

## December 2021

**Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Gilfach Goch Community Council held on Wednesday 8 December 2021 on Zoom.**

***Cofnodion cyfarfod misol. Cynhelir Mercher 8 Rhagfyr 2021.***

### **PRESENT**

COUNCILLORS: L.PRICE R.PRICE M.WHITTER J.ABBOTT A.DRAPER  
A.WARREN

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

THE CLERK DAWN WALTERS

#### **69. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

69.1 Borough Councillor A. ROBERTS.

#### **70. MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

70.1 No declarations were received.

#### **71. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

71.1 The minutes of the previous monthly meeting were then agreed as a true record.

#### **72. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

72.1 Minute 62.2 The chain of office neckrest will hopefully be ready by the end of the week.

72.2 Minute 62.4 The clerk thanked A Draper for forwarding her Rule 243 of the Highway Code.

72.3 Minute 62.5 A map has been received and is on the council's website. There is no further information, at the moment, regarding the stile to the rear of Glamorgan Terrace. A Draper reported that Maria from Keep Wales Tidy could potentially fully fund a community orchard.

72.4 Minute 64.2 Donation has been made and a thank you letter received.

72.5 Minute 64.3 Donation has been made.

72.6 Minute 64.5c Done.

72.7 Minute 64.5d Will be discussed in correspondence.

72.8 Minute 65.4 Still waiting for a proof.

**73. OFFICE IMPROVEMENTS INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR**

73.1 The clerk read a report on proposed refurbishment works but it was RESOLVED: that adaptations to the building need to be considered. R Price suggested an indoor toilet and kitchen area. This will be on the agenda for the January meeting and hopefully the fire service will have visited the office by then.

**74. PRECEPT 2022/23**

74.1 The clerk presented a draft budget to help set the precept. It was RESOLVED: that the figure for 2022/23 be set at £107430 which includes a budget of £30000 for office works and a contingency of £20000.

**75. ALLOTMENT UPDATE**

75.1 The clerk, Huw Jones, Maldwyn James and Helen Probyn Williams met at the allotment on Friday 19 November. Helen has kindly agreed to attempt to create a temporary plan of plot holders. There is a big improvement in the lower area of the allotment after the works of Miskin Tree Services. Maldwyn would have liked to have seen the brambles uprooted rather than bashed but this would be very costly due to the machinery required. Miskin Tree Services have agreed to spray the brambles next Spring free of charge and hopefully this will make areas more manageable for plot holders. The dropped kerb at the top entrance is complete.

**76. CORRESPONDENCE**

76.1 Planning applications were read and noted for the following

76.1a 30 Wood Street CF39 8UF. First floor extension – Retrospective.

76.1b The Hollies Meadow Lane CF39 8TE. Lawful Development Certificate for an existing use.

76.2 A letter was read from Marie Curie Appeal and it was RESOLVED: that a donation of £50 be made.

76.3 A thank you letter was received from Tonyrefail and Gilfach Goch Community First Responders in relation to the £500 grant that they received.

76.4 Free Little Library – An email was received from a member of the public, Chelsea Hall, with regards to providing the village with her idea of book sharing and exchanging. It was agreed that this is a very good idea but location will be important. The clerk has been working with Damon Maller of Community Safety Partnership RCT to see if the project could be eligible for a grant. It was RESOLVED: that the clerk invite Chelsea to join us for the January meeting on zoom to discuss this further.

76.5 Minute 64.5d The clerk has been making enquiries regarding a micro hydro energy scheme in the valley and has received correspondence from Gordon Black of Learning Hydro Ltd with suggestions of 2 main options. Community Energy Wales have been contacted but no reply has been received. A Draper has also been making enquiries and while out canvassing in the Caerau by-election campaign, he spoke to both Huw Irranca-Davies MS and Cllr Huw David, leader of Bridgend CBC, about this matter. Huw Irranca-Davies was very familiar with the previous feasibility study: He told Cllr Draper it was not feasible before due to the tariffs at the time. The water flow was perfectly suitable, however he added that Welsh Government feasibility study funding is available. Cllr Draper has emailed him some information and he will come back with feasibility study information. Cllr Huw David was unaware of any disagreement with RCT CBC over any community energy scheme and he told Cllr Draper he would in principle support such a scheme.

