

**Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer: Ms. M. L. Gabriel – Davies**

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**Minutes of Mawr Community Council held remotely via Zoom on Monday 11 July 2022 at 7.00pm.**

**Present: Cllr. Linda Frame (Chair -LF), Cllr. Ian Price (Vice-Chair - IP), Cllr. Geraint Thomas (GT), Cllr. Darren James (DJ), Cllr Rhysian Phillips (RP), Cllr Laura Jane Thomas (LJT), Cllr Caroline Williams (CW), Cllr Gaynor Price, (GP) County Councilor for Llangyfelach – Cllr. Mart Tribe (MT), County Councillor for Pontarddulais – Cllr. Philip Downing (PD), Tessa Gabriel-Davies (Clerk - TGD)**

**Arrived late: County Councillors for Clydach – Cllr. Brigitte Rowlands (BR), Cllr. Matthew Bailey (MB)**

**Left Early: Cllr Downing, Cllr Bailey and Cllr Rowlands**

1. Apologies for absence **– Cllr Karen Miles, Cllr Faye Palmer, Cllr. Kevin Griffiths**
2. Declarations of Interest – None
3. Public Forum – No issues raised
4. Introduction of Co-opted Councillors
5. County Councillors – Reports from county councillors

* Pontarddulais – Cllr. Downing reported that:   
  (i) Swansea County  Council has approved a grant of £85k for the restoration of Garnswllt Park. Dragon Playground has been awarded the contract. The playground in Grovesend is an example of their work.  
  (ii) Unpaid carers grant of up to £500.00. The deadline for submission is 15 July 2022. There is an online application form available on Swansea Council’s website.   
  (iii) All built up areas in Wales, will have a 20 mph limit from September 2023 unless motorists are advised differently. Exceptions will be dual carriageways and country lanes. All speed signs will be removed except when there is a change of speed limit.  All repeater signs and speed road markings will also disappear.
* Llangyfelach – Cllr Mark Tribe reported that:
* (i) Police have been involved in the incident of inappropriate adult behaviour on the link road between Llangyfelach and the lay-by heading towards the DPD roundabout before turning right towards Felindre .  
  (ii) on 3rd July a huge amount of rubbish was left at Cwrt Farm at Five Roads and the culprits are now being investigated  
  (iii) the development of land at Glannant at the bottom of Heol Myddfai has now ceased while discussions with Swansea Council are taking place.
* Clydach – Cllr Brigitte Rowlands stated that she did not have much to report as she has posted the announcements and developments on Facebook and via emails.

1. The minutes of the AGM on 16 May 2022 were confirmed as accurate and accepted.
2. Cllr. Bailey previously emailed the clerk stating that the Clydach County Councillor’s report read as though the grant has already been awarded but in reality, they are still in the process of applying for the grant. He wanted this section changed. However, Cllr. Bailey was not yet in attendance. It was agreed that when Cllr. Bailey arrived at the meeting he will be asked to clarify what he wants amended. The DRAFT minutes were then confirmed as accurate and accepted.

Cllr Bailey arrived late at the meeting, by which time the 13 June minutes have been confirmed as accurate and accepted. Since it was already agreed that the item Cllr Bailey was referring to will be clarified and therefore, that specific section of the DRAFT minutes was amended as requested.

1. Matters arising from the minutes - Clerk to update/advise
2. Project Coordinator’s Report on Biodiversity Project – the full report is on the Council’s website.
3. Craig-Cefn-Parc –

(i) the community garden is thriving and produce has been distributed to residents.

(ii) the council was advised by the police to put up temporary fencing and padlock the gate.

1. Garnswllt –
2. like CCP, it is thriving.
3. more volunteers have joined.
4. Mr & Mrs Millward were thanked for their contribution.

The council continues to explore the possibility of grants from Welsh Water for water source.

The Project Coordinator will put up posters in the community to disseminate information about the project and recruit more volunteers.

1. Participatory Budget – no applications for the Participatory Budget.

**RESOLVED:** The council will advertise the availability of the grant on the website, public noticeboards and on social media for the autumn round.

1. Schedule of Work for the Grounds Maintenance Contract – LF and GT have finalised the specification in conjunction with the Biodiversity Project coordinator.

**RESOLVED:** The clerk will distribute the document to the councillors for their review and approval. The contract will be open to quotations in August and the contractor will be approved and ratified at the full council meeting in September 2022.

