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

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

Attendance:

Clerk – N James

Mark Hand – MCC (for Item 11 only).

1. **Apologies:**

Cllr T Corfield, Cllr H Stockham, Cllr H Jarvis, Cllr L Dainton, Cllr F Morgan, Cllr A Thomas.

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 13th December were approved and signed by the Chair.

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

* 1. Para 5a - Cllr Morgan had advised that the registration of the playing fields had now been submitted. **Action: FM.**
  2. Para 5b – action was still ongoing regarding the telephone box in Maesygwartha. **Action: NJ.**
  3. Para 7c - Access was now finally available and full activity would be complete within the next few days hopefully. Once fully complete the Clerk would draw up a weekly list of payments to be made for authorisation by two councillor signatories before any payment is made. This list would then be formally submitted to the Council at its next meeting. **Action: NJ.**
  4. Para 7e – the new boiler had been installed and now awaited a final connection piece of ducting which should be installed this week.
  5. Para 7h – the Clerk had chased HMRC for a response but had been advised that there was a significant delay in responses at the present time. **Action : NJ.**

**6**. **Planning**

* 1. 21/20335/FUL – detached garage at 2 Cae Meldon, Gilwern – permission granted.
  2. 21/20660/FUL – proposed rear dormer to 8 Orchard Close, Gilwern - no objections received.
  3. 21/20596/FUL – raise roof on garage at 2 High Trees Road, Gilwern – comments awaited.
  4. 22/20699/FUL- change of use from private dwelling to holiday let at Dyffryn Mawr, Lower Common, Gilwern – one comment received so far observes that, although the application states that no watercourse is close, the River Usk is within 300m of the property comments awaited.
  5. 22/20732/FUL – single storey extension at Ysgubor Cae Ceffyll, Lower Common, Gilwern – comment so far received as above for application 20699.

**7. Finance**

1. Cheques –the following cheques had been signed by Cllrs Dixon and Nelmes on behalf of the Council from 7th January: **3157** (cheque book continued from10/5/21) –City Illuminations – Xmas Lights –5913.00; **3158** – EON – 20.26; **3159** BT -237.36; **3160** – Betterclean -913.20; **3161** –Digital Systems -photocopier purchase – 1194.00; **3162** – Thomas Waste -5.20; **3163** – MCC -Xmas Lights new sockets in 2020 – 1638.00; **3164** – PHS Group – 229.08; **3165** –HMRC – 211.80; **3166** – Digital Systems – 12.64; **3167** – APS Plumbing – 298.58; **3168** – E Keen – 376.80; **3169** – Merlin Waste – 930.00; **3170** – Betterclean -1043.99; **3171** – MCC –Licence renewal – 70.00; **SO** – Country Bookkeeping – 5.00; **SO** – Salary – 847.05; **DD –** Grenke photocopier -208.80; **DD** – Swalec gas – 306.69.
2. The Clerk had received an email from Audit Wales which requested resending all the audit papers already submitted in 2020 and 2021. No explanation had so far been given but the Clerk had queried this request and had been advised that the Director of Audit would respond.

1. **CLP Update**

With the forthcoming Council elections Cllr Nelmes felt it was the opportunity to consider the current position of the actions placed on the Council by the CLP in 2019. He distributed a summary of actions taken and outstanding items. It was agreed that the Council had achieved a significant majority of the actions within the Plan. Outstanding items required input and action from other bodies and included: community transport, environmental issues, allotments and woodland developments, a place plan. A copy of the Summary would be placed on the website. **Action: NJ.**

1. **Active Travel Update**

Cllr Nelmes had recently attended a MCC Transport meeting and had discovered by chance that MCC had produced an expensive and large report which covered its assessment of what should be done regarding active travel routes in Gilwern. The Survey Report had been completed in May 21 without any consultation with LCC. The Report would apparently be forwarded to the WG to consider funding but, in the meantime, the Clerk was asked to write formally to the cabinet Member involved to express the Council’s concern that they had not been consulted or advised on such an important document. **Action: NJ.**

