the U3A Art Group had requested permission to hang new art panels on the walls along the corridor and in the rooms of the Community Centre; this was agreed.

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

Cllr Nelmes advised that there were two current surveys to which councillors might wish to contribute: a new school in Abergavenny and the Aneurin Bevan survey on radiotherapy services at Nevill Hall.

1. **Reports from County Councillor**

Cllr Pratt reported on the following issues:

* 1. She had recently attended the LALG meeting with representatives from the WG and Costains. During the meeting Costains advised that the A465 would need to be closed for 6 weekends during the summer months. She and others had stated that this would be totally unacceptable, especially at such a busy time. Further pressure was currently being put on Costains to seek an alternative strategy.
  2. The Trustees of Clydach Village Hall wished to retain the temporary car park which Costains had built there when the builders left probably at the end of this year. The car park could be a useful addition for football matches and visits to the Ironworks. A permanent facility might require planning permission and the WG was discussing with Costains possible financial support instead of seeking reinstatement. It was agreed that Cllr Pratt would ask the Trustees to forward their request to retain the car park to the Council for its approval, and the Clerk would discuss the requirement for planning permission with the BBNPA. **Action: JP.**
  3. Cllr Pratt was asked about the state of grasscutting currently in Gilwern. MCC had followed a diversity policy during May but was now back to cutting; she would ensure that the grassed areas around the Community Centre were cut this month. **Action: JP.**

1. **Correspondence received**
   1. Crime Report for April 2021.
   2. Details of MCC Active Travel Consultation.
   3. Details of a neighbourhood watch webinar session on cybercrime and scams.
   4. Proposal of the establishment of an all-through school in Abergavenny.
   5. Details of the setting up of a temporary Covid testing unit in Abergavenny
   6. Details from Dyfed/Powys police on a whatsapp scam.
2. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting would be held at Gilwern Community Centre at 7pm on **Monday 12th July**.

**R DIXON N JAMES**

**Chair Clerk**