**MINUTES OF an ordinary meeting of Mawr Community Council (MCC)**

**Held remotely via Zoom on Wednesday 19th June 2024 at 7.30pm.**

**(Press and public are invited to attend via Zoom; contact the Clerk for joining information)**

**Present:** Cllr Darren James (DJ) – Chair; Cllr. Linda Frame (LF); Cllr. Caroline Williams (CW); Cllr. Aled Williams (AW); Cllr. Catherine Evans (CE); Cllr. Cheryl Perkins (CP); Cllr. Victoria Morgan-Beattie (VMB); Cllr. Philip Downing (PD); Cllr. Brigitte Rowlands (BR); Cllr. Mark Tribe (MT)

**Apologies for Absence:**Cllr. Kevin Griffiths

**Absent:** Cllr. Matthew Bailey; Cllr. Gordon Walker

**Final Minutes**

**County Councillor Reports** (Individual Councillor reports received in time will be circulated to MCC Councillors with this agenda and are available on request from the Clerk)
Questions for County Councillors (limited to 10 minutes): *None*

**Declarations of Interest:** CE: Item 12; CW/AW: Item 7

**Questions from the public relating to items on this agenda:** *None*

1. **2024/116 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Full Council held on 12th March 2024**Accuracy and approval.
*Proposed: CW; Seconded: DJ; Agreed: AW/CE/VMB/LF; Abstention: CP*
2. **2024/117 Minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council Meeting held on 26th March 2024**Accuracy and approval.
*Proposed: DJ; Seconded: CW; Agreed: AW/CE/VMB; Abstention: CP/LF*
3. **2024/118 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Full Council held on 20th May 2024**Accuracy and approval.
*Proposed: DJ; Seconded: CW; Agreed: AW/CE/VMB; Abstention: CP/LF*
4. **2024/119 Minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council Meeting held on 3rd June 2024**Accuracy and approval.
*Proposed: DJ; Seconded: CP; Agreed: CE/VMB/CW; Abstention: LF/AW*
5. **2024/200 Report from Grants and Project Management Officer including Update on grant applications**(Due to technical difficulties encountered by Biodiversity Project Coordinator this item was heard first.)
*A detailed report was provided to the meeting, explaining the major funded projects currently ongoing and those projects the Council is currently seeking funding for.*
6. *Felindre Forest School. Following clearance of Sally’s Way, several trees have been identified as potentially having Ash Dieback. We are seeking quotes for a tree survey and an estimate of associated costs to make the area safe. This will require further funding along with the repairs necessary to make the footbridge safe. We have trained a leader and assistant to provide Forest School sessions in the coming weeks with further funding providing more sessions in the new school year.*
7. *MUGA for CCP. The grants officer explained that funding totaling £30,000 had been obtained pre-covid in order to part-fund a multi-use games area (MUGA) for CCP, replacing the old basketball site with a modern, fit for purpose, MUGA, providing football, tennis and basketball facilities. The grants officer has been successful in sourcing funding for most aspects of the build including fencing and floodlights and the work is due to begin in the next week or so. Funding has also been secured to deliver free sports sessions for the community upon completion.*
8. *Shared Prosperity Fund/Rural Anchor funding has been achieved in order to produce Bog Gardens in CCP and Garnswllt. This fund is providing payment for the Project management and delivery staff hours and will assist the Council in achieving its obligations under section 6 of the environment Act while improving biodiversity within both areas. There is also an element of educational visits for surrounding schools within this fund.*
9. *The Council has contracted a company to carry out feasibility studies in CCP and Garnswllt. This work is also grant funded and will assist the Council in identifying local wants and needs and planning for future to deliver for residents.*
10. *There are ongoing applications for funds to populate and develop the bog gardens*
11. *Recently received and delivered indoor nature workshops with 276 attendees in total.*
12. *Collaborated with Excel Wales to secure £7,000 of funding to deliver digital literacy sessions in all three communities.*
13. **2024/201 Report from Biodiversity Project Officer**

*The Community Gardens are doing well with lots of planting of both fruit trees/bushes and vegetables. Garnswllt has a few regular volunteers at sessions but not so many who just pop in sporadically. CCP has more volunteers who visit outside of planned sessions. School visits have started at both sites and children are learning about food and growing and looking after nature. There are bee-friendly planters as well as herb growing. We will soon have wild flower strips and bog gardens in both communities which will be great for biodiversity. In CCP volunteers have been making compost bins and bug hotels out of pallets.*

*A shed and a solar irrigation system have been purchased thanks to grant funding and will be installed once they are delivered. Feedback from the community has been sought on the garden facebook groups to inform future funding bids and activities.*

*The Councillors thanked both members of staff for a comprehensive update on the extensive and impressive work they are doing and their positivity.*

