

TRELLECH UNITED COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held at
Babington Centre, Trellech on Monday 18 May 2009 at 7pm

Councillor	Village	Attendance
John Gooding	Catbrook	Present
Jane Washer	Catbrook	Present
Bob Dagger (Chairman)	Llandogo	Present
Ashley Thomas	Llandogo	Present
Ron Hempstead	Llanishen	Not present
George Weston	Llanishen	Present
David Lambert	The Narth	Present
Susan Watson	The Narth	Not 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

PACT Meeting

PC Simon Holder, the new Neighbourhood Police Officer, was introduced to the council. PC Mason explained that the procedure for PACT meetings is under review, especially as it operates in rural areas such as TUCC. It might be more appropriate to hold smaller meetings within each of the villages; focusing on one rather than three priorities might also be more productive. He will keep the council informed on developments.

He reported on progress on the three issues chosen as priorities at the last PACT meeting:

- (i) off-road bikers. A number of S59 warnings have been issued, meaning that bikes may be confiscated if a second offence is committed. The PCSOs remain vigilant.
- (ii) Speed of traffic passing through Llandogo and Trellech. Police are using handheld speed cameras.
- (iii) Rural thefts of oil – no recent reports.

Several new issues were raised at the meeting. It was however decided to keep off-road bikes and speed of traffic as the two major items. PC Mason was also asked to enquire from Roger Hoggins at MCC why TUCC has never had a reply to its repeated request to purchase flashing speed signs.

691 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Councillor Dagger was elected as chairman for 2009-2010.

692 **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

Councillor Watson was elected as vice chairman for 2009-2010.

693 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

County Councillor Mitchell and Councillors Hempstead and Watson sent their apologies.

694 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None.

695 **REPORT BY PC ANDY MASON**

PC Andy Mason reported on the last two months. There had been a number of minor crimes in the area. He also told councillors of the new 101 telephone number to contact police. 999 remains the number for emergencies. 101 may be used in all other circumstances. Calls will be automatically routed to the nearest force control room and will be chargeable at the local rate.

696 **ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES**

The following councillors were elected to represent the community council on village hall committees:

Llandogo – Bob Dagger
Llanishen – George Weston
The Narth – Su Watson
Penallt – Sarah Soanes and John Baldwin
Whitebrook – Doreen Warmington-Gardner

697 **FINANCE ADVISORY GROUP**

Councillors Dagger, Lambert, Nancarrow and Poulter were elected to this group.

698 **COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR 2009-2010**

The following dates and venues were agreed. Councillors will book their local halls as required.

15 June 2009	Whitebrook Village Hall
20 July 2009	Trellech, Babington Centre
17 August 2009	The Narth, Village Hall
21 September 2009	Trellech, Babington Centre
19 October 2009	Llandogo, Millennium Hall
16 November 2009	Penallt, Pelham Hall
21 December 2009	Llanishen, The Hall
18 January 2010	Catbrook, Memorial Hall
15 February 2010	Llandogo, Millennium Hall
15 March 2010	Penallt, Pelham Hall
19 April 2010	Catbrook, Memorial Hall
17 May 2010	Trellech, Babington Centre

The Chairman then presented his report for the year 2008-2009 (copy attached).

699 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes for 20 April were signed as a true record.

700 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Item 460 (452): Septic tank on Quab Lane

The environmental health officer has made some progress on this. It appears some works have been undertaken, although councillors are not sure it is fully resolved.

Item 673 (650, etc): Blackbrook flooding

The clerk reported that she had written to Johnathan Austin at the Environment Agency and to Colin Berg at MCC, with copies to various other parties as directed at the last meeting. Johnathan Austin had explained that the EA is responsible for main waterways, ie the Wye and the Monnow; with county councils being responsible for smaller waterways. He would however review the letter. Nigel Burgess had replied on behalf of MCC that the Council had already fulfilled its responsibility by clearing the

highway (and invoicing the farmer for the works). The farmer and/or riparian owners should undertake any further works at their own expense.

Nick Ramsay AM had also responded, offering to help in any way he could.

Item 673 (650, etc): Advertising on BT phone box in Llandogo

MCC enforcement officer, Alison Pankhurst, is planning a site visit within the next week to check on the box before contacting BT again.

Item 681: Llandogo Memorial Green

No reply has yet arrived from Mr Hopkinson, to clarify ownership. Councillor Dagger has obtained a quote of £150 to carry out the repairs and the work will be carried out in the near future.

Item 687(a): Llanishen Village Green

The cherry tree has now been felled and removed.

Item 687(c): Trellech and Llandogo telephone boxes

BT confirmed that the phone in Trellech was not on the list for removal and had not in fact been removed by them. They surmised that it must have been stolen, and will arrange for its replacement. The phone box in Llandogo evidently had a fault on the line, which was promptly repaired after the clerk reported that it was not working. BT also said that this phone was not on the current list for removal, as an objection had been raised during the consultation process.

Item 689: Litter left by Recycling Collectors

Following a letter from the clerk, David Tucker of Monmouth Recycling had promised to carry out a spot check on the team collecting recyclables in the Catbrook and Trellech areas. He also said that their vehicles were due to be modified in the next few months, in order to prevent rubbish being blown out.

701 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- 00151, Copper Beech, Llandogo, amended plans for extension of bungalow to 2 storey house & garage. Recommended for refusal. Most original comments still apply. The previous design was more reminiscent of the Victorian style predominating in the village.
- 00367, The Birches, Penallt, rehabilitation of old dwelling to residential use. Recommended for approval.
- 00384, The Firs Barn, Catbrook, rear lean-to extension, covered parking area & store on site of derelict cottage. The extension to the house is acceptable. The garage however dominates the house. It could instead be single storey, with its roof ridge at the same height as that of the kitchen. The garage will be very visible across the valley from the centre of the village of Catbrook. Recommended for refusal.
- 00406, Court Farm, Trellech, two dwellings. Recommended for approval, but subject to local conglomerate stone being used. Any other stone (eg Forest of Dean brown stone), would not be in character in the Conservation Area.

702 **FURTHER PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- 00457, Byeways, Pen-y-fan, extend existing annex, convert garage/loose boxes into residential part of annex, raise extension roof pitch. As these plans had only just arrived, an extension should be sought until the next council meeting.

703 **PLANNING DECISIONS**

The following decisions had been received:

- 2008/01169, Trelleck Barn, Beacon Rd, Trellech, erection of garden room. Approved
- 2008/01339, The Rockery, The Narth, extension & solar panels. Approved

- 00024, Barn in field 3200, Pen y Fan Green, vehicular access & hardstanding. Approved
- 00012, Trekkers Cwrt, The Narth, redevelopment of former PH site with one detached dwelling. Approved.
- 00203, Well Cottage, Far Hill, 1st floor rear extension. Approved
- 00141, Pilstone House, Whitebrook, retention of temporary access until 31/10/09. Approved

704 **FURTHER PLANNING DECISIONS**

- 2007/01575, Llanvair Farm, Llanishen, Big Barn, convert to residential. Approved
- 2007/01578, Llanvair Farm, Llanishen, Milking Parlour, convert to residential (listed building consent). Approved
- 2007/01579, Llanvair Farm, Llanishen, Milking Parlour, convert to residential. Approved
- 2007/01583, Llanvair Farm, Llanishen, Big Barn, convert to residential (listed building consent). Approved
- 2007/01586, Llanvair Farm, Llanishen, Dukes Barn, convert to residential. Approved
- 2008/00242, Llanvair Farm, Llanishen, Dukes Barn, convert to residential (listed building consent). Approved
- 2009/00048, Highlands, New Mills. Retain 2 x 5-bar timber gates. Approved

705 **FINANCE ADVISORY GROUP**

The clerk will arrange a meeting.

Clerk

706 **£10,000 MATURING INVESTMENT**

After reviewing the expected cash flow over the next few months **it was resolved** that the £10,000 investment maturing on 17 June should not be reinvested. It will revert to TUCC's current account.

Clerk

707 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

The following accounts were presented and agreed:

Cheque no: 500086	A Davison, salary	£295.84
500087	Llanishen PCC	£330
500088	Monmouth Tree Services	£100
500089	Hereford Council	
	("Overlooking the Wye")	£2,000
500090	Chairman's allowance	£350
500091	Babington Ed Trust	£15

708 **BABINGTON MEADOW**

Councillor Soanes had reviewed the files on the history of the relationship between TUCC and the Babington Meadow management committee. She confirmed that TUCC is responsible for maintenance of the field and for insurance. She also confirmed that the septic tank on the site has a padlock on it and is completely covered with nettles and brambles.

709 **INSURANCE FOR PROPERTY DAMAGE**

AON had supplied the following quotes for insuring items at Babington Meadow against damage: climbing frame (valued at £6,000) £80.01, Basketball pole and net (valued at £515) £6.87, Timber sculpture (valued at £2,250) £30 and picnic table/benches (valued at £200) £2.67. **It was resolved** that these items should be added to TUCC's insurance policy. It should also be reiterated to Babington Meadow committee that TUCC must be notified in advance of their purchase of any further items they may wish to be insured.

