

**Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Gilfach Goch Community Council held on Wednesday 12 July 2023 at the Community Council Office.**

***Cofnodion cyfarfod misol. Cynhelir Mercher 12 Gorffennaf 2023.***

**PRESENT**

COUNCILLORS: A. WARREN R.PRICE L.PRICE A.DRAPER J.REES  
J.ABBOTT

**IN ATTENDANCE**

THE CLERK DAWN WALTERS

**31. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

31.1 D ATHWAL

**32. MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

32.1 No declarations were received.

**33. PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS TO THE COUNCIL – TO RECEIVE ANY REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR**

33.1 No representations were received.

**34. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

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

**35. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

35.1 Minute 19.1 The chair and clerk will attend an online meeting with One Voice Wales on Tuesday 19 July 10am to review the clerk's salary.

35.2 Minute 19.2 The bus shelter works are complete and the insurance payment has been received.

35.3 Minute 20.1 Policy has been created.

35.4 Minute 27.4 Borough Councillor Roberts has reported that enquiries regarding the proposed area are ongoing.

35.5 Minute 27.6 Brambles have been dealt with.

35.6 Minute 27.7 Overgrowth on Gelliarael Rd has been dealt with.

35.7 There are 11 trees at the community orchard.

### **36. ALLOTMENT UPDATE**

36.1 A portaloo is in place.

36.2 The clerk reported that she had made enquiries with regards to alternative toilets. There is no manhole at the allotment. A compost toilet would need managing and she didn't feel comfortable managing other people's human waste and all the danger and hazards that comes with contamination. It was RESOLVED: that the portaloo would remain for the time being.

36.3 There are 3 new plot holders and the bees are in place.

36.4 An Allotment Association meeting will be arranged.

### **37. OFFICE RENOVATIONS**

37.1 The clerk is waiting to speak to Clair Ruddock of RCT to discuss options regarding the White Hut and that it will be the building and not the surrounding area that will be discussed.

### **38. EVENTS**

38.1 Banners and posters advertising the Forestry Run will be displayed shortly.

### **39. CORRESPONDENCE**

39.1 Councillor Draper has received information regarding free garden packs for local places of nature. It was RESOLVED: that the clerk would make enquiries.

39.2 Correspondence was received from Janine Williams regarding the positioning of a plaque on one of the benches at the duck pond acknowledging the good work that the late Councillor George Jury did for the village. It was

RESOLVED: that the community council recognise his valued contribution but it is not customary to recognise individuals.

39.3 A request was made by the GGCA to help fund the provision of the summer playscheme due to RCT cutbacks. It was RESOLVED: that a payment of £1882 be made to provide 2 weeks provision during August and that this would be a one-off contribution to the playscheme.

39.4 Scott Allin, the clerk for Ogmore Valley Community Council, has requested joint funding for a Christmas tree between us and Evanstown. The total cost is £1290. It was RESOLVED: that the clerk speak to Scott Allin regarding this.

39.5 Councillor Draper received correspondence from Helen Probyn Williams regarding earmarking the disused railway line below her house as a place of special interest and importance. It was RESOLVED: that the clerk would make enquiries with Borough Councillor Roberts.

#### **40. REPORTS / COMPLAINTS**

40.1 The clerk reported that she had been unsuccessful with the Uk Shared Prosperity Grant application but has applied for £1000 grant from RCT Interlink for the new benches that have been positioned at the community orchard and duck pond under the criteria "creating open spaces".

40.2 The clerk reported that the issue with BT seems to be resolved. It was RESOLVED: that the clerk make enquiries with a new provider.

40.3 Councillor Draper and Councillor Rees reported that the Hydropower Group are making contacts with other groups and organisations.

40.4 The Chair wanted to thank the clerk and her husband for their work at the community orchard.

40.5 Councillor Draper reported that Clair Gwilliam, Councillor Rees, Helen Probyn-Williams and himself met with Richard Wistow the RCT ecologist, on 6 July 2023. His suggestion was to tell a story on the nature board rather than present a list of different things you can see.

The story seems to be:

- we are an actual nature reserve in Gilfach Goch
- the air is cleaner here than in Pontyclun for example, because we are further from the M4 and we are higher up.
- there is fauna re-emerging that would've been here before coalmining arrived.

