

GROSMONT FAWR COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED GROSMONT FAWR

Chairman/Cadeirydd
Councillor Lowri Wynn Morgan
1 Poorscript Lane
Grosmont
Abergavenny
Monmouthshire
NP7 8LQ
Tel: 07851 675883
e-mail: lowri.wynnmorgan@gmail.com

Clerk/Clerc
Mr R Wade
4 The Coach House
Penoyre Estate
Cradoc
Brecon
Powys
LD3 9LP
Tel: 01874 409890
Mob: 07502 590038
E-mail: grosmontcouncil@hotmail.com

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GROSMONT
COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE GROSMONT TOWN
HALL AT 7:30 PM ON THE 8TH SEPTEMBER 2022**

Those attending the meeting: Councillors Lowri Wynn Morgan (Chair), Jude Rogers (Vice-Chair), Witek Mintowt-Czyz, Janet Williams and Jamie Edwards and the Clerk to the Council, Robert Wade.

1. To accept apologies for absence

There were no apologies from Councillor Martin Davies, who was the only Councillor absent from the meeting.

2. To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in items of business listed below

It was agreed that these could be announced as and when the situation arose during the meeting.

3. Public Forum

- (a) From the floor, Jan Chatfield said that they were planning an open weekend – the 30th September from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., the 1st October from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the 2nd October from 12 Noon to 5 p.m. – for an exhibition of what was planned for the Town Hall. Plans would be exhibited, provided by the Architect, and there would be a description of the funding options. There were plans for advertising through the social media and a leaflet drop and even home visits for those who needed them, all in the interests of making the community as a whole public aware of what was planned. There would be a free raffle, offering a meal at the Angel

Hotel, which would help in ascertaining the numbers who had attended the meeting. There was £315 left of a micro-grant which had been procured, which would assist with the cost. Various Councillors indicated their ability to attend at certain of the proposed sessions. The Chair asked about the proposed location of the lift, which Jan said was currently to be positioned internally, coming out at the top of the stairs, but there had been alternative proposals which were being considered.

- (b) ~~Reference was made to a report put together by Peter Clarke, Lynne Potter and Mark Whitaker for a Project and Reporting Structure for the Grosmont Community Hub and which had already been circulated by e-mail. The Chair proposed (seconded by Councillor MIntowt Czyn) that this report should be adopted, and this was agreed. See 7(b) below~~

Project Structure and Reporting Document

- (c) Halls Together was discussed. From the floor, Deb Neville made a proposal to the Council. She said that there were several different Web-sites and Facebook sites – e.g: the Grosmont Notice Board, the Grosmonet Community Hub and the Grosmont Web-site – and with the retirement of Jane Moggridge and Kathy Patching, there was an opportunity to develop a single platform for the Community Hub and also to act as guinea pigs for setting up a computerised booking system which could be available 24/7 and which would currently be available for free initially from the man who had developed the system at Llanarth, although there might be an ongoing annual cost at a later stage to keep the website running without grant support. She suggested that there should be a committee set up to consider the digital presence of the Council and Grosmont Future and develop a plan which might be for one platform She suggested that the committee should be initially herself, Councillor Rogers and Councillor Edwards, although they would hope to attract others – for example, somebody who had suggested restarting a village magazine – and would generally increase and encourage community participation by introducing one or two Facebook activities – for instance, a blog – which would appeal to the younger generation but also to the farming community, the elderly and the isolated. There were plenty of people and resources to help, and it would also strengthen a grant application if they were seen to be working together.

Councillor Rogers confirmed that she would be taking over the Council's web-site from Jane Moggridge on the 19th September. She said that there appeared to be a number of different web-sites and Face Book pages in existence, and her concern was that there should be some degree of unity so far as that was concerned. The Clerk pointed out that the law required the Council to

publish its actions electronically, and he commented that he had been trying to encourage a computerised diary for bookings, even though the payments still had to be channelled through him. It was agreed (the Chair proposing and Councillor Mintowt-Czyz seconding) that there should be a committee in which Deb Neville, Councillor Rogers and Councillor Edwards would be the principal members to consider the issue and report back to the Council and to the Steering Committee. The decision as to what the committee should be called was left to the first meeting, but essentially the business would be that of considering Digital Presence for the area.

