

**TRELLECH UNITED COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
held at the Babington Centre, Trellech on Monday 18 March 2019 at 7pm**

Village	Councillor	Attendance
Catbrook	Guy Bowden	Present
Catbrook	Andy Pullan	Present
Llandogo	Bob Dagger (Chair)	Present
Llandogo	Lynne Parker	Present
Llanishen	Martin Blakebrough	Present
Llanishen	George Weston	Present
The Narth	Rosemary Decker-Thomas	Present
The Narth	Larry Stoter	Present
Penallt	David May	Present
Penallt	Mary Wakeling	Present
Trellech	Christopher Edwards	Present
Trellech	Alan Poulter	Present
Whitebrook	Iain Stokes	Present
MCC	County Cllr Debby Blakebrough	Not present

Clerk: Ann Davison

PUBLIC MEETING: None

19045. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cty Cllr D Blakebrough

19046. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: none

19047. LONELINESS AND SOCIAL ISOLATION

Rachel Rawlings described an MCC initiative to uncover the extent of social isolation in the area, and to encourage projects that would help to overcome it. She said that their research had shown that the group at most risk is aged 18-34 living in rural areas. MCC is keen to collate information about schemes and activities already in existence, for example in village halls, which they could publicise more widely. Councillors responded that they believed the lack of public transport to rural communities to be a major contributing factor.

19048. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DEBBY BLAKEBROUGH: None

19049. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 FEBRUARY: agreed and signed as a true record.

Clerk

19050. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Items 18057 and 18247: Grants to Llandogo School and to the Narth Village Hall

TUCC promised £1000 earlier in the financial year to each of these recipients, and in each case work had been unavoidably delayed. The clerk had confirmed to both bodies that the money would be ring-fenced in TUCC reserves and still be considered as 2018-19 grants.

Item 19006, 18169, etc: Whitebrook dog bin

Sue Parkinson of MCC was still waiting to hear from NRW, before confirming the location for the bin.

Item 19014: Catbrook Band Funds

The treasurer of Monmouth Band had written to thank TUCC for passing these funds to them. There were still several members of Monmouth Band who previously played in the Catbrook Band, and the Band fully intended to continue with its regular performances in Catbrook.

Item 19028, 19006, 18276, etc: Lighting at Trellech School

Debra Hill-Howells and Property Services division at MCC were looking into this, with a site visit planned for 19 March.

Item 19028, 19016: Code of Conduct Training

Councillors were reminded that this training session will be held at the Babington Centre on Monday, 8 April, at 18:30. All the places are taken, with two people on the waiting list. Most of the non-TUCC participants have already sent in cheques. Councillors were asked to inform the clerk if they found they were no longer able to attend, so that those on the waiting list could be invited.

All cllrs

Item 19028, 19017: Catbrook Football Field

The clerk had written to Des Pugh at the Monmouthshire Beacon, asking that an article be published about the field, and seeking suggestions for its use. No reply had yet been received.

Item 19034: Signatories to TUCC bank account

Unity Trust Bank had confirmed the change in signatories. All current councillors may now sign cheques.

Item 19041: Closure of A466 south of Tintern

This closure would now start on 7 May, for seven weeks, for works near the Livox quarry. Work on the section near Wyndcliffe will probably be postponed to 2020.

Item 19041, 18264, etc: Traffic Calming in Llandogo

MCC had indicated that two Speed Indicator Display Signs will be installed by the end of March, or shortly thereafter. They will be fully funded by MCC.

19051. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 00280, The Narth, Thorneycroft, demolition of existing house, replacement with two detached dwellings. Application cancelled
- 00306, Whitebrook, Grist Mill, proposed vehicle access and parking area on land with public rights of way. Recommend approval

Clerk

19052. FURTHER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

- 00387, The Narth, Rosary House, first floor extension. Recommend approval
- 00363, Penallt, Little Pentwyn Farm, internal reorganisation and extension. Recommend approval
- 00184, Parkhouse, Old Park Cottage, log pod. In Tintern CC area. No comment

