

**TRELLECH UNITED COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING**

**held at**

**The Millennium Hall, Llandogo on Monday 15 February 2016 at 7pm**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Village</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
John Gooding	Catbrook	Present
Michael Mason	Catbrook	Not present
Bob Dagger (Chair)	Llandogo	Present
Ashley Thomas	Llandogo	Present
Martin Blakebrough	Llanishen	Present
George Weston	Llanishen	Present
Steve Coppell	The Narth	Not present
Rosemary Decker-Thomas	The Narth	Present
John Baldwin	Penallt	Present
Tessa Murray	Penallt	Present
Alan Poulter	Trellech	Present
Iain Stokes	Whitebrook	Present
County Cllr Debby Blakebrough	MCC	Present

**Clerk:** minutes taken by Cllr T Murray

**PUBLIC MEETING**

Rhiannon Jenkins addressed the meeting about the need for a bus shelter in Llandogo for passengers travelling in the direction of Chepstow. **It was resolved** to add this to the agenda for the March meeting of TUCC.

16028 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs Blakebrough and Stokes gave their apologies for needing to leave the meeting at 2030. County Cllr Blakebrough also left the meeting at 2030.

16029 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:** None

16030 **BT OPENREACH**

Susan Ward and Martin Jones of Superfast Cymru attended. They explained the background to this government-funded project and progress to date for the Trellech exchange. Superfast Cymru is aimed at providing credible broadband outside areas where commercially-funded services are being rolled out, with BT Openreach as the contractor. Once an exchange has been provided with a fibre feed, satellite local cabinets need to be put in place. There are issues regarding wayleaves for routing power and/or the fibre cables themselves to several cabinets in the Trellech area. Current expectations are that the cabinets in Trellech and Parkhouse will be the first to come on-line this spring. An alternative route has been found to resolve the issue in Llanishen, but the work will require a road closure, that needs to go through a notice and agreement process. The earliest date for completion of this cabinet is June 2016. There is no resolution for Broadstone or the Narth yet. Martin Jones will provide details to the clerk in the hope that the Council can help resolve the issues. He will also keep the clerk informed of progress in the area.

Martin Jones also explained the process for delivering broadband to premises too remote to utilise the service from a cabinet. In this case, fibre is taken all the way to the premises. Whether this will incur a cost for the householder will depend on distance from the nearest 'post' and the terms offered by the householder's broadband contractor.

Residents need to be aware that once their line is enabled, they still need to take out a contract with a broadband provider for a fibre service. Householders can check the status of their line at [www.superfast-cymru.com](http://www.superfast-cymru.com).

16031 **CO-OPTION**

Two candidates presented themselves to the council: E Rogers and C Edwards. **It was resolved** to co-opt E Rogers to the vacancy for the Trellech Town Ward. Mr Rogers signed the declaration of acceptance of office, and joined the meeting.

16032 **TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BLAKEBROUGH**

Councillor Blakebrough reported on the decision of Natural Resources Wales to erect barriers across the forest track linking Pen-y-fan and Maryland. Roads have been cleared to make them usable and householders and emergency vehicles that need to use the track may have keys to the barriers.

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) will replace the Section 106 obligation for developers next autumn. This will make 15% of the revenue available for local projects, with the rest going to county-wide strategic needs.

Mike Powell has agreed to attend the March meeting of the TUCC to talk about Rural Development Grants. The Clerk will be asked to invite village hall representatives.

Clerk

Monmouthshire County Council has cut its road budget for 2016/17. This will result in less gritting of roads and fewer repairs.

16033 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 January**

The minutes for 18 January were agreed with one amendment to paragraph 16009, 2014/01533, and signed as a true record.

16034 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 18 January**

**Item 16012: Grant towards fencing of Llandogo play area**

Since the fence agreed upon will be shorter than originally envisaged, and will not need vehicle gates, the cost has reduced to £1,850. MCC will therefore invoice TUCC for 50 per cent of the total, £925. The fence has now been erected.

**Item 16017: Replacement trees at Five Trees, Lydart**

MCC is willing to replant trees on behalf of TUCC. Nigel Leaworthy originally suggested oaks, due to their robustness and historic value. There is some doubt over whether there would be space for five oak trees when they mature. An alternative suggestion is silver birch. No costings have yet been supplied.

**Item 16023: Potholes on track at Pentwyn Green**

Andrew Nixon has responded on behalf of Gwent Wildlife Trust: he had noticed the potholes and was already planning the necessary repairs. He will inform the clerk when the work is complete.

**Item 16024: NHS engagement with local communities**

Tintern CC was the only community council to express an interest in a joint meeting with Julian Hayman. However Monmouth Town Council had invited councillors to attend such a meeting in Monmouth on 8 February. St Arvans has now indicated that they would welcome a joint meeting.