(d) Deb Neville had also raised the issue as to whether the Town Hall can be represented as Grosmont Community Hub on The Halls Together Website. It was agreed that this should be deferred until the committee had reported back

4. Discussion on matters arising from the Police Report and police issues generally

The Clerk had previously circulated the Police Report, which was noted. There was continued disappointment that the Council had been unable to meet the police officer, and the Clerk was asked to write again to see if he/she could be present at the next meeting, especially in the light of the continuing concern over the “distraction burglaries” reported in earlier months. The Clerk suggested that he would try to enlist the help of the Inspector to bring a little pressure to bear, and this was agreed to be a possible way forward.

5. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting on the 21st July 2022

(a) Councillor Mintowt-Czyz asked that item 6 (a) could be amended so that it was clear that there had been a formal Minute to the effect that was agreed that the Partnership Agreement between the Council and Grosmont Future had been agreed and should be and had been signed. This amendment was confirmed.

(b) Councillor Mintowt-Czyz asked that item 10 should be amended so as to read that “Councillor Mintowt-Czyz said that his understanding was that the matter remained under consideration: the issues included the matter of Listed Building consent, access through the church yard, parking generally and the issue of allocated storage space in the context of the viability of the shop generally.” This amendment was agreed.

(c) Councillor Mintowt-Czyz asked that in item 13 the following words should be inserted in place of the words “The recently-developed 20 mph was also thought to be a problem.”: “It was noted

that a proposal to adopt a 20mph speed limit in urban areas throughout Wales had met some pushback in Abergavenny. A 20mph speed limit in Grosmont has long been sought by residents.” This amendment was agreed.

6. To consider matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting on the 21st July 2022

- (a) Page 1 item 3 - Councillor Rogers confirmed that she and Jane Moggridge had already met to have a discussion over a cup of tea, and a starting-date for her to take over the web-site had been agreed for the 19th September. She confirmed that, once she had taken over that responsibility, she would need to resign from the Steering Committee.
- (b) Page 3 item 10 - Councillor Mintowt-Czyz said that he had spoken to the owner of the Post Office who said that his application was still continuing. **It was noted that the GPO head office management had sent in a mobile post office on Thursday afternoons, which was a welcome, albeit inadequate, temporary arrangement until such time as the Post Office in the shop might open. Councillor Williams said she had also spoken the same management, who said they were trying to push through the application. Councillor Mintowt-Czyz indicated his view that there was miscommunication within PO management.** He would try to clarify the matter by the next meeting.

7. To consider the progress of the work relating to the Town Hall Project

- (a) **To consider the Property Maintenance Plan, if one so exists, or in the alternative, to consider instituting a Property Maintenance Plan.**

The Clerk was asked to check if such a plan existed. He said that it might be in the Survey report of 2021, and he would check. The Chair said that, if there was no such plan in existence, then there certainly ought to be, and Peter Clarke, who was in attendance on the floor of the meeting, confirmed that he would be prepared to draft such a plan if the need arose. The Chair proposed (seconded by Councillor Mintowt-Czyz) that he should be asked to do so, and this was agreed.

Project Structure and Reporting Document

- (b) **To consider the Grosmont Community Hub Project and Reporting Structure document (previously circulated).** The Chair proposed (seconded by Councillor Mintowt-Czyz) that this report should be adopted, and this was agreed.

- (c) **To consider the unexplained closure of the public toilets**

The Chair observed that the toilets had been closed for a week. It was also noted that the gates were being shut and bollards were being put in front of the gates, again without explanation. The Clerk said he was unaware of this, and would enquire why this had happened. A discussion followed as to whether a form of notice should be put up to ensure that the availability of the toilets was clearly demonstrated. It was accepted that it would not be correct to attach the notice to the building. However, the priority was to ensure that the toilets were open and accessible to the village.

(d) To consider an application for a CADW Maintenance Grant.

This grant was generally felt to be highly desirable. Councillor Mintowt-Czyz suggested that GCC might consider accessing this funding source for immediately necessary maintenance such as clearing rainwater goods even if the main work to renovate work on the Town Hall would not take place until 2023. There was some discussion as to the whether there was adequate time and process to access this year's funding. Jan Chatfield from the floor said that she had the relevant paperwork which she would pass on to the council via Drop-Box for further consideration.

Peter Clark suggested that the CADW Maintenance Grant would fund a rolling maintenance programme up to 75% of the annual cost. The council was in the position of being able to fund the residual 25%.

(e) To consider the administration of finances for the purposes of discharging liabilities re the Town Hall Project. Whether there is a means for electronic payments to be made and delegated to GCC Councillors.

(a) The Clerk said he would be delighted to have on-line banking generally, and would look into it. He had checked the financial regulations and they clearly allowed payment by CHAPS. It was agreed that the regulations should be amended so as to allow payment on line in general. The Clerk said that it appeared to be sufficient that two existing signatories authorised the payments. The Chair asked if it was possible for others to be able to effect payment. The Clerk said it appeared only to be down to the RFO, but he would check. He would also chase up the issue of the two new signatories to the bank account, which had not yet been actioned.

(f) To accept the Highlight report.

number 5

Councillor Mintowt-Czyz proposed that the Highlight Report should be accepted. This was seconded by the Chair and agreed. He requested consideration and acceptance of the Highlight Report should also be a standing item on future Agendas. It was observed that the report was available on Dropbox, but Peter Clarke said that he would e-mail copies to the Clerk and to Councillor Edwards.

8. To discuss the future of the Council web-site

Councillor Rogers confirmed that it was her intention to resign from the Steering Committee to give time for this commitment. The Chair proposed (seconded by Councillor Mintowt-Czyz) that Councillor Williams should take her place. This was agreed.

9. To receive items of correspondence

The Clerk said there were no items that were in addition to those already being discussed at other point in the agenda.

10. To consider the resignation of Councillor Daisy Learmond and the need for co-option

The Clerk said that his information from One Voice was that there was no need for a newspaper advertisement, but there had to be some sort of public announcement, and it was agreed that this should be put in the Council's web-site. The Clerk said that One Voice had provided him with a form of announcement which he would adapt, and would send to Councillor Rogers.

11. To consider matters relating to Planning.

- (a) DM/2022/01133 – Great Campston – proposed demolition of existing agricultural building, replacement and relocation of same and associated development. This application was agreed.
- (b) DM/2022/01115 – Grosmont Wood Farm – application to demolish a garden shed and greenhouse to erect a lodge for our daughter – this application was agreed

12. To agree expenditure and other accounts matters.

The following items were agreed:

Clerk's salary £1250

Council Tax £347.75

13. To discuss the state of the roads in and about Grosmont

It was agreed that this was still lamentable. Some hedges had been cut. Councillor Edwards agreed to form a sub-committee, which would need to be publicised, to receive representation from the community regarding the need for repairs. Councillor Mintowt-Czyz proposed that the What Three Words mapping system should be used to map the sites accurately at which issues had been identified. The proposal was adopted after an explanation of its working and its utilisation through an app.

14. To receive and consider any other business

- (a) Hire of the Town Hall – this had already been adverted to, so no further discussion was undertaken at this stage
- (b) It was suggested that there should be a sign for the toilet indicating where it was and what the normal opening hours were. It was agreed that, especially in view of the current problem about whether the toilet was open at all, this should be discussed at the next meeting.
- (c) Mr Peter Clarke outlined to the council the advantages of adopting Microsoft 365 Families. This suite of programmes included One Drive, a cloud based system for secure documents storage and Teams for video conferencing. The adoption of Microsoft 365 Families had the significant benefit of substantially reducing the current costs incurred by GCC and Grosmont Futures using disparate and duplicated systems. The Chair confirmed that she was very much in favour of this system, of which she had had experience from her own work already. There was some anxiety expressed over adopting a system that some council members had no experience of. From the floor, Peter Clarke confirmed that he would hold a workshop to familiarise the Clerk and others with the proposed system pending a formal decision to adopt it.

15. To decide the date of the next meeting

The Clerk said that this would normally be the second Thursday in the month, which was the 13th October, and that date was provisionally agreed. The meeting would start at 7:00 p.m. rather than 7:30 p.m. as previously.