

**TRELLECH UNITED COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**held at The Hall, Llanishen on Monday 15 July 2019 at 6.30 pm**

<b>Village</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Catbrook	Guy Bowden	Present
Catbrook	Andy Pullan	Not present
Llandogo	Bob Dagger	Present
Llandogo	Lynne Parker	Not present
Llanishen	Martin Blakebrough (Chair)	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	Not present
Trellech	Alan Poulter	Present
Whitebrook	Iain Stokes	Present
MCC	County Cllr Debby Blakebrough	Not present

**Clerk:** Ann Davison

**PUBLIC MEETING: Gwent Clinical Futures**

Richard Morgan-Evans, of the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, gave a presentation on progress with the Clinical Futures Programme, which will bring changes to the provision of health facilities in the area. He explained that the changes were always driven by a wish to improve provision and health outcomes; but they were always subject to difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff at all levels. There was a national shortage of doctors and nurses, which inevitably had an impact on services.

The new Grange Hospital at Llanfrechfa is the UHB's flagship programme, with an investment of £350 million by the Welsh Government, and it is hoped that it will serve to attract medical staff into the area. The building is ahead of schedule and it is due to open in 2021. It will take all critical care patients for the whole of Gwent and should provide superior care due to the concentration of skills and resources. Other Gwent hospitals will continue to provide all other services, and it is hoped to add some new features, such as a cancer care centre at Nevill Hall Hospital as a satellite to the Velindre. Existing hospitals will still offer A&E for minor injuries: patients will be encouraged to contact 999 or 111 (when it is launched in the area) for advice on which A&E unit to attend if they are in any doubt. The UHB is aware that a fast and efficient transport service between The Grange and other hospitals will be essential, to move patients between sites as needed, and they are planning for this.

Mr Morgan-Evans answered numerous questions from the audience on a range of topics.

He offered to visit the area again next year, to give an update on progress. TUCC was very willing to accept this suggestion.

**FURTHER PUBLIC MEETING:** It was requested that TUCC consider again the issue of continued parking on Trellech Village Green. It was also noted that the metal village green signs, erected by TUCC some 15 years ago, needed cleaning.

**19140. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs C Edwards, L Parker, A Pullan and Cty Cllr D Blakebrough

**19141. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Poulter: planning application 00651, as he is a close neighbour. Cllr Poulter did not participate in the discussion or vote.

**19142. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DEBBY BLAKEBROUGH: None**

**19143. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 June: agreed and signed as a true record.**

Clerk

**19144. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**Item 19050, etc: Whitebrook dog bin**

The location for the bin has been agreed – just past the barrier on the old railway track, and Merlin is ready to start collecting from it. Installation has however been delayed, as MCC discovered that some bolts were missing.

**Item 19071, 19050, etc: Closure of A466 south of Tintern**

Engineering difficulties had led to further delays to the work, with a new re-opening date for the road of 2<sup>nd</sup> August. Roger Hoggins had proposed that representatives from neighbouring councils might like to visit the site to fully understand the problem. No TUCC councillor wished to attend.

**Item 19122, 19074, etc: Traffic calming in Llandogo**

The brown sign indicating the hall and school has now been replaced by MCC.

**Item 19131: Pentwyn Green**

A letter was sent to the landlord on 19 June, but no reply has yet been received. The tenant had confirmed that no work would take place outside the boundary of the private property.

**19145. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- 00651, Trellech, Coach House, resubmission of previous planning consent. Re-alignment of stairs and new chimney. Recommend approval
- 00981, Trellech, Rose Cottage, Beacon Rd, minor alterations to elevation, installation of ground source heat pump, pv panels, etc. Comment to be made that the large window on the front elevation is not in keeping with the original cottage.
- 00994, Narth, Kwetu, external staircase to 2nd floor of garage. Recommend approval
- 01064, Penallt, The Granary Annexe, Glyn Farm, single storey extension on existing annexe, to provide accommodation & storage. Recommend approval

Clerk

**19146. FURTHER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**

- 01017, Llandogo, The Chateau, change of use from garage to holiday let. No comment other than that no councillor could imagine it as a desirable holiday let.

Clerk

**19147. MCC PLANNING DECISIONS**

- 00361, Penallt, The Old Post Office, variation of conditions on planning consent 2008/00370. Approved
- 00502, Whitebrook, Five Springs, Cabin Rd, new garage/store/workshop at existing dwelling. Approved
- 00715, Catbrook, Loxley House, 2 storey extension to north gable to provide annexe for dependant relatives. Approved
- 00841, Catbrook, 5 Broadstone Terrace, rear single storey extension. Approved

**19148. FURTHER MCC PLANNING DECISIONS: None**

**19149. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Current bank balance (less uncashed cheques): £52,978.67

The comparison between the 2019/20 budget and expenditure to date was noted.

The following accounts were presented and payment agreed.

300141	Babington Meadow maintenance (budget + min 19132)	£1000
300142	Clerk, salary	£415.07
300143	Trellech & Penallt PCC, churchyard maintenance	£1000
300144	The Play Inspection Company	£156
300145	Whitebrook village hall, hire for 17 June	£25

Clerk

**19150. 30 MPH ZONES AND VILLAGE ENTRANCE SIGNS**

After reviewing the cost of signs, ranging between about £600 and £2000+ for each sign, councillors felt that purchasing some 16 signs (two for each village) would be unjustified. It was noted that neither of the Community Led Plans completed in the area (Llandogo and The Narth) had identified such signs as a priority. A significant number of people opposed any additional signs, as cluttering the countryside. **It was resolved** not to purchase any additional signs.

It was however noted that the village of Whitebrook currently has no signs at all to indicate to drivers that they are entering a settlement. The clerk was asked to write to MCC to request that the “standard” signs are erected.

It was also noted that existing signs need to be kept clear of vegetation, especially during the summer months, so that they are visible to motorists.

Clerk

**19151. REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS**

In most areas councillors were happy with the service provided by MCC. However there have been ongoing problems in Llanishen ever since the re-organisation of refuse collections. Recycling was not collected for three weeks, despite numerous individual complaints. The local councillor has tried contacting Roger Hoggins and Nigel Leaworthy, but problems still continue. **It was resolved** that the clerk should write to Nigel Leaworthy, copied to Roger Hoggins and to the County Councillor, asking that the service to Llanishen be brought up to an acceptable standard.

Clerk

**19152. PLAYGROUND SAFETY INSPECTIONS**

The annual inspection reports had been received for Babington Meadow and Broadstone Green. It was noted that no urgent repairs were required. The Babington Meadow Committee had given a full report on its repair schedule as follows:

The contractor recently mowed and strimmed the meadow as per contract and had previously dealt with coating the story telling chair. Re-spraying the white board behind the basket-ball net is in hand. The rusty chain net on the pole will be removed, as it serves no useful purpose. The overhanging tree canopy needs regular checking to keep a minimum clearance of at least 2m from the equipment.

The stone wall by the roadside has been repaired and will continue to be monitored.

The committee is aware that the gate into the meadow is not disabled friendly. However they have found a barrier is needed, to prevent dogs getting into the meadow and young children running out onto the road, and to restrict access for vehicles onto the meadow when events are taking place. The only alternative would be to do without a gate altogether. The meadow is a naturally sloping site, but there is disabled level parking on the roadside as the wall is set back by approximately 10 ft. At events there is always someone available to assist any disabled persons on site.

The pathways in the meadow are wide and clearly defined and are regularly mown. The pathway has Hexipath beneath the grass surface which assists the elderly and disabled when entering on to the site.

The longer meadow grasses are cleared when the wild flowers have died back in accordance with the ecological nature of the site. Hedges are regularly cut - however the new owners of Capel Pentwyn have asked the contractor not to cut the top of the hedge as they wish to grow their hedge on the meadow's left hand side by some 3ft.

The neighbour on the right-hand side of the meadow has pruned the trees in accordance with Monmouthshire Tree surgery advice and the hedges have been cut back. The meadow signage with contact details can be easily seen from the roadway and serves both the entrance and exit to the meadow. There is no other way into or out of the meadow, therefore a second notice board is unjustified. Laminated signs with contact information will be secured to both sides of the main gate.

With regard to the distance between the gate and post being less than 12mm and the possibility of trapping fingers, the only solution at this time would be to remove the gate, but that would give rise to other security issues. The committee will however keep this in mind when the gate needs to be replaced. They will seek advice on the closure time of the gate.

The picnic table has been bolted in an open position although the initial design of it was shown to be closed when not in use.

The BBQ was stabilized but will be checked again.

The individual decorative seat shown in the Report was gifted to the meadow to provide additional public seating for use anywhere on site and not to be static; if this is an issue it will be removed.

The boulders in the meadow are positioned to act as informal seating for young children around the story telling chair (treated with teak oil and stability checked). The maintenance contractor will remove the moss from the stones, but the natural surface of the stones is all part of its ecological attraction to young children.

The climbing frame has been scrutinized and the toggle entrapment has been sealed, the flexibility of the structure is regularly monitored.

The sliced timber benches are awaiting attention.

**It was resolved** to continue the contract with the Play Inspection Company for 2020, at the quoted rate of £130 + VAT.

**19153. SUPPORT FOR CHARITIES IN 2019/20**

It was noted that TUCC had allocated £600 in the budget for donations to charities that benefit local residents. Councillors were asked to submit proposals by email before the next meeting.

All cllrs

**19154. MCC's GROWTH AND SPATIAL OPTIONS FOR LDP 2018-2033: No comment**

**19155. BABINGTON MEADOW: No report**

**19156. ANY OTHER REPORTS: None**

**19157. CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was received and noted:

MCC, S Baldwin and R Hoggins, update on road closure, A466  
MCC, D Ford, temporary closure of Pool Lane, The Narth, 6-8 August  
MCC, S Parkinson, update on installation of Whitebrook dog bin  
MCC, S Parkinson, dog fouling meeting, 4 July, agenda  
MCC, Matthew Phillips, Clerks' Council, 26 June  
MCC Planning, Replacement LDP 2018-2033, consultation on Growth and Spatial Options Paper

Babington Meadow Committee, request for annual grant towards maintenance  
Babington Meadow Committee, detailed response to safety inspection report  
Babington Meadow Committee, grant from Welsh Churches Fund for 2 owl nesting boxes  
A Bevan UHB, Your Local Health News  
CPRW, e-bulletin  
J Griffin, copy of final comments to NRW on report re Price's Bridge  
Gwent Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs, appeal for funding  
Long Distance Walkers Association, M Clabon, 100 mile challenge walk in Monmouthshire, 23-25 May, 2020  
L Magyar, confirmation no work to be undertaken outside boundary of Bush Farm Bungalow  
Monmouth Town Council, invitation to Civic Service, 14 July  
Monmouth Town Council, Agincourt Square pinchpoint plans & exhibition, 16 and 20 July  
One Voice Wales, Monmouth Cluster meeting, 16 July, 6 pm, Shire Hall, Monmouth

One Voice Wales, Monmouth Newport Area Committee, 18 July, 7 pm, Sessions House, Usk  
L Parker, concern from residents about overgrown Promoted Path 15 alongside River Wye, FP 382/40/1  
Play Inspection Co, 2019 reports for Babington Meadow and Broadstone Green  
Tintern CC clerk, need for postcodes on defibrillators  
Trellech & Penallt PCC, G Lancaster, request for churchyard grant  
G Weston, response from MCC on why phone numbers of officers withheld

**19158. ITEMS FOR THE PRESS/NEXT AGENDA:** Parking on Village Greens, at September meeting

**19159. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:** Monday, 19 August 2019 at The Babington Centre, Trellech.

The meeting closed at 21:00