

**TRELLECH UNITED COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING**

**held at Trellech Village Hall on Monday 19 September 2016 at 7pm**

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

**Clerk:** Ann Davison

**PUBLIC MEETING**

Several Trellech residents described how noise from holiday groups staying at Trellech House affected their lives. Cty Cllr Blakebrough confirmed that a planning application has been made for change of use of the property, with Jo Draper as planning officer. This will come to TUCC in due course for consultation.

16205 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs Blakebrough, Dagger

16206 **RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR**

It was noted that Stephen Coppell had resigned with immediate effect from 8 September, as he had sold his house. MCC had issued a Notice of Vacancy, which had been posted on the TUCC website and on notice boards. If no request for election is received by 5 October then TUCC can co-opt to the vacancy. The clerk was asked to monitor this and issue co-option advertisements on 6 October if appropriate. Councillors thanked Mr Coppell for his service as a councillor.

**Clerk**

16207 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:** None

16208 **ROGER JOY, MCC: STREET LIGHTING**

Mr Joy explained that throughout Monmouthshire all the orange sodium lights are to be replaced with LED lights with a monitoring system, in order to reduce energy consumption. It is now MCC policy to turn off street lights from midnight to 6am, unless there are particular safety concerns. The local county councillor is the only person who can authorise such an exception, in consultation with the lighting department. He acknowledged that there are currently technical problems with the system, leading to some lights remaining on 24/7 and others not being turned off when they should be. Engineers from the company responsible for the monitoring system are due to check and overhaul the system in early October. Lights at Trellech school and Trellech health centre are not the responsibility of the MCC Lighting Department. Cty Cllr Blakebrough will contact both institutions to ask if the lights can be less intrusive.

**Cty Cllr Blakebrough**

Councillors agreed to note which street lights in their wards have not yet been converted to LED, and which ones are not turned off between midnight and 6 am, identifying lights by the numbers on the posts. This information will be coordinated by the clerk and then forwarded to Cty Cllr Blakebrough.

**Clerk, All councillors**

16209 **TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BLAKEBROUGH**

- A county councillor's power to decide on lighting times was noted with interest
- Traffic speed management - as MCC is capacity constrained for equipment, this requires diligent lobbying. A strategy group is to be formed, including the PCC and Speedwatch groups
- Make Trellech Safe: WAG has awarded money. A meeting will be held to review and agree plans, including a footpath to link the centre of the village to Roman Way

- Hedge cutting in Far Hill: some areas have been cut twice and others not at all. A meeting with Nigel Leaworthy of MCC is scheduled
- It was noted that Cty Cllr Blakebrough will be away from late October through November

16210 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 August**  
The minutes for 15 August were agreed and signed as a true record.

16211 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 September**  
The minutes for 5 September were agreed and signed as a true record.

16212 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 15 August**

**Item 16185, 16054: Rural Housing Enabler - Trellech development**

David James has reported that an unspecified cash sum will be donated to the Babington Centre by the developers, rather than a computer.

**Item 16185, 16173: Defibrillator training**

Dates and venues for training sessions have still not been set, due to difficulty in contacting the relevant member of staff at Wales Ambulance Service.

Clerk

**Item 16185, 16166, 16149 etc: Dog waste bins and supplies**

The bins are now all installed, and Merlin Waste has been asked to commence emptying. Supplies of waste bags and lamp-post stickers were distributed.

**Item 16185, 16166, 16158 etc: Fibre broadband provision**

Martin Jones had indicated that cabinet 3 (Peckett Stone) is an FTTP solution and is currently in build with an estimated completion date of October 2016. The Lone Lane cabinet (Monmouth 20) had been waiting for an agreement on the wayleave, which was now in place. Work was due to start at the end of August to connect power to the cabinet. For those connected direct to the exchange BT expected to complete the cutover to a new fibre cabinet by the end of 2016.

**Item 16193: Access to Openreach**

No response has yet been received from D Davies MP. The "High Level Complaints Team" at Openreach had responded. The clerk was asked to copy their letter to David Davies MP. This topic should be on the next agenda.

Clerk

**Item 16197: A466 closure**

A466 between St Arvans and Tintern will now be closed for up to 5 weeks from 3 October. Diversion routes have been supplied by MCC.

**Item 16199: Environmental Health - Noise Complaints**

Mike Richardson, of MCC Environmental Health, had forwarded several background documents about how noise complaints are dealt with.

16213 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- 00847, Tintern, Trederwen, Trellech Grange, replace wooden stable block with timber frame 2 -bay garage & car port. Replace retaining wall to stop slippage and support adjacent land bank. No comment, as in Tintern CC area, not in TUCC.
- 00919, The Narth, Oakdene, Pool Lane, demolition of existing house etc, replacement dwelling and detached car barn. Recommend approval
- 00941, Catbrook, Stanley Cottage, Parkhouse, single storey extension garden room. Recommend approval
- 00960, Trellech, The Lodge, Babington Close: fencing, gate and trellis. Recommend approval subject to reduction in height of TF1 to 1.6m, to reduce visual impact.

