

**TRELLECH UNITED COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
held at The Hall, Llanishen on Monday 17 July 2017 at 7pm**

Councillor	Village	Attendance
John Gooding	Catbrook	Present
Andy Pullan	Catbrook	Present
Bob Dagger (Chair)	Llandogo	Present
Lynne Parker	Llandogo	Present
Martin Blakebrough	Llanishen	Present
George Weston	Llanishen	Present
Rosemary Decker-Thomas	The Narth	Present
Larry Stoter	The Narth	Present
John Baldwin	Penallt	Present
Tessa Murray	Penallt	Present
Christopher Edwards	Trellech	Not present
Alan Poulter	Trellech	Present
Iain Stokes	Whitebrook	Present
County Cllr Debby Blakebrough	MCC	Present

Clerk: Ann Davison

PUBLIC MEETING: none

17152 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr C Edwards

17153 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:** Cllr Stoter - item 17165, funding for Monmouthshire Citizens Advice

Clerk

17154 **MARTIN JONES, SUPERFAST CYMRU**

Mr Jones reported that most cabinets in the TUCC area are now installed and running. Two additional cabinets will be added to serve more remote areas: cabinet 7 in Trellech village will be operational by the end of September, and cabinet 9 in Pen y Fan later in the autumn. By the end of July 148 premises in the Five Trees Farm area will be linked in by new FTTP structures. The current Superfast programme runs to the end of 2017, and is on track to achieve its target of reaching 90% of properties in Wales. The next stage of procurement, to reach more properties, will start in 2018.

17155 **REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DEBBY BLAKEBROUGH:**

- is now vice chair of MCC's Economy & Development committee, and will pursue broadband provision;
- AB Internet has gone into liquidation;
- Whitelye, Price's Bridge - a meeting will be held next week between John Griffin (local), Ruth Rourke and Matthew Lewis of MCC footpaths, with a view to prioritising this particular problem;
- Make Trellech Safe - signs have been ordered.

17156 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 June**

The minutes for 19 June were agreed and signed as a true record.

17157 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 19 June**

Item 17068: Dog waste bins and supplies

Following a suggestion from Cllr Weston, the clerk had purchased a number of inexpensive attachments for the bins in which the free waste bags may be placed. These were distributed to councillors.

Item 17078/17092: invitations to TUCC meeting for Speedwatch

Speedwatch will be invited to the August meeting, which will be held in Trellech.

Clerk

Item 17121: Parking on Pentwyn Green

The landlords of the Inn have agreed to put a sign on their notice board requesting that patrons do not park on the village green.

Item 17134, 17106: representation on external bodies

John Roberts is now co-opted to the Babington Educational Trust rather than being a Tucc nominee.

Item 17105: Appointment of internal auditor

Graham Boulton has returned a signed copy of the letter of appointment, for three years from May 2017, with the following addendum: "I accept the above appointment and terms, subject to the hourly rate being reconsidered each year starting with the year 2018/19, and although I expect there to be no additional expenses, if these are significant they would be added." Since the appointment is subject to annual confirmation, councillors agreed that the hourly rate should be reviewed at the same time.

17158 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 00581, Llanishen, Quarry Cottage, Erection of a detached double garage, conversion of existing barn into ancillary living accommodation, retention of existing retaining wall and relocation of access gate. Recommended for refusal, with the applicant asked to submit two separate applications: one for the retention of site works and construction of garage, that have already been carried out, and a second application for cladding of the metal barn and its conversion into a gym/workshop. Tucc has no problem with the garage or access gate, but queries whether the conversion of the barn qualifies under MCC policies. A proposal for cladding the metal barn was previously refused in 2005, M11475, as it did not meet barn-conversion policy. Inexplicably, this was overturned by M12127, when cladding the metal barn was approved at the same time as conversion of the stone barn into the main dwelling. M12127 did not however grant permission for anything other than cladding, whereas the current application seeks consent for further conversion/refurbishment work of this structure into a workshop/gym. The barn for which conversion is requested is/was a metal-framed building of which only the roof and framework existed. Its height (5.51m) and length (9.0m) tend to dominate the site and would dominate it further if clad, additionally depriving the property opposite of light.

Clerk

17159 FURTHER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED: None

17160 PLANNING DECISIONS

- 00583, Llanishen, Penarth Farm, replace dilapidated barn on existing site. Agricultural notification, acceptable
- 00459, Trelleck Hill Farm, change detached garage/plant room south & west external wall finish from oak overlap boards to local random rubble stonework. Approved

17161 FURTHER PLANNING DECISIONS: None

Item 17165 was considered at this point in the agenda.

17162 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Current bank balance (less uncashed cheques): £37,707.02

The comparison between the 2017/18 budget and expenditure to date was noted.

The bank statement and invoices for payment had been scrutinised and verified by Cllr Pullan.

The following accounts were presented and payment agreed.

500521	Babington Meadow Committee, maintenance	£600
500522	MCC, clerk's salary April-June	£1202.37
500523	Trellech and Penallt PCC, churchyard maintenance	£900
500524	Merlin Waste, dog waste collection April-July	£335.61
500525	Clerk, IKEA bag holders for dog waste bins	£22.50
500526	Tucc, to open new bank account	£500
500527	Monmouthshire Citizens Advice	£2750

Clerk

17163 TUCC BANK ACCOUNT

Councillors signed the requisite forms from Unity Trust Bank: the account application submission form and the account transfer request. As requested, a cheque for £500 as an opening deposit had been

signed (minute 17162). As soon as a signature was obtained from the councillor not present at the meeting the forms would be posted by the clerk.

