

TRELLECH UNITED COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
held via Zoom on Monday 15 November 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	Present
The Narth	Rosemary Decker-Thomas	Present
The Narth	Larry Stoter	Not present
Penallt	David May	Present
Penallt	Mary Wakeling	Present
Trellech	Christopher Edwards	Present
Trellech	Alan Poulter	Present
Whitebrook	Iain Stokes	Not present
MCC	County Cllr Debby Blakebrough	Not present
MCC	County Cllr Richard John	Present

Clerk: Ann Davison

PUBLIC MEETING: none

21195. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr L Stoter

21196. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: none

21197. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 October: agreed as a true record. Chair to print and sign.

21198. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Item 21182, 21164: Planning Application 01089, Silver Circle Distillery

Guy Delamere at Planning Enforcement had said that discussions were still underway to produce a planning application that met objections. If this proved impossible then enforcement would come at a later stage. Cllrs Bowden and Pullan had written to MCC expressing the dismay of Catbrook residents that no action had yet been taken against the breach of planning conditions. Cty Cllr Richard John apologised that he had not yet responded to the residents who had written to him on the issue, as he had been on holiday and was still catching up on correspondence. Councillors expressed their frustration at the long time that had elapsed since the matter had been reported to Planning Enforcement, and the fact that no “stop work” order had been issued in the meantime. The clerk was asked to request that Guy Delamere attend a future TUCC meeting, to explain the general remit and approach of the Enforcement Officers to infringements of planning conditions.

Clerk

Item 21182, 21173: New Council Boundaries

The Monmouthshire (Community) Order 2021 had now been issued by the Welsh Government. MCC, in conjunction with One Voice Wales and SLCC, would host an online briefing meeting at 7pm on 24 November. Councils had been invited to send queries to One Voice Wales ahead of the online forum. Queries were noted over the April/May start date for the new arrangements. Budgets were due to run from 1 April, as well as other items such as the proposed dog waste contract, but the new councils would not formally exist until 23:59 of the night before the

election in mid-May. Consultation on planning applications for properties in wards that were due to switch council could also fall between the cracks.

The clerk was asked to invite the current councillor for Trellech Grange, which will be incorporated into TUCC from May 2022, to attend future TUCC meetings if he so wished.

Clerk

Item 21182, 21171, etc: Dog Waste Collection

Merlin Environmental Services had notified that its price would increase to £6.50 per bin from April 2022. The company was also now registered for VAT, so an additional 20% would be added from December 2021. VAT could however be reclaimed by the council.

MCC had circulated a draft contract for dog waste collection. It was noted that the proposed start date for the contract was April 2022, the start of the new financial year, but before the new councils would be in place. It also did not contain a clause obliging the partners (community and town councils) to reimburse MCC for its payments to the contractor.

Item 21191: Trellech School External Lighting

An engineer had now reset the sensors. Should the problem recur then the head teacher should be contacted, or Cath Saunders at MCC.

21199. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 2019/00184, Catbrook, Old Park Cottage, Parkhouse, log pod with composting toilet, hedgerow moved. Recommend refusal. Although application for 'private use', the 2021 resubmission also mentions tourism. It does not comply with policy T2 on visitor accommodation outside settlements. Nor does it comply with policy LC1 on new built development in the open countryside. "Moving" a mature hedge would not be an easy task and it would be unlikely to survive.
- 2020/00358, Penallt, Argoed Cottage, Tregagle, variation of condition 2 relating to 2018/00528. No application form appeared to have been submitted, so there was no information on what variation was under consideration. Furthermore the original condition 2 to the 2018 planning approval needed to be clarified, as it seemed incomplete.
- 2021/01097, Whitebrook, Fern Bank, listed building consent, extension & alterations to cottage etc. Re-consultation. No comment
- 01711, Catbrook, Hazeldene, Ceciliford, single storey extension. New double garage. Recommend approval, but drainage of rainwater to the public highway needed attention
- 01712, Catbrook, St John's Cottage, single storey extension + added roof lights. Recommend approval

Clerk

21200. FURTHER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

- 01026, Penallt, Whitehouse Farm Barn, demolish redundant former milking shed, construct detached 3-bay garage/car port. Recommend approval
- 01653, Llwyn y Celyn, Parkhouse, variation to approved 2021/00252, 2 storey extension, new entrance steps, etc. Recommend approval

Clerk

21201. MCC PLANNING DECISIONS: None

21202. FURTHER MCC PLANNING DECISIONS

- 01125, Penallt, Mulberry & Clarence Houses, variation of condition on external lighting. Approved

21203. REMOVAL OF REDUNDANT DEFIBRILLATOR CASES

The price quoted to install the two new defibrillator cases in Llandogo and Trellech (min 21163) had not included the removal of the faulty old cases. **It was resolved** that an additional sum of £50 should be paid for this task.