- 00981, Catbrook, Ty Cariad, Back Rd, block off existing access & replace with new access plus double garage. Recommend approval
- 00987, Catbrook, Atlasta Cottage, Back Rd, demolition of existing barn and replacement with general purpose agricultural storage/shed. Recommend approval
- 00988, Penallt, Tanlgewood, Pentwyn Lane, replace flat felted roof on annexe with sloping tiled roof. Recommend approval
- 00989, Llanishen, Lower Glyn Farm, cricket pavilion, change of use to residential holiday accommodation. Recommend approval

Clerk

16214 **FURTHER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED:** None

16215 **PLANNING DECISIONS**

- 00657, Trellech, Langley House, Babington Close, 1.4m fence + laurel hedge. Approved

16216 **FURTHER PLANNING DECISIONS**

- 00813, Catbrook, Stanley Cottage, bank of solar panels adjacent to existing stable block. Approved

16217 **GRANT TO MONMOUTHSHIRE CITIZENS ADVICE**

**It was resolved** to make a grant of £2500 as specified in the approved budget for 2016/17.

16218 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

*Current bank balance (less uncashed cheques): £30,025.15*

The comparison between the 2016/17 budget and expenditure to date was noted.

All invoices and the bank statement had been scrutinised and verified by Cllr Thomas.

The following accounts were presented and payment agreed:

500478	Merlin Waste, dog waste collection (6 months)	£40.68
500479	Llanishen Hall, hire 18 July	£15
500480	Open Spaces Society subscription	£45
500481	MCC, contribution to summer play scheme	£450
500482	Pelham Hall, contribution to replacement windows, see minute 16153	£1000
500483	Clerk's expenses, April-Sep	£127.66
500484	Monmouthshire CAB	£2500

Clerk

16219 **EXTRA HOURS WORKED BY CLERK**

It was noted that due to an extra TUCC meeting on 5 September and the MCC cluster group meeting on 13 September 4.5 hours extra work had been required. **It was resolved** that these hours should be remunerated at the usual hourly rate, and the clerk was asked to inform MCC accordingly.

Clerk

16220 **AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR 2016/17**

The audit had now been completed and notices to that effect will be displayed on the council notice boards and on the website. **It was resolved** to approve the Annual Return and accept the audit. It was noted that the auditors had indicated that a formal letter of appointment should be issued to the internal auditor. The finance group was asked to agree the wording of such a letter prior to next year's audit.

Clerk

16221 **SPEEDING IN PENALLT AND TRELLECH**

See item 16209, report by the County Councillor

16222 **GRANTS TO VILLAGE HALLS**

The possibility that TUCC might cover business rates for village halls was discussed. Any decision will be taken as part of the 2017/18 budget process.

16223 **BABINGTON EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

Rosemary and Dermot Decker-Thomas were provisionally nominated, subject to discussions between them and other trustees. To be included on the next agenda.

Clerk

16224 **MCC MONMOUTH CLUSTER GROUP**

The clerk attended this meeting on behalf of TUCC, and reported from it.

The Monmouth Cluster Group is chaired by Peter Davies, MCC's Chief Officer for Resources. Each cluster group is to be chaired by a Chief Officer, because Paul Matthews is anxious to receive direct feedback from the meetings.

Problems experienced with MCC Highways were raised. Several councils said that they would accept a straight reply from the Highways Department that work could not be included in the schedule due to budget constraints. But receiving no answer to requests was extremely frustrating. The CEO's new system of routing all enquiries through Rachel Keble and Alison Jones is intended to identify such problems, and Paul Matthews is actively tracking whether queries have been adequately dealt with.

Peter Davies explained how MCC's work will be fundamentally changed by the Wellbeing and Future Generations Bill, which is a pioneering initiative of the Welsh Government and is attracting world-wide attention. Every aspect of county council work will be subject to a check against the Bill's criteria, which will require integration between different policy areas. A prime example would be the need to plan future housing needs taking into account employment opportunities, education and transport. He noted concerns from all those present about current housing plans ignoring the shortage of school places in the Monmouth area, both in the town and in villages. It was highly likely that the LDP would be subject to early review, in the next year or two, in order to incorporate such concerns into the planning process.

The poor performance of the Superfast Cymru programme was raised. BT is due to attend an MCC Members' Seminar in October, when they will be challenged over delivery of their programme.

The intention is to hold four cluster group meetings a year, with the next one in December. The date will be circulated well in advance.

16225 **PENALLT COMMON ENCROACHMENT**

It is believed that a new area of hard standing causes a minor encroachment onto common land. Guy Delamere (of MCC Planning enforcement) has visited Limekiln Farm and reminded them of the restrictions applying to common land.

16226 **NOTICE BOARD IN PENALLT**

The existing notice board is rotting and needs to be replaced. "Manmade wood" is approximately the same price as oak, whereas aluminium is cheaper. The board needs to be large, since it is intended for open access by the community. The Babington Committee's preference would be for aluminium, powder-coated in green, to match the sign for Babington Meadow. They would however prefer pinboard to the magnetised surface offered as standard by Greenbarnes.

