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In line with the Welsh Government’s ‘Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requirement for all 730 Town and Community Councils in Wales to electronically publish the key information and the outcome of their Council meetings within 7 days of the meeting, early, truncated and unsigned Minutes of the reformed Full Council Meeting of Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry Community Council held at 6 pm on Thursday 25 January 2024, are published here

Present: Cllr Lee Cecil, Cllr Rob Heaton-Jones, Cllr Zoe Hewer, Cllr Kevin Ingram, Cllr Kevin Stanworth and Bob Campbell (Temp Clerk) in person. Cllr Chris Morgan and Cllr Amanda McConnell attended via a virtual platform. The Temp Clerk reported that he had received no other requests to join virtually.

Chair Cllr Lee Cecil chaired the meeting that commenced at 6.00pm.

A/Apologies – Cllr Phil Rosser and Cllr Beth Rich.

B/ Presentations – Heddlu Gwent Police CSOs Lisa Gibbs and Thomas Humphries presented a monthly crime report and recent Police activities in the Ward that was shared with the Council. The Council suggested Machen Rugby Club and Rudry Parish Hall for the Police to hold their intended public surgeries/sessions over the next few months. The Council advised the Officers of their intention to reintroduce a ‘Speed Watch’ project in the Ward villages

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in the spring. The Chair thanked the Officers for their presence and report update.

C/ Declarations of Interest – None.

D/ Residents' addresses – None.

E/ Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 21 December 2023

The Council agreed that the minutes were correct and they were duly signed by the Chairperson.

G/Decisions made

G1 Finance Report

The Temp Clerk and Chair updated the Council with the recent financial transactions made via the new bank mandates. The Council were pleased with the Chair's update that the previous Clerk had been paid the final agreed amount to close that contract. The Chair also confirmed that the previous commitment to the lockup had been paid and finalised. The Council can now move forward to make payments and the Temp Clerk is to continue to record the new transactions in readiness for a transition to a new Community Clerk when appointed. The Council agreed the recent transactions report as correct.

The Council ratified its budget for 2024/25 with a projected increase of 5% from £20,000 to £21,000. Temp Clerk is to submit the increase to Caerphilly County Borough Council in time by their 31 January 2024 deadline.

The Chair asked for the Council to review their existing list of suppliers at the February meeting.

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G2 Correspondence/financial assistance applications

The Chair advised the Council that an advertisement for the post of Community Clerk had been published. The Chair reported that seven Cllrs had now been added to the DWR CC email domain with Cllrs Morgan and McConnell retaining their Caerphilly CBC email addresses.

H/Current Projects Summary

The Council considered their new projects for 2024. 'Speed Watch' is intended to be set up with the Police to start in April 2024 with Cllr Beth Rich leading the project for the Council. The Chair asked for Cllrs to consider the topics of replacement of/any new benches, planters and bins in the three Wards for next financial year. Cllr Rob Heaton Jones is to meet on site with Cllr Chris Morgan to consider these topics. Cllr Heaton-Jones is also to consider other local firms and local residents assistance for the planters project. The Council is to consider its support for the '2024 Machen Show' at its next meeting.

I/Planning Applications – None.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.

The full Minutes when agreed and signed will also be made available on the Council's website as soon as practically possible.