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- the valleys are full of nature and biodiversity that people would not imagine. They are also full of ecologists from England because of the biodiversity available here.

Nature is re-establishing itself and our biodiversity is improving, despite climate change.

We saw all kinds of different grass, some rare, and Bell Heather. Bird life included the Goldcrest, the smallest bird in Britain, a dipper on the water, we heard skylarks and saw pigeons being chased by a bird of prey.

Water from the mine works mixes with the clear water from off the mountain as it flows downstream. The lake water comes off the mountain. In the duckpond, there is a stone in the middle that stands proud of the water, and that is used by an otter - he could tell by the markings on the stone.

Richard will send an email with his observations, and suggestions for how we might do things. RCT will also probably put in a nature board further down the river. He had come out earlier in the day to look at the river. He was very enthusiastic.

Helen Probyn-Williams has also contributed observational notes.

**41. FINANCIAL REPORT**

41.1	Bank balance as of 30.06.23		£124086.65
41.2	Invoices / Receipts		
41.2a	Bethan Thomas	Translation	£50
41.2b	Extrascope	IT	£113.76
41.2c	Travis Perkins	Allotment	£244.56
41.2d	GGRFC	Graffiti Project Refreshments	£200
41.2e	RCT	Bus Shelter Land Charge	£5
41.2f	GGOAP Fund	Sumer Outing	£1000
41.2g	Wickes	Allotment	£15.60
41.2h	Mendashu	Bench Plaques	£215.70
41.2i	A1 Loo Hire	Allotment	£180
41.2j	Chubb	Fire Extinguishers	£157.68
41.2k	Blackmill SS	Petrol	£6.06
41.2l	Mini Mayhem	F Run	£1480
41.2m	Audit Wales	Audit 2021/22	£200
41.2n	Steven Jones	Bench	£688.25
41.2o	Steven Jones	Bench	£703.25
41.2p	Bus Shelters Ltd	Repairs	£3301.66
41.2q	Tricky Micky	F Run	£270

**42. ACCOUNTS**

42.1	Cheques authorised		
	002698	Dawn Walters	£1066.32
	002699	Huw Jones	£400.16
	002700	Russell Scully	£1086.08

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42.2 Bank transactions for June

**June Expenditure**

Dawn Walters	£1066.32	Cheque 002698
Huw Jones	£400.16	Cheque 002699
Russell Scully	£1086.08	Cheque 002700
Zoom	£15.59	
HMRC	£476.71	
BT	£315.21	
RCT Council Tax	£115	
Bethan Thomas	£50	
Extrascope	£113.76	
Travis Perkins	£244.56	
Giflach Goch RFC	£200	
RCT	£5	
GG Old People's Welfare	£1000	
Wickes	£15.60	
Mendashu	£215.70	
A1 Loo Hire	£180	
Chubb	£157.68	
Blackmill Service Station	£6.06	
Mini Mayhem	£1480	
Audit Wales	£200	
Steven Jones	£688.25	
Steven Jones	£703.25	
Bus Shelters Ltd	£3301.66	
Tricky Micky	£270	

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**June Income**

S Euston	£10
Allotments	£50
Insurance Claim	£2501.38

42.3 Money already earmarked

New Play Area	£40000
Bus Shelters	£2000
Events	£17748
Windfarm	£2567
S137 Grants	£8000
Allotment	£16257
Office Refurbishment	£57925
Training	£4825
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£149322</b>

Commitments

Salaries (including oncosts)	£35441
Unpresented Cheques	£0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£35441</b>

Income not yet received

Windfarm	£5000
Precept	£113654
Allotment & Ground Rent	£1110
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£119764</b>

42.4 Bank Reconciliation

Balance @ 31.05.2023	£133837.15
Earmarked + Commitments	£-184763
Income not yet received	£+119764
<b>BAL:</b>	<b>£68838.15</b>

42.5 A budget for future biodiversity projects will be considered in the next financial year.

42.6 A finance sub-committee meeting will be arranged.

**43. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

43.1 The meeting was then brought to a close and the date set for the next meeting which will be the grants meeting followed by the monthly meeting which will take place on Wednesday 13 September 2023 at 6.30pm at the Council Office.