

TRELLECH UNITED COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
held via Zoom on Monday 15 February 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	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

Clerk: Ann Davison

PUBLIC MEETING: B Mahony spoke in support of agenda item 21030, on behalf of the Narth Footpaths Group. He explained that the group had expanded its work from maintaining footpaths into general conservation work, and NRW had asked them to work on the heathlands project on Beacon Hill. The group had no income or funds, with volunteers using their own tools and some loaned from Chepstow Ramblers, who now wanted them back. The new conservation work required heavier duty tools. The Wye Valley AONB had suggested they apply for a SDF grant to purchase tools. This would need some match-funding, and also that TUCC made the application on its behalf.

21018. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Stokes was unwell.

21019. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: none

21020. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 January: agreed as a true record. Chair to print, sign and retain.

Clerk

21021. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Item 21012: Power lines for undergrounding

Nick Critchley at Wye Valley AONB had thanked TUCC for its detailed submission. The line at Llanishen had already been on his list, and now with TUCC support would be submitted to Western Power for immediate consideration. He would look closely at the other suggestions. If Western Power agrees that a proposal is feasible from an engineering perspective then the proposal is considered by the South Wales steering group for its landscape benefits and against the available budget. Schemes then progress to more detailed investigation, landowner negotiation and delivery. The process from start to finish generally lasts a couple of years, but can take longer.

Item 21014: Flooding caused by blocked gulleys

Mark Watkins at MCC had responded to the TUCC report: "We are in the process of inspecting any areas of flooding that occurred on this date, and our asset/drainage team are looking into any areas of concern. It has been found that some have become blocked due to debris however most were due to the extraordinary volume of water that occurred on this date. If you have any particular areas/culverts of concern please forward us that information." Information had been forwarded to him relating to Broadstone, Llandogo, Trellech and Penallt.

Item 20179, 20158, etc: Website

The clerk reported that support from Vision ICT was now much reduced, and that the new website was considerably more difficult to edit than the previous version. A request for assistance in adding a year to

the Finance page had elicited a suggested £30 charge. The clerk thanked Cllr May for his help with solving the problem, although he confirmed that editing the site was not easy.

Item 20100: Cheque to Llanishen Village Hall

In June 2020 a £45 cheque for hall hire was re-issued (300215) as the original cheque from August 2019 (300150) had been lost. Both cheques had recently been paid in, meaning that TUCC is now in credit to Llanishen Village Hall for £45. The clerk has written to the treasurer of Llanishen Hall to record this.

Clerk

Item ongoing: A466 road closures

The A466 between Bigsweir Bridge and Redbrook will be officially closed between 1 March and 9 April, overlapping by one week with the closure south of Tintern, scheduled for 6th April to 2nd May. Steve Baldwin of MCC Highways had explained that the Gloucestershire CC works had been delayed from 2020, but they were expecting to have completed works by the end of March. The date of 9 April is to provide a contingency in case of unexpected delays. It is therefore very unlikely that the A466 from Llandogo will be closed in both directions at once.

The road between Bigsweir and Whitebrook will be closed in March, coinciding with the GCC works on the A466. Mr Baldwin regretted this; but the work needed to be carried out this year in order to benefit from Welsh Government flood repair funding.

21022. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 2020/01555, Catbrook, Badgers Drift, Parkhouse, 2 storey extension. Recommend approval, provided the Public Rights of Way issue is resolved.
- 2020/01666, Penallt, Old House Farm, Lydart, ground mounted PV array. Recommend approval
- 2021/00037, The Narth, Stray Leaves, detached 2-storey house in garden. Recommend refusal: the proposed house is too large for the site and at least 30% greater than any nearby property, all access lanes are narrow and access would probably require the felling of mature trees, drainage issues already experienced by neighbouring properties would be exacerbated.
- 2021/00076, Llanishen, Twyn Gorse, single storey rear annexe to connect garage to house. Recommend approval

Clerk

21023. FURTHER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED: None

21024. MCC PLANNING DECISIONS

- 2019/01928, Penallt, Land North Of Croes Faen Bungalow, The calculation for reaching the financial contributions for affordable housing changed in the Affordable Housing SPG July 2019. Financial contribution re-assessed using this new calculation. (DM/2018/01894)
- 2020/00541, Whitebrook, New Mills, single storey extension. Approved
- 01372, Whitebrook, Clearwater House, demolition of conservatory and construction of single storey annexe. Planning and listed building consent. Approved
- 01042, Llanishen, Keepers Lodge Farm, 60 sq m area to be used for training of materials handling equipment. Approved
- 01745, Trellech, The Firs, alter front facade to 2 storey, incorporating 1st floor bedroom. Approved

21025. FURTHER MCC PLANNING DECISIONS

- 01649, Penallt, Mill House, Hoop Rd, replace existing timber outbuilding with garage, resubmission of 2013/00344. Approved

21026. INSURANCE

A long-term agreement with Zurich applied for the next year, at a fixed cost of £489.79. Adding the zipwire at Babington Meadow incurred an extra premium of £24.92. **It was resolved** to add the zipwire to the insurance schedule.

21027. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Current bank balance (less uncashed cheques): £54,559.81.

The comparison between the 2020/21 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/14	Merlin Waste	£109.85
BACS/15	Clerk, salary	£426.45
BACS/16	Playworks, salary admin	£20.00
BACS/17	M Camp, maintenance of Broadstone Green	£500.00
BACS/18	Zurich Insurance	£514.71
BACS/19	Catbrook Village Hall, grant towards services	£500.00

Clerk, AP, LS

21028. COUNCIL RESERVES AND INTEREST RATES

It was noted that there had been no material change, with interest rates remaining so low that opening a new account would cost more in staff time than any potential benefit in interest accrued. **It was resolved** to continue with the existing account with Unity Trust bank.

21029. FUNDING FOR VILLAGE HALLS IN 2021/22

It was resolved to adopt the following policy:

1. Tucc will continue to cover all business rates that are chargeable to the village halls in its area.
2. The existing scheme offering £500 to each village hall towards the cost of services (fuel, water, insurance, etc) will also continue.
 - 2.1. Copies of invoices are required, and £500 must not represent more than 50% of total costs.
3. The sum available to each project will be increased to £2,500, and this may now represent up to 75% of the total cost.
 - 3.1. As previously, each project must be approved by Tucc in advance, with several quotes for work being submitted to Tucc as evidence that value for money has been sought.
 - 3.2. Grants for two years may be combined for particularly large projects, at Tucc's discretion.
 - 3.3. Payment of the grant will be on completion of the work, when copies of the final invoices must be submitted to Tucc.
 - 3.4. "Projects" do not need to be solely for building work. They may include any scheme that is for the benefit of the community and may be on behalf of local groups.
 - 3.5. Projects that encourage biodiversity and reduction of carbon footprint will be viewed especially favourably.
4. Recognised local volunteer groups that are working for community benefit may be considered to receive up to 100% grants of up to £2,500. Other conditions that apply to village halls also apply to volunteer groups.
 - 4.1. In extreme circumstances (such as those caused by the lockdowns in 2020) the village halls might also be considered for 100% grants.
5. If the project is not completed within the same financial year in which it is approved the grant will still be deemed to have applied in the year in which it was approved.

This policy will be circulated to Village Hall treasurers and added to the website.

Clerk

21030. SDF FUND APPLICATION FOR THE NARTH FOOTPATHS GROUP

It was resolved that Tucc would give £100 match funding to the Group towards the purchase of tools, and that the SDF application should be made through Tucc.

21031. BIODIVERSITY

The biodiversity group reported that it had met online, and concluded that while proactive projects were difficult to initiate during lockdown the Tucc website could be used for raising awareness of the issues and Tucc's support for activities. This was supported in principle. The group would provide a draft text to the next meeting.

Clerk

21032. ONE VOICE WALES MONMOUTHSHIRE/NEWPORT COMMITTEE

Cllr Stoter had resigned his position as representative to this Committee. **It was resolved** that Cllr Parker be appointed to take his place.

21033. HM LAND REGISTRY SURVEY

It was resolved that the land holdings on the list circulated to councillors be included in the survey. This constituted all of the registered village greens and commons within the TUCC area, plus the TUCC-owned car park in Trellech, Broadstone Green, Babington Meadow and Catbrook football field.

21034. BABINGTON MEADOW: None**21035. ANY OTHER REPORTS**

- It was noted that the dam on a former mill pond in Whitebrook was in danger of failing. NRW was not responsible, but it had been reported to MCC, with engineer due to visit urgently.
- There had been a number of recent attempted dog thefts in the area. Advice from local police was to carry a whistle, and in a situation where there was anyone acting suspiciously to photograph/video the offender and their vehicle and ring 999 at the time, providing it seemed safe to do so. Spraying Safewater on an offender might also be useful, if they were apprehended.
- Wye Valley Villages Project: Arup had provided their stage 1 report/presentation. Their aim was to make the whole area more tourist friendly, with signage and road safety measures. Stage 2 of the project will involve detailed community consultation and clarification of both short and long term aims.

21036. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and noted:

MCC, S Baldwin, response on timing of GCC and MCC closures of A466
 MCC, J Davies, precept to be paid in three instalments as in previous years
 MCC, G Freeman, emergency road closure, Pool Lane, The Narth, 21-23 Jan
 MCC, G Freeman, temporary road closure Bigsweir to Whitebrook, 22-29 March
 MCC, G Freeman, emergency road closure, Llanishen Road, 11-13 Feb
 MCC, A Gullick, electoral register 2020
 MCC Planning Policy, Sustainable Settlement Appraisal, request for updated information
 MCC, L Rawlings, war memorial grants scheme
 MCC, P Thomas, phosphates and planning in rivers Wye and Usk catchments
 MCC, request for further information on blocked gulleys and culverts
 A Bevan U Health Board, weekly vaccination update
 M Camp, invoice for grass cutting at Broadstone Green and safety reports for 2020
 Catbrook Village Hall, R Stevens, application for £500 services support grant
 CPRW, e-bulletin January
 R Fretwell, HM Land Registry, response to query about inclusion of commons and greens in survey
 Gloucestershire County Council Highways, closure of A466 Redbrook to St Arvans, 1 Mar-9 April
 IRPW, Review of remuneration framework for Town and Community Councils
 B Mahony, application for grant from TUCC and wish to apply for SDF funding
 S Mason, PCSO, January police report
 One Voice Wales, HM Land Registry, survey of community and town councils in Wales
 One Voice Wales, W Patience, online training offered
 One Voice Wales, Social Farms and Gardens Wales, newsletter
 One Voice Wales, Monmouth/Newport Area, minutes 21 Jan
 One Voice Wales, news bulletin
 Planning Aid Wales, forthcoming online training offered
 A Robertson, press release on zipwire in Babington Meadow
 L Stoter, report on OVW area meeting and AGM, 21 Jan
 L Stoter & correspondence with NRW, failing dam in Whitebrook
 Welsh Government, Connecting with Your Community, digital media guide
 Welsh Government, deadlines for preparation of 2020-21 accounts
 Welsh Ombudsman, draft Guidance on the Code of Conduct
 Wye Valley AONB, N Critchley, undergrounding of power lines
 Zurich Insurance, renewal due (long-term agreement in place), plus addition of zipwire to policy

21037. ITEMS FOR THE PRESS/NEXT AGENDA: none

21038. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:

Monday, 15 March 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 20:35

DRAFT