Clerk

19053. MCC PLANNING DECISIONS

- 2018/01149, The Narth, land adj Manor View and Manor Wood Cottage, new dwelling and change of curtilage to residential. Approved subject to S106
- 2018/01906, Penallt, Frostlands Bungalow, adjacent field, retention of track and ground levelling. Approved

19054. FURTHER MCC PLANNING DECISIONS

- 00149, Llanishen, The Oaks, extension to and remodelling of existing house. Approved

19055. CHARITY DONATION

TUCC had made donations of £500 to charities during the 2018/19 financial year (to Kaleidoscope, N Gwent Cardiac Rehabilitation Centre and R J Smith Memorial Trust). **It was resolved** to donate the remaining £100 in the budget under S137 to Wales Air Ambulance.

19056. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Current bank balance (less uncashed cheques): £48,827.82

The comparison between the 2018/19 budget and expenditure to date was noted. The apparent overspend on clerk’s salary was because MCC had invoiced in arrears for January-March 2018. Expenditure therefore covers 15 months. The bank statement and invoices had been scrutinised and verified by Cllr Pullan.

The following accounts were presented and payment agreed.

The Babington Centre had made a late application for a capital grant, against two very recent items of expenditure, with invoices submitted: £594 for electrical repairs and £895 for stump grinding following the removal of a hedge by volunteers. **It was resolved** to grant 50% of these costs (£744.50), as described in minute 18012.

300122	Zurich Municipal, insurance 2019/20	476.63
300123	One Voice Wales, councillor training on “Use of IT”	20.00
300124	Clerk, salary + allowance and expenses	499.27
300125	Catbrook Village Hall, rates and services	697.89
300126	Llandogo PCC, graveyard maintenance	500.00
300127	Babington Centre, rates + services (£690.18) + grant (£744.50)	1434.68
300128	Wales Air Ambulance	100.00

Clerk

19057. MCC SUMMER PLAY SCHEME in 2019

Councillors noted the report on the 2018 play scheme, and in particular that only a very few children from Llandogo and Trellech schools had participated – and that even those may not have lived within the TUCC area, since home addresses had not been recorded. They supported the concept of the play scheme and its emphasis on reaching disadvantaged children. However they felt that the issue of hidden rural poverty needed to be addressed more proactively, and certainly should take precedence over the provision of Welsh language activities. They felt a major cause for children from the TUCC area not participating in the scheme would be the lack of transport from the villages and were disappointed that this was not mentioned in the report. Councillors asked for more information on whether any thought had been given to this issue; and were minded to ring-fence the 2019/20 allocation for the play scheme to this use.

Clerk

19058. TRAFFIC ISSUES IN PENALLT

Cllr May reported on the results of a survey of Penallt residents. This had revealed mixed opinions, but with some opposition to introducing flashing signs or excessive street signage. The most appropriate solution to the perceived problem of speeding cars might be village entrance signs.

The absence of 30 mph zones in Penallt, Catbrook, The Narth, Whitebrook and Llanishen (other than on the B4293) was deplored by councillors. While recognising that enforcement would be minimal, it was felt that the majority of drivers would respond to 30 mph signs, greatly improving safety in the villages. The clerk was asked to write to MCC Highways, to the MP and to the AM, requesting the introduction of speed restrictions in the villages.

Clerk

19059. VILLAGE ENTRANCE SIGNS

The clerk reported that the village entrance signs to Tintern had been designed and made out of marine plywood by a local resident. While admiring the design councillors felt that a more durable material would be preferable.

A variety of designs were considered, and prices noted. Approximately 20 signs would be needed for the main routes into TUCC villages. It was recalled that MCC were sympathetic to this approach to speed reduction, and might be willing to part-fund signs. The clerk was asked to invite Roger Hoggins to a future meeting in order to clarify MCC’s role.

Clerk

19060. COUNCILLOR EMAIL ACCOUNTS

Cllr Parker reported that the training session she had attended on “the use of IT and social media” had highlighted the fact that if councillors use their personal email addresses for council business, then

their private emails are vulnerable to any Freedom of Information requests. While councillors currently have an email address linked to the council website this simply forwards messages to councillors' private emails. VisionICT will provide full email addresses, at a cost of £18 per annum per address.

It was agreed that if each councillor created a separate (free) gmail account for Tucc business then this should adequately address the issue. It was agreed that a common format should be followed: firstnamelastname.tucc@gmail.com.

19061. ALLOWANCE TO CLERK FOR HOME OFFICE USE

It was resolved that the allowance payable to the clerk should be increased from £100 to £204 (£17 per month) per annum, from 1 April 2019. A separate sum for telecoms/internet should no longer be paid.

Clerk

19062. DATES AND VENUES FOR TUCC MEETINGS

The following dates and venues for future meetings were confirmed. Councillors were reminded to book their village halls.

15 April	Catbrook, Memorial Hall
20 May	Penallt, Pelham Hall
17 June	Whitebrook Village Hall
15 July	Llanishen, The Hall
19 August	Trellech, Babington Centre
16 Sep	Trellech, Babington Centre
21 Oct	Llandogo, Millennium Hall
18 Nov	Penallt, Pelham Hall
9 December	Llanishen Hall
20 January 2020	Catbrook, Memorial Hall
17 February 2020	Llandogo, Millennium Hall
16 March 2020	Trellech, Babington Centre

All cllrs

19063. TUCC ANNUAL DINNER

Cllr May will enquire about menu and prices at the Inn at Penallt, for a Friday evening in May.

DM

19064. BABINGTON MEADOW

The AGM will be held on 26 March. Future events include an Easter Egg hunt, a family picnic in June and a car boot sale. Equipment maintenance issues raised in the annual safety report are being addressed.

19065. ANY OTHER REPORTS

- Cllr Stokes shared a picture of a suspicious car that had been seen in Whitebrook.
- Cllr Decker-Thomas had attended a recent public meeting held by the Aneurin Bevan Health Trust. This had been very informative about plans for the future, but had been poorly attended.

The clerk was asked to invite a speaker to a TUCC meeting, which could also be held as a public meeting.

Clerk

19066. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and noted:

MCC, S Baldwin, new dates for closure of A466 south of Tintern
MCC, L Bermingham, Monmouth Community Hub newsletter
MCC, Chairman's charity fashion show, 3 April, 3 pm
MCC, Chairman's invitation to afternoon tea, Glen yr Afon Hotel, 7 April
MCC, M Collins, installation of SIDS in Llandogo
MCC, D Hill-Howells, outside lighting at Trellech School
MCC, R Hoggins, outside lighting at Trellech School
MCC, M Moran, report on 2018 summer play scheme and request for 2019 funding
MCC, S Parkinson, dog fouling meeting, 14 March
MCC, S Parkinson, update on installation of Whitebrook dog bin
MCC, Matthew Phillips, clerks' council 23 May
MCC, J Skidmore, Monmouth community networking event, rescheduled to 27 March
MCC, C Touhig, Waste and Recycling Collections

CPRW, members' e-bulletin
Glasdon UK (Shelley Connor), info and costs on village boundary signs
Llandogo PTA, M Peters, delay to school outdoor stage project
D May, survey results on traffic issues in Penallt
Monmouth Band, L Loughlin, thanks for cheque
Narth VH, M Dunkelman, delay in building work for which grant approved
Newland PC, temporary closure of Oak Quarry Recycling Centre 18 March-5 April
One Voice Wales, training session on Use of IT, Websites & Social Media, 7 March, Usk
One Voice Wales, training dates for S Wales
Open Space, spring 2019
L Parker, following "Use of IT" training, query over councillor email addresses
A Pullan, request for info on Catbrook Educational Trust
J Roberts, request for funds for Babington Centre
R Stevens, request for funds for Catbrook Memorial Hall
Tintern CC clerk, village entrance signs
Unity Trust Bank, account signatories updated
Vision ICT, cost of providing full email addresses for councillors
Wales Air Ambulance, appeal for funds
Woodscape (Demi Ramsey), info and costs for village boundary signs

19067. ITEMS FOR THE PRESS/NEXT AGENDA: None

19068. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: Monday, 15 April 2019 at The Memorial Hall, Catbrook

The meeting closed at 21:12