

**TRELLECH UNITED COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
held at Pelham Hall, Penallt on Monday 18 November 2019 at 7 pm**

Village	Councillor	Attendance
Catbrook	Guy Bowden	Present
Catbrook	Andy Pullan	Not present
Llandogo	Bob Dagger	Present
Llandogo	Lynne Parker	Present
Llanishen	Martin Blakebrough (Chair)	Present
Llanishen	George Weston	Present
The Narth	Rosemary Decker-Thomas	Present
The Narth	Larry Stoter	Not present
Penallt	David May	Not 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: None

2 minutes of silence were held in memory of former Llandogo community councillor, Roger Brown.

19217. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllrs C Edwards, D May, A Pullan, L Stoter

19218. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr G Bowden, applicant for planning application 2019/01832 (item 19223). Cllr Bowden left the room during discussion of this item.

19219. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DEBBY BLAKEBROUGH: None

19220. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 October: agreed and signed as a true record.

Clerk

19221. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Item 19152: Playground Safety Inspections in 2020

The Play Inspection Company had reported that their charges will increase by £2.50 per playground in 2020, bringing the total for TUCC to £135 + VAT.

Item 19211: Rights of Way Improvement Plan

Ruth Rourke at MCC had thanked the council for its response to the consultation. She had added that The Narth Footpaths Group was excellent and that her department would support the creation of more such groups and would work with the Council to prioritise works in the TUCC area.

19222. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 01687, Llandogo, Laurel Bush Cottage, modification/removal of conditions 2017/00968. Recommend approval. The clerk was however asked to contact Planning Enforcement about the extensive ground works carried out on the slope above Laurel Bush Cottage.
- 01696, Catbrook, Pleasant View Barn, change of condition on opening times. Recommend approval
- 01712, The Narth, Tircwar, single storey extension to dormer bungalow. Recommend approval

- 01758, Penallt, The Coachhouse, The Argoed, single storey side extension. Recommend approval
- 01775, Penallt, The Reynolds, Tregagle, single storey rear extension, 2 storey side extension, revert coach house to garage. Recommend approval
- 01830, Llanishen, Tregeiriog House, Llangovan, construction of garage and stables. Recommend approval

Clerk

19223. FURTHER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

- 00734, Trellech, The Old Stables, Beacon Road. Amended plans. The design for an advertising sign was acceptable, although preferably without the “boxes” on either side; contact and payment details belonged more naturally on a website. A size of 3’ x 2’ should be requested, rather than the original suggestion of 6’ x 4’.
- 01733, Trellech, Land north of Rose Cottage, Beacon Rd, replace existing outbuildings with single new build annexe accommodation. Recommend approval, subject to the condition that it remains an annexe and may not become a separate dwelling.
- 01832, Catbrook, Atlasta Cottage, wooden garden shed to house exercise pool. Recommend approval

Clerk

19224. MCC PLANNING DECISIONS

- 2018/00340, Trellech, Lion Inn, single storey side extension. Listed building consent. Approved
- 2019/00123, Penallt, Trevellyn, land used as residential garden curtilage in excess of 10 years. Approved
- 01017, Llandogo, The Chateau, change of use from garage to holiday let. Approved
- 01402, Llandogo, Bramleys annexe, change of use from ancillary accommodation to holiday let. Approved
- 01441, Llanishen, Quarry Cottage, new drive entrance gate. Approved
- 01544, Catbrook, The Parkhouse, extensions. Approved
- 01575, Whitebrook, Old Baptist Chapel, removal of large Norway spruce. Approved
- 01707, Catbrook, Loxley House, non-material amendments to 2019/00715, omission of single-storey area to east elevation. Approved

19225. FURTHER MCC PLANNING DECISIONS

- 2018/00317, Trellech, Lion Inn, single storey side extension. Approved
- 01339, Penallt, Maes y Dalar, Penygarn Road, 1st floor extension. Approved
- 01358, Penallt, Maes y Dalar, Penygarn Rd, demolition of existing garage & shed. Proposed new double garage with workshop and flat above. Approved
- 01540, Llanishen, Jubilee Bungalow, B4293, single storey extension. Approved
- 01635, Llandogo, Wye Meadow View, Bargain Lane, remove sycamore + work to oak and other trees. Approved
- 01668, Llanishen, Lower Cae Garw Farm, Far Hill, portal framed building for housing sheep. Ag notification. Acceptable
- 01836, Whitebrook, New Mills, tree works. Approved

19226. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Current bank balance (less uncashed cheques): £52,173.25.

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

The following accounts were presented and payment agreed.

300164	Llandogo PCC, graveyard maintenance	£500
300165	Llanishen Hall rates + £500 towards services	£736.70
300166	Clerk, salary (£415.07) + planning training for Cllr MW (£35)	£450.07
300167	Wales Audit Office, external audit	£208.85
300168	Cllr M Blakebrough, chair’s allowance	£500
300169	Merlin Waste	£195
300170	Cllr M Blakebrough	£150

300171	Cllr G Bowden	£150
300172	Cllr R Dagger	£150
300173	Cllr R Decker-Thomas	£150
300174	Cllr C Edwards	£150
300175	Cllr D May	£150
300176	Cllr L Parker	£150
300177	Cllr A Poulter	£150
300178	Cllr A Pullan	£150
300179	Cllr I Stokes	£150
300180	Cllr L Stoter	£150
300181	Cllr M Wakeling	£150
300182	Cllr G Weston	£150

Cheques 170-182 represented annual payments of £150 to each councillor as mandated by the Independent Review Panel for Wales. The chair's allowance (as permitted by IRPW) was approved in the 2019-20 budget, min 18270.

