

**TRELLECH UNITED COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
held at Pelham Hall, Penallt on Monday 20 March 2017 at 7pm**

Councillor	Village	Attendance
John Gooding	Catbrook	Present
Michael Mason	Catbrook	Not present
Bob Dagger (Chair)	Llandogo	Present
Ashley Thomas	Llandogo	Not 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	Present
Ed Rogers	Trellech	Present
Iain Stokes	Whitebrook	Present
County Cllr Debby Blakebrough	MCC	Present

Clerk: Ann Davison

PUBLIC MEETING: None

17052 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs Mike Mason and Ashley Thomas

17053 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Cllr Weston, item 17069, grant request from Llanishen Village Hall

Clerk

17054 **REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DEBBY BLAKEBROUGH**

- Make Trellech Safe: following the residents' petition in November 2014, work is due to start during the Easter holidays. This will include a 20 mph zone through the village, traffic pinch points, a pedestrian crossing and rumble strips.
- Following discussions at the February TUCC meeting, Cty Cllr Blakebrough has spoken further with Roger Hoggins about vehicle activated speed signs that are not working, and about street lights in new housing developments
- The elected County Council ceases to meet from 21 March until the election on 4 May

17055 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 February**

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

17056 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 20 February**

Item 16290: planning application 2016/01206, Upper Llananant Farm, Penallt

MCC's delegated panel will be visiting this site on Thursday, 23 March at 1145, and have invited a representative of TUCC to attend the meeting. Cllr Decker-Thomas will attend.

Item 17030, 17006, 16229: Penallt Common survey

The survey has now been completed. Its main recommendation is that an effort be made to control or remove the invasive weed, Himalayan Balsam. For next agenda

Clerk

Item 17030, 17016: BT Openreach

Cllr Thomas has an appointment to meet with D Davies MP to discuss this issue.

AT

17057 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- 00144, Penallt, Lime Kiln Farm, proposed demolition of existing farmhouse and replacement with new dwelling. Recommend refusal, on grounds that the relationship of the proposed outbuildings to the house creates a much more massive structure in the landscape than the existing house - they could be more modest and sensitively located, as unobtrusively as possible to the side or rear of the house. A

full landscaping plan should also be required, including driveway, gates, external lighting and parking areas. It should contain a commitment to contain vehicles etc within the property.

- 00205, The Narth, Manor Side, Pen y Fan, detached garage, change of use of paddock to accommodate 60m² garage. Recommend refusal, as the proposed building is a self-contained studio flat not just a garage.
- 00227, The Narth, Old Narth Farm, replacement garage, log store and shed. Recommend approval
- 00246, Trellech, Hennlys, Catbrook Rd, change conservatory roof to wooden shingles to create a garden room. Recommend approval
- 00286, The Narth, Moor Cottage, Pen y Fan, single storey extension between garage and existing dwelling. Recommend approval

Clerk

17058 **FURTHER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**

- 2016/01332, Trellech, Penlan Cottage, Greenway Lane, chicken run/cage. Recommend approval

Clerk

17059 **PLANNING DECISIONS**

- 2016/01358, The Narth, Manorside, Pen y Fan, extension, alteration and detached garage. Approved
- 2016/01412, Penallt, Cae Dee Barn, Upper Ferry Rd. Retrospective for conversion of barn to dwelling. Approved
- 2016/01485, The Narth, The Paddocks, Maryland, proposed orangery to rear elevation. Approved
- 2017/00002, Trellech, Castle Comfort, retention of colonnade. Approved
- 2017/00004, Trellech, Salema House, Babington Close, bay window extension and installation of new window. Approved

17060 **FURTHER PLANNING DECISIONS:**

- 00090, The Narth, Lindsey, internal reorganisation and extension to existing dwelling. Approved

17061 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Current bank balance (less uncashed cheques): £28,846.23

The comparison between the 2016/17 budget and expenditure to date was noted. It was noted that the budget for dog waste collection was insufficient, since the council had increased the number of bins from two to eleven during the year. **It was resolved** to vire the sum of £160 from the budget allocated to "local projects" to "dog waste collection".

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

The following accounts were presented and payment agreed:

500505	Home Start Monmouthshire (minute 17038)	£250
500506	Monmouthshire Women's Aid (minute 17038)	£250
500507	Catbrook Memorial Hall, hire 16 Jan	£30
500508	Clerk's expenses	£103.87
500509	Merlin Waste, dog waste collection Feb and March	£149.16

Clerk

17062 **VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGNS**

Further to the costings supplied by Roger Joy (see minute 17030), **it was resolved** to offer to MCC that the community council pay half of the cost for two vehicle activated speed signs in Llandogo. This should however be subject to satisfactory warranty terms and clarity over who would take responsibility if the sign stopped working.

Clerk

17063 **IRPW REPORT AND COUNCILLOR EXPENSES**

The 2017 annual report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales was received and noted, and in particular chapter 13 relating to community councils.