- 17164 **PARKING SIGNS ON PENTWYN GREEN** Clerk
Quotations for new signs have been received from two sources. Car Care on Monnow Street can make "no parking" signs as per car number plates, on a white or yellow background, long or square, for £15.99 each including VAT. Chillipepper Signs could provide A4 signs for £25.59 + VAT each and A3 sign (to include extra wording about Village Greens) for £64.26 + VAT. These would be aluminium on a composite bonded material (dibond), with holes drilled to attach it to a pole; one colour on a white background.

It was resolved to purchase 4 x number plate signs, long, with a white background; 1 x A3 sign from Chillipeper
- 17165 **MONMOUTHSHIRE CITIZENS ADVICE** Clerk
It was resolved to make a contribution of £2750 to Citizens Advice, as provided for in the 2017/18 budget.
- 17166 **FUNDING FOR PELHAM HALL** Clerk
It was resolved to make a contribution of £1000 towards the cost of refurbishing the kitchen at Pelham Hall. Councillors noted that the usual requirement for several quotations to be submitted to the council had been waived, since the hall committee had sourced the equipment second-hand at a very advantageous price. A copy of the receipt from the vendor should however be requested.
- 17167 **65 BUS ROUTE** Clerk
Councillors noted the comments received from MCC's Passenger Transport Unit, giving extremely low usage figures for the buses that are to be axed. They also noted that the LDP should take into account the reduced bus service; and asked whether MCC is investing in and promoting the Grass Routes service in the area, to ensure mobility for those without cars. County Cllr Blakebrough promised to take these concerns to MCC's transport committee.
- 17168 **MONKEY PUZZLE TREE, LLANDOGO**
This tree lies in the conservation area and has a Tree Protection Order. Local councillors did have concerns about debris from the tree falling on the pavement and highway. Bearing in mind the comments of MCC's tree officer, Jim Keech, councillors had no objection to its being felled. Clerk
- 17169 **PRICE'S BRIDGE RIGHTS OF WAY**
Discussion of this item was deferred until after the planned meeting with MCC officers.
- 17170 **OWNERSHIP OF NEW CAR PARK AT TRELLECH SCHOOL**
Deferred to next meeting
- 17171 **CATBROOK FOOTBALL FIELD:** Nothing to report Clerk
- 17172 **BABINGTON MEADOW**
 - £224 had been received thanks to Waitrose green tokens.
 - The Meadow had been awarded a Green Flag Community Award by Keep Wales Tidy.
- 17173 **OTHER REPORTS**
 - Street lighting. Cllrs Decker-Thomas, Murray and Stoter had attended a meeting with MCC officials, including Roger Hoggins, Roger Joy and Mark Hand. MCC currently defaults to the "standard" for street lighting, which is identical for urban, rural and city environments. There is no legal requirement to do this, and officials were receptive to the idea of lower lighting levels in villages. A strategy/policy will be drafted which could then be formally adopted by MCC for future reference.
 - Llandogo 4G mast. A 21 metre mast has been proposed, to be installed by the sewage works. Since this would be intrusive in an AONB and conservation area alternative sites are being explored.

- It was noted that MCC Planning is introducing a new optional (more costly) fast-track planning procedure for small householder developments such as extensions, garages and outbuildings. The 21-day consultation period for community councils will not be shortened however.
- The clerk told councillors that she would unavoidably miss the TUCC meeting in September.

Clerk

17174 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was received and noted:

MCC, S Baldwin, report on roadworks and traffic lights on A466 Tintern to St Arvans
 MCC, R Cope, planned reduction to 65 bus service
 MCC, J Keech, consultation on monkey puzzle tree in Llandogo
 MCC, C O'Connor, new fast track planning application procedure
 MCC, Planning, material from councillor training session

C & B Boston, *re* parking on Pentwyn Green
 G Boulton, signed agreement to letter of appointment as internal auditor
 PC C Butt, report of unsafe parking in Penallt passed to PCSO
 Dick Coates, pedestrian safety in Trellech
 Heritage Lottery Fund, launch of Great Place Scheme
 Heritage Lottery Fund, opportunity for 1-to-1 consultation, Chepstow Library, 24 July
 Llandogo PCC, thanks for grant towards graveyard upkeep
 Monmouthshire Citizens Advice, appeal for funding
 T Murray, report of dangerous parking in Penallt
 One Voice Wales Area Committee, AGM, 13 July, agenda
 One Voice Wales, AGM and Conference, 30 Sep, Builth Wells
 Pelham Hall, D May, application for grant towards kitchen refurbishment
 T Rigby, overgrown hedges in Tregagle
 N Roberts, confirmation of TUCC appointed trustees to Babington Educational Trust
 Trellech & Penallt PCC, request for grant towards graveyard upkeep
 G Weston, IKEA solution to bag storage on dog waste bins

17175 **ITEMS FOR THE PRESS/NEXT AGENDA:** None

17176 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:** Monday, 21 August 2017 at the Babington Centre, Trellech
 Apologies noted from Cllrs Blakebrough, Decker-Thomas and Pullan

The meeting closed at 20.47