

**TRELLECH UNITED COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING**

**held at The Hall, Llanishen on Wednesday 13 December 2017 at 7pm**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Village</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
John Gooding	Catbrook	Present
Andy Pullan	Catbrook	Present
Bob Dagger (Chair)	Llandogo	Present
Lynne Parker	Llandogo	Not present
Martin Blakebrough	Llanishen	Present
George Weston	Llanishen	Present
Rosemary Decker-Thomas	The Narth	Not present
Larry Stoter	The Narth	Present
John Baldwin	Penallt	Not 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

**It was noted that the meeting had been rescheduled from Monday 11 December, due to snowfall and power cuts on 10 and 11 December.**

**PUBLIC MEETING:** two members of the public brought to councillors' attention their opposition to planning application 00868, telecoms mast at Tump Farm, Whitebrook. They also commented that the application had not been well advertised by MCC in the community.

17253 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs J Baldwin, R Decker-Thomas, C Edwards and L Parker

17254 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:** none

17255 **REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DEBBY BLAKEBROUGH:**

- Broadband - BT Openreach's current contract to provide superfast fibre ends at 31 December. They have now indicated that several communities within the TUCC area will not be connected within that timeframe, despite earlier promises. MCC is aware of the issue, and will look into BT Openreach's contractual commitment. It is expected that the Welsh Assembly Government will follow up with a second phase contract. MCC will try to ensure that Monmouthshire is the first authority to be included in the second phase.
- Trellech speed reduction programme: problems with MCC staffing have led to delays. 20 mph signs and new flashing vehicle activated signs should be installed in January. .
- MCC's Road Safety Strategy and Policy group brings together highways staff and police. A draft strategy should be put out for consultation in early 2018.
- Speed on B4293 and A466: Speedwatch is collecting new evidence. Online petitions are also growing: to reduce speed in Llandogo; to stop illegal use of A466 and Bigsweir Bridge by heavy lorries; to introduce a 50mph speed limit along the A466. The AONB will support any campaign to slow traffic.
- Protect our Dark Skies: waiting for update.

17256 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 November**

The minutes for 20 November were agreed and signed as a true record.

17257 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 20 November:** none

17258 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- 00868, Whitebrook, Tump Farm, telecoms mast. The proposed site is in a very prominent position in the landscape, and is immediately adjacent to the Wye Valley Walk, and would obstruct the view from that Walk. Tourism is a major industry in the area, and the Wye Valley Walk is one of the main attractions. It was noted that the applicant had carried out no local consultation, or apparently given

any consideration to the visual impact of the proposal, despite it being within the AONB. This was contrasted with the recent pre-application consultations by a different provider over the location and design of masts in Llandogo and Trellech. These consultations had led to a different design of mast being approved for Llandogo, that was less obtrusive in the landscape, and to a more acceptable location. While councillors fully recognised the amenity offered by improved mobile phone signal, both for residents and visitors, it was noted that the proposed mast would bring very little benefit to the local community, since the improved signal would mainly serve the St Briavels area. Both the location and design should be revisited. Recommend refusal

- 01213, Whitebrook, Pilstone Farm, conversion of traditional outbuilding to residential use. Recommend approval
- 01265, Llandogo, Parklands, new vehicular access to separate access to Parklands from that to holiday let. Recommend approval
- 01260 and 01261, 01274 and 01275, Trellech, Lloysey Farm, alterations and 2 storey extension to Grade II listed barn. Planning consent and listed building consent. Due to its large size the proposed extension contravenes Policy H6 of the LDP: *"extensions to dwellings outside village boundaries should be modest and respect or enhance the appearance of the existing dwelling. They will be required to: a) be subordinate to the existing building; and b) where the building is of a traditional nature, to respect its existing form, including the pattern and shape of openings, and materials"*. Recommend refusal
- 01303, Whitebrook, Traligael, 2-storey extension to rear & single-storey kitchen extension to side. Recommend approval

Clerk

#### 17259 FURTHER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

- 01272, Llanishen, Sycamore, single storey extension and alterations, plus double garage. Recommend approval, but with two comments. The oak tree on the property boundary has a tree preservation order, and works may damage its roots. The position of the garage, with a blank wall adjoining the road, is unfortunate.
- 01327, The Narth, Homestead, conversion of garage to dependant relatives annex. Planning permission for the garage (2012/00605) included the condition: *"The garage hereby approved shall be retained as a garage for the parking of private motor vehicles and for other uses ancillary to the enjoyment of the dwelling and for no other purpose."* The current application would contravene this condition. Furthermore the proposed annex would have a footprint as large as the house. Recommend refusal. Should planners be minded to approve the application a condition should be added that the annex should remain ancillary to the main dwelling in perpetuity.

