

TRELLECH UNITED COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
held via Zoom on Monday 16 August 2021 at 7 pm

Village	Councillor	Attendance
Catbrook	Guy Bowden	Present
Catbrook	Andy Pullan	Present
Llandogo	Bob Dagger	Present
Llandogo	Lynne Parker	Present
Llanishen	Martin Blakebrough (Chair)	Present
Llanishen	George Weston	Not 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
MCC	County Cllr Richard John	Present

Clerk: Ann Davison

PUBLIC MEETING:

Rachel Carter, on behalf of One Voice Wales, introduced the Local Places for Nature programme, which has funding from the Welsh Government. The purpose of the programme is to “create nature on your doorstep: to restore and enhance nature where people live, work and access public services”. Funding is focused on areas of deprivation, urban/peri-urban areas and places/people with little or no access to nature. The emphasis is on “modest measures” - things that make an impact locally, such as wildflower or tree planting, reducing pesticides, changing mowing practices, or increasing opportunities for community food growing. There are three streams of funding, depending on the size of the project: National Lottery Heritage Fund, local authority or Keep Wales Tidy.

21140. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr G Weston

21141. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr Decker-Thomas, planning application 00916, next door neighbour. Cllr Decker-Thomas took no part in the discussion and did not vote.

21142. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 July: agreed as a true record. Chair to print and sign.

21143. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Item 21104, 21061, 21051: TUCC Defibrillators

Two quotes for £900 had now been received; but a third electrician, Richard Ellis of J W Lee, had offered to carry out the work for the cost of materials only. This cost had not yet been confirmed, but the clerk retained authority from minute 21104 to approve work within an agreed budget. It was agreed that TUCC should seek to publicise the generosity of Mr Ellis if this work goes ahead.

Clerk

Item 21132: Dog Waste Bins

Merlin Waste had issued a letter to all councils, thanking them for continuing to use their services. The annual budget-setting procedure for councils had now been taken on board, and Merlin would contact customers again in the autumn with proposals for the next financial year.

Item 21133: Future TUCC meetings on Zoom or in person

One Voice Wales had confirmed that their advice was to continue with council meetings online, until they had made further progress in their discussions with the Welsh Government over the provision of blended meetings. Richard John had also raised the matter directly with the Minister for Finance and Local Government, Rebecca Evans. Discussions are ongoing.

21144. PRIORITIES FOR BIODIVERSITY IN TUCC AREA

Following the presentation by Rachel Carter, a discussion was held over priorities within the TUCC area. Councillors were urged to tell members of the biodiversity group of any suitable projects within their wards. It was accepted that funding from the Local Places for Nature programme would probably not be awarded within the TUCC area. Rachel Carter had recommend speaking to Sali Palmer at MCC for advice on developing a biodiversity action plan.

Verges and wildflowers: MCC was spearheading new mowing practices for Wales; but it was noted that the mown grass needed to be removed in order to encourage wildflowers, and this did not seem to be happening in the Pen y Garn area. The clerk was asked to inform Sali Palmer of this.

Working with other agencies: it was noted that the Narth Footpaths Group had been working on Himalayan Balsam (the AONB was also targeting invasive species. Sites belonging to NRW might benefit from improvement (daffodil fields, woodland garden, etc).

Orchard on Catbrook football field: the next stage would be to hold a public meeting, and this had been delayed by Covid.

Trellech: the Virtuous Well meadow used to contain a variety of orchids, but was now overgrown.

The Wye Valley Villages Project might result in several new initiatives in the area.

21145. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 01100, The Narth, Bramleys, construction of porch to front elevation. Recommend approval
- 01125, Penallt, Mulberry & Clarence Houses, variation of condition on external lighting. Recommend approval

21146. FURTHER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED:

- 00765, The Narth, 2 May Cottages, 2 storey rear extension. Reconsultation. Request extension as no details available online.
- 00916, Trellech, 2 Demesne Cottages, timber-framed garden room. Recommend approval.

21147. MCC PLANNING DECISIONS

- 00415, Penallt, Clarence House, replace damaged fence with new stock fencing. Approved
- 00951, Penallt, Pentwyn Court, change roof tiles and cladding. Certificate of lawfulness granted

Clerk

Clerk

21148. FURTHER MCC PLANNING DECISIONS:

- 2020/01792, Catbrook, Laureldene, Park House, extension and alterations. Approved

21149. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Current bank balance (less uncashed cheques): £43,559.13.

The comparison between the 2020/21 budget and expenditure to date was noted.

The following accounts were presented and payment agreed. Cllrs Blakebrough and Dagger were nominated to complete online authorisations for these payments.

BACS/58	Merlin Waste	£154.92
BACS/59	Clerk, salary	£402.65
BACS/60	HMRC PAYE (July)	£23.80
BACS/61	Playworks (Katherine Watkins), salary admin	£20.00
BACS/62	SLCC membership, subscription	£112.00
BACS/63	CPRW membership subscription	£20.00
BACS/64	Councillor allowance 2020/21, M Wakeling	£150.00

It was noted that the cheque payment of £150, chq 300314 to Cllr Wakeling in 2020/21 had remained unpaid, due to difficulties in accessing the bank during the pandemic. The cheque had now expired and been refused by the bank, so the payment had been cancelled from TUCC accounts, and repaid by direct bank transfer at this meeting.

