

Gladestry Community Council.

Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Monday 21 March 2022

at 7.30pm in Gladestry Village Hall

Present. Mr Ian Ball (Chairman), Ms Jane Bisby, Mr Melvyn Hughes, Mr Derrick Carrington, Mr Viv Lloyd and Mr Kenneth Waugh (Clerk).

1. Apologies. Apologies were received from Mr Joseph Alman and Mr Gareth Croose.

2 Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 17 January 2022.

Melvyn proposed that the minutes from the meeting were agreed; Jane seconded, and Councillors approved the minutes, which were then signed.

3. Matters arising from the ordinary meeting held on 17 January 2022.

Derrick asked if the Council's precept request had been received by Powys; the Clerk advised that it had, but no decision on it had been received.

4. Planning.

The Clerk reiterated that the query regarding New House had been satisfactorily resolved.

5. Finance.

Current balance stands at £2253. The following points were noted:

- i. payment since the last meeting will be an as yet unnotified amount for bank charges for March;
- ii. payments due and approved by Councillors are: £271.96 for the Clerks salary and annual expenses; £220 audit fees; and £5.80 website charges.

6. Correspondence.

No correspondence other than by email was received.

7. Business matters.

- i. Multi Location and Remote Access Meetings. Councillors discussed the background paper produced by Derrick, which is appended to these minutes.

Concerns were expressed about the significant known costs of the equipment necessary to allow remote access to Council meetings by Councillors and members of the community. An unknown cost would be the installation of fibre to the village hall. There are issues with setting up initially, and then bi-monthly in preparation for meetings. Whoever is responsible for the set-up for meetings, probably the Clerk, would need IT skills/training for this and for installing updates to the software. As the Council does not own the village hall, there would need to be agreed permissions for the safe storage of the router and all the kit associated with the access.

Councillors know themselves and their constituents; they have strong doubts that that an expensive set-up envisioned would be ever used. They agreed that, in their view, it was an unnecessary white elephant. They were aware that it was a legislative requirement, but decided not to proceed with any implementation. It would be for the new Council to reconsider after it was in place.

A further point of interest was that those who set the legislative agenda have dedicated resources in place to deal with all aspects of IT; a small Community Council does not have this luxury.

- ii. BT Digital Voice. Councillors had been copied into both communications from Mr Barwick in relation to the introduction by BT of its Digital Voice programme, and the potential difficulty it could cause during a sustained cut to the electricity supply. Councillors agreed that they were not in a position to affect this work, and noted that the electricity supply industry was making representations to Government.

- iii. Elections. Local elections are due to take place on 5th May. Three current Councillors are not seeking election. Members of the Community who are interested in standing for election can obtain nomination papers on-line through Powys County Council, or from Ian Ball or the Clerk. Completed nomination forms **must** be with the Clerk by **2nd April** for him to hand deliver to Powys.

- iv. Grant applications for 2022-23. The Clerk advised that it was grants time of the year, and that he would be sending out application forms to interested parties. Jane

had already had one for Colva; Ian took ones for St Mary's, Newchurch and St Michael's, Michaelchurch.

The Clerk then informed Councillors that he had received an application form from the Queen's Jubilee Committee, which he had circulated to them earlier that day. The application was for £300 towards the cost of children's entertainment at the local celebration. Melvyn proposed that it be met in full; Jane seconded, and 3 voted in favour with one abstention. The Clerk agreed to issue a payment of £300.

- v. One Voice Wales membership. The Clerk advised that he had received an offer of half price membership (£36) from OVW, and suggested that membership might be helpful to the new Clerk when they replaced the incumbent next January. Viv proposed that we should avail ourselves of the offer; Jane seconded, and there were 3 in favour and one vote against. The Clerk undertook to complete the application.

8. The next meetings will be the AGM at 7.00pm on Monday 16 May 2022, followed by an Ordinary Meeting at 7.30pm.

Signed

Dated

Remote Access to Meetings – Gladestry Community Council

Hardware requirements:

Symmetric Broadband fibre connection to Village Hall

– suggest Vodaphone Superfast 100. This gives 102 mb both ways - currently £22 pm
- though this

may be domestic tariff and we would need commercial, though any VAT would be reclaimable.

Installation cost of fibre into the Hall? Might be included as very near the green cabinet.

Dedicated computer – small format desktop with two monitors, and a suitable loud speaker setup.

One monitor for Clerk/Chairman, say 17” or greater, one for councillors, so needs to be as

big as practical.

- Allow £500 - £600

USB Camera/microphone.. Ideally two as per monitors -Allow £20 - £30

May need Wifi repeater aerial(s) depending on what other parties are allowed to use the internet.

Secure storage for hardware, including a secure location for the router to limit access.

For reliability and security Linux operating system should be used. No software costs.

Meetings software: Zoom currently £120 pa, Microsoft Teams £50 pa.

Zoom software and similar programs have security issues – ameliorated by having a dedicated

computer which should not be used for anything else.

Initial set up may take some time to get right, but once sorted it should only be necessary to turn the

machine on to access the zoom (or whatever) session.

Clerk will need time before meeting to set up equipment and check operating system for updates.

