

**Due to current guidance in relation to hybrid meetings the meeting was held remotely.**

**Present:** Cllr. Ann Bowyer, Cllr. Jenny Carpenter, Cllr Judith Hopkins, Cllr Jo Storey and Cllr. Peter Sutherland.

**Members of the public:** Cllr Colin Deakins.

### **1. Public Meeting:**

Cllr Deakins attended to observe the meeting.

### **2. Sign the attendance book:**

Due to the remote nature of the meeting, it was not possible to sign the attendance book.

### **3. Apologies for absence:**

No apologies of absence were received.

### **4. Budget 2022/23**

The Chair summarised the steps so far:

- At the Finance and Procedures group meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November the draft budget was reviewed in detail and suggestions made.
- The amended budget was presented to full Council on 1<sup>st</sup> December. At this meeting few comments were made.
- The Chair believed there were a couple of outstanding issues in relation to Little Mill, firstly the transfer of ageing playground equipment and secondly a transfer of reserves.

Cllr Hopkins suggested the Glascoed and Monkswood noticeboards need replacing. The cost of a noticeboard like the one in Little Mill would be in the region of £620. It was suggested that repairs are carried out in the first instance and replacement could be considered in the future. The proposed budget included a sum of £100 for noticeboards which should cover repairs.

Cllr Bowyer suggested an ongoing maintenance budget would be needed in respect of Llanbadoc Island for items such as weed killing and replacing gravel. The proposed budget included a sum of £250 which was deemed sufficient.

As the number of councillors in Llanbadoc would reduce by one in May 2022, Cllr Carpenter reminded the meeting the councillor's allowances budget should be reduced by £150.

With regard to the clerk's note on the carer's allowance, it was agreed that any claims made would be funded from reserves or underspends on other budgets.

Cllr Deakins queried the weekly/monthly playground inspection cost. The clerk explained it had been estimated on a Monmouthshire County Council cost of £22 per inspection, being carried out on a monthly basis. Cllr Deakins asked whether the annual playground inspection cost included vat as that would be claimed back. The clerk had allowed an additional sum for the new equipment which Goetre Fawr may install.

Cllr Hopkins outlined the age of the equipment and raised concerns as to when it would need replacing. The concerns were endorsed by the Chair. Cllr Storey asked whether Goetre Fawr had incurred much cost in relation to the playground equipment in the last few years. Cllr Deakins confirmed there hadn't been and suggested a site meeting to review the equipment.

Cllr Bowyer asked whether the Council could establish what proportion of playground equipment in Monmouthshire was owned by Community and Town Councils compared to that owned by Monmouthshire County Council. The clerk responded that the information would not be readily available, and ownership was not always that straight forward. It was agreed that a site meeting should be arranged before Christmas.

The Chair stated that the Council could not commit at this stage to take on the play equipment. Cllr Carpenter responded that at such time as equipment needed to be replaced grants could be sought as a source of funding.

Cllr Deakins clarified the dog waste bins in Little Mill were emptied fortnightly. The clerk will amend the budget which was based on weekly emptying.

Cllr Deakins believed an estimate of year end reserves for Goetre Fawr should be available, from which an estimated transfer of reserves to Llanbadoc Community Council (LCC) could be calculated. The clerk will request the figure again.

Little Mill currently have additional street cleaning, and flower planting. Cllr Hopkins asked whether this would be extended to the whole of the LCC area, or would these services cease in Little Mill. The clerk confirmed that these types of decision would have to be made by the Council elected in May 2022, they could not be made by the current Council.

The clerk asked whether a budget of £180 should be provided for the cleaning of playground equipment, which was anticipated to be carried out in the Spring. Cllr Deakins suggested it may have been carried out before LCC become responsible.

Given the deadline of 20th January 2022 for precept submission, and the outstanding issues covered by the meeting the Chair thought it may be necessary to hold another extraordinary meeting to approve the budget between the January 2022 ordinary Council meeting and the budget submission date.

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 7.30pm.

**Beverley Young, Clerk/RFO**  
**Llanbadoc Community Council**