76.6 An email was received from Victoria Leyshon, Community Engagement Officer for our area with regards to Transport for Wales and funding for tree planting along with other enhancements. It was RESOLVED: that the clerk reply stating that the Community Council have expressed an interest and wish to be involved in the project should it be successful.

## **77. REPORTS / COMPLAINTS**

77.1 It was RESOLVED: that the clerk be given authority to make online payments for December's salaries due to the clerk having to isolate due to covid.

77.2 The clerk attended the Community Liaison Meeting on Friday 12 November 10-12 where the following was discussed

77.2a Councillors should be encouraged by the clerk to receive their Remuneration payments. Councillors should not look upon themselves as volunteers and should accept this payment but it does remain optional. The clerk reported that she has budgeted for these payments in the draft budget for 2022/23.

77.2b There is a proposed plan for a change of groupings for Town and Community Councils. The current structure consists of 3 groups based on income and expenditure. The proposal is to increase to 5 groups and the size of the electorate will be an additional factor.

77.2c The local boundary changes set by the Boundary Commission are now law and statute and should be respected.

77.3 The clerk attended the Taff Ely West Neighbourhood meeting on Wednesday 24 November 10-12.30 where she is part of the literacy and numeracy group and there is a proposal to operate a scheme via the afterschool clubs that are currently held at the GGCA and Capel Farm Resource Centre Tonyrefail. A creative writing class will be trialled in the New Year.

77.4 Three Christmas lights aren't working and Centregreat have been informed. A member of the public reported to RCT the fact that the first light as you enter the village from Tonyrefail hasn't worked for the last three years. The email was forwarded to the clerk and she has replied to this person.

**78. FINANCIAL REPORT**

78.1	Bank balance as of 30.11.21	£72736.61
78.2	Invoices / Receipts	
78.2a	Welsh Water	£53.91
78.2b	Wales Air Ambulance	£100
78.2c	Zoom	£14.39
78.2d	Eye to Eye Counselling	£30
78.2e	SWALEC	£67.89

**79. ACCOUNTS**

79.1	Cheques authorised	
	002656 Dawn Walters	£964.36
	002657 Huw Jones	£677.16
	002658 Royal British Legion	£100

79.2 Bank transactions for November

	<b><u>November Expenditure</u></b>	
Dawn Walters	£964.36	Chq 002656
Huw Jones	£677.16	Chq 002657
Lil Amigos	£240	Chq 002653
James Thomas	£1000	Chq 002654
Electricity	£67.89	
Eye To Eye Counselling	£30	
RCT Council Tax	£111	
Wales Air Ambulance	£100	
Zoom	£14.39	
HMRC	£487.53	
Welsh Water	£53.91	

	<b><u>November Income</u></b>
S Euston	£10

79.3 Money already earmarked

Dropped Kerbs	£5000
New Basketball Area	£40000
Bus Shelters	£12738
Seats	£273
CIL	£2814
Windfarm	£0
Grants	£0
Events	£5557
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£66382</b>

Commitments

Salaries (including oncosts)	£13173
Unpresented Cheques	£100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£13273</b>

Income not yet received

Windfarm	£0
Precept	£7000
Allotment & Ground Rent	£975
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£7975</b>

79.4 Bank Reconciliation

Balance @ 30.11.2021	£72736.61
Earmarked + Commitments	£-79665
Income not yet received	£+7975
<b>BAL:</b>	<b>£1046.61</b>

**80. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

80.1 The meeting was then brought to a close and the date set for the next meeting which will take place on Wednesday 12 January 2022 at 6.30pm on Zoom.