

TRELLECH UNITED COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
held via Zoom on Monday 17 January 2022 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	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	Present
MCC	County Cllr Richard John	Present

Clerk: Ann Davison

PUBLIC MEETING:

Carol Skolomowski: representing Llandogo WI

Oli Henman: planning application. Mother moved back in 2020, and encountered difficulties with access for essential services.

22001. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: none

22002. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllrs A Poulter, planning application 2021/01905 and L Stoter, planning application 2022/00034 (in both cases councillors were immediate neighbours to applicants). Cllr C Edwards, item 22013, Wye Valley Action Plan.

22003. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 December: agreed as a true record. Chair to print and sign.

22004. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Item 21219: Planning Enforcement

Guy Delamere would attend the February TUCC meeting to speak about the enforcement process.

Clerk

Item 21219, 21203: Removal of redundant defibrillator cases

The Monmouthshire Beacon would include an item on the relocation of defibrillators in Llandogo and in Trellech in its next edition, including an acknowledgement of Richard Lee's generosity.

It was noted that the defibrillator in Trellech had been put to use in December at an incident attended by the police and subsequently gone missing. The PCSO, Christopher Watkins, had located and returned it and it was once again in its case on the Babington Centre wall, with new pads supplied by the Wales Ambulance Service.

Item 21231: Grant application for Llandogo Millennium Hall

The hall committee had now found an engineer who believed it feasible to repair the existing boiler, which would mean the grant would probably not be needed.

22005. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 01905, Trellech, Jasmine Cottage, single storey extension to rear of property. Already approved, despite planning officer promising to wait until after TUCC meeting. The clerk was asked to write to the planning officer, expressing disappointment at this lapse.
- 02034, Whitebrook, Clearwater House, demolition of conservatory and construction of single storey annexe. Recommend approval
- 02035, Whitebrook, Listed building consent. Clearwater House, demolition of conservatory and construction of single storey annexe. Recommend approval
- 02037, The Narth, Roseham Cottage, Pen y Fan, change of use of agricultural land to provide access track to Roseham Cottage, Lane End Cottage and Wyewood. No recommendation, but TUCC had the following concerns: comments should be requested from the AONB on the visual impact, from Highways on the safety of the proposed entrance close to a junction, plus a further environmental survey should be carried out in the spring, eg by Gwent Wildlife Trust, to assess any impact on flora and fauna.

Clerk

Clerk

22006. FURTHER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

- 2021, 01005, Whitebrook, Fern Bank, extension and alterations to cottage, refurbishment of adjacent cider mill. Reconsultation. Recommend approval
- 2021, 02076, Trellech, Hillside Grange, Warrens Rd, detached double garage. Recommend approval
- 2022, 00034, The Narth, 5 Badgers Dene, single storey rear extension. Recommend approval
- 2022, 00048, Catbrook, Pleasant View Barn, retention of mixed use for distillery, bar, tourist use, etc. Recommend refusal. TUCC was originally supportive of this business; but the small scale of the original proposal was its main attraction. The business has now outgrown the site, and is completely inappropriate for its location: it brings too many cars, too many large delivery vehicles, too many people and too much disturbance to local residents. Highway access is completely inadequate for the business.

Clerk

22007. MCC PLANNING DECISIONS

- 00765, The Narth, 2 May Cottages, 2 storey rear extension. Approved
- 01099, The Narth, The Cabin, rear 1st floor extension and alterations. Approved
- 01132, Llanishen, Cartref, replace 2.2m leylandii hedge with 1.8m fence. Approved
- 01399, Trellech, The Firs, revised location for steel agricultural shed, ref 2019/01503. Approved
- 01501, Penallt, Jackstone Farm, new agricultural access onto the highway. Approved
- 01653, Catbrook, Llwyn y Celyn, Parkhouse, variation to approved 2021/00252, 2 storey extension, new entrance steps, etc. Approved
- 01712, Catbrook, St John's Cottage, single storey extension + added roof lights. Approved
- 01873, The Narth, West Winds, installation of white cladding to all exterior walls. Approved

- 01925, The Narth, Longwood, single storey extension to rear of property. Cert of lawful development
- 02009, Llandogo, The Firs, hard standing and siting for caravan for incidental use. Permitted development. Councillors were very concerned that this application had not been consulted upon, and were very doubtful that it constituted permitted development, given its prominent position within a conservation area. The clerk was asked to escalate the query that had already been sent to the Planning Department.

Clerk

22008. FURTHER MCC PLANNING DECISIONS

- 00937, Trellech, High View, Cicelyford, demolish existing garage, construct single storey extension. Detached garden office. Approved
- 01026, Penallt, Whitehouse Farm Barn, demolish redundant former milking shed, construct detached 3-bay garage/car port. Approved
- 01526, Llanishen, Well Cottage, replacement porch and single storey side extension. Approved

22009. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Current bank balance: £50,868.61

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/90	Merlin Waste (£154.92 + £30.98 VAT)	£185.90
BACS/91	Clerk, salary	£402.65
BACS/92	HMRC PAYE (January)	£23.80
BACS/93	Playworks (Katherine Watkins), salary admin	£20
BACS/94	Clerk, Apple AirMac (£740.83 ex VAT) + Anker USB-C hub (£28.32 ex VAT)	£928.99
BACS/95	Owain Rees, mowing Pen y Fan Green (minute 21233)	£150
BACS/96	Marie Curie (min 21235)	£500
BACS/97	N Gwent Cardiac Rehabilitation (min 21235)	£500
BACS/98	Wales Air Ambulance (min 21235)	£500
BACS/99	The Narth village hall, grant towards services	£500
BACS/100	MCC, grant for play activities 2021	£450

Clerk, LS, AP

22010. CLERK'S SALARY and EXTRA HOURS

A full review of the appropriate salary for the clerk had been postponed, to allow time for a full evaluation of the role. Any new salary would not apply before the 2022-23 financial year.