It was resolved to adopt the permissive powers contained in Determinations 44 to 51 of the 2017 Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales. These allow the council to make payments to councillors for the following items (more details being contained in the Report):

- Up to £150 per annum per councillor for incidental expenses (telephone, IT, consumables etc)
- Up to £500 to up to 3 members in recognition of specific responsibilities
- A civic allowance for the Chair and Deputy Chair
- Reimbursement of travel costs for attending approved duties at specified rates
- Reimbursement of subsistence costs for attending approved duties outside the council area
- A financial loss allowance for approved duties
- Reimbursement of costs for care of dependent children and adults
- Reimbursement of costs for personal assistance needs.

All councillors have a right to claim these expenses, and will not be required to formally record a choice to forgo that right. In such a case they will simply not put forward a claim. It was noted that details of any payments made to members will be published on the council website by September following the end of the financial year.

17064 **MAINTENANCE of BABINGTON MEADOW**

Postponed to a later agenda

Clerk

17065 **MAINTENANCE OF CATBROOK VILLAGE GREEN**

Jonathan Hoskins has offered to continue to maintain the Green at the same rate as in 2016: seven grass cuts at monthly intervals, at £38 each time. **It was resolved** to accept this offer.

Clerk

17066 **TUCC NEWSLETTER**

A draft newsletter was presented to the council and approved. Cllr Murray and the clerk were thanked for the time spent on this.

It was resolved to print 1200 copies of the newsletter. Two quotations for printing were £144 at GTS or £135 at Wye Media. **It was resolved** to accept the quote from Wye Media. **It was further resolved** to ask the printer to tri-fold the newsletters, providing the total bill was not above £200.

The clerk will distribute printed copies to councillors for distribution by hand within their wards. The electronic version will also be circulated via village email lists, and added to the TUCC website. A copy will also be delivered to the Monmouthshire Beacon.

Clerk

17067 **BLOCKED BRIDLEWAY AT PRICE'S BRIDGE, WHITELYE**

Cllr Gooding explained that a number of public footpaths near Price's Bridge were missed off the Definitive Map, and the landowner has blocked access to them. Local residents applied for a Definitive Map Modification order in 2013, with evidence of 20+ years of use; but it is understood that MCC might take more than 14 years to address the matter, due to a huge backlog of cases. NRW also has an interest in the paths being opened, and is likely to help to put pressure on MCC to act faster. It was noted that MCC has a legal obligation to ensure the Definitive Map is kept up-to-date "in a timely manner", and to keep public rights of way open.

The clerk was asked to write to Paul Matthews requesting a rapid response, and including the observation that a 14 year delay in dealing with such a request amounts to a dereliction of duty.

Clerk

17068 **ADDITIONAL DOG WASTE BIN FOR LLANDOGO**

An additional bin should be located in the centre of the village, near to the shop, the exact location to be confirmed. **It was resolved** to spend up to £100 of TUCC funds on the purchase of a bin through the MCC scheme, and to add the new bin to the emptying schedule.

Clerk

17069 **GRANT REQUEST FROM LLANISHEN VILLAGE HALL**

Following a leak, a new hot water tank had to be urgently installed in the hall at a cost of £1,146. **It was resolved** to provide £573 towards this unexpected cost.

Clerk

17070 **CATBROOK FOOTBALL FIELD:** Nothing to report

17071 **BABINGTON MEADOW:** Nothing to report

17072 **OTHER REPORTS**

- Cllr Murray reported that she had still had no response from Mark Hand about new housing developments (minutes 17030 and 17015). Cty Cllr Blakebrough will pursue this
- Babington Centre Trustees. Cllr Decker-Thomas reported that the governance issues have now been resolved and she and her husband are willing to continue as trustees. (Minute 16248)
- It was noted that a bridleway in Whitelye had recently been renovated by MCC to a very high standard, for no obvious reason
- The clerk was asked to write again to John Hall about encroachments onto Pentwyn Green (minute 17021)

DB

Clerk

17073 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was received and noted:

MCC, invitation to Monmouthshire schools music showcase, 31 March, Monmouth Leisure Centre
MCC, R Hoggins to other MCC officers, to arrange a workshop on street lighting issues
MCC, J Pearson, Notice of election
J Avery, update to details of Llandogo Church for TUCC website
Came & Co, council insurance policy documents
CPRW, members' bulletin, March 2017
Dunkelman, M, application for grant assistance for The Narth Village Hall
Gwent Wildlife Trust, A Karan, completed survey and management advice for Penallt Common
Hickling, J, application for grant assistance for Llanishen Village Hall
Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, Annual Report 2017/18
John Lewis, 2 year warranty for replacement Canon printer
Newland Parish Council, R Crighton, update on Stowe Quarry planning application
One Voice Wales Area Committee, notice of meeting, 6 April
Open Space, spring 2017
Wales Air Ambulance, appeal for funds

17074 **ITEMS FOR THE PRESS/NEXT AGENDA**

- Narth Village Hall request for funding

17075 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:** Monday, 24 April 2017 at the Memorial Hall, Catbrook

The meeting closed at 21.14