1. Halls update:
2. Garnswllt Hall – Cllr Linda Frame/Cllr Ian Price
3. Mynydd y Gwair has awarded a grant for the kitchens and flooring of the hall. Work is due to start after the Activities Club in August.
4. The builder has levelled the hall floor where the stage was removed, built a wider doorway into the kitchen, completed the plastering in the kitchen, back room and hall, created a removable step from the hall to the landing outside the back room, filled the holes in the floor in the back room for the carpenters to lay the laminate flooring, plastered around the doorway into the back room from the hall and secured the new fire exit from the outside to prevent anyone opening the door until the disabled access ramp is built. The carpenters have installed a new bulkhead for the stage curtains.
5. The carpenters will be laying the floor in the back room this week.
6. The decorators will commence work next week.
7. New doors between the foyer and main hall and between the main hall and back room are due to be installed. Awaiting the quotes for replacing the windows in the kitchen which do not open properly and the panels in the windows where the seals have failed.
8. The council will be applying for a grant to install the disabled access ramp.

Despite the major refurbishments carried out, building control does not classify it as a new build. Therefore, the width of the new fire exit doors is compliant with the building control regulations.

1. A Grade 1 fire safety system will be installed in the hall.
2. Felindre Welfare Hall – Clerk
3. The defibrillator will be installed this week.
4. The electrician has been contacted to look at changing the lights on the lamp post at the corner of the MUGA into a sensor light.
5. The hall committee is looking into adding more CCTV cameras.
6. Although the hall committee was not successful with the MyG grant application for the groundworks to prepare for a children’s playground, the community council and the hall committee will be working closely to submit another application in the autumn funding round.
7. CCP Welfare Hall – Cllr L Frame
8. The front door and kitchen windows for the hall have been ordered.
9. The work on the flat roof was stopped because the roofer suffered sciatica. However, work will commence after the summer activities club finishes on 29 July.
10. The hall supervisor broke her foot when she tripped on a pothole. The incident has been reported to the council and they have come out to fill the porthole.
11. The community garden had to be fenced off temporarily based on advice from the police to stop the vandalism on the polytunnel. A key will be made available to those who wish to access the community garden to water the plants, etc. on the days when the project coordinator is not there by contacting the clerk.
12. Clerk’s General Report: Grants/Projects/Initiatives
13. Grants

Mynydd y Gwair Grants –

* End of project report has been submitted to SCVS. Plaques will be ordered to denote the donors.
* Council will re-apply for the fencing around the CCP Community Garden and Football Fields and also submit application for the external ramp and stage for Garnswllt Hall.
* The council has been helping Friends of Craig Cefn Parc in searching for companies who will deliver the MyG grant awarded to FoCCP in 2021 for the preparation of the ground for the MUGA. Unfortunately, those who gave the original quotes have so far refused the work as they are busy with the backlog of work after restrictions for the pandemic were lifted. This work will continue and the grant money will be used as match funding for the National Lottery Community Fund application.
* The council will work with the CCP Hall committee on the work to replace both the flat roofs and pitched roof.

National Lottery Community Fund – application for the MUGA currently being explored.

Children & Young People Holiday Scheme Grant

* Contracts for the Play Leader and Play workers being prepared.
* Resources for the activities have been purchased.
* Bouncy castles to be booked for each venue on the last day of the clubs.
* Lots of interest received in registering for the Activities Clubs. All the Clubs are full and there are waiting lists.

Swansea RDP Biodiversity Project

* Second quarterly claim has been submitted.
* Posters to be produced to provide more information and to generate more interest and recruit more volunteers.

1. Communication with the community –
2. Newsletter will be updated and planned for distribution in September.
3. All council-related information, forthcoming events and meetings are posted on the website and Facebook page. They are also posted on the various FB groups of CCP, Felindre and Garnswllt.
4. Information on the newly co-opted councillors will be on the website and Facebook.
5. Other Items – A review of broadband providers to be conducted after experiencing loss of connectivity at Felindre.
6. Chair’s Report –

The Chair explained that the Community Garden had to be cordoned off for safety reasons. NR’s father is a sign-maker and he will produce signage so that the community is aware that they can avail themselves of the produce they need. The grounds maintenance person has found it difficult to cut the grass around CCP Hall because of the cars parked on the pavement.

1. Community Councillors’ Reports
2. Cllr Ian Price – Reported that the potholes have been filled on the road between Pontarddulais and Garnswllt. Thanked Cllr Downing and Cllr Griffiths for making it happen. Hedge trimming has started but appears to be piecemeal and it seems to have stopped in between Pontarddulais and Garnswllt.
3. Cllr Geraint Thomas – thanked Cllr Thomas Roberts for his contribution to the council despite his ill health, specially to Garnswllt.
4. Cllr Laura Jane Thomas – Stated that the community garden was a good idea for CCP and Mawr but needs to be advertised more as not many residents know about it. She also mentioned that information does not reach Salem and Rhydypandy.
5. Cllr Rhysian Phillips – Added that there are some home-educated young people who could benefit being made aware of the Community Garden and information should be passed on to them.
6. Cllr Darren James – Stated that he appreciated the hard work the council has been doing and hopes to be able to contribute.
7. Cllr Caroline Williams – Queried why there was no biodiversity project in Felindre. She is very keen to get the community to know one another and suggested a meeting at the hall. She stated that Felindre is rural and there were many old people living in the community. She mentioned the Noson Lawen event where lots of people attended but not many local residents participated. She commented that the area designated to be the playground for young children is not safe and should be re-located to the football field. The Chair explained that Llangyfelach Football Team has hired the football field and the hall was ideal because of the self-contained changing rooms and showers that were not being used. CW said she was glad to have met County Cllr Mark Tribe who stated that he was liaising with Sue Morgan to arrange surgeries at the hall. He further stated that he wanted to generate more interest and trade for the hall. With regards to the site of the children’s playground, he said that his understanding was that the funding was to level the grounds to a maximum of two levels to make it safe.
8. Cllr Gaynor Price – Wished to commend and thank Rhys for the work he does cutting the grass in Garnswllt Field. Also suggested that a thank you card from the council be sent to Cllr Roberts for his service to the community.

There was a discussion on the way the meetings will be conducted in the future. The Chair explained that the Welsh Government has issued guidelines that town and community council meetings have to be accessible to everyone, therefore, provisions for face-to-face meetings combined with online/hybrid meetings must be made. The Chair further stated that all three halls have large Smart Screens that can host the hybrid meetings. The community council will seek advice from the IT technician in Swansea Council.

At this point, Cllr Matthew Bailey sent a chat message to the clerk and wanted to discuss the email he sent the clerk. *“My statement said that a youth club was hoping to start in June.... Which it did, and that we were looking to arrange transport to CCP, Rhydypandy and Salem residents, but that would be subject to a successful funding bid. The minutes read as if the grant funding is passed and transport has been arranged.*

*With regards to Cllr Thomas asking about various issues across the Mawr ward, and Cllr. Frame also pointing out issues, I asked that these issues be emailed to me or other ward members as they arise. Cllr Thomas emailed me and I asked for specific locations for his complaints so the relevant departments could rectify these. I've yet to have these locations.*

*Lastly, I can't find any record of your community Council's monthly income and expenditure. I might well have missed these and if so please accept my apologies. I intend to raise this at your meeting so wanted to raise it in good time so that there may be an appropriate answer in good time.*

*There is still the FOI request outstanding which I assume will be answered at the 20th day”.*

However, the first point was already addressed when Cllr Bailey arrived late at the meeting as Item 7 had just been completed. The council had responded to his request.

He then wanted to know about his FOI request. The clerk responded that the first question he asked was actually available on the website and did not warrant an FOI request. The Chair informed him that FOI requests are dealt with in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and he will receive a response within 20 working days.

The clerk raised the issue about the email Cllr Bailey sent after he left the meeting of 16 May telling the clerk that if she did not respond by the next day, he and Cllr Walker would repair the benches despite the fact that it had already been agreed at the meeting that the community council had arranged for the benches to be repaired with it. The bench is on community council land and the council made it clear that it is their responsibility.

He wanted to know the income and expenditure of the community council. The Chair explained that the community council had some issues with the bank after the former clerk resigned and the accountant suddenly passed away. To expedite a resolution, the council contacted the MP and the press (Mail on Sunday) who helped the council. The Chair assured all present that there are no financial improprieties and financial reports will be available in accordance with the Standing Orders.

Cllr Thomas recently had a family bereavement. Cllr Thomas was given some links by Cllr Bailey so Cllr Thomas has reported the issues around Craig-Cefn-Parc directly to Swansea Council.

1. Planning Applications and Decisions – none involving Mawr.

**RESOLVED:** The circulation list will be expanded to include the newly co-opted councillors

1. Correspondence: OVW circulars already circulated.
2. Coastal Digital Radio emailed asking for feedback and support. Still waiting to hear if they are asking for financial support.
3. Email regarding the purchase of the Rock and Fountain Inn.

**RESOLVED:** GT will set up a meeting with the prospective buyers to find out more about their plans.

1. Email from a company which is interested in bidding for the grounds maintenance contract.
2. Financial Reports **–**

a) The council is still awaiting the internal audit from Mr. Llewellyn.

b)The newly elected councillors were made aware of the Reports in the Public Interest dated December 2011 and January 2015 issued by the Wales Audit Office under Section 22 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

c) The Council’s accounts will be open to the public for inspection once the external audit has been completed. Minutes of meetings must also be made available at all the halls.

1. The MCC accounts were approved.
2. Staff Matters- This section is confidential and is, therefore, closed to the public as agreed in full council meeting

Date and time of next meeting – there is no council meeting in August.

The next meeting will be on 12 September 2022 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

The meeting ended at 8:55 p.m.

**M. L. Gabriel – Davies, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer**