

**TRELLECH UNITED COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING**

held at The Babington Centre, Trellech on Monday 18 September 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	Not present
Larry Stoter	The Narth	Present
John Baldwin	Penallt	Present
Tessa Murray	Penallt	Not present
Christopher Edwards	Trellech	Present
Alan Poulter	Trellech	Present
Iain Stokes	Whitebrook	Present
County Cllr Debby Blakebrough	MCC	Present

Clerk: Ann Davison not present. Minutes taken by Cllr Weston

PUBLIC MEETING: none

17198 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs R Decker-Thomas, Tessa Murray

17199 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:** item 17210, Ownership of new car park at Trellech School, Cllrs Gooding and Edwards (discussion of topic curtailed)

17200 **SPEEDWATCH**

Julia Ferguson, analyst for Gwent Police, assisted by Tintern Speedwatch co-ordinator, Steve Edmunds, gave a talk about the Speedwatch scheme. Julia is responsible for setting up schemes but should any village wish to start a new one, initial contact should be made via the local neighbourhood Police Officer (PC Chris Butt). Minimum requirements are: six volunteers (one of which will be nominated as local co-ordinator) and a stretch of speed-limited road to be monitored which is at least 300 metres in length. Steve advised that it might be difficult to obtain six volunteers locally who are willing to give up their time as and when required; perseverance is required and once the group is set up, maintaining the impetus is key.

Upon first contact, the neighbourhood officer will arrange for a risk assessment to be carried out, to ensure the safety of volunteers and drivers. Once this has been carried out satisfactorily, action will be taken to set up the scheme, issuing ID cards, hi-vis jackets, notices and equipment to groups and arranging training. National coordination and administration of Speedwatch is undertaken by North Wales Police; all reports, recommendations for prosecution, etc are handled by that Force. Local co-ordinators are responsible for entering details from speed-check logs onto a spreadsheet for sending to North Wales Police. It is important that this information is transferred quickly, as notices of prosecution must be served within fourteen days of alleged offences.

17201 **REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DEBBY BLAKEBROUGH**

There has been a delay in implementing the 20 mph speed limit in Trellech. MCC Highways have advised that, contrary to earlier advice, legislative procedures will need to be undertaken and official notices issued. Work is in hand but due to heavy workload and budget pressures, the 20 mph limit is unlikely to be in place before the end of 2017.

The Adopted Local Development Plan is to be reviewed early, as Monmouthshire is not meeting the Welsh Government's housing targets for the county. More housing sites need to be identified, and this may result in current village and town development boundaries being enlarged or perhaps even abolished in certain areas. Debby agreed to send a copy of the report on this issue to TUCC.

Roger Joy, MCC's street-lighting officer, has advised that the Dark Skies initiative is on his agenda but could give no indication of when it might be implemented. It was resolved that the Clerk should write to Mr Joy, seeking action on the initiative.

Clerk

17202 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 August**

The Chair proposed a small amendment to the minutes of 21 August, which was agreed. The amended minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

Clerk

17203 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 21 August: None**

17204 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- 00981, Trellech, Lark Rise, replacement dwelling and new car port
Recommended for refusal.
Reason: the visual impact of the proposed car port and turning area at the front of the dwelling when viewed from the highway would be too large and obtrusive.
- 00893, Pen-y-Fan Green, The Manse, retrospective application for installation of cattle grid and surface water drain.
Recommended for refusal.
Reason: The footpath across the village green has been converted in past years to a vehicle-accessible track, which is the subject of this application. The cattle-grid serves no purpose apart from forming a surface-water drain. However, it fails in this purpose, as it fills up with water. Regular vehicle access over a village green is in any case prohibited. Furthermore, the applicant has been unable to demonstrate ownership of the village green, nor has he provided evidence of continuous use of the track for over 20 years, which is required under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act.
- 01025, Whitebrook, Hillside House, conversion of workshop to holiday accommodation + new gate access to field above house.
Recommended for approval.
- 001030, Whitebrook, Hillside House, redesign of planning permission 2012/00149, extensions and alterations.
Recommended for approval.

Clerk

17205 **FURTHER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**

None

Clerk

17206 **PLANNING DECISIONS**

- 00581, Quarry Cottage, Llanishen, erection of a detached double garage, conversion of existing barn into ancillary living accommodation, retention of existing retaining wall and relocation of access gate.
Approved.
- 00809, Primrose Cottage, Penallt, replace existing extension with pitched roof structure and balcony.
Approved.

17207 **FURTHER PLANNING DECISIONS: None**

17208 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

It was noted that all accounts held with Co-op Bank had been closed on 23 August, and the new account with Unity Trust Bank had become operational on that day.

