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

Present: Cllr R Dixon (Chair), Cllr G Nelmes, Cllr K Rose, Cllr N Curtis, Cllr H Stockham.

Attendance:

Clerk – N James

1. **Apologies:**

Cllr J Pratt, Cllr T Corfield, Cllr H Jarvis, Cllr L Dainton, Cllr F Morgan, Cllr A Thomas, Cllr F Rossini, Cllr D Williams, Cllr P Bell.

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 February were approved and signed by the Chair.

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

* 1. Para 5b – the Maesygwartha village group had forwarded a set of costs for the work required to repair the telephone box. In discussion it was agreed that the Council would: provide a letter agreeing to the defibrillator project in the box; have the electricity supply to the box in the Council’s name and pay for the connection charge for the defibrillator; provide funds to meet the full costs of the materials they detailed dependent on the level of grant the group received. **Action: NJ.**
  2. Para 5d – the new boiler had been installed and was now connected but the control thermostat was still awaited.
  3. Para 7h –HMRC had responded and detailed the outstanding payments which the Clerk had confirmed had not been previously paid. Most of these had now been paid with one small amount outstanding, awaiting HMRC confirmation of the exact figure.
  4. Para 7b – the Director of Audit Wales had confirmed that they had all the papers for the four audits and would be formally responding to them shortly.
  5. Para 14g – The Chair and Cllrs Rose and Nelmes had met with Gilwern Roots representatives to discuss Gilfest 2022. They had confirmed to them that the Council were happy to allow the use of the playing fields for this but were not in a position at the moment to consider financial support; this would have to wait the new Council elected at the beginning of May. In the meantime Gilwern Roots would continue their planning for the festival and prepare a grant application for consideration by the new Council.

**6**. **Planning**

* 1. 21/20318/FUL – extension at Stepaside, Common Road, Gilwern – permission granted.
  2. 22/20696/FUL – proposed second storey extension to The Cambrian Inn, Clydach – no comments received.
  3. 22/20785/FUL – variation on Condition 1 to allow a further five years for commencement at 4 Mount Pleasant, Llanelly Hill – comments awaited.
  4. 21/19693/FUL- removal of chimney and installation of two rooflights at 12 Basildene Close, Gilwern - comments awaited.

**7. Finance**

1. Cheques –the following payments had been signed/authorised by Cllrs Dixon and Nelmes on behalf of the Council from 7th February: **3172** –U3A -credit –66.00; **3173** – E Keen–379.58; **3174** HMRC -211.80; **3175** – HMRC – 2565.05; **1-21/2** – Thomas Waste – 45.60; **2-21/2** – Thomas Waste – 45.60; **3-21/2** – Thomas Waste – 5.20; **4-21/2** – EON – 17.22; **5-21/2** – MCC- new fence posts -883.25; **6-21/2** -MCC -new litter bin and installation – 634.34; **7-21/2** – Vision ICT -email hosting – 324.00; **8-21/2** - Betterclean – 1032.00; **9-21/2** -Merlin – 930.00; **10-21/2** –Welsh Water -106.80; **11-21/2** Thomas Waste -50.80; **SO** – Country Bookkeeping – 5.00; **SO** – Salary – 847.05; **DD** –Welsh Water -83.78.
2. There had been a few blockages from the toilets in the Centre and different contractors, the last being Welsh Water last week, had stated that there would continue to be a problem because there was insufficient fall from the external pipe. After some discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should pursue three quotes for this work to be considered. **Action: NJ.**
3. The Clerk had received the annual membership application from OVW; the coming year would cost £694. It was agreed to continue the Council’s membership**. Action: NJ.**
4. The NJC had published new pay scales for clerks backdated to 1 Apr 21. It was agreed that the Clerk’s salary should be paid at the same scale but on the new rate. **Action: NJ.**

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

Cllr Nelmes advised that he hoped to attend the Wales Active Travel meeting at the end of March. The Chair advised that there would be an Open Day at Llanelly Village Hall on 15th March at which the Rural Futures Programme, which had funds for rural areas in Wales, would be looking for views and thoughts regarding funding for the Hall.

1. **Reports from County Councillor**

In her absence Cllr Pratt forwarded the following report:

**“** Following last week’s full Council meeting the Budget for the coming year was agreed with a regrettable Council tax increase of 2.9% which is below the rate of inflation. It was reported that MCC have never gone into deficit whilst under the current administration. Gwent PCC Jeff Cuthbert has increased his precept to 5.5% increase.  Keeping these increases to a minimum during these difficult times when our residents will be facing financial hardship was so important this year especially with rising energy prices which will have a knock on effect on everything we buy.

The new Vactor machine that is a state of the art gully and drainage vehicle has been working in our area and as well as ensuring the drains are working freely it also photographs each drain to assess the condition and any work required.  Highways have also received new equipment, a new hot box which will mean that in future more hot pot holing will be carried out which is more effective and longer lasting than cold pot holing keeping the material warm for the crews to repair the potholes more effectively.

Work is progressing on the Clydach iron works old picnic area and caravan park so fingers crossed the return of these facilities to the community is in sight.”

1. **Correspondence received**
   1. Details of a new Traffic Order regarding speed limits.
   2. Information regarding the vacancy of Chair to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.
   3. NRW document on Nature and Us.
   4. Update on the MCC Replacement Development Plan.
   5. Update on the proposed establishment of an all-through school in Abergavenny.
   6. Road closures on A465 and Gilwern/A465 roundabout.
   7. Information from the police about a bank phishing scam.
   8. Letter from Ty Hafen requesting a financial contribution.
2. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting would be held on 11th April at Gilwern Community Centre.

**R DIXON N JAMES**

**Chair Clerk**