It was resolved that the council should remunerate the clerk at the current hourly rate for the estimated extra eight hours a month worked from December 2021 to May 2022, due to council re-organisation.

Clerk

22011. GRANT APPLICATION FROM LLANDOGO WI FOR DEFIBRILLATOR CASE

Following the TUCC decision in December not to fund a locked defibrillator case, Llandogo WI had forwarded a new application to the council for an unlocked case, together with letters from residents requesting that a defibrillator be located near the village hall, where numerous activities were held and which was also adjacent to a residential area that included housing for elderly people.

It was resolved to approve a grant of up to £500 for an unlocked cabinet, assuming the WI application for a defibrillator is successful.

22012. WYE VALLEY ACTION PLAN

At an online meeting with Arup, all the community councils had stressed that the initial driver for the plan was, and remained, improving road safety rather than any larger ambition. Arup's final document would go out for consultation in a few weeks time.

Community council representatives had also held a separate meeting with Roger Hoggins of MCC. He had not understood that TUCC and St Arvans had already set aside funds for the project, and he would discuss with the Highways Department if work on installing village gateways could be brought forward.

MCC is keen to implement Welsh Government plans for 20 mph zones in all residential areas, including villages, within the next three years.

22013. TUCC FUNDING FOR WYE VALLEY ACTION PLAN

The sum of £10,000 already allocated in TUCC reserves towards the plan (minutes 21087 and 21068) should remain, with the intention that it be spent as soon as possible on village gateways. Should this not occur before council re-organisation then a portion of the sum should be transferred to the new Wye Valley Community Council, earmarked for measures in Llandogo.

It was resolved that a further £5,000 should be earmarked in reserves for road safety measures.

Clerk

22014. MCC GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT AND 2022 PLAY SCHEME

It was resolved to accept MCC's quote of £ 313.74 for grounds maintenance in 2022-23.

The report on the 2021 play scheme had also been received, and **it was resolved** to make a grant of £450 towards the scheme in 2022-23.

Clerk

22015. BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2022-23

The draft budget was approved, with an additional £5,000 in earmarked reserves for road safety (see minute 22013), and with the precept increased by the same amount. It was noted that the forecast reserves by March 2023 of £18,266 fell within the levels recommended by Welsh Audit, between 3 and 12 months worth of the annual precept. A copy of the budget is attached to these minutes.

It was resolved that the precept for 2022-23 should be £30,000.

Clerk

22016. THE NARTH FOOTPATH GROUP

Reports were received on the group's maintenance work to footpaths over the past year, together with a report on their work to control Himalayan Balsam.

22017. BABINGTON MEADOW

Alastair Robertson had reported that ash dieback disease had been noticed on some trees on the Meadow, and had initially requested a grant towards felling of the trees. Advice from the MCC Trees Officer had however been that automatic felling of affected trees was no longer recommended. Judicious pruning to make the tree safe might be adequate. Mr Robertson was seeking further advice from a tree surgeon.

22018. ANY OTHER REPORTS: none**22019. CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was received and noted:

MCC, S Baldwin, need to build retaining wall on R76, Redhouse to Trellech road

MCC, J Davies, precept to be paid in one lump sum or three instalments

MCC, H Etherington, explanation of granting certificate of lawful development

MCC, G Freeman, temporary road closure, R76, Redhouse to Trellech road, 10 Jan-21 March

MCC, L Gillespie, Wye Valley Villages, Draft Action Plan, and online meeting 12 Jan
MCC, A Gullick, electoral register 2022
MCC, J Keech, comment on ash dieback disease
MCC, M Lloyd, free carbon literacy training for town and community councils
MCC, M Moran, report on playscheme in 2021 and plans for 2022
MCC, S Parkinson, dog waste collection, contract documentation
MCC, J Pearson, briefing for clerks on elections in May 2022

ABB Health Board, weekly vaccination update
RM Dagger, advance notice that Trellech Church seeking grant for installation of wifi
M Dunkelmann, Narth VH, application for grant towards services costs
A Hoidge Hughes, National Allotment Development Team, expressions of interest invited
N Juckes, grant for replacement boiler for Llandogo VH may not be needed
R McKeand, on locked/unlocked defibrillator cabinets
Narth Footpath Group, B Mahony, annual report on footpaths and Himalayan Balsam control
One Voice Wales, training opportunities Jan-March
One Voice Wales, Monmouthshire/Newport Committee, agenda etc 13 Jan
PCSO, C Watkins, December police report
PCSO, C Watkins, return of Trellech defibrillator
A Robertson, ash dieback disease at Babington Meadow
R Swayne, contact details for C Swayne
Welsh Government, T Donegani, General Power of Competence, Qualification of Clerks Regs, 2021
Welsh Government, The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021: Draft Statutory Guidance for Community and Town Councils

- It was noted that MCC will provide online briefing sessions for potential candidates at the forthcoming elections, on 19 and 27 January.
- Dog waste collection contract. MCC had requested details of existing bins, including photographs, before the end of January. The clerk had passed details to the Tintern clerk of the bins in Llandogo. Details of the other TUCC bins would be forwarded to MCC.

Clerk

22020. ITEMS FOR THE PRESS/NEXT AGENDA: none

22021. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:

Monday, 21 February 2022 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 21:27