21204. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Current bank balance: £45,288.70.

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

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

BACS/76	Merlin Environmental Services Ltd	£154.92
BACS/77	Clerk, salary	£402.65
BACS/78	HMRC PAYE (November)	£23.80
BACS/79	Playworks (Katherine Watkins), salary admin	£20.00
BACS/80	MCC, grounds maintenance	£367.31

Clerk, RD-T, AP

21205. BUDGET SETTING PROCEDURE FOR 2022-23

The Finance Group would normally bring a draft budget to the December Tucc meeting for consideration by the council. This year the budget would need to separate out all items relating to the Llandogo ward, which was due to merge with Tintern in May 2022, and to take into account any expenditure required for the Trellech Grange ward which was due to be incorporated into Tucc in May 2022. The Finance Group should meet before 29 November, when the Llandogo councillors were due to attend a meeting of Tintern CC, so that they could take with them proposed budget figures.

Clerk

21206. BRIDLEWAY THROUGH WHITELYE COMMON

The MCC Rights of Way Enforcement Officer had approached Tucc concerning a blocked bridleway on Whitelye Common and a proposal to divert the bridleway across the common to enable it to be reopened. **It was resolved** to support the suggested solution.

Clerk

21207. BABINGTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

Tucc is responsible for nominating four of the trustees, and their current terms of office were due to expire in November and December 2021. Both Christopher Edwards and Peter Garwood were prepared to serve for a further four years; the clerk had also been informed that Carole Swayne was willing to serve. **It was resolved** to appoint Christopher Edwards, Peter Garwood and Carole Swayne as trustees until November 2025.

It was noted that one vacancy remained to be filled.

Councillors requested an annual report from the charity, whether verbal or written.

Clerk

21208. CATBROOK EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Cllr Pullan reported that the Trust had been revived over the previous year, with a full complement of trustees and active engagement with the community. 24 grants had been awarded in the summer of 2021, to a total value of £4,901.

21209. TUCC MEETINGS VIA ZOOM

The council was reminded that there is now a legal requirement to offer online access, even if meeting face-to-face. The provision of suitable equipment for this purpose should be discussed when setting the budget for 2022-23.

It was resolved to continue with Zoom meetings for at least three months, to be reviewed again in February. (Cllrs Parker and May dissented from this decision.)

Clerk

21210. DATES OF TUCC MEETINGS IN 2022

The dates of the meetings were confirmed as the third Monday of each month, except for December (second Monday). In April the third Monday fell on the Easter bank holiday. Given the complications caused by re-organisation of the councils, **it was resolved** not to hold a Tucc meeting in April 2022.

Clerk

21211. BABINGTON MEADOW: No report

21212. ANY OTHER REPORTS

- Council dinner. It was proposed to hold a dinner at the end of March 2022.
- Dispensers for dog waste bags needed replacing. **It was resolved** that Cllr Weston should purchase ten at £2 each from Ikea.

GW

21213. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and noted:

MCC, G Delamere, re possible enforcement at Silver Circle Distillery
MCC, G Freeman, temporary road closure, Glyn Rd, Penallt, 9 Nov
MCC, L Gillespie, Wye Valley Villages, consultation results
MCC, R John, re Community Boundary Orders
MCC, J Keech, Western Power felling trees near Llanishen Hall
MCC, M Phillips, Boundary changes, planned briefing meeting, link to Monmouthshire (Communities) Order 2021, draft checklist on actions
MCC, J Pinnell, emergency contacts directory update
MCC, S Pritchard, proposed new bridleway through Whitelye Common
MCC, C Saunders, external lighting at Trellech School
ABB Health Board, weekly vaccination update
CPRW, members e-bulletin October
Gwent Police, We Don't Buy Crime
D Lucas, Wye Valley Forest & Wildlife Protection Group, correspondence with MCC over deer on roads
Merlin Waste, increase in price from April 2022 plus VAT to be charged
One Voice Wales, remote training sessions in Nov/Dec
PCSO, C Watkins, October police report
J Roberts, resignation as trustee of Babington Educational Trust
N Roberts, resignation as trustee of Babington Educational Trust
Tintern CC, L Greatorex-Davies, on budget setting for new councils
Wales Air Ambulance, appeal for funds
Welsh Government, COP Cymru 2021, Stakeholder Toolkit
Welsh Government, defibrillator fund

21214. ITEMS FOR THE PRESS/NEXT AGENDA: Charity donations

21215. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:

Monday, 13 December 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 21:06