

TRELLECH UNITED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

held at

Pelham Hall, Penallt on Monday 20 April 2009 at 7pm

Councillor	Village	Attendance
John Gooding	Catbrook	Present
Jane Washer	Catbrook	Not present
Bob Dagger (Chairman)	Llandogo	Present
Ashley Thomas	Llandogo	Present
Ron Hempstead	Llanishen	Present
George Weston	Llanishen	Present
David Lambert	The Narth	Present
Susan Watson	The Narth	Present
John Baldwin	Penallt	Present
Sarah Soanes	Penallt	Present
Alan Poulter	Trellech	Present
Clive Nancarrow	Trellech	Present
Doreen Warmington-Gardner	Whitebrook	Present
County Cllr Jeff Mitchell	MCC	Not present

Clerk: Ann Davison

668 **OVERLOOKING THE WYE PROJECT**

Sue Middleton, of the Overlooking the Wye Project, gave a progress update, and described the parts of the project that lie within the Tucc boundaries. These include a riverside walk in Llandogo, a path by the Bread and Cheese Stones to Cleddon shoots, and the Jubilee zigzag walk down from Cleddon. Work in each of these areas will be carried out this summer. The Forestry Commission has already carried out improvements in the Whitestone area and on Duchess Drive.

669 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

County Councillor Mitchell and Councillor Washer sent their apologies.

670 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None.

671 **REPORT BY PC ANDY MASON**

PC Andy Mason had sent his apologies

672 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes for 16 March were signed as a true record.

673 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

PACT meeting

Paul Keeble had emailed that the red "slow/araF" signs on the road surface in Llanishen would be reinstated. Councillors from Llanishen confirmed that they were now in place.

Item 648: Street lighting

Councillor Poulter had met with Roger Joy to look at possible repositioning of lighting columns on the main road, but is still waiting to hear the outcome of the meeting. Councillor Gooding thought that other villages would also like to turn out streetlights.

The monitoring trial in Trellech is due to be reviewed in the autumn, and it was thought best to wait until this point to raise the matter of lighting in other villages. It was also suggested that popular pressure groups, such as the one that formed in Trellech, are helpful to MCC, as they show that requests to reduce lighting are generally popular, and not just the whim of an individual. Street lighting should be on the agenda in October, preceded by a public meeting to review the situation in Trellech.

Clerk

Item 648: Refuse collection, Bargain Lane, Llandogo

Councillor Thomas has received a bundle of letters to distribute to residents, as agreed at the last meeting.

Item 650 (625, 600, etc): Signs for Penallt Coffin Stone and Pentwyn Green

All now installed.

Item 650 (625, etc): Blackbrook flooding

Nothing has yet been done to improve matters. The clerk was asked to write a sharp letter to the Environment Agency, expressing surprise that they did not attend the meeting in November, and asking that action be taken. A letter should also go to the Chief Executive of MCC, copied to the emergency planning department and to the highways department, expressing surprise that nothing has yet been done, and asking what they plan to do about it. Both letters should be copied to David Davies MP, Nick Ramsay AM, Jenny Lewis at the One Stop Shop, County Councillor Jeff Mitchell and to Andrew Blake at the AONB.

Clerk

Item 650 (644): Advertising on BT phone box in Llandogo

MCC enforcement officer, Alison Pankhurst, has now heard from BT so has a contact to discuss the issue with. In her view any advertisement needs planning consent, whether or not it is a conservation area.

Item 657: Bin shelter at the Narth

This is now installed

Item 659: Land at the Triangle near Highlands, New Mills

The consultation notice for the land to be registered as a village green has now been issued. Any comments are to be sent by 15 May.

674 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- 00024, Barn in field 3200, Pen y Fan Green, vehicular access and hardstanding. Recommended for approval subject to the building being used for agricultural purposes and the dry stone wall onto the Wye Valley Walk being retained
- 2008/00370, The Old Post Office, Penallt, amended plans for new bungalow Recommended for approval

675 **FURTHER PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

None received

676 **PLANNING DECISIONS**

The following decisions had been received:

- 2008/00141, Manor Brook Cottage, extension & garage/annex block. Approved
- 00046, Rock Rd barn, Devauden, conversion to residential (revised). Refused
- 00074, Greenways, Penallt, renovations & extension. Approved
- 00105, 2 Crossfaen, Penallt, single storey garage. Approved.
- 00108, The Hollies, Pentwyn Park, Penallt, extension & alterations. Approved

677 **FURTHER PLANNING DECISIONS**

- 00065, Trellech Primary School, advertisement consent, erection of 6m flagpole and flag. Approved
- 00109, Riverdale, Llandogo, change of use of ancillary bedroom above garage for tourist accommodation. Approved
- 00146, Ty Nant, Penallt, extension & alterations. Approved
- 00225, 1-2 Church View, Llandogo, removal of condition 6. Approved

678 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

The following accounts were presented and agreed:

Cheque no: 500083	A Davison, salary and backpay	£305.42
500084	Llanishen Village Hall	£30
500085	R W Smith (Narth bin shelter)	£400

It was noted that a decision will need to be taken at the next meeting on re-investing £10,000 due to mature in June.

Clerk

The clerk will convene a meeting of the finance advisory group before the next council meeting if end of year accounts are ready in time.

Clerk

679 **NOTICE BOARDS**

Councillor Gooding had obtained a quotation from Siren. The cost of lettering seemed high and it was suggested that an alternative would be to obtain signs from Express Signs in Bristol that could be attached to the notice boards. Boards are needed at Broadstone village green, by the postbox in The Narth, and at the top end of Whitebrook. Councillor Gooding will obtain a quote for three boards with legs, each large enough to take 4x2 A4 sheets, with space for a triangular sign at the top. It was agreed that a pitched roof design would be preferable to a simple rectangle, as rain and snow would soak in to the structure less.

JG

680 **INSURANCE COVER**

Councillors were disturbed that they were being asked by the Babington Meadow Management Group to add items to the Tucc insurance policy, when they had not been consulted in advance of the purchases. The clerk was asked to write to Alastair Robertson pointing this out, and saying that Tucc will consider adding three items to the property damage section of the insurance policy – the table with bench seats, the basketball pole and net and the timber sculpture, but subject to an acceptable quotation from the insurance company. Future items will not be added unless Tucc has been consulted in advance of purchase.

Clerk

It was also noted that judging by the schedule of property supplied by Mr Robertson the climbing frame at Babington Meadow is currently under-insured. The same may apply to the play equipment at Broadstone. The clerk will investigate this and get an updated quote if necessary.

Clerk

Councillors Baldwin and Soanes will review the file of documents on Babington Meadow to clarify the division of responsibilities between Tucc and the Babington Meadow Management Committee.

JB, SS

681 **LLANDOGO MEMORIAL GREEN**

The stone steps leading from the Green towards Llandogo church are in disrepair. The current vicar does not know who owns the Green or is responsible for its care.

Councillors believed that Gerald Hopkinson, of Bigsweir House, donated the land for a war memorial after the Second World War, with the rector and churchwardens nominated as trustees. The clerk was asked to check this with Mr Hopkinson, to clarify ownership.

Clerk

It was noted that the budget contains a sum of £330 for upkeep of the churchyard at Llandogo. The sums set aside for this in recent years had not been claimed by the church. **It was resolved** that a sum not exceeding £250 be set aside for repairs, and to tidy up the stonework. Councillor Dagger will obtain a quote for the necessary work.

BD

682 **CONSORTIUM OF WYE VALLEY COUNCILS**

It was resolved that Tucc should accept the formal invitation to join the Consortium of Wye Valley Councils.

The two nominated contacts will be Councillors Dagger and Thomas. The Constitution and Terms of Reference for the consortium were formally approved.

Clerk

683 **THE FUTURE OF COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCILS IN WALES**

No comments

684 **POLICY ON UNACCEPTABLE ACTIONS BY INDIVIDUALS**

Councillors agreed in principle that this policy should be adopted, with some minor modifications to the template provided by One Voice Wales. It will be presented again at the meeting in May.

Clerk

685 **COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

This item was also postponed to the next agenda. A draft policy was distributed.

Clerk

686 **CATBROOK FOOTBALL FIELD**

Catbrook Educational Trust has funded a new gate and fencing. The grass will be cut shortly, and notices are being made to identify the field and to ask dog owners to keep the area clean.

687 **OTHER REPORTS**

(a) **Llanishen Village Green:** An old cherry tree is in danger of falling down and is dropping bits on cars and people. Councillor Weston advised its removal on safety grounds, and had obtained a quote from Monmouth Tree Services, a MCC-approved contractor, of £100 to fell it and remove the wood. **It was resolved** to accept this quote and to authorise the work.

GW

(b) **Consortium of Wye Valley Councils:** It was reported that at its last meeting a geologist had given a very interesting talk on the cause of landslips along the A466. The risk is much greater on the Welsh than the English side due to the slope of the rock strata. But deep tap roots from trees could destabilise the rocks on the English side, causing sudden rock falls without prior warning. The road banks are inspected monthly. Reports from the public of any incidents, even small rocks landing on the road, are welcomed. They should be directed to the One Stop Shop.

(c) **Trellech telephone box.** Councillor Poulter reported that the telephone had been removed from the BT box in Trellech, although the structure itself is a listed building, and had therefore been left *in situ*. He asked whether Tucc had been informed of this in advance, as he did not remember it being on the list. He also stressed the need for a payphone, as there is no mobile coverage in Trellech.

Clerk

688 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was received and noted:

MCC, Cabinet agenda etc, 1 April 2009

MCC, Form 45 Notice, application to register triangle at New Mills as village green

MCC, Notice re Trelleck Bog Common, amendment of register

MCC, G Kinsella, extension to 18th May of temp road closure, Lydart bends

MCC, Notice of alterations to register of electors

A Robertson, Babington Meadow insurance cover
Local Health Board, Gwent NHS Reform Briefing number 1 (March 2009)
Western Power, Wayleave payment for Catbrook (£10.71)
Local Councils Update, Sample copy and invitation to subscribe (£65 p.a.)
OVW, Monmouthshire/Newport Area Committee agenda, 16 April
Hmrc, VAT repayment £276.42
Mazars, Notice of audit of accounts 2008-2009
AONB, Picturesque (Spring), Wye So Special, In Touch
Mon Health Alliance, Well-being Activity Grant Scheme 2009-10, applications by 24/4/09
St David's Foundation, Event Calendar 2009/10
Local Govt Boundary Commission, A Line in the Sand (newsletter)
GAVO, Gwent Best Kept Village Competition 2009. Entry forms etc.
Rural Forum, Agenda etc, 16th April
Wye Valley Consortium, Agenda etc, 16th April, Redbrook Hall
OVW, Offa's Dyke Country Regeneration Strategy Web Questionnaire
Open Spaces Society, Appeal for funds
OVW, Final salary award 2008/2009 and other news items

689 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Several councillors noted that a considerable amount of litter is left behind after the regular recycling collection, both paper and plastic being mentioned. The clerk was asked to write and complain.

Clerk

690 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday, 18 May 2009 at 7 pm at the Babington Centre, Trellech. This will be preceded by the next PACT meeting at 6.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.19

Clerk:

Chairman:

Date: