

**TRELLECH UNITED COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING**

held at Catbrook Memorial Hall, on Monday 16 January 2017 at 7pm

Councillor	Village	Attendance
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
Rosemary Decker-Thomas	The Narth	Present
Larry Stoter	The Narth	Present
John Baldwin	Penallt	Present
Tessa Murray	Penallt	Present
Alan Poulter	Trellech	Not present
Ed Rogers	Trellech	Present
Iain Stokes	Whitebrook	Not present
County Cllr Debby Blakebrough	MCC	Present

Clerk: Ann Davison

PUBLIC MEETING

Dick Coates introduced the plan for Wet Meadow, Trellech (item 17013). The land is owned by the church and administered by MCC as trustee. It is a designated Local Wildlife Site and hosts an abundance of rare species. In order to maintain the site Monmouthshire Meadows Group plans to winter graze it, then cut hay in September.

17001 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs Michael Mason, Alan Poulter, Iain Stokes

17002 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

- Cllr Stoter: items 17013 (a member of Monmouthshire Meadows Group), and planning application 01350 (personal and prejudicial interest).
- Cllr Thomas : item 17013 (chair of SDF)
- Cllr Murray: planning application 01350 (personal interest)

Clerk

17003 **LIZ BICKERTON: MCC RESEARCH ON PROVISION OF NON-STATUTORY SERVICES**

Ms Bickerton explained her role working for the Vale of Usk Local Action Group and Rural Development Programme. The project has looked at the need and opportunities to provide non-statutory services in rural communities. Five communities have been assessed in detail, including Llandogo. Her report will be submitted this spring.

17004 **REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DEBBY BLAKEBROUGH**

- Pursuing village hall rate relief: halls have now been asked to make a hardship case.
- Budget: no detail provided as yet, but seems that road closure charges up by 50% and hedge/verge cutting to be reduced, amongst other cost-cutting measures.
- Road safety and speeding - budget pressures affecting this programme. It needs a systematic approach and a special working group formed. Trellech should see results before April.
- Natural Resource Wales and police working on motorbikes in woods.

17005 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 December**

The minutes for 12 December were agreed and signed as a true record, with one alteration - that the meeting was chaired by Cllr Dagger and not by Cllr Murray.

17006 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 12 December**

Item 16212 (etc): Dog waste

The next meeting of Give Dog Fouling the Red Card will be held on 26th Jan, 2.30 pm at County Hall, Usk. Cllr Weston has agreed to attend on behalf of TUCC. It was also noted that Merlin Waste has now invoiced TUCC for regularly emptying the additional ten bins.

GW

Item 16224: MCC Monmouth Cluster Group

The next meeting will be held on 26th January, 6pm at Shire Hall, Monmouth. Cllr Murray has agreed to attend on behalf of TUCC.

TM

Item 16229: Whitelye Common tree seeds

GWT had thanked TUCC for letting them collect seed at Whitelye Common. Thousands of Downy Birch seed were collected and are now residing in the Millennium Seed Bank at Kew. They have offered to carry out a new survey of Penallt Common; councillors were supportive of this.

17007 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- 01359, Trellech, Chiselhurst, Ceciliford, retention of extension to stable block. Recommend approval
- 01412, Penallt, Cae Dee Barn, Upper Ferry Rd. Retrospective for conversion of barn to dwelling. Recommend approval
- 01440, Catbrook, Chicken Shed holiday let, modification of condition to substitute original plans with plans as built. Recommend refusal. Councillors extremely unhappy about this application and the unacceptable precedent that it sets. TUCC to make representations at Planning Committee (Cllr Gooding nominated)
- 2017/00002, Trellech, Castle Comfort, retention of colonnade. Recommend approval

Clerk

17008 **FURTHER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**

- 01350, The Narth, The Lea, new garage and storage building. Recommend approval (Cllrs Murray and Stoter did not take part in the discussion, and abstained from voting)
- 01485, The Narth, The Paddocks, Maryland, proposed orangery to rear elevation. Received too late to be considered; an extension to consultation period will be requested.
- 00004, Trellech, Salema House, Babington Close, bay window extension and installation of new window. Received too late to be considered; an extension to consultation period will be requested.