Clerk

19227. CHARITY DONATION

The remaining £300 in the budget for a local charity was not allocated to a recipient.

Clerk

19228. TRAINING SESSION ON PLANNING

Councillors May and Wakeling had both attended a training session provided by Planning Aid Wales. This was a three-hour session, and did not live up to their expectations. The session spent too much time on the structure of the planning system, and Local Development Plans, at the expense of detailed advice on scrutiny of applications by community councils.

19229. IRPW DRAFT REPORT FOR 2020

The provisions of the draft report were noted, in particular the continued mandated payments of £150 to each councillor as a contribution towards costs and expenses. As in previous years, any individual may decline to receive part, or all, of the payment if they so wish; this must be in writing to the clerk and is an individual matter. It was noted that all such payments are published each year as required by the IRPW. It was also noted that recipients should treat the payments as income for tax purposes.

It was resolved that these payments should be made at the next meeting after receipt of the final IRPW report.

It was resolved that a payment of £500 to the chair of the council should be made in the next financial year, as provided for in Determination 49. This should also be paid at the next meeting after receipt of the final IRPW report.

It was further resolved that should a councillor leave they would be expected to return the relevant proportion of their £150 payment. A newly appointed councillor would be paid pro rata for the remaining number of months in the financial year. The same provisions should apply to the chair's allowance.

19230. S6, BIODIVERSITY & RESILIENCE OF ECOSYSTEMS

A small working group of councillors had presented a draft report, based on the template provided by One Voice Wales. Their report was approved for publication, but the suggestion of a standing agenda item on biodiversity should be removed. The council accepted that consideration of biodiversity should be embedded in all council processes and decisions, including budget setting. The working group will meet again to monitor progress.

19231. GRANT TO MONMOUTHSHIRE MEADOWS GROUP

Monmouthshire Meadows Group had taken over the lease on Wet Meadow, adjacent to the doctors' surgery in Trellech. They planned to regenerate the site to benefit wildlife and wild flowers, and to provide interpretative signs for visitors. **It was resolved** to make a grant of £1300 to the group, from the "village halls and local projects" budget heading. This grant should be subject to the usual TUCC terms and conditions: that the donation should not represent more than 50% of total funding, and the grant will be paid on submission of copies of invoices that confirm the total amount spent.

Clerk

19232. BABINGTON MEADOW: No report

19233. ANY OTHER REPORTS

- Catbrook Football Field. (see minutes 19105, 19074, 19050, 19028, 19017) The AGM of Catbrook Village Hall had produced a proposal with strong local support to plant a community orchard on the field, incorporating a wildlife reserve. The clerk had written to MCC to find out if this would fall within the terms of the current lease, but had not yet received a reply. Other MCC officials had expressed support for the scheme, and offered advice when drawing up detailed plans. The immediate neighbours to the field had heard of the proposal and asked to be kept closely informed of its progress: Cllr Bowden was due to meet with them. The scheme could not progress further without clearance from MCC legal department.
- Road Safety Week. Residents in Llandogo had asked again about the pedestrian crossing for the A466, as approved in principle by MCC earlier in the year. The clerk was asked to enquire on progress. Clerk
- MCC's roadworks report listed three road closures on the A466 in March 2020, between Bigsweir Bridge and Tintern. The clerk was asked to invite Paul Keeble to a TUCC meeting to explain the planned roadworks. Tintern CC should also be invited to the meeting. Clerk
- Bigsweir Bridge was still in need of repair (see minute 19191). The clerk was asked to contact GCC again, requesting that works be carried out as soon as possible. Clerk

19234. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and noted:

MCC, M Cleaver, support for community orchard etc on Catbrook field
MCC, M Edwards, Archaeology in Planning Advisory Note, consultation
MCC, R Hoggins, minutes from inaugural meeting of Wye Valley villages, 17 Oct
MCC, N Leaworthy, support for community orchard etc on Catbrook field
MCC, C O'Connor, telecoms mast at Tump Farm, 2019/00728, to delegation panel 13 Nov
MCC, S Parkinson, minutes of dog waste meeting, 10 October
MCC, J Pinell, emergency contacts update
MCC, Waste & Street Services, trial of reusable recycling bags
A Bevan UHB, Your Local Health News, Nov 2019
CPRW, e-bulletin
J Griffin, update on footpaths in Whitelye area
JCP Solicitors, R Hutching, letter of engagement
Llandogo PCC, J Rundle, request for grant for churchyard maintenance
Llanishen VH, J Hickling, application for grant towards services and business rates
D May, corrections to community page on TUCC website
Monmouthshire County Citizens Advice, invitation to Annual General Meeting, 2 Dec
Monmouthshire Meadows Group, request for financial support for Wet Meadow, Trellech
One Voice Wales, bulletin
Open Space, autumn 2019
Play Inspection Company, H Pidgeon, increase in price in 2020 by £2.50 per site
A Pullan, proposal from Catbrook VH Committee for use of Catbrook Football Field
D Welch, request as neighbour to be consulted on plans for Catbrook Football Field
G Weston, change of email address for council business
Wye Valley AONB, draft management plan 2020-2025, consultation to 6 January

19235. ITEMS FOR THE PRESS/NEXT AGENDA: none

19236. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: Monday, 9 December 2019 at the Hall, Llanishen

The meeting closed at 21:05