Clerk

- 710 **NOTICE BOARDS**
 Alan Watkins has renovated the board at Broadstone at his own expense. The clerk was asked to write and thank him, both for the new board and for cutting the grass and general maintenance of the Green. Clerk
- Councillor Gooding had obtained a new quote for notice boards (as requested at the previous meeting). This is: £372 + VAT for each board, plus £30 for a better finish.
- It was probable that planning permission would be required for boards in new locations at the Narth and New Mills. Councillor Lambert will check whether the existing board in The Narth belongs to TUCC or to the village hall. DL
- 711 **SPORTS COURT IN LLANDOGO**
 This court was built for community use on land within the school grounds. Funding was specifically granted to LATSA (Llandogo and Tintern Sports Association), and further funds were raised from the community. The new head teacher at the school has recently put a padlock on the court, thus excluding members of the community.
- Councillor Thomas was distressed to hear of this. He undertook to speak to Mike Moran at MCC, who was instrumental in getting the court built for the community. AT
- 712 **POLICY ON UNACCEPTABLE ACTIONS BY INDIVIDUALS**
It was resolved that this policy should be adopted.
It was further resolved that a letter should be sent to a specific member of the public, invoking paragraph 3.1.3 of the policy. Clerk
- 713 **COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**
It was resolved that this policy should be adopted
- 714 **MODEL CHARTER**
 Councillors welcomed the Model Charter issued by One Voice Wales, which they found very encouraging. Any specific comments will be sent to the clerk before the end of May, to be forwarded to OVW.
- 715 **CATBROOK FOOTBALL FIELD**
 The stile has been replaced by MCC. The field has also been mown and signs ordered, naming the field and asking people to clean up after their dogs.
- 716 **OTHER REPORTS**
 (a) It was noted that the 65 and 69 buses had temporarily ceased service. Gwent Passenger Transport Unit was undertaking an emergency tendering process and hoped to restore the service within a few days.
- (b) Councillor Gooding reported that the parking space opposite Catbrook hall has now been completed – the trees have been cut back and there is a grass grid surface.
- 717 **CORRESPONDENCE**
 The following correspondence was received and noted:
- MCC, Cabinet agenda etc, 6 May 2009
 MCC, Newsletter for Monmouthshire Axis 3 projects, part of Rural Development Plan for Wales
 MCC, MCC participating in Gwanwyn festival, promoting creative activities for 50+
 MCC, Countryside Volunteer newsletter
 MCC, Tourism activities in lead-up to Ryder Cup, newsletter
 MCC, Notice re official name for barn conversion, "Firs Barn, Catbrook"
 MCC, Tree preservation order, Brook Bungalow, Penallt
 MCC, Updates to Register of Electors

MCC, Emergency Contacts Directory, annual request for update

A Robertson, Babington Meadow insurance cover
Local Health Board, Gwent NHS Reform Briefing number 2 (April 2009)
OVW, Model Charter Unitary Authorities/Community/Town Councils
Request for 2 representatives to Area Meetings
OVW, Notice of 2009 Conference and AGM, 10 October 2009
Llanishen PCC, Request for grant towards upkeep of churchyard
Civic Trust for Wales, Open Doors scheme 2009
Clerks & Councils Direct, Sample copy, May 2009
SLCC, Regional conference, 7th July, Llandudno
Monmouth Tree Services, Invoice for felling cherry tree, Llanishen
Rural Forum, Agenda 28th May, plus minutes previous meeting
S Davies, copy of email to Head of Llandogo School, access to LATSA court
N Ramsay AM, email re Black brook flooding
N Burgess, MCC, email re Blackbrook flooding
C Berg, MCC, email re Blackbrook flooding
A Davies, MCC, email re septic tank, Quab Lane
Severn Estuary Partnership, Severn Tidings, spring 2009
AONB, Outstanding, Spring/Summer 2009

718 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

(a) Pentwyn Green. There have been suggestions that some seats might be provided on the green. Councillor Baldwin is currently investigating whether the Jubilee Fund might offer some money towards this.

JB

(b) Pentwyn Green. It was agreed that the free half hour offered by the specialist solicitor in Swansea might be best spent on reading background information on the situation. Councillor Thomas will obtain a quote for subsequent consultations with the solicitor.

AT

(c) Llandogo Playgroup. A preliminary enquiry had been made as to whether the community council might make a grant towards the purchase of outdoor play equipment. In principle such a request will be considered favourably, subject to written quotations being presented to the council.

719 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday, 15 June 2009 at 7 pm at Whitebrook Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 10.12.

Clerk:

Chairman:

Date: