

Gladestry Community Council.

Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Monday 18 July 2022 at 7.30pm
in the village hall.

Present. Mr Ian Ball (Chairman), Mr Joseph Alman, Mr Viv Lloyd, Mr Melvyn Hughes, Mr Ed Jones and Mr Kenneth Waugh (Clerk).

1. Apologies. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Ms Julie Davies.

2 Minutes of the AGM held on 16 May 2022.

Joseph proposed that the minutes from the AGM were agreed; Viv seconded, and Councillors approved the minutes, which were then signed.

Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 16 May 2022

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

3. Matters arising from the ordinary meeting held on 16 May 2022.

There were no matters raised.

4. Planning.

Two planning applications had been sent to Councillors for consideration. The one relating to Lower Hengoed, Gladestry attracted no adverse responses. The one relating to listed buildings at Stone House, Gladestry was the subject of comment by Councillors as it was understood that work had already been carried out without proper authorisation. The Clerk was asked to write to Powys planning to make them aware of the Council's concern.

5. Finance.

The Clerk provided an up to date statement of account showing a current balance of £991. This reflecting the most recent payments made for the purchase of audio visual equipment. The circumstances around these purchases were explained by the Clerk, as

follows: he had become aware of the possibility of a grant being available from Rural Payments Wales, *via* Powys CC, for the equipment necessary to enable the Council to hold multi-location/hybrid meetings which would make meetings accessible without the need to physically attend the meeting, using Zoom or similar software, which is a legislative requirement for all Councils in Wales. There was a very tight timescale to meet the application deadline; the Clerk sought authority to proceed from the Chairman, which was given, and with the technical assistance of Derrick Carrington put together an application, which was successful. The deadline date included the purchase and payment for the equipment as per the bid. The Clerk had made payments on his own debit card, and payments from the Council's bank account amounted to reimbursement to the Clerk; hence, this retrospective request for authorisation of the purchases. Councillors acknowledged and agreed the process, and thanked the Clerk and Derrick for their efforts in securing an 80% grant towards costs of £506. The grant would reflect the fact that the Council reclaims VAT and would be reduced accordingly. The Clerk advised Councillors that the equipment would be made available to other users of the village hall as a condition of the grant, and that he had advised the WI, the Parochial Church Council and the Village Hall Committee of this.

Other payments made since the last meeting were £209.52 to Upper Bridge Enterprises for annual website charges; £250 to the Clerk for salary; and £11.20 for 2 months' bank charges,

The Clerk outlined future known payments as £10 for a SIM card required to run the router purchased as part of the equipment bought as above. Councillors authorised reimbursement to the Clerk for this, and the Clerk will create a schedule of payment as required by the Internet Banking Procedures.

The Clerk also explained that there could be future unknown payments relating to software costs of running virtual meetings. These could amount to, for example, £12 per month if Zoom was the chosen software package; and further SIM card costs.

6. Correspondence.

No correspondence other than by email was received.

7. Business matters.

- i. Outstanding "Acceptance of Office" and "Register of Interest" forms have now been given to the Clerk.
- ii. Election of Vice Chairman carried forward from the AGM. Viv proposed Melvyn for the role; Ed seconded, and all voted in favour.

iii. Co-option to fill the casual vacancy. The Clerk explained that 2 members of the Community had expressed an interest in being co-opted onto the Council. On Friday last, however, one of the two had contacted the Clerk to withdraw his interest due to other commitments. This left one candidate, Ms Beck Lloyd of Upper Wernilla, Colva. The Clerk confirmed that Ms Lloyd was qualified to serve on the Council. All Councillors voted in favour of her co-option.

iv. Highways update. The latest information on speeding vehicles in the village had been sent to Councillors on 6 and 7 July. There was some debate on extending a 20mph limit throughout the village, and the Clerk reminded Councillors that Highways had categorically stated in the email to the Clerk that no action would be taken on legislating new 20mph zones until the matter had been decided by the Welsh Government, where there was a proposal to establish such a limit in all rural areas. Viv suggested that the Council should pursue the issue of the speed limit by writing again to Powys, and the Clerk was tasked with doing so. [Please refer to the addendum to these minutes].

v. Play ground inspection. The Clerk advised Councillors that he had ascertained from Hattie Budd that the upgrade of the play area was likely to be undertaken next year, and that, therefore, an inspection this year would be appropriate. The Clerk said he would book the inspection through Powys.

vi. Internet Banking update. The Clerk said that the new procedures for approving and authorising payments were working well for him; Councillors did not demur. Ian expressed the opinion that the Council should continue with the availability of a cheque book in case there were on-line difficulties in the future, and Councillors agreed that this was a sound suggestion. The Clerk suggested that Viv should continue as one signatory, and that Ed had offered to be the second, with the Council adopting a two-signatories system with both required to sign cheques. This was accepted without a vote. The question of whether a debit card should be applied for was left open, to be decided should the need present itself.

vii. The “Finance and Governance Toolkit” had been sent to Councillors on 23 June. The Clerk said that he would continue to work with the toolkit to ensure that the Council was meeting all its responsibilities.

vi. Adoption by the Council of the “Code of Conduct”. Viv proposed acceptance; Melvyn seconded the proposal, and all were in favour, The Council therefore formally accepted adoption of the Code, which has been issued to all Councillors

vii. Multi-location/hybrid meetings – please refer to the Finance section, above. The availability of these meetings would be advertised to Community members when it was brought into use after the necessary training had been provided

viii. Website advertising. The Clerk had received 2 requests for adverts to be posted on the website, one for a gardener vacancy and one advertising the services of a hearing and ear practitioner. Councillors had a brief debate about the type of adverts which were acceptable, bearing in mind the restriction imposed on advertisers by the control of the village noticeboard. In particular, there were concerns expressed about the suitability of advertising medical services as it was agreed that any problems of a medical nature should, in the first instance, be for a GP or nurse. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should use his judgement about what was acceptable, and refer any uncertainties to the Council

8. The next meetings will be on Monday 19 September 2022 at 7.30pm.

Signed

Dated

Addendum. Following the meeting, the Clerk gave Viv a copy of the Powys Highways email response to the Council's request for assistance in relation the speeding vehicles in the village. This email stated that Powys **would not** consider introducing 20mph limits until the Welsh Government had decided on the nationwide introduction of such a limit in rural areas. The subject was discussed in a phone call between Viv and the Clerk; the matter was left in abeyance until i. the speed measurement equipment data had been analysed and ii. the decision on a national policy had been decided.

