

TRELLECH UNITED COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
held at the Memorial Hall, Catbrook on Monday 15 April 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:

1. Catbrook road safety. A local resident expressed surprise that serious accidents had not happened, although they were aware of many near misses. There are several blind corners in the village, and no speed signs or road markings. Traffic is increasing, including tractors driving at speed; walkers often occupy the middle of the road; and many cyclists pass through the village. A 30 mph speed limit might make road users more aware of the dangers, even if it were not vigorously enforced. A village entrance sign would also help.
2. Road maintenance behind schedule. Surfaces are deteriorating rapidly.
3. The Narth footpaths. Brian Mahony explained that a group of volunteers had been formed as a result of the Community-Led Plan in 2014. They have worked closely with the MCC Countryside Team, the village hall committee and NRW. Some 750 hours of volunteer time have already been logged. Volunteers have used their own gardening tools; but some better tools are needed and first aid kits.
4. 65 bus campaign. A Friends of the 65 Bus group is now established, with a champion in each village, an active Facebook group, and a website. A park and ride arrangement has been made for outlying residents. The group requested that a link to their website be included on the TUCC website. They also asked that bus shelters (TUCC-owned) be cleaned up and equipped with up-to-date timetables. Most important of all they asked councillors to use every opportunity to encourage more passengers to use the bus.

19069. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: County Cllr D Blakebrough

19070. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 19075, planning application 2019/00410 – Cllr Stokes declared an interest as he was the applicant, took no part in the discussion and did not vote.

Item 19075, planning application 2019/ 00403 – Cllr Stoter declared an interest, as the applicant was a friend. He took no part in the discussion and did not vote.

19071. HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

Roger Hoggins, head of Infrastructure, Networks and Sustainability at MCC, updated the council on a number of issues that TUCC had raised with him over recent months.

- 30 mph zones in villages on minor roads. MCC is not opposed to this, and can see merit in the idea, although recognizing that little or no enforcement of new speed limits is likely. A speed limit must be in force however for any Community Speedwatch to operate. MCC can issue traffic orders, without necessarily needing police recommendation. Any proposed new traffic orders will then be subject to consultation. MCC will add this to their project list for future consideration.
- Village entrance/gateway signs. MCC would also support this initiative if safe locations are identified by TUCC. If TUCC chooses and purchases the signs then MCC would arrange to install them.
- MCC street lighting strategy and Dark Skies Initiative. Mr Hoggins apologised that the late Cllr Murray's document on this subject had not been pursued. The subject is to be revisited, as the company responsible for controlling street lights had gone into administration and lighting technology had also moved on. He accepted that rural communities should be treated differently to urban areas. He recognised that TUCC had a particular interest in this subject, and would consult TUCC when drawing up the new policy.
- Private security lights causing a danger on public highway. These should be reported to MCC, who will write to the householder.
- High intensity external lighting at Trellech School when building unoccupied. The contractor has altered the timing of the lights. But residents reported they are still on at weekends and in holidays. MCC will investigate this further.
- Trellech housing scheme: fenced off bed of weeds, which developer had promised to tidy up. MCC will follow up with the developer and try to find resolution on this and the car park.
- Continuing problems with recycling and refuse collections in Llanishen. This had been the biggest change in any service ever provided by MCC, with new crews and new schedules, and they had been working hard to resolve teething problems. Problems at specific properties are best reported on the MCC App. The general problem in Llanishen will be raised with Nigel Leaworthy.
- Road diversions during forthcoming closure of A466. A map was provided to councillors.

19072. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DEBBY BLAKEBROUGH: None

19073. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 MARCH: agreed and signed as a true record.

Clerk

19074. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Item 19050, 19028, 19017: Catbrook Football Field

The clerk had still had no reply from Des Pugh at the Monmouthshire Beacon. She would now write a letter to the paper in the hope that it will be published.

Clerk

Item 19050, 19028 etc: Code of Conduct training

This session had been held on 8 April, attended by 12 TUCC councillors and the clerk. Payment of £25 each had been received for each of the seven councillors from other community councils who had attended.

Item 19050, 19041, 18264, etc: Traffic Calming in Llandogo

The provisional installation date for two Speed Indicator Display Signs is 2nd May.

Item 19058: Traffic issues

Both David Davies MP and Nick Ramsay AM had written in support of a campaign for 30 mph zones.

Item 19060: Councillor email accounts

Several councillors had indicated that they did not wish to open a new email account. It was noted that this was not compulsory, so long as councillors were aware of the possible implications: any email response to queries received via the @trellechunited address will reveal their private email address, and any Freedom of Information request might open their entire private email account to scrutiny. Addresses on the website should remain as @trellechunited, but be linked to new email addresses if required. The clerk will issue an updated contact list to councillors, showing their preferred email address.

Clerk

Item 19065: Speaker from Aneurin Bevan Health Board

A speaker is available to give a 20 minute presentation followed by Q&A. The preferred date would be prior to the TUCC meeting on 15 July, which will be held at Llanishen village hall.

19075. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 00403, The Narth, Four Acres, Maryland, 2 storey extension, insertion of windows and rooflights into existing west elevation. Recommend approval
- 00410, Whitebrook, New Mills Farm, modification of condition 3, planning permission 2007/00279. Recommend approval

Clerk

19076. FURTHER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

- 00502, Whitebrook, Five Springs, Cabin Rd, new garage/store/workshop at existing dwelling. Extension needed until next TUCC meeting.

Clerk

19077. MCC PLANNING DECISIONS

- 2018/01545, Catbrook, Highbeech Farm, Whitelye, residential extension. Approved subject to S106
- 00061, Trellech, Forest Cottage, Ceciliford, building to provide storage of implements and log store. Approved
- 00097, Catbrook, Brynderwen, Back Rd, demolish & replace garage. Approved
- 00195, The Narth, Dickensfield, removal of two chimneys. Approved

19078. FURTHER MCC PLANNING DECISIONS: None

19079. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Current bank balance (less uncashed cheques): £45,081.35

The comparison between the 2018/19 budget and expenditure to date was noted. The bank statement and invoices had been scrutinised and verified by Cllr Pullan.

The following accounts were presented and payment agreed.

300129	Vision ICT, web hosting and support	210.00
300130	Clerk salary	415.07

Clerk

19080. MCC SUMMER PLAY SCHEME in 2019

Mike Moran had responded to queries sent by TUCC.

It was resolved to support the scheme in 2019 with £450, as allocated in the budget. Support in future years will depend on data being supplied to prove that children from the TUCC area participate.

Clerk

19081. ROAD SAFETY ISSUES IN TUCC AREA

Following the positive reaction from Roger Hoggins earlier in the meeting, councillors agreed to collate the necessary information to put forward a coordinated proposal for 30 mph zones in the villages, and for village entrance signs. Each councillor will provide suggestions for their own ward to the clerk. The preferred design for village entrance signs will also need to be agreed.

This item will be on the next agenda.

All councillors

19082. NARTH AND DISTRICT FOOTPATH GROUP

Grant applications to TUCC normally require match funding of at least 50% from other sources. It was acknowledged that in this particular case 10,000 volunteer hours already donated to the scheme satisfied this criterion. **It was resolved** to grant £210 to the group, for the purchase of equipment.

Clerk

19083. LLANDOGO CHURCHYARD

Llandogo PCC had applied for a grant towards unexpected additional costs incurred when the churchyard wall needed repairing and several trees were felled for safety reasons. It was noted that the community council is not empowered to contribute towards the maintenance of the church fabric, and one of the invoices submitted included repairs to the church roof. **It was resolved** not to make an additional grant, as the budget already included £2000 for churchyard maintenance across the TUCC area.

Clerk

19084. WYE VALLEY RIVER FESTIVAL IN 2020

It was resolved that the council should send a letter of support for the festival, for fund-raising by the AONB. Councillors would be interested in hosting a speaker from the Festival organisers, possibly at the June meeting.

Clerk

19085. TUCC REPRESENTATIVE TO PELHAM HALL COMMITTEE

It was resolved that Cllr David May should become the official representative for TUCC on the Pelham Hall Committee. A note of thanks will be sent to Adam Burt-Jones for many years' service in the role.

Clerk

19086. BABINGTON MEADOW

Art in Penallt will be held at Humble by Nature this summer, rather than on Babington Meadow. Various fund-raising activities are planned. A schedule of repairs was supplied for issues raised in the recent safety inspection. The committee has funds available for this work.

19087. ANY OTHER REPORTS

- Annual dinner, venue still to be decided.
- Dog waste collections. MCC is convening a working group to explore alternative provision for this service. Cllr Weston volunteered to join this group.

Clerk

19088. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and noted:

- MCC, consultation on draft SPG on infill development
- MCC, consultation on revised draft SPG on affordable housing
- MCC, M Cleaver, litter bin in Llandogo
- MCC, M Moran, replies to TUCC concerns on summer play scheme
- MCC, S Parkinson, notes on dog fouling meeting, 14 March
- MCC, R Rawlings, online links on loneliness and isolation
- MCC, J Skidmore, Monmouth community networking event, feedback
- Abergavenny Town Clerk, Jane Lee, possible change to dog waste collections
- A Bevan Healthboard, March newsletter
- CPRW, members' e-bulletin
- D Davies MP, response on 30 mph zones
- J Griffin, further correspondence with NRW re Price's Bridge
- Llandogo PCC, J Rundle, application for grant for safety works at St Oudoceus Church
- N Lewis, request for funding for YFC exchange trip to USA
- B Mahony, The Narth and District Footpath Project
- D May, TUCC rep to Pelham Hall Committee
- One Voice Wales, Monmouth/Newport area meeting, 4 April, agenda
- One Voice Wales, Monmouth/Newport area, copy of presentation by A Bevan Health Board
- One Voice Wales/SLCC joint event, 15 May, Swansea
- Openreach, wayleave payment
- Open Spaces Society, newsletter, Spring 2019
- A Poulter, forwarded response from MCC on LED street lighting in conservation areas
- N Ramsay AM, response on 30 mph zones and press release
- A Robertson, new venue for Art in Penallt 2019 at Humble by Nature
- Western Power, wayleave payment
- Wye Valley AONB, S Sawyer, advance notice of Wye Valley River Festival 2020 and request for letters of support

- It was noted that TUCC is not empowered to grant financial assistance to individuals. The clerk will respond to Ms Lewis informing her of this, but forwarding details of the Babington Educational Trust.

19089. ITEMS FOR THE PRESS/NEXT AGENDA: None

19090. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: Monday, 20 May 2019 at Pelham Hall, Penallt

The meeting closed at 21:25