**It was resolved** that a replacement aluminium notice board should be purchased, to a maximum price of £900 excluding VAT.

Clerk

16227 **DRAINAGE PLANS FOR PENALLT HOUSING DEVELOPMENT**

While MCC Planning Committee approved the planning application 2015/00606, councillors remained concerned about the details of drainage plans. The clerk was asked to write:

(a) to MCC Highways to ask if the precise details of the drainage scheme have been agreed. Also whether, and how, they have assessed the volume of water to be handled and the ability of the proposed solutions to handle it, and

(b) to MCC Building Control, asking them to explain how they will assess and test the drainage solution, given the topography and geology of the site (referring to correspondence on the MCC planning

website). Also, whether it could be a requirement that ground work and drainage are completed before any building commences.

Clerk

16228 **FORMER BT KIOSKS**

TUCC has adopted six kiosks, as follows: Parkhouse, Pen y Fan, The Narth, New Mills, Whitebrook and Penallt. Of these the kiosks at New Mills and Penallt now house defibrillators. The Pen y Fan kiosk was renovated by local residents, and is used as an information point, since it lies on the Wye Valley Walk.

MCC Planning has confirmed that three kiosks in the TUCC area are listed buildings: Whitebrook (adopted by TUCC), Trellech and Penallt Old Church.

It was noted that the light bulbs in the kiosks in Whitebrook, Penallt and the Narth are not working. The clerk was asked to obtain an estimate from an electrician to check them.

Clerk

A glass pane in the kiosk at New Mills is broken. Cllr Baldwin offered to replace it with perspex, to match several other of the panes in the kiosk.

JB

16229 **WHITELYE COMMON TREE SEEDS**

Gwent Wildlife Trust had requested permission to collect seed from Downy Birch trees on Whitelye Common as part of the Kew Tree Seed Project. This would not involve any tree climbing but might involve the snipping of twigs to get the seeds and a small metal tag being attached to the trees. Councillors had no objection to this, and authorised the clerk to sign the consent form on behalf of the council.

Clerk

16230 **CATBROOK FOOTBALL FIELD:** Nothing to report

16231 **BABINGTON MEADOW**

The bushes and brambles are due to be cut back. The committee has resolved to hold reserves sufficient to cover one year's maintenance costs.

16232 **OTHER REPORTS**

- The clerk had noticed an incorrect link on the council website for Catbrook village hall (now corrected). Councillors were asked to check that information for their village halls is up-to-date and to let the clerk know of any changes. It was also noted that the "Monmouthshire Halls" website is defunct, and all links to it should be removed.

Clerk

16233 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was received and noted:

MCC, J Blake, Planning, confirmation of which BT kiosks are listed  
MCC, P Cleary, Tour of Britain Cycle Race Rolling Road Closure Thursday 8th September 2016  
MCC, R Joy, copy of correspondence with Cllr Murray about faulty streetlights  
MCC, S Parkinson, correspondence over installation of dog waste bins  
MCC, S Parkinson, Give Dog Fouling the Red Card, minutes of meeting 18 Aug. Next meeting: 26 Jan  
MCC, J Pearson, notice of vacancy for councillor The Narth  
MCC, M Richardson, Environmental Health, briefing documents on noise complaints

Babington Educational Trust, request that TUCC appoint two trustees  
Babington Meadow Committee, draft minutes of meeting, 14 Sep  
Boundary Commission for Wales, consultation on proposals to alter parliamentary constituencies  
BDO (auditors), completion of audit for 2015/16  
BT Openreach, M Jones, information on broadband cabinets  
BT Openreach High Level Complaints Team, acknowledgement that investigation opened  
BT Openreach Complaints, response  
S Coppell, resignation as councillor  
CPRW, members' bulletin, Sep 2016  
CPRW Monmouthshire Branch, AGM & talk, 28 October, Shire Hall, Monmouth  
D Davies MP, automated acknowledgement of correspondence about BT Openreach  
D Dolbey Jones, correspondence about K6 BT kiosk in Whitelye  
G Hillu, request for permission to temporarily place builders' skip on Trellech Village Green

Members of the public, complaint about noise from holiday let in Trellech  
Monmouthshire County Citizens Advice, request for grant  
Natural Resources Wales, P Cadogan, correspondence on location of dog bin in The Narth, including map of agreed location and agreement for signature and final approval of site  
Newland Parish Council clerk, update on planning application for Stowe Hill Quarry  
One Voice Wales, training offered Sep-Dec 2016  
Pelham Hall, copy of invoice for new windows  
Trellech Village Hall newsletter, Sep 2016  
WAG, Diversity in Democracy Programme, free workshop on "Be a Councillor", 22 Sep, Pontypridd  
WAG, Natural Resources Bulletin, issue 8  
Wales Planning Inspectorate, footpaths in The Narth, submission by Open Spaces Society  
M & R Wishart, correction to minute 16177, to refer to Pentwyn Farm (not Cottage)

16234 **ITEMS FOR THE PRESS/NEXT AGENDA:** None

**Clerk**

16235 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:** Monday, 17 October 2016 at the Millennium Hall, Llandogo

The meeting closed at 22.11