

**Raglan Community Council**  
**Minutes of the Special Meeting held on Wednesday**  
**18 February 2020 between Raglan & Gwehelog-Fawr Community**  
**Councils at Old Raglan School, Chepstow Road,**  
**Raglan, at 7.00 pm**

**Present**

Cllr Hazel Davies	Cllr Sylvia Price
Cllr Charlotte Exton	Cllr Helen Tilley
Cllr Adrian Merrett (Chairman)	Cllr Brian Willott
Cllr Penny Jones	

**4852 In attendance:**

Adrian Edwards, Clerk to the Council  
Cllr Simon Carbury Gwehelog Fawr CC  
Cllr Mrs Maggie Godwin Gwehelog Fawr CC  
One resident

Cllr Adrian Merrett chaired the meeting and invited all those present to introduce themselves. The Chair then invited the clerk to explain why the meeting had been called.

**4853 Agenda item 1:-** Apologies for absence

Cllr Dave Bevan due to hospital appointment

**4854 Agenda item 2:-** Declarations of interest.

No declarations of interest were submitted, but members will make a declaration when and identified under the relevant minute.

**4855 Agenda item 3:-** Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements in Monmouthshire.

The clerk explained it would be easier if he could deliver to those present a powerpoint presentation. He can provide everyone with the dates starting from 2012 onwards. He explained that the last review was completed by MCC in 1999, with the changes taking effect in 2004. For MCC to maintain its duty in line with relevant legislation MCC would have needed to commence the current review in 2012 with the view to having proposed changes finalised and approved in time for the 2017 elections.

He explained that currently Gwehelog-Fawr consists of three wards with a total electorate of 384 represented by 7 Community Councillors. Raglan consists of three wards with a total electorate of 1,585 represented by 11 Community Councillors. Cllr Carbury explained that Gwehelog-Fawr has four wards not three. The clerk explained that he has only taken the data from the papers published by MCC. The report which was published in January 2020 states currently there are 33 C&TCs represented by 356 councillors, and with the proposed arrangements, it would see a reduction to 30 C&TCs with a reduction in councillors to 296.

The clerk explained that in November 2013, the proposals were presented to elected members of MCC but MCC later postponed the process. MCC's working group took the decision in May 2015 to postpone the community review until after the local elections in May 2017. It was explained this was to save any confusion around which boundaries were to be used to allow candidates and political parties plan for elections effectively and prevent any potential confusion for the electorate.

Following the 2017 election, the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales (LGBCfW) requested that final proposals for the community review in Monmouthshire was submitted to them no later than June 2018. This was to enable LGBCfW to consult on the final proposals and pass the relevant legislation.

Following the review, it was the intention of MCC to re-run the consultation on the draft proposals and allow councillors who were elected in May 2017 opportunity to input into the process at that stage. Officers from MCC presented a report to MCC full council where it was said: *"The County Council will not conduct any consultation into its final proposals. Whilst we have undertaken consultation at every other stage of the process, once Full Council have approved the final proposals, they will be passed to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales who will conduct their own consultation process on the final proposals". "Details of the timescales on the Commissions consultation are not yet available as they will need to review the proposals in detail before undertaking the consultation process. Further information will be sent to all communities once it is available".*

The chairman asked those present if there were any questions anyone would like to ask. There were several points raised over the transfer of two communities from Raglan to Mitchell Troy area. The two areas that were going to be transferred are: Cuckoo's Row, The Warrage and Pen-y-Clawdd. The clerk informed those present that the MCC Local Democracy Manager *"explained that having regard to legislation, the Working Group used easily identifiable boundaries, which in this case was the junction on the A40".*

A discussion took place with a wide and varied range of views expressed by those present, and it was felt that the new boundary wasn't a feasible argument. The chairman suspended the standing orders to allow the resident to address the meeting and put her views forward. It was explained that Cuckoo's Row, and The Warrage have always been part of Raglan Community. Residents from Cuckoo's Row and The Warrage use all the facilities in Raglan, as Tregare and Mitchel Troy don't have the facilities for residents to use. Concern was also expressed over election voting if the proposed changes take place, and it would be assumed that residents would need to vote in the polling station in Tregare.

A discussion took place with a range of views being expressed, over the 223 electors from Gwehelog-Fawr being representing by one elected member. It was felt that people may not wish to stand for the proposed Gwehelog-Fawr ward at the next election or when the election. Concern was also expressed over the precept and the difference between Raglan and Gwehelog-Fawr. It was stated there is a vast difference between Raglan and Gwehelog-Fawr and residents will not be content with any large increases. It was also

stated with the proposed changes the knowledge of the Gwehelog-Fawr community is going to be lost as elected members from Raglan are not going to know the community and some of its main issues.

The chairman asked if there were any further questions.

**4856 Agenda item 4:-** 15 minutes set aside for Community interaction and members of the community to ask the Chairman or Council questions of local interest. **Any questions should be submitted to the clerk 3 working days before the meeting**

One member of the public attended and made representations to those present during item 3 above.

**4858 Agenda item 5:-** To consider the proposed arrangements from the recommendations submitted to the WG Minister

A discussion took place with a varied range of views being discussed. After some debate it was:

Proposed the clerk draft a letter on a similar vein as the draft letter he presented to the councils January meeting. The draft letter will be sent to all members before being presented to the Minister, and a copy will be sent to the clerk of Gwehelog-Fawr so Gwehelog-Fawr can make representations to the WG Minister.

**All those present agreed:**

**4859 Agenda item 6:-** Consider a response to the published reports

As item 5 above a letter is sent to the WG Minister

**4860 Agenda item 7:-** Consider how to inform residents of the proposed changes in both councils areas

This agenda item wasn't discussed and deferred to another meeting.

The chairman thanked Cllrs Carbury and Godwin for attending and Cllr's Carbury and Godwin left the meeting at 20.25hrs

**4861 Agenda item 8:-** To consider grant applications received before the meeting

The chairman invited the clerk to present the three grant applications that have been submitted to council by Raglan School. The clerk explained that he distributed the redacted applications prior to the meeting for members consideration.

A discussion took place with a range of views being expressed by members. After some debate it was:

**Proposed:** by Cllr Willott seconded by Cllr Jones that the minor works grant for 2019/20 year for £300 was approved.

**All those present agreed**

**Proposed:** by Cllr Tilley seconded by Cllr Jones that the minor works grant for 2020/21 year for £300 was approved.

**All those present agreed**

**Proposed:** by Cllr Merrett seconded by Cllr Tilley that the larger grant application for 2019/20 year for £2,500 was approved for IT equipment.

**All those present agreed**

**4862** No other business was discussed, and the Chairman thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 20.15hrs.

The date of the next meeting 26 February 2020.

Signed by \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman

Date 26 February 2020.

**Raglan Community Council  
Action Points from meeting dated 18 February 2020**

	<b>Action</b>	<b>Allocated to</b>	<b>Date issued</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1	Community meeting	Chair & Clerk	12 Dec	On-going	Arrange a meeting in Oct 2019. This item has been deferred
2	Barton Bridge undermining	Clerk	26 June 19	On-going	This matter has been reported once before. A second letter informing the Highways Authority
3	Footpath between Caestory Av & Crescent	Clerk	25 July 19	On-going	To contact Highway Authority
4	Road gully cleansing	Clerk	22 Jan 2020	On-going	Clerk to contact highways, Highways investigating
5	Meeting with Gwehelog CC	Clerk	22 Jan	On-going	Clerk to contact Gwehelog CC
6	Formally write to the WG	Clerk	18 Feb	On-going	Clerk to write to WG Minster about boundary changes