1. **2024/202 Planning**2024/0189/FUL: Penyfedw Farm, Rhydypandy Road, SA6 6NX
Proposed steel frame building to form agricultural storage for machinery & implements
*Agreed to report “Supportive” on the online application.
Proposed: DJ; Seconded: LF; Agreed: CE/VMB/CP; Abstention: CW/AW*
2. **2024/203 Admin**
3. To agree creation of CCP Welfare Hall Executive Committee
*Following advice received by the Clerk, in order to comply with the Craig Cefn Parc Welfare Institute Constitution, Council is required to form an executive committee to act as sole trustee of the charity. The committee is made up of all Councillors.*

*A named vote was requested by LF:
Proposed: DJ; Seconded: CW; Agreed: CE/CP/AW/VMB; Abstention: LF*

1. To appoint Chair, Secretary and Treasurer of CCP Welfare Hall Executive Committee
*Chair: Cllr. Darren James
Proposed: DJ; Seconded: CW; Agreed: CE/CP/AW/VMB; Abstention: LF
Secretary: Cllr. Cheryl Perkins
Proposed: DJ; Seconded: CW; Agreed: CE/CP/AW/VMB; Abstention: LF
Treasurer: Cllr. Caroline Williams
Proposed: DJ; Seconded: CW; Agreed: CE/CP/AW/VMB; Abstention: LF*
2. To agree date of next CCP Welfare Hall Executive Committee Meeting
*26th June 2024
Proposed: DJ; Seconded: AW; Agreed: CE/CP/CW/VMB/LF*
3. To agree date for consultation meeting with Urban Foundry
*26th June 2024
Proposed: DJ; Seconded: AW; Agreed: CE/CP/CW/VMB/LF*
4. To discuss and agree response to Boundary Commission Recommendations
*A discussion took place which the Chair used his discretion to permit input from the County Cllrs present. The Chair shared his concerns for loss of rural representation but acknowledged there were arguments for following the County boundaries too. LF mentioned significant work had been done to argue for the retention of Mawr as a County Ward that the Council could draw on. Cllr. Mark Tribe stated that in his opinion the council would be: “…much better run and fit for business unlike it is now” if it were to split in line with the County boundaries. Cllr. Philip Downing spoke for the retention of Mawr as a Community Council due to its rural nature and similarities between the communities. Cllr. Brigitte Rowlands said she could see an argument for both sides. It was agreed to move the remainder of the discussion in camera to allow Cllrs to speak freely with the outcome of discussions to be recorded in the minutes for transparency…
Proposed: CW; Seconded: CE; Agreed: DJ/CP/AW/VMB; Abstention: LF*
5. To note community meeting July 16th to discuss Community Poll to dissolve Mawr Community Council and agree a Council position and a way forward.
*The Chair discussed his position and reminded the meeting he had been approached to call a community meeting to decide on a community poll for the retention or dissolution of MCC. He further reminded the meeting he had declined to do so and had several reasons for doing so. He informed the meeting there were two other possible routes for the community meeting to be called. The member of the public could have requested any two councillors called the meeting, or a minimum of 50 electors could call a meeting. The latter of the two remaining options was the route chosen and MCC have received notification from Swansea Council that they have verified the 50 electors and the meeting is to be held on July 16th in Manor Park Hotel, Clydach. He has agreed to chair the meeting. There is some discussion taking place on social media and the Chair has concerns they may be misleading for electors. This will be raised with Democratic Services at Swansea Council. It was noted that Cllr. Mark Tribe’s comments on Facebook have been challenged and advice has been provided they may constitute a breach of the Code of Conduct.*

It was agreed the Council’s (MCC) position should be against the dissolution of the Council
*Proposed: DJ; Seconded: CE; Agreed: CW/CP/AW/VMB; Abstention: LF
The Council agreed to produce social media posts, call public meetings and produce posters/flyers with factual information.
Proposed: DJ; Seconded: CW; Agreed: CE/CP/AW/VMB; Abstention: LF*

**County Councillors left the meeting at this point**

1. Update from Digital Communities Wales regarding training provision in all three communities following extension to grant funding
*Following funding of £7,000 being awarded, digital literacy sessions will run in all three communities from September.*
2. **2024/204 Finance, Employment and Policy**
3. Approve June Payments
*Proposed: DJ; Seconded: LF; Agreed: All*
4. Note May Closing Balances
*Noted*
5. Note Quarter 4 Figures
*Noted*
6. To agree end of year figures 2023/24
*Proposed: CE; Seconded: CW; Agreed: All*
7. To note accounts to be sent to internal auditor
*The Clerk informed the meeting the internal auditor is not available until July 15th. It was agreed to seek advice from Audit Wales on the best way forward and to bring that to an Extraordinary Meeting, prior to the end of June.*
8. To note and accept OVW Clerk Recruitment and Retention process
This was circulated to all Cllrs prior to the meeting.
*Proposed: LF; Seconded: DJ; Agreed: all*

**2024/205** It was agreed to suspend Standing Order 3v in order to complete the agenda
*Proposed: DJ; Seconded: CE; Agreed: All
The meeting was adjourned to allow attendees a comfort break at this point and re-convened at 21.30*