Clerk

#### 17260 PLANNING DECISIONS

- 2016/00739, The Narth, land adjacent to Plainfield, single detached dwelling, outline planning permission. Refused
- 2017/00968, Llandogo, Laurel Bush Cottage, new garage with extension over it. Approved
- 01008, Trellech, The Garden House, new workshop, garden wall and log store. Approved
- 01138, Trellech, land at Court Farm, 12.5m pole with antenna, dishes etc. Approved

#### 17261 FURTHER PLANNING DECISIONS

- 01214, Llandogo, Land at Parklands, A466, 15m pole with antennae, dishes etc. Approved
- 01326, The Narth, Four Acres, Maryland, wood burning stove with flue. Approved

#### 17262 ERECTION OF NO PARKING SIGNS ON PENTWYN GREEN

It was noted that these signs had now been erected; **it was resolved** that the cost of £110 for labour should be paid by TUCC.

#### 17263 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Current bank balance (less uncashed cheques): £36,870.59

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.

300021	Materials & labour refurbishing New Mills phone box (min 17245)	£370
300022	Babington Educational Trust: contribution to services	£500
300023	Merlin Waste	£244.08
300024	Labour to install no parking signs at Pentwyn Green	£110

Clerk

17264 **MONMOUTH CLUSTER GROUP PROPOSALS**

Monmouth Town Council has withdrawn its application for WAG funding in 2017/18, since none of the community councils in the cluster had offered their support. A cluster group meeting is scheduled for 16 January, 6 pm at Monmouth Library.

17265 **BUDGET and ALLOCATION OF RESERVES 2018/2019**

The finance group had met on 7 December, when they had prepared the draft budget and allocation of reserves, as presented to the council.

It was explained that a number of expenditure items had been moved out of the annual budget into allocated reserves, since experience had shown that funds were not regularly needed for these headings. This was also one reason why reserves were increasing year on year, since expenditure was repeatedly lower than budgeted for. These items were: IT equipment, notice boards, tree work, playground repairs, legal fees, contested elections, Llanishen Pond, lease on Catbrook football field, councillors' allowances. A new heading had been introduced under reserves for data protection; this was to allow for potential expenditure to meet the new data protection requirements from May 2018.

It was also noted that the draft budget included increases under the following headings: churchyard maintenance, grass cutting, Citizens Advice Bureau, charity donations, clerk's salary.

Two new headings in the budget were for bank charges and school projects.

**It was resolved** to adopt the budget and allocation of reserves, as appended to these minutes.

It was also noted that detailed criteria for awarding funds to "school projects" should be included on the next agenda; and that funding for village halls should also be included on the next agenda.

17266 **PRECEPT 2018/2019**

In light of the approved budget, **it was resolved** that the precept for 2018/19 should remain at £35,000.

Clerk

17267 **TRUSTEES for BABINGTON EDUCATION TRUST**

Further to the resignation of two TUCC-appointed trustees, the following two names were proposed: Rees Rogers and Peter Garwood.

**It was resolved** to appoint them as trustees, subject to their agreement..

Clerk

17268 **CATBROOK FOOTBALL FIELD:** No report

17269 **BABINGTON MEADOW:** No report

17270 **OTHER REPORTS**

- Data Protection regulations are due to change in 2018. This is likely to have an impact at community council level, but details are not yet clear. The Society of Local Council Clerks will provide support and information at a later date.
- Snow clearance on minor roads. The clerk was asked to find out from MCC whether local contractors are employed, and whether community councils can be involved in recommending routes.
- Annual dinner: date and venue to be decided at next meeting

Clerk

Clerk

17271 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was received and noted:

MCC, S Baldwin, update on A466 road works  
MCC, M Hand, confirmation of issue over dates on planning consultation letters  
MCC, Landscape Unit, quote for grass cutting in 2018/19  
MCC, R Lewis, draft review of LDP, consultation to 5 Feb - next agenda  
MCC, S Parkinson, new bins on order  
MCC, Planning, notice of appeal hearing, 8 Feb, County Hall, 2017/00524  
MCC, R Rawlings, Monmouth Cluster meeting, 16 Jan, 6 pm, Monmouth Library

Babington Centre, utility claim  
A Bevan Community Health Council, newsletter  
Gwent Wildlife Trust, woodland workshops  
Llandogo Village Hall, utility claim  
Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, appeal for funds  
Monmouth Town Council, F Cotton, proposals for cluster group and funding request  
NRW, J Green (via Cllr G Weston), response *re* Trellech Beacon car park  
NRW, funding and support offered for 2018/19  
NRW, news bulletin  
Noah's Ark, Children's Hospital, appeal for funds  
One Voice Wales, L Evans, bilingual layout of bulletin to be discussed at Executive meeting  
One Voice Wales, News bulletin  
Planning Aid Wales, Community-led housing, 23 Jan 2018, Cardiff  
SLCC, support planned in 2018 for new data protection requirements  
Welsh Ambulance Service, appeal for donations to Christmas fund - agenda  
WAG, M Bull, S137 spending limit for 2018/19  
WAG, Planning Law in Wales review, consultation open to 1 March 2018

17272 **ITEMS FOR THE PRESS/NEXT AGENDA:** None

17273 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:** Monday, 15 January 2017 at The Memorial Hall, Catbrook

The meeting closed at 21:34