The following accounts were presented and payment agreed. Cheques 300001 to 300007 inclusive had been approved for payment at the August Tucc meeting, and issued on the Co-op cheque book. None of them had been presented to the bank before closure of the account however, so needed to be re-issued on the Unity Trust account.

It was also noted that Unity Trust Bank had been supplied with the updated Financial Regulations, and required just two signatures on each cheque (see minute 17102).

300001	Llanishen Village Hall (Business rates + £500 towards services)	£724.55
300002	Narth Village Hall (business rates)	£134.73
300003	Pelham Hall (business rates) + grant towards refurbished kitchen (min 17166)	£1798.40
300004	Play Inspection Company	£156
300005	Wales Audit Office	£213.15
300006	SLCC membership	£93
300007	Clerk, "no parking" signs	£141.07
300008	Whitebrook Village Hall, hire 19 June	£25
300009	Llanishen Village Hall, hire 17 July	£15
300011	Clerk, registration for 2 councillors to attend Planning Aid Wales training	£70
300012	Merlin Waste	£193.23

Clerk

17209 **NEW INTERPRETATION OF PLANNING RULES FOR HOUSEHOLDER APPLICATIONS**

A flow-chart had been recently received from Mark Hand of MCC, showing changes to how householder planning applications would be handled in future. TUCC were particularly concerned that apparently second-tier authorities (including TUCC) would no longer be able to recommend that an application go before the Planning Committee. That option would now be reserved for County Councillors. A particular case in point was the recent approval of planning application DC/2017/00581, which TUCC had requested should go before the Planning Committee. Despite written assurances that it would do so, it was missing from the agenda for two consecutive Planning Committee meetings. (TUCC had not been advised of either of the postponements and a councillor had made arrangements to attend on each occasion.) TUCC was then summarily advised that the application had been approved by an officer.

It was resolved that a letter be sent to Mr Hand, asking if this represented a change to established and published procedures or policies and asking if its application was intended to be retrospective.

Clerk

17210 **TO CONSIDER OWNERSHIP OF NEW TRELLECH SCHOOL CAR PARK**

Cllr Gooding gave a presentation in which he advised that the car park is still under ownership of the developers of the Trellech housing site and had been provided under the terms of a S106 agreement. The school governors are not predisposed to taking ownership of the car park and it is also believed that the site developer does not wish to retain ownership or responsibility for it. It had been suggested that TUCC might wish to take over responsibility for the car park.

A discussion took place, during which it was established that since Cllrs Gooding and Edwards were governors of the school, they should declare interests, which they promptly did. **It was resolved** that it would be inappropriate for a councillor who is also a school governor to present such a proposal. Any formal proposal should be made by MCC to TUCC, providing all costs, relevant legal aspects, etc. No decision could be reached without these details.

Clerk

17211 **CATBROOK FOOTBALL FIELD**

Cllr Gooding reported that a crop of hay had been taken. Nothing further to report

17212 **BABINGTON MEADOW:** No report

17213 **OTHER REPORTS**

(a) Pentwyn Green. Cllr Baldwin reported that the Clerk had written to Gwent Wildlife Trust reminding them they had agreed to maintain the track across the green, but to date no repairs had been undertaken.

(b) Large vehicles on The Freedom, Llandogo. The Chair reported that he had received a request from a resident of Llandogo asking that appropriate signage be provided along The Freedom, warning drivers of

the dangers of this very narrow road. **It was resolved** that TUCC support the request and write to MCC accordingly.

Clerk

17214 **CORRESPONDENCE**

MCC, M Hand, response re householder planning applications and Planning Committee
MCC, S Parkinson, delivery of dog poo bags
MCC, S Parkinson, Give Dog Fouling the Red Card, agenda for meeting 14 Sep
MCC, R Tranter, call-out for training on code of conduct

A Bevan Community Health Council, annual report 2016-17
Babington Meadow Committee, query over public liability insurance
Eventbrite, tickets for Planning Aid Wales training on pre-application consultation, 21 Nov
One Voice Wales, Reform of Data Protection Legislation
One Voice Wales, August news bulletin
One Voice Wales, MCC and community liaison meetings
Planning Inspectorate Wales, confirmation of receipt of letter about Prices Bridge footpaths
SLCC, membership renewal
Tintern CC clerk, confirming letter will be sent to Planning Inspectorate about Prices Bridge
WAG, National Development Framework for Wales, responses to consultation

17215 **ITEMS FOR THE PRESS/NEXT AGENDA:** None

17216 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:** Monday, 16 October 2017 at the Millennium Hall, Llandogo

The meeting closed at 2124