**10. 2024/206 Estates and Health & Safety**

1. Update on MUGA including to note with thanks donation from the Chair, Cllr. Darren James, in order to proceed.
*Following the unsuccessful funding bid to The Gower Society, the entire MUGA provision was jeopardized. In order to ensure delivery of the MUGA as promised to the community of CCP, it is formally recorded for transparency that a donation will be made by Cllr. Darren James for the shortfall. Cllr. CE requested a formal note of thanks be recorded to Cllr. James for his generous donation.*
2. To note EICR at Felindre Welfare Hall and agree a way forward
*Clerk to obtain quotes to carry out all items highlighted as needing redress as soon as practicable.*

*Proposed: DJ; Seconded: AW; Agreed: All*

1. To note Asbestos testing at all three Welfare Halls and agree a way forward
It was noted that the surveys did not discover any asbestos which required urgent action. It was agreed to forward the surveys to the hall committees to inform their asbestos management policies.
*Proposed: DJ; Seconded: LF; Agreed: All*
2. To approve to undertake a Fire Safety Audit at all three halls
*Clerk asked to request information from all three halls on previous audits and actions.*
3. Update on the licence to operate agreement for Felindre Welfare Hall
*The licence was sent to the hall committee for consideration and comments prior to the end of May as agreed at the resident’s meeting held on April 20th. No comments have been received to date. Clerk to write to remind the committee we await their response and if none is received by the end of June, the Council will assume the committee is happy with this draft.*
4. To agree contractor for external works at Garnswllt Welfare Hall following updated specification.
*Awaiting quotes. Clerk to chase*
5. To discuss request from Biodiversity Project Co-Ordinator to place a pond at each bog garden and agree a way forward
*Councillors felt creation of ponds were an unnecessary risk and did not vote to create them*.
6. To receive written update on Craig Cefn Parc Welfare Hall on items not already covered elsewhere on the agenda.
*None received*
7. To receive written update on Felindre Welfare Hall on items not already covered elsewhere on the agenda.
*Brief report circulated*
8. To receive written update on Garnswllt Welfare Hall on items not already covered elsewhere on the agenda.
*Report circulated*
9. **2024/207 Correspondence***None other that that already circulated*
10. **2024/208 To review the dates of Ordinary Meetings for 2023/24***It was agreed to move the next 3 meetings in the first instance (subject to change at short notice) and review remaining meetings if necessary at the October meeting. New dates:
Weds 11th July/ Weds 11th Sept/ Weds 9th October
Proposed: CW; Seconded: CE; Agreed: All*

**2024/209** *Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.
Proposed: DJ; Seconded: CE; Agreed: All*

1. **2024/210 To discuss The Gower Society grant refusal for MUGA at CCP***Council agreed to write in the strongest terms to request decision making policy, what information decision based on and scrutiny of the source of the information as well as conflict of interests
Proposed: DJ; Seconded: CE; Agreed: All*
2. **2024/211 To receive report from Cllr. Catherine Evans regarding Felindre Welfare Hall October Meeting Report and agree next steps***Given the lateness of the hour and the need for full consideration of this item it was agreed to move to the Extraordinary Meeting to be held on 26th June 24
Proposed: CE; Seconded: CW; Agreed: All*
3. **2024/212 Update on Felindre April Market communication and agree a way forward***Receipt of report from the Chair of the Hall Committee and Co-organiser of the Felindre Market was noted. It was also noted it had been recorded as an incident in the accident book at the hall. This information is to be shared with the member of the public who contacted the Council.*
4. **2024/213 To note employee resignation***This was noted. The Chair expressed sincere thanks to the Clerk for all she has done during her time as Clerk/RFO and that he has witnessed very different governance in this time from that which had been previously seen. The Chair suggested moving this item to the end of the meeting as he wanted to speak with members about the content within the letter of resignation…*
5. **2024/214 To discuss and agree recruitment of new employee; process and timeframe***Agreed to follow the One Voice Wales guidance as adopted earlier in the meeting.
Proposed: DJ; Seconded: CE; Agreed: All*

**8** e) Continued…
**2024/215** *The Council supports the retention of Mawr Community Council regardless of County Council boundaries. There is no requirement for the Council to be split in this way. The residents within MCC are best served by a council who is focused on the rural nature of the area. If split, all communities will suffer as a result of being a much smaller community in a larger council. It is highly likely the smaller rural communities will be overlooked. This suggested way forward will also reduce representation with fewer councillors representing the area. There are highways and waterways separating the communities from the ones it is proposed they join, including the M4 in the case of Felindre and Llangyfelach. Mawr Community Council urge the boundary commission in the strongest possible terms to retain Mawr with its current boundary. Notwithstanding the above, this historical community will lose its identity if this proposal*

*Proposed: DJ; Seconded: CW; Agreed: All*

**The Clerk left the meeting at this point.**

**16** Continued…

**2024/216** *The Chair informed the meeting he had discussed with the Vice Chair and together they agreed he sought advice from One Voice Wales on the content within the letter of resignation from the Clerk. The advice he had been provided with, was to make a Code of Conduct complaint to the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales. The Chair confirmed he would be acting on this advice.*

**Meeting closed 23.30**