**Gwernyfed Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held on 1 October 2013**

**St Peters Church Hall, Glasbury**

Present Mr Derek Price (Chair)

Mrs Cheryl Hyde

Cllr Geraint Hopkins

Mr Andy Jones

Mr David Edlin

Mr Eric Hoole

Mr Ray Jeffries

Mr Graham Day

In Attendance Mrs Rachel Jones (Clerk)

**1 Opening Comments**

DP welcomed everyone to the meeting

**2 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

**3 Apologies**

Mrs Margaret David had sent her apologies for the meeting.

**4 Minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2013**

Item 9 – This should read “EH Reported that…” and also should read “EH to contact….”

Item 9 should read “This would cost £20, and is available from the local Police, and whilst…”

Matters Arising

Item 4 – Point 1 - A response had been received from Mrs Anne Collins regarding the water meter at St Peters Hall. The letter was read out by the Chairman, which lead to discussions regarding the possible increase in insurance costs for the hall, which had been mentioned in the letter.

Item 4 – Point 8 – DE hasn’t received the estimated costs for the works from Mr Caine, and will pursue a response.

**Action**: DE to contact Mr Caine

Item 9 – EH had contacted Julie Lloyd, but the works are still outstanding, EH will follow up.

**Action**: EH to follow up with Julie Lloyd

AJ mentioned that he has contacted Rights of Way at Powys County Council regarding the damage to the new footpath opposite St Peters Hall, Glasbury. It was queried whether, given the number of incidents involving this section of road, whether some degree of highlighting of the bend was required.

**Action**: GH to contact the relevant officers at Powys County Council

Item 9 – RJ has spoken to the garage owners regarding the hanging basket and this will be removed shortly. DP queried whether a free standing notice board may be an option.

**5 Planning Matters**

There were no planning matters to discuss

**6 Literature & Information Received**

(i) Letter received from Mrs Anne Collins

This letter was covered under matters arising.

(ii) Powys Archives Newsletter

This was received and noted

(iii) Website Grants

DP had applied for this money when it was first announced and GH informed the meeting that this money, if successful, would come as part of the precept. There was a discussion regarding how this money could be spent, and whether it would be possible to use it for works already undertaken in relation to the development of the website.

(iv) Powys Community Nectar Tree Scheme

There was a general discussion regarding the lack of possible locations for these trees in the Community Council area. CH commented that the Lions had been offered trees, and were struggling to find suitable locations. It was agreed that as a suitable location could not be suggested, and the area is already well catered for with nectar producing plants, that this offer would not be taken up.

(v) Electoral Review Programme 2014

GH outlined the proposals and where Powys stands at the moment. There is some uncertainty over the proposed boundaries and numbers of local authorities in Wales, and also over the number of County Councillors within Powys. Any decisions will be made by the Minister for Local Government, who is currently Lesley Griffiths.

(vi) CCWater Annual Review Wales

This document was received and noted

(vii) One Voice Wales Training Courses

These course details were received and noted.

**7 Planning Sub-committee**

DE outlined his concerns regarding the ability of the Community Council to respond in a timely manner to planning application given the 21 day consultation period. He suggested that a sub-committee could ensure a quicker response. GH commented that an extension to the consultation period could be requested, and as a consultee this would be given. There is also a concern relating to whether neighbours are consulted and how the Community Council can be satisfied that this has happened.

**Action**: Clerk to contact the Planning Department at Powys CC to ask about neighbour consultation.

DP suggested that if there were a sub-committee, part of their role could be to establish the exact location of planning applications as there had been some difficulty over this in the past.

There was a general discussion regarding how much notice is taken of the Community Councils responses, GH stated that no response is given any greater weighting than another.

It was agreed that this had been a useful discussion, but with the facility to request an extension of time, that the sub-committee wasn’t required at this point. It was agreed, after discussion, that should an application come in after the agenda has been distributed (i.e. one week prior to the meeting) then the Clerk will automatically request an extension of time from the relevant planning authority, to allow the Community Council to properly consider the applciation.

**8 County Councillors Report**

GH reported on the Williams Commission which is looking into local government in Wales. The current thinking is that there could be 11 authorities instead of the current 22, but another option could include health authorities. It is expected that the Commission will publish their recommendations at the end of October.

At a recent Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) event, Pembrokeshire County Council had advocated the removal of the planning function from National Parks and placing it with the local authority. Whilst this may work in Pembrokeshire, where only one planning authority would be concerned, in the Brecon Beacons National Park, this would involve 7 local authority planning departments, and would then result in a lack of consistency across the Park.

The National Park is facing a 10% cut to its £6.5 million budget over the next two years; budgets for local authorities will be announced in October. Powys County Council is becoming a commissioning authority and is investigating outsourcing areas such as leisure, highways, public toilets and markets, or looking to local communities to take them on.

**9 Financial Matters**

The salary of the Clerk of £80 was agreed.

**10 Any Other Business**

DP Had received a letter from Glasbury Community Council regarding the proposed closure of the public toilets in the village, which was read out. It was agreed that whilst the toilets were not within the Gwernyfed Community Council area, that the closure of this facility would have a major impact and that a letter of support should be set to the Community Council and also a letter of concern to Powys County Council. It was particularly concerning that the communities who would be affected by this, had not been given sufficient time to address the upkeep of these facilities through their precept.

**Action**: Clerk to draft a response to Glasbury Community Council and a letter to Powys County Council.

Next meeting 5th November in Velindre Village Hall at 7:30pm

**Action**: CH to check that the hall is available that night