

**TRELLECH UNITED COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
held via Zoom on Monday 20 July 2020 at 7 pm**

Village	Councillor	Attendance
Catbrook	Guy Bowden	Present
Catbrook	Andy Pullan	Present
Llandogo	Bob Dagger	Not 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	Not present
Trellech	Christopher Edwards	Present
Trellech	Alan Poulter	Present
Whitebrook	Iain Stokes	Present
MCC	County Cllr Debby Blakebrough	Not present

Clerk: Ann Davison

PUBLIC MEETING: A member of the public spoke about planning application 2020/00629, Robin Hill, Catbrook. She expressed her concern that construction vehicles might try to access the site by the small lane through Botany Bay. This is a single track lane with few passing places and blind bends, edged by ancient drystone walls that are vulnerable to damage. There is also a low tree canopy, numerous concealed entrances to small roads and houses, and no footpaths. The road surface is already unstable, with repaired potholes already broken up again. She asked that any planning consent include a condition that all construction traffic should use the only alternative road, from Trellech through Broadstone.

20113. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Wakeling (due to difficulty in joining the Zoom meeting by phone), Cllrs Dagger and Stoter

20114. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr Edwards, items 20126, grant to Trellech school and 20127 appointment of school governor, as he is a governor of the school

20115. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 June: agreed as a true record. To be posted to chair for signature.

Clerk

20116. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Item 19247: MCC Summer Play Activities

TUCC provided in its budget for a £450 grant to the summer play scheme (minute 19247). Due to Covid 19 restrictions the scheme will run in a different way this summer. Free playpacks have been produced, with ideas for activities to do at home. There will also be four hubs providing daytime activities, focusing on the most vulnerable children, as well as provision for disabled children.

Item 20104: Trellech Village Green

The clerk had been asked to write to the residents fronting Trellech Village Green, to inform them of TUCC's June decision to take no further action at this time. Councillors agreed that this should be done, quoting the published minutes.

Clerk

20117. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 00157, The Narth, The Plain, Pen y Fan, convert double garage into annexe and holiday let. Recommend approval but raising the issue of parking provision. There is no possibility of parking

on the road close to the property, and the plans show space for a maximum of three cars to serve both the existing house and the holiday annex.

- 00629, Catbrook, Robin Hill, 2 new dwellings with garages and associated access. Recommend refusal. Proposed houses are of inappropriate size and both dwarf and overlook the neighbouring property. Their style is not in keeping with the village, especially as properties of that size have larger plots. More affordable housing is needed in the village. Should MCC be minded to grant planning permission then access arrangements should not restrict use of the roadside as parking for the village hall. All construction traffic should be required to use the Trellech road.
- 00749, Llanishen, Old Hall House, 6 x 8m annexe in garden. Recommend approval
- 00779, Llanishen, Twyn Gorse, addition of balcony and porch to current development. Recommend approval
- 00811, Llanishen, Quarry Cottage, erect equine stable block. Recommend approval

Clerk

20118. FURTHER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

- 00878, Penallt, Old Vicarage, demolish garage and replace with new garage and store. Recommend approval

Clerk

20119. MCC PLANNING DECISIONS

- 00208 and 00209, Trellech, Middleton House, adaptation of existing outbuilding to leisure amenity use. Planning and listed building consent. Approved
- 00442, Llanishen, Tregeiriog Farm, siting of caravan as a chattel and its use ancillary to agriculture is lawful
- 00457, Whitebrook, land for emergency services telecom mast, Maypole Road, discharge of conditions 3 (CEMPS), 4 (Tree Protection Plan), 5 (Colour of the Mast) , 6 (A Scheme of Landscaping) , 7 (Landscaping Compliance) relating to application DM/2019/00728
- 00697, Penallt, Maes y Dalar, discharge of condition 5 relating to application DM/2019/01358 (proposed site works)

20120. FURTHER MCC PLANNING DECISIONS: None

20121. PLANNING CONSULTATION AND DELEGATED POWERS

It was noted that the power delegated to the clerk in minute 20066 applied during a period when no council meetings were being held due to Covid 19. Since regular monthly meetings had resumed via Zoom, the clerk no longer had delegated power.

It was also noted that if formal recommendations are made at a council meeting then no voting should occur before that meeting, for example by email, since this would constitute predetermination.

Councillors will continue to circulate their reports on applications that they have reviewed, but no discussion will take place until the following TUCC meeting.

20122. MONMOUTHSHIRE CITIZENS ADVICE

It was resolved to make a grant of £3500 to Monmouthshire Citizens Advice, as provided for in the budget.

20123. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Current bank balance (less uncashed cheques): £58,926.13.

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

The following accounts were presented and payment agreed.

300218	M Camp, maintenance of Broadstone Green 2019	£500
300219	Clerk's salary + mobile phone top-up (£10)	£425.07
300220	Catbrook VH hire Jan & April 2019	£40
300221	N Morris, church bell simulator (min 20057)	£325

300222	Play Inspection Company	£162
300223	Merlin Waste	£202.80
300224	Playworks, salary admin May-July	£60
300225	JCP Solicitors	£720
300226	Babington Meadow Committee	£1000
300227	Monmouthshire Citizens Advice	£3500

- Min 20057 awarded to St Nicholas Church bell ringers 50% of the cost of equipment up to £500. Mr Morris is currently operating the simulator from his personal computer, but might still need to purchase a dedicated pc for the purpose, as explained to TUCC in March.
- JCP Solicitors had reduced their original fee for legal advice by £193.50 + VAT, as their office had been requesting payment before advice had been given.
- It was noted that the budget for maintenance of Babington Meadow had been increased to £1000 (see minute 19247). This sum had therefore been provided to the Committee, rather than the old grant amount of £850 which had been requested.

