

**TRELLECH UNITED COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
held via Zoom on Monday 20 September 2021 at 7 pm

<b>Village</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Catbrook	Guy Bowden	Present
Catbrook	Andy Pullan	Present
Llandogo	Bob Dagger	Not present
Llandogo	Lynne Parker	Not present
Llanishen	Martin Blakebrough (Chair)	Present
Llanishen	George Weston	Present
The Narth	Rosemary Decker-Thomas	Not present
The Narth	Larry Stoter	Present
Penallt	David May	Not present
Penallt	Mary Wakeling	Not 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:**

Planning application 01089, for Silver Circle Distillery in Catbrook. A local resident spoke on behalf of a group of the closest neighbours to the Distillery. They first raised their concerns about activities on the site with MCC Planning some four months ago, and had many discussions with them. But they felt that enforcement action was urgently needed, as the suggested retrospective planning application was taking so long to reach a conclusion. The news that the application listed on the TUCC agenda had now been invalidated was yet another delay to the process.

Residents had not opposed the original planning consent, which was for a small distillery that only used the small barn on the site, with very limited parking for three or four cars. Over the last six months there had been an effective change of use to a tourist attraction, with a visitor centre and beer garden. The owners were actively advertising for groups of 50 to visit, with monthly events for up to 250 people. This number of visitors generated a large amount of traffic, including buses, on the narrow lanes through Catbrook. On some occasions 30-50 cars had parked on the grass verges. Expanded production at the facility had also led to deliveries by large lorries, rather than the transit vans that were originally envisaged. This also caused problems on the narrow lanes.

The large barn, classified as an agricultural building, was now being used for production without planning consent; and production could be greatly increased again within the space available in that barn.

Residents were also concerned about fire safety, as there were quantities of highly flammable ethyl alcohol on site, and no restrictions on smoking.

**21160. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs R Dagger, R Decker-Thomas, D May, L Parker, M Wakeling

**21161. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Stoter, item 21168, grant to Citizens Advice, as he volunteers with CAB.

**21162. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 August:** agreed as a true record. Chair to print and sign.

**21163. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**Item 21143 (21104, 21061, 21051): Tucc Defibrillators**

Richard Ellis of J W Lee, would fit both defibrillators for a total sum of £58.48 + VAT. The clerk had authorised him to carry out the work as soon as possible (minute 21104) and would write to the Monmouth Beacon to publicise his generosity.

Clerk

**Item 21144: Biodiversity**

Sali Palmer at MCC had offered to meet with councillors to assist in developing a plan. The biodiversity group planned to arrange this shortly. Nickie Moore of the AONB had also expressed an interest in meeting with the group.

GB, RD-T, MW

**Item 21151: Trail Bikes**

Nicki Moore had explained the current and planned work by the AONB to repair and restore the Unclassified County Roads (including those in Whitebrook). A site meeting had also been held on 17 September with County Councillor Richard John. He had agreed that, although a complex and expensive problem, action was needed.

PCSO Sara Mason had requested that Whitebrook be explicitly included in the patrols and operations of Operation Harley. She again encouraged residents to call the police when they saw or heard the bikes, as these logs helped to build up a picture of days, times and locations. Reports of vans or trailers used to carry motorbikes and parked up in the area were also useful as the police could check where they were from and make contact if necessary.

**Item 21156: Wye Valley Villages Project**

Public consultation had been extended, due to an incorrect address on return envelopes. A meeting to discuss the consultation results would be held on 14 October.

**Item 21157: Road closure in Llandogo**

The closure of the A466 near Coed Ithel had originally been scheduled for the August bank holiday weekend. Representation by a Llandogo councillor had secured a change to the date, so that businesses would not be unduly affected by the loss of holiday visitors.

However, inadequate road signage had caused chaos when the closure did take place between 6 and 8 September. The clerk would report this to MCC Highways.

Clerk

**21164. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- 01089, Catbrook, Pleasant View Barn, adj to Silver Circle Distillery, convert barn to storage and bottling unit. Retrospective to increase hard standing for car parking. This application had been invalidated by MCC Planning, as documents were incomplete. Further to comments from members of the public, the clerk was asked to write to MCC Enforcement, noting that several planning applications had now been withdrawn or invalidated, while conditions for local residents were unacceptable. Planning consent had been only for a distillery (condition 6), but the site was now being used for different purposes.
- 01132, Llanishen, Cartref, replace 2.2m leylandii hedge with 1.8m fence. Recommend approval if painted green

Clerk

- 01179, Llanishen, Penarth Mill, detached shed for machinery storage with first floor office space. Recommend approval
- 01274, Penallt, Noddfa, Lydart, single storey side extension and detached garages. Recommend approval
- 01324, Whitebrook, Whitebrook Farm, listed building consent, alterations to doors, windows, etc. Recommend approval
- 01342, Catbrook, Gethley Barn, Llan y Nant Farm, conversion of barn to dwelling. Recommend approval

**21165. FURTHER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED:**

- 01501, Penallt, Jackstone Farm, new agricultural entrance onto the highway. Recommend approval
- 01526, Llanishen, Well Cottage, replacement porch and single storey side extension. Received too late for consideration; extension to consultation period requested
- 01162, The Narth, Chapel View, Maryland, extension and alterations. Amended application. Received too late for consideration; extension to consultation period requested
- 01399, Trellech, The Firs, revised location for steel agricultural shed ref 2019/01503. Received too late for consideration; extension to consultation period requested