16035 **TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

- 00055, Llanishen, Well Cottage, Far Hill, extension to outbuilding to create office annexe. Recommend approval
- 00017, Trellech, Castle Comfort, extension to existing garage. Recommend approval
- 00007, Trellech, Fernlea, replace existing barn with oak garage. Recommend approval

Clerk

16036 **FURTHER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED: None**

16037 **PLANNING DECISIONS**

- 01543, Catbrook, High Beech Farm, Whitelye, outdoor arena with timber post and rail. Approved
- 01470, The Narth, Site adj Manor Wood Cottage, ref 2012/00391: changes to conditions. Approved
- 01430, Llandogo, Rosehurst, front porch, balcony on rear elevation, etc. Approved
- 01425, Trellech, Babington Close, cul de sac, ref 2008/01420, variation of surface materials as in condition 14. Approved
- 01422, Catbrook, The Hermitage, Whitelye, conversion of old cottage and barn to dwelling. Approved

- 01331, Penallt, Near Pen y Garn Farm, 30.5m telecoms mast to enable superfast broadband.  
Approved

16038 **FURTHER PLANNING DECISIONS:** None

16039 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

*Current bank balance (less uncashed cheques): £21,160.15*

The following accounts were presented and payment agreed:

500442	A Dorel, repairs to bin shelters at The Narth	£130
500443	One Voice Wales subscription	£327
500444	Llandogo Millennium Hall, hire 17 Oct, 15 Feb	£48
500445	MCC, grant to Llandogo School (min. 16011)	£250
500446	Catbrook Memorial Hall, hire 18 Jan	£30

Clerk

16040 **SIGNATORIES TO BANK ACCOUNT**

Co-op Bank has requested that an additional form be completed to change the signatories on the account. Councillors duly filled in the necessary form.

Clerk

16041 **INSURANCE POLICY**

**It was resolved** to accept the quote provided by Hiscox, together with a 3-year agreement, at a cost of £569.83.

Clerk

16042 **TINTERN CHURCH LADS BRIGADE**

Councillors felt that this request for an unspecified grant towards participation in the Highwood Project 2016 provided insufficient information regarding the content, benefits and costs of this project to enable them to make a decision about providing a grant. Cllr Dagger will advise the Officer in Charge about formulating grant applications.

BD

16043 **MCC GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT**

This is not yet resolved as MCC had not advised of the total cost excluding Llandogo Memorial Green.

16044 **BIGSWEIR BUS SHELTER**

NRW has confirmed that there is no immediate reason not to reconstruct the shelter in its original position, and MCC awaits confirmation from TUCC that the rebuild should go ahead. **It was resolved** that the rebuild should go ahead in the original position.

Clerk

16045 **MONMOUTH CAB ASSETS**

**It was resolved** that TUCC supported the transfer of the funds still held by Monmouth Citizens Advice Bureau to Citizens Advice Cymru as a ring-fenced fund for the provision of CAB services in the Monmouth area; disbursement to be monitored by Citizens Advice Cymru.

Clerk

16046 **CATBROOK FOOTBALL FIELD:** Nothing to report

16047 **BABINGTON MEADOW**

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Easter Sunday (27 March). Debate is continuing regarding the feasibility of presenting a production of *A Midsummer's Night's Dream* on the Meadow in June.

16048 **OTHER REPORTS:**

- The Clerk will be asked to contact MCC Highways about the state of the road between Pelham Hall and the Baptist Chapel in Penallt.
- The new playground fence in Llandogo is not universally admired. Some softening by planting is probably required.
- Cllr Dagger will look at the possibility of holding the council's annual dinner at the Sloop Inn on a Thursday evening, probably in early April.

Clerk

BD

16049 **CORRESPONDENCE**

MCC, Amy Gullick, updates to electoral register  
MCC, D Harris, response to TUCC comments on flood risk management consultation  
MCC, A Howard, community food growing scheme  
MCC, N Leaworthy, replacement trees for Five Trees, Lydart  
MCC, D McCarty, meeting about 2016 Velothon, County Hall, 22 Feb, 6.30 pm  
MCC, M Moran, reduced price for fence at Llandogo play area  
MCC, notice of temporary closure of Llanishen Hill, 29 Feb to 27 March  
MCC, M Watkins, Bigsweir bus shelter

British Heart Foundation, confirmation of order for 5 defibrillators and information on signs  
BT Openreach, attendance at next TUCC meeting  
Came & Co, insurance quotations  
Consortium of Wye Valley Councils, cheque for £36, TUCC's share of remaining funds  
Co-op Bank, correspondence over new fixed-rate deposit account  
CPRW, members' bulletin, Feb 2016  
C Edwards, expression of interest in vacancy for Trellech Town  
Gwent Wildlife Trust, promise to repair potholes at Pentwyn Green  
Monmouth Town Council, invitation to meeting concerning Clinical Futures  
One Voice Wales, success in draw for invitation to Buckingham Palace garden party  
One Voice Wales, training opportunities  
One Voice Wales, response to consultation on draft Local Government (Wales) Bill  
P Probert, copy of letter to Superfast-Cymru, concerning poor broadband service  
Nick Ramsay, AM, petition to save Monmouthshire  
E Rogers, expression of interest in vacancy for Trellech Town  
Tintern Community Council, interest in a joint meeting about Clinical Futures  
Vision ICT (D Hillier) and Cllr G Weston, over change of website domain hosting  
Wheelock, J (Monmouth Citizens Advice Bureau), disposal of remaining funds  
Woodford, M, maintenance of Llandogo Memorial Green  
Zurich Insurance Co, quotation for council insurance

16050 **ITEMS FOR THE PRESS/NEXT AGENDA**

- Councillors were reminded that David James, the Rural Housing Enabler, will attend the next council meeting. As we are now also expecting Mike Powell at this meeting, the Clerk is asked to see whether it would be possible to rearrange one or the other.
- A discussion regarding MCC budget proposals was previously suggested for a future agenda. The Clerk is asked to advise whether the timing is right to include this on the next agenda.

Clerk

Clerk

16051 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:** Monday, 21 March 2016 at Pelham Hall, Penallt

The meeting closed at 21.37