Clerk

20124. TUCC RESERVES

Since 21 May 2020 the Instant Access Savings account held with Unity Trust Bank had no longer earned any interest. **It was resolved** to close that account, and to transfer £25,000 to Monmouthshire BS instant access savings account which current offers 0.5% (variable). The new account should operate with any two signatories out of the current Finance Group authorised to issue instructions. The clerk was asked to start the procedure to achieve this.

Clerk

20125. GRANT TO TRELLECH VILLAGE HALL

It was resolved to approve a grant of £1500 to Trellech Village Hall towards the repair and painting of its windows, in accordance with the policy stated in minute 19247. The grant to be released on provision of a copy of the invoice.

Clerk

20126. GRANT TO TRELLECH SCHOOL

It was resolved that a grant of £1000 be approved for Trellech School, towards the provision of extra Chrome Books needed in response to the Corona virus restrictions on children sharing equipment. The grant to be released on provision of a copy of the invoice.

Clerk

20127. GOVERNOR FOR TRELLECH SCHOOL

It was resolved to appoint John Gooding to a further four years as TUCC representative on the Governing Body of Trellech School. He was thanked for his continuing service in this role. In addition **it was resolved** that an annual meeting should be requested between the TUCC Chair, the head teacher and the chair of governors. This should apply to both Trellech and Llandogo Schools.

Clerk

20128. TUCC WEBSITE

Postponed to the next agenda, in the hope that the Minutes page can be redesigned. Cllr May agreed to provide editing support to the clerk.

20129. SAFETY INSPECTION REPORTS FOR BABINGTON MEADOW AND BROADSTONE GREEN

The inspection reports noted only minor repairs that were needed in each playground.

- Babington Meadow: see Minute 20130
- Broadstone Green: Cllr Pullen has reviewed the work needed with Mike Camp, who maintains the Green. Minimal costs will be incurred for paint and parts.

20130. BABINGTON MEADOW

The Committee had sent a copy of the 2019/20 accounts to the clerk. As noted at the previous TUCC meeting all the planned fund-raising events had been cancelled due to Covid 19. The Treasurer noted that they had struggled to find members for the Committee, particularly any younger representatives.

The items raised in the safety inspection have been reviewed and checked. A new sign with contact details has been provided as the previous one was found in the bin, and a Covid 19 sign added. The bench identified as not being secure was in fact very secure with steel ground anchors.

The clerk had asked for advice from SLCC on whether the planned purchase of a zip-wire might pass through TUCC accounts, given that TUCC is the sole trustee of Babington Meadow, with all items purchased appearing on the TUCC assets list and TUCC insurance covering the Meadow and its contents. It was noted that the constitution of the Babington Meadow Committee requires at least one TUCC councillor to be present for any decisions to be taken; and that in the eventuality of the committee being disbanded any balance in its accounts passes automatically to TUCC, to be spent on the Meadow. SLCC advice had been ambiguous, but with a recommendation that the Committee only have the power to recommend expenditure to TUCC. Councillors felt that the purchase should be made by TUCC, and VAT be reclaimed. It was noted however that the final purchase price has not yet been firmly agreed.

Clerk

20131. ANY OTHER REPORTS: None

20132. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and noted:

- MCC, M Hand, details of changes to high streets post-Covid 19
- MCC, M Moran, plans for summer play scheme
- MCC, M Mussell, consultation on adding footpaths in the Narth to Definitive Map
- MCC, S Parkinson, dog fouling meeting 7 July
- MCC, Planning Policy, update on Replacement Local Development Plan
- S & S Butcher, speeding concerns on Back Road, Catbrook
- K Christofi, request for funding for additional Chromebooks for Trellech School
- Citizens Advice Monmouthshire, service available and report on 2019 in TUCC area
- Governor Support Unit, notice that term of TUCC-appointed governor to Trellech School expired
- JCP Solicitors, letter of apology and reduction of fee
- Local Democracy & Boundary Commission for Wales, correction to date for consultation
- Local Democracy & Boundary Commission for Wales, confirmation that electoral review to proceed
- Local Democracy & Boundary Commission for Wales, consultation on electoral arrangements for Monmouthshire, 7 July to 28 September
- N Morris, St Nicholas bellringers, receipt for simulator software
- One Voice Wales, report on meeting with MCC on boundaries review, and decision to ask the Minister to revisit the review process
- One Voice Wales, draft guidance on re-opening playgrounds from 20 July
- One Voice Wales, Local Places for Nature grants, application deadline 31 July
- One Voice Wales, News Bulletin
- Play Inspection Company, reports for Broadstone Green and Babington Meadow
- A Robertson, Lottery Foundation grant awarded for zip wire at Babington Meadow
- R Robertson, report on Babington Meadow and annual return for 2019
- SARA (Severn Area Rescue Association) appeal for funds
- Crispin Taylor, SLCC, advice on VAT query
- Welsh Government, consultation on the future for Wales post Covid 19

20133. ITEMS FOR THE PRESS/NEXT AGENDA

Donations to charity

20134. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:

Monday, 17 August 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