Clerk

**21166. MCC PLANNING DECISIONS**

- 2020/01513, Penallt, Land to south of Becky's Bungalow, Green Pastures, single dwelling and private driveway. Approved
- 2021/00442, Penallt, Mulberry House, replace existing fence with stock fencing. Approved
- 00501, Penallt, Mulberry House, 1.2m featherboard fencing to rear of house. Approved
- 00665, Penallt, Ty Cefn, Tregagle, mobile shepherds hut. Approved
- 00913, Catbrook, Grove Cottage, new stables and outdoor manege. Approved
- 01016, Llanishen, The Oaks, vary cond 2 of 2019/00149, alterations to window positions & sizes. Approved
- 01100, The Narth, Bramleys, construction of porch to front elevation. Approved
- 01225, Llandogo, Mill Cottage, Llandogo, 30% crown reduction of copper beech in back garden. Approved
- 01340, Trellech, Orchard Cottage, Cleddon, felling of ash tree with dieback. Approved

**21167. FURTHER MCC PLANNING DECISIONS:**

- 00606, Penallt, Llananant Farm, non material amendments to 2019/00725, finishes to flue and doors. Approved
- 01435, Llandogo, Copper Beech, removal of four diseased ash trees. Approved
- 01488, Penallt, Land adj Stone Barn House, Green Pastures, construction works in connection with approved application 2015/00606. Approved

**21168. ANNUAL GRANT TO MONMOUTHSHIRE CITIZENS ADVICE**

**It was resolved** to make a grant of £3,500 as provided for in the budget.

**21169. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Current bank balance: £51,158.76.

The comparison between the 2021/22 budget and expenditure to date was noted.

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

BACS/65	Merlin Waste	£154.92
BACS/66	Clerk, salary + expenses (£126.62)	£529.27
BACS/67	HMRC PAYE (July)	£23.80
BACS/68	Playworks (Katherine Watkins), salary admin	£20.00
BACS/69	Llanishen PCC churchyard grant	£500.00
BACS/70	Monmouthshire County Citizens Advice	£3500.00
BACS/71	Llandogo Village Hall, services	£500.00

Clerk, AP, LS

**21170. PEN Y FAN GREEN**

Residents living close to the Green wished to manage it in order to encourage wild flowers. All those with grazing rights had agreed to this plan. They estimated the cost of an annual grass cut, with removal of cuttings, would be at least £300, and wished to apply for TUCC funding to cover this expense.

In principle councillors agreed to this plan, but needed two written quotations for the work before approving a grant, as specified in minute 21029. The grant would also need to be applied for each year, as was the case for other annual grants such as those towards maintaining churchyards.

Clerk

**21171. DOG WASTE COLLECTION**

MCC was proposing that it issue a joint contract for dog waste collection on behalf of all interested town and community councils, which would go out for tender and be administered by MCC.

In principle councillors agreed with this proposal, but would not be in a position to sign a five-year contract before re-organisation of local councils.

Clerk

**21172. INSURANCE OF VOLUNTEER GROUPS**

The AONB had asked if TUCC insurance could provide public liability cover for volunteer groups working on two of their projects: (a) Wye Invasive Species Project (WISP), targeting Himalayan Balsam, by uprooting the plants at the appropriate time of year, and (b) a footpaths group for Llandogo, following the pattern established in the Narth.

In both cases TUCC insurance would include such volunteers, providing the groups completed risk assessments and informed the clerk of their planned activities. The use of power tools would be excluded.

However, it was pointed out that Llandogo will no longer be in TUCC next summer.

Clerk

**21173. NEW COUNCIL BOUNDARIES**

A meeting had been held on 6 September attended by three TUCC councillors and the clerk, two Tintern councillors and their clerk, the chair of Mitchel Troy CC and their clerk and the chair of St Arvans CC. County Councillors Richard John and Ann Webb were also in attendance.

It was reported that the meeting had been very useful. It was hoped that MCC and One Voice Wales would hold a meeting soon for all community councils, to explore the governance issues involved in the re-organisation.

Richard John reported that he had since discussed with the Chief Executive, the role of MCC as facilitator. The local government department at the Welsh Assembly would take a lead on the

issue, and Reg Fitzpatrick was putting advice together, but as yet there was no timescale for this advice being issued.

**21174. BABINGTON MEADOW:** No report

**21175. ANY OTHER REPORTS**

- Catbrook Education Trust had met. It had received 25 applications for grants, from young people aged between 3 and 25. Just under £4,700 had been allocated.

**21176. CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was received and noted:

MCC, G Freeman, temporary road closure A466 near Llandogo, 8-10 Sep  
MCC, L Gillespie, extension of consultation deadline for Wye Valley Villages project  
MCC, E Johnes, former house names near Pen y Fan Green  
MCC, S Palmer, developing a biodiversity plan  
MCC, S Parkinson, possible MCC led contract for dog bin emptying  
MCC, R Rawlings, Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, 2 June 2022  
MCC, R Rourke, obstructed footpath to Harold's Stones, Trellech logged

AONB, N Moore, damage to byeways etc and insuring volunteers to remove Himalyan Balsam  
CPRW, members e-bulletin July/August  
Friends of 65 Bus, appreciation of Wye Valley Villages support for bus services  
IRPW, annual return requested (and supplied)  
IRPW, acknowledgement of consultation response  
A Law, funding for local charities available from Monmouth Building Society  
B Mahony, North Footpath Group work locations  
C Marsh, application for grant to maintain Pen y Fan Village Green  
Monmouthshire County Citizens Advice, Y James, poster and appeal for funds  
One Voice Wales, remote training sessions in September  
L Parker, roadworks chaos in Llandogo  
PCSO S Mason, August police report  
PCSO S Mason, update on Operation Harley  
Public Services Ombudsman for Wales, updated guidance on 2016 Code of Conduct  
B Thompson, correspondence about Pen y Fan Village Green, ownership and grazing rights

**21177. ITEMS FOR THE PRESS/NEXT AGENDA:** none.

**21178. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:**

Monday, 18 October 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 20:50