Clerk

17009 **PLANNING DECISIONS**

- 01092, Llandogo, Browns Stores. Erection of stone wall and railings to separate residential from shop/commercial section of building. Wider footpath across frontage. Drop kerb and extra access to shop car parking area. Approved
- 01157, Penallt, Side a Mill Cottage, Tregagle. Variation of condition 1 to planning permission 2014/00840. Approved
- 01216, Penallt, Ash Barn, alter arrangements of holiday lets: planning permissions 2009/00170 and 2011/00161. Approved

17010 **FURTHER PLANNING DECISIONS**

- 00614, Llanishen, The Vicarage Flat, Watery Lane, alterations & extension. Approved
- 00890, Trellech, Pen-Lan Cottage, Greenway Lane, design variation to planning permission 2009/01100, renovation of former cottage and outbuildings. Approved
- 01302, Llanishen, Blue Door Cottage, replace old workshop with new garden studio. Approved
- 01344, The Narth, Oak Dene, Pool Lane, variation to 2016/00919, new position for new dwelling and car barn. Approved

17011 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Current bank balance (less uncashed cheques): £32,416.40

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

The bank statement had been scrutinised and verified by Cllr Thomas.

The following accounts were presented and payment agreed:

500495	Llanishen Village Hall (16th Nov and 12th Dec)	£30
500496	Merlin Waste, dog waste collection Oct 2016-Jan 2017	£166.11
500497	Clerk - stationery, printer cartridges, less refunded training (see minute 16266)	£31.63

Clerk

It was noted that the Co-op Bank no longer offer deposit accounts. It was further noted that the bank has still not updated the signatories to the TUCC account, a procedure that was started in April 2016. The future of the TUCC bank account should be included on the next agenda.

Clerk

17012 **TUCC's FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR VILLAGE HALLS**

This subject should be revisited when it becomes clear whether or not MCC will continue to charge business rates to village halls. In the meantime **it was resolved** to Invite halls to apply for up to £500 per annum for each hall, to cover up to 50% of bills for services necessary for operation of the hall, such as insurance and heating. Hall committees may also continue to apply for grants of up to £1000 for capital projects.

17013 **MONMOUTHSHIRE MEADOW GROUP'S FUNDING APPLICATION FOR WET MEADOWS**

MMG and Gwent Wildlife Trust hope to take on a 10 year lease of 24 acres at Wet Meadow, to manage the land and to encourage its use by local people. **It was resolved** to write a letter supporting their application to the AONB's SDF fund, for fencing and gates on the perimeter of the land, to allow for winter grazing. (Cllrs Thomas and Stoter had declared interests and abstained from debate and voting)

Clerk

17014 **MCC'S RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

It was resolved to reply to this consultation, using the draft supplied by Cllr Stoter, with the addition of Whitebrook to the list of villages.

Clerk

17015 **IMPACT OF NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS ON LOCAL PEOPLE**

It was noted that there is currently no apparent coordination between planners, building control, lighting, contractors, developers, residents, and others. Newport City Council has published guidelines for good practice, including the requirement that developers submit a compliance agreement in some circumstances.

Councillors agreed that:

- (a) MCC should define and publish guidelines;
- (b) MCC should publish on its website a clear list of who at MCC is responsible for what, to enable members of the public to contact the relevant official;
- (c) One designated person at MCC should lead each project.

It was resolved to write to Mark Hand at MCC Planning on these issues. Cllr Murray will ask to meet with Mark Hand to discuss the letter in more detail.

Clerk

17016 **BT OPENREACH**

It was noted that the BT Openreach High Level Complaints Team had refused to answer the latest query from TUCC (see minute 16288): " This case has been closed, and further correspondence regarding this will not receive a response." (19 Dec) David Davies MP's constituency caseworker had responded to correspondence from last summer, asking if the MP could still help in any way.

The clerk was asked to write again to David Davies, to Nick Ramsay AM, and to the Ministers at WAG with relevant responsibilities: Ken Skates, Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure and Lesley Griffiths, Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs. Councillors will collect stories of individuals badly affected by the poor telephone services, with a view to media publicity.

Clerk, All councillors

17017 **TUCC MEETINGS in 2017**

It was resolved that the council will meet on the following dates at the venues stated, noting that the meeting in April will be held on the fourth Monday of the month, as the third Monday will be a bank holiday. Councillors undertook to book their local village halls.

20 February	Llandogo, Millennium Hall
20 March	Penallt, Pelham Hall
24 April	Catbrook, Memorial Hall
15 May	Penallt, Pelham Hall

19 June	Whitebrook Village Hall
17 July	Llanishen, The Hall
21 August	Trellech, Babington Centre
18 Sep	Trellech, Babington Centre
16 Oct	Llandogo, Millennium Hall
20 Nov	Penallt, Pelham Hall
11 December	Llanishen Hall
15 January	Catbrook, Memorial Hall
19 February	Llandogo, Millennium Hall
19 March	Trellech, Babington Centre

All councillors

17018 ACTION DAY FOR COUNCILLORS

It was agreed that "activity days" to clean up villages should include as wide as possible a group of residents, and not just councillors. Councillors will encourage appropriate groups in their villages.

17019 CATBROOK FOOTBALL FIELD: Nothing to report

17020 BABINGTON MEADOW: Nothing to report

17021 OTHER REPORTS

- No progress yet on turning off street lights. Roger Hoggins to be invited to the next meeting.
- A hedge is now overhanging Pentwyn Green by 2 metres and the stone wall falling down. The clerk was asked to write again to the landowner, asking that this be remedied.

Clerk

17022 CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and noted:

MCC, Central Mon Area Committee, agenda, 21 Dec (cancelled); agenda, 18 Jan
MCC, R Cook, Velothon 2017, community engagement session, 17 Jan, 6 pm County Hall
MCC, A Gullick, updates to electoral register
MCC, M Hand, reminder that paper plans will no longer be sent out
MCC, R Hoggins, acknowledgement of letter on street lighting issues
MCC, K James, precept request form
MCC, D McCarty, Monmouthshire Cluster Meeting, Shire Hall, Monmouth, 6 pm, 26 Jan
MCC, S Parkinson, Give Dog Fouling the Red Card, County Hall, 2.30 pm, 26 Jan
MCC, Monmouthshire Countryside Newsletter, Dec 2016
MCC, poster about local council elections in May 2017
AONB, A Blake, policies on street lighting in AONB
Aneurin Bevan UHB, NHS engagement event, Newport, 9.30, 17 Feb
Co-op Bank, withdrawal of fixed rate deposit account
CPRW, members' bulletin, Dec 2016
Gwent Wildlife Trust, Meadow Matters issue 13, Winter 2016
Gwent Wildlife Trust, thanks for downy birch seed (Whitelye); offer to resurvey Penallt Common
Gwent Wildlife Trust, invite to Landowner Morning, Llanishen Hall, 22 Jan
Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, invite to meeting, Abergavenny, 10.30-12.30, 15 Feb
B O'Keefe, constituency caseworker for D Davies MP, re letter to BT Openreach
Older People's Commissioner for Wales, Autumn/Winter 2016 newsletter
One Voice Wales, Mon/Newport Area Committee agenda, 26 Jan
Openreach, file closed on TUCC complaint
Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent, report on meeting with town/community councils
L Stoter, Narth Community Plan
Tenovus cancer care, appeal for funds
D Warmington-Gardner, report of footpath obstruction
G Weston, copy of correspondence with Royal Mail over missing Llanishen postbox
WAG, S137 expenditure limit 2017-18

17023 ITEMS FOR THE PRESS/NEXT AGENDA: None

17024 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: Monday, 20 February 2017 at The Millennium Hall, Llandogo

The meeting closed at 21.29