**10. Bilingual Policy**

The Clerk had received an email from a local resident concerned that the new maps/notice boards in Gilwern and the signs at the Pump track were only in English. He had consulted the producer of the maps who stated that all similar maps throughout Monmouthshire were in English only and suggested it would be impractical to do otherwise; a point agreed by the Council. As for the pump track it was noted that similar facilities at Abergavenny and Monmouth were in English only and the Council agreed, after some discussion, that the additional cost of between £500-£600 for another sign in welsh would not have been a reasonable expenditure for the Council to make in the circumstances. It was noted that the Council had produced bilingual signs where the additional costs were minimal eg public toilets, direction to the canal etc. They agreed that any policy should embrace the use of the welsh language as well as English wherever possible and reasonable. The Clerk was asked to draw up a draft bilingual policy for the Council to consider. **Action: NJ**.

**11. Gilwern Road Management**

The Chairman welcomed Mark Hand from MCC to discuss highways issues in Gilwern which had been raised by Cllr Curtis:

1. Pedestrian road crossings/speeding – there was real concern at the top end of Main Road where vehicles often appeared to be speeding into/out of the village. The pedestrian crossing in this area needed to be made clearer/repainted. Speed bumps would be a good enforcement tool although it was recognised that the additional noise from driving over these was a factor.
2. Street posts – there was a street post bent over near the Main Road/Back Road junction. Mr Hand agreed to have this repaired.
3. Road markings – whilst some road markings had been repainted there were others still to do.
4. Signs – whilst there were signs in place at the Beaufort triangle and at Back Road there were still vehicles going the wrong way. Mr Hand agreed to try and improve signage at these points.
5. 30mph signs – the Council asked that the 30mph sign on Main Road on column BJ477 should be checked as it does not appear to be working properly, moved further back towards Abergavenny to nearer the junction with Ty Mawr Road, and reduced in height on the post. Mr Hand agreed to check the light and move it to near the Crossroads and Ty Mawr road junctions. He did however point out that in 2023 Gilwern would for the most part become a 20mph area and it may be that changes would have to wait for that.
6. Street parking – there were often occasions in Main Road where people parked illegally. Whilst barriers would reduce this problem it was recognised that they might cause further issues.
7. **Reports from Members on Outside Bodies**

Cllr Nelmes advised that Gilwern Primary School had hired the Hall for some gym classes for two days a week .

1. **Reports from County Councillor**

Cllr Pratt reported that, although MCC had received a better budget settlement this year, Monmouthshire still received well below the average in Wales per head of population. Council tax discussions were ongoing.

1. **Correspondence received**
   1. Letter from Borough Theatre Manager, Abergavenny seeking financial support to adopt a seat. It was agreed not to purchase a seat.
   2. Traffic Regulations Amendment 3 statutory consultation.
   3. Details about a vacancy on the WG Board for a non-executive Director.
   4. Ebeneezer Fund latest financial statement.
   5. Update on the Glangwryney Road embankment reinstatement.
   6. Email inviting LCC councillors to a Rural Futures meeting on Llanelly Hill Hall. Councillors were invited to contact the Clerk if they wished to attend.
   7. Email for Gilwern Roots regarding a possible GilFest for 2022. The Council agreed to permit Gilfest 2022 on the playing fields. It was noted, however, that, as the Council would formally end at the beginning of May, this Council would not be in a position to consider funding for events after that until the new Council had been elected. **Action: NJ.**
   8. Email for a local resident inviting councillors to a meeting to discuss Gilwern Roots in the future. The Clerk was asked to invite the individual to host the meeting at the Centre. **Action: NJ.**
2. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting would be held at Gilwern Community Centre; date to be confirmed.

**R DIXON N JAMES**

**Chair Clerk**