Clerk, MB, RD

21150. NEW COUNCIL BOUNDARIES

A meeting had been convened for 6 September at 7pm, to be held in person at Llanishen Hall.

The clerks and two councillors had been invited from Mitchel Troy and Tintern CCs. Cllrs Blakebrough and Dagger were nominated to attend, in addition to the clerk.

Clerk, MB, RD

21151. TRAIL BIKES

Residents in Whitebrook were concerned about damage caused to footpaths and 'byeways open to all traffic'. Stone steps and other heritage had been destroyed and the noise pollution was intolerable.

It was noted that the police initiative Operation Harley is ongoing. Incidents should be reported to police, and a crime number obtained. The clerk was asked to write to the area PCSO and ask for attendance specifically in Whitebrook. Residents should also be encouraged to fill in the current survey on policing priorities for Gwent.

The AONB and MCC have been repairing damage to unclassified roads in the Tintern area caused by trail bikes. The clerk was asked to write to MCC, asking them to extend this work to the affected roads in Whitebrook.

Clerk

21152. IRPW RECOMMENDATIONS ON REMUNERATION

The clerk was asked to respond to the consultation with two comments:

- (a) That PAYE is not appropriate for a single relatively small payment once a year. The costs to a council to implement this were quite disproportionate.
- (b) Please use "track changes" in future reports, to make it more obvious what has changed.

Clerk

21153. FOOTPATHS IN THE NARTH

MCC was now consulting on the addition of a further footpath to the Definitive Map.

It was resolved to support the application. Brian Mahony of the NARTH Footpaths Group was thanked for his detailed draft response.

Clerk

21154. PENALLT EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Two of the TUCC-appointed trustees no longer wished to continue in the role: Richard Hartley and Bryn Boycott. Two new names had been brought forward: Sian Redmond and Katherine Hagg. **It was resolved** to appoint Sian Redmond and Katherine Hagg, and to re-appoint Doreen Warmington-Gardner and Charlotte Rowell for a period of four years, to August 2025.

Clerk

21155. BABINGTON MEADOW

The grass had been cut and repairs carried out as required by the safety inspection.

21156. ANY OTHER REPORTS

- Municipal waste sites still required appointments, despite Wales now being at level zero, because each organisation had to carry out its own risk assessment. Cty Cllr John added that no increase in fly tipping had been detected. There had however been an improvement in the recycling rate; and fewer traffic queues had been experienced. MCC was aware that the online booking system needed to be improved.
- Wye Valley Villages report. Public consultation was now underway, but communication about the consultation had been very poor. The consultation period closed on 12 September, so had been mainly over the school holiday period. Even more importantly, the consultation was entirely online in an area where even councillors could not necessarily access the internet. Surprise was expressed that existing studies such as the Llandogo village plan had not been used to inform the report.

Clerk

21157. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and noted:

MCC, G Freeman, temporary road closure, A466 Llandogo, 26-28 August

MCC, G Freeman, emergency road closure, Hoop Rd to Pilstone House, 29 July-2 August

MCC, G Freeman, temporary road closure, Whitelye Road, 9-18 August

MCC, L Gillespie, Stage 2 report from Arup on Wye Valley Villages project

MCC, L Gillespie, press release and posters for public consultation on Arup report

MCC, M Mussell, consultation on additional footpath proposal in The Narth, to add to DMMO

MCC, H Owen, consultation on Public Spaces Protection Order on dog controls

MCC, R Rawlings, online meeting for Town and Community Councils on replacement LDP 2018-33, Preferred Strategy, 16 August, 6 pm

MCC, R Rourke, Paths to Wellbeing Project

A Bevan U Health Board, weekly vaccination update

CPRW, membership renewal

Friends of 65 bus route, B Mahony, on July agenda item

R Gwinnutt, quote for installing defibrillator cases

IRPW, consultation on remuneration proposals for councils

R John, letter from WG Minister on holding of blended council meetings

J W Lee Electrical Services, R Ellis, quote for installing defibrillator cases

Merlin Waste, thanks and information

Oak Tree Electrical, P Stevens, quote for installing defibrillator cases

One Voice Wales, remote training sessions in August

One Voice Wales, Shan Bowden, on blended and Zoom council meetings

One Voice Wales, Shan Bowden, link to survey on policing priorities in Gwent

One Voice Wales, news bulletin

PCSO S Mason, July police report

S Redman, nominations to Penallt Educational Foundation

SLCC, membership renewal

I Stokes, L Stoter, C Marsh, correspondence on Pen y Fan Meadow Group

21158. ITEMS FOR THE PRESS/NEXT AGENDA: none.

21159. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:

Monday, 20 September at 7pm, via Zoom. Members of the public will again be invited to contact the clerk in advance if they would like to join the meeting.

The meeting closed at 21:00