

## Minutes of a Remote Meeting of Nantmel Community Council on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022

**Present:** Cllr A Bates, K Curry, R Lewis, J Morgan, J Harris

**Apologies:** Cllr P Bowen, J Price

**NC 58/22      Declarations of Interests**

None.

**NC 59/22      Minutes**

The minutes of the Annual meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were confirmed and signed.

**NC 60/22      Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were confirmed and signed.

**NC 61/22      Information from Minutes**

**a) Fly Tipping**

The Chair reported that PCC had flattened the road planings which were tipped as mentioned at the last meeting.

**NC 62/22      Planning**

None.

**NC 63/22      Correspondence**

**a) One Voice Wales – Good Councillor Guide 2022**

The new guide was emailed to all members. The Clerk will include this in new member inductions.

**b) Local Government Elections (Wales) Act 2021 – Guidance**

Guidance issued by One Voice Wales was issued to all members. The Clerk will include this in new member inductions.

**c) Town & Community Councils Toolkit**

The new Toolkit had been launched. The Clerk had been part of the pilot scheme and had been on the development team. This will be a great resource for councils, members and clerks.

**NC 64/22      Finances**

a) Arwain Grant Purchases - £2684.28 (see NC 71/22 c)

**NC 65/22      Review of Standing Orders**

Members reviewed the standing orders and made amendments to 3d and an addition to 18a vi. **Resolved:** to adopt the Standing Orders subject to the above amendments.

**NC 66/22**

**Annual Report**

The Clerk had drafted an Annual report for discussion by members.

**Resolved:** to adopt subject to amendment the Annual Report and publish on the website.

**NC 67/22**

**Community Broadband**

The expressions of interest were nearing the target, currently standing at 108. The focus group will be meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> June for an update.

**MD 68/22**

**General Power of Competence (GPOC)**

The Clerk informed the Council that it meets the qualifying criteria to adopt the General Power of Competence (GPoC).

The general power of competence (GPoC) permits qualifying authorities to do “anything that an individual generally can do”. It is a power of first resort which means that a qualifying authority does not need to rely on specific powers in legislation to do something, so long as what is intended is not otherwise prohibited. The use of the GPoC is subject to restrictions and legal requirements which are described in this guidance.

Where there are restrictions on the use of an existing specific power, those restrictions will also apply to the use of the GPoC.

1.2. An ‘eligible community council’ is a qualifying authority is defined in section 24(1) of the 2021 Act.

1.3. The GPoC enables eligible community councils to act in their communities’ best interests, generate efficiencies and secure value for money outcomes. Eligible community councils will also be able to raise money by charging for discretionary services and to trade for commercial purposes and in their ordinary functions.

1.4. The general power of competence gives eligible community councils the same powers to act that an individual generally has, thus enabling them to do similar sorts of things. For example, an individual *could not* impose taxes on other people – so a community council *could not* use the GPoC to raise taxes. However, an individual *could* run a community shop or a post office, so a community council *could* also set up a shop.

1.5. The GPoC allows an eligible community council to engage in commercial activity if it sets up a company or co-operative society for this purpose. This is explained more fully in the section on exercising the GPoC for a commercial purpose.

The Clerk recommended that the Council adopt this status.

**Resolved:** to adopt the General Power of Competence.

**NC 69/22**

**Other Matters**

**a) Grass Cutting**

The Chair reported that grass cutting and removal of a bush is needed along the A44 between Little Gigrin and Cefn Ceido.

Cllr Morgan also reported the need for cutting along the A44 at entrance to Carmel Lane.

**Resolved:** Clerk to contact Cty Cllr Mills about this matter.

**NC 70/22**

**Resolution– Confidential Matters** - “resolved that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 as there would be disclosure to them of confidential information relating to contractual, legal and personnel content.

**NC 71/22**

**Confidential Matters (Contractual, Legal or Personnel Related.)**

**a) Resident – Community Council Banking Personnel/Legal)**

Following a letter of complaint from a local resident which was read out in full. Members discussed this matter at length.

Members agreed that the transfer of bank account process had been dealt with legally and the Council was happy with the way this was carried out.

**Resolved:** that the actions of the Clerk were agreed with the full knowledge of the Council. This was a unanimous vote.

A vote of confidence was proposed with regard to the Clerk, which was agreed unanimously.

**Resolved:** to respond to the complaint providing a response to the points contained within the letter.

**b) School Building – Update (Contractual)**

Cllr Curry updated members on progress. Two consultants had been approached for quotes to prepare an updated Business Plan and complete funding bids for this project. These were discussed at length. The Clerk will notify the preferred bidder, giving no commitment to undertaking the work until after the Public Meeting.

It was agreed, in order to move on that a Public Meeting be held by the Action Group. Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022, the Clerk will approach Crossgates Community Centre re availability. Julia would be asked to forward the Clerk details of all groups interested in using the building to assist with the Business Plan.

**Resolved:** to arrange a public meeting via the Action Group, and contact preferred bidder. Clerk will prepare figures for the meeting.

**c) Arwain Community Venue Fund Grant**

The Clerk had been notified at very short notice that the Arwain Community Venue Fund had been opened up to Community Councils. She submitted an application in liaison with the Chair for the purchase of all equipment to facilitate hybrid meetings and a hearing loop for council and community group use.

The Clerk had been notified that the grant application had been successful with a grant of £1789.40 awarded. This will involved a contribution of £447.34 from the Community Council. In order to meet the strict deadlines, the Clerk ordered and paid for the items herself.

The Council were delighted with the work carried out by the Clerk at such short notice and thanked her for spotting this opportunity.

**Resolved:** to agreed the contribution of £447.34 and issue a cheque to the Clerk to refund the payments totaling £2684.28

The Clerk reminded members, that although the Council now has the equipment to run hybrid meetings, this does not get over the fact that there are no public meeting rooms in the community with Broadband access. The Clerk will research this.