

TRELLECH UNITED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

held at

Llanishen Hall, Penallt, on Monday 12 December 2011 at 7pm

Councillor	Village	Attendance
John Gooding	Catbrook	Present
Jane Washer	Catbrook	Not present
Bob Dagger (Chairman)	Llandogo	Present
Ashley Thomas	Llandogo	Present
Martin Blakebrough	Llanishen	Present
George Weston	Llanishen	Present
David Lambert	The Narth	Present
Susan Watson	The Narth	Not present
John Baldwin	Penallt	Present
Penny Woodman	Penallt	Not present
Christine Green	Trellech	Not present
Alan Poulter	Trellech	Present
Doreen Warmington-Gardner	Whitebrook	Present
County Cllr Jeff Mitchell	MCC	Not present

Clerk: Ann Davison

PRELIMINARY MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- (a) It was brought to the attention of councillors that the green lane leading to Little Bottom Barn, Penallt, had been bulldozed, and quantities of chippings put down. The owners claimed they had permission; but when planning permission was originally granted for the barn conversion, CPRW were concerned that this might happen. Councillor Warmington-Gardner said that she had spoken to enforcement, who were going to send an officer to look at the lane.
- (b) It was also reported that Richard White is actively developing a property hidden down by the river, which did not have planning permission.

11319 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Green, and Woodman sent apologies as they were unwell; Councillor Washer sent apologies, because she was on holiday. Councillor Watson was not present.

11320 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Baldwin declared an interest in agenda item 11336, and Councillor Thomas in item 11327.

11321 REPORT BY PC HOLDER

PC Holder reported some sheep stolen from Trellech Cross. and flagstones stolen from Penallt. The weight limit on Bigsweir Bridge was discussed, and the importance of the bridge to the whole valley. This was the last meeting to be attended by PC Holder before his retirement, and the council thanked him for his diligent attendance. PCSO Barclay is now the immediate contact for the council, on:
philip.barclay@gwent.pnn.police.uk

11322 **ACCESS TO PENTWYN FARM**

Tom Clarke, newly appointed CEO of Gwent Wildlife Trust, attended the meeting to discuss issues around the access to Pentwyn Farm. It was stressed that there are no current disagreements between TUCC and GWT over access, apart from the occasional damage caused by vehicles passing each other on the grass when they meet on the narrow track. GWT undertook to repair the potholes in the track, and to erect signs asking vehicles to stay off the grass.

Councillors told Mr Clarke of the lack of legal access to the bungalow which is currently rented by GWT, and of TUCC's difficulty in tracing the owner of the bungalow. GWT rents through an agent, but may be able to assist TUCC with a means of contact.

11323 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING on 21 November**

The minutes for 21 November were signed as a true record.

11324 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES of 21 November**

Item 11278: District Valuer to Assess Drainage Easement

Nothing further has been heard on Mr Robertson's intentions

Item 11301(c): Penallt Map Board

Bryn Boycott had now repaired the board at no cost to the council, other than materials. The clerk was asked to write to Mr Boycott to thank him.

Clerk

Item 11311, Pentwyn Green

Councillor Woodman took photographs of the damage to the grass and forwarded these to the chairman and the clerk. It was agreed between them that the evidence of damage was insufficient to write a letter as stipulated in the minutes of the previous meeting.

Planning determinations

At the previous meeting it had been noted that some planning applications were being determined before the consultation period had expired, and before TUCC had been able to send in a comment. The clerk had raised this issue with David Swanson, at MCC Planning Department, but not yet received a reply.

11325 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- Tithe Barn Farm, Penallt. Appeal against refusal of planning permission, retention of pitched roof to agricultural storage barn. Public inquiry to be held on 14 December at County Hall
- 00051, Trellech, Henllys, new dwelling adjacent. Revised plan. The planning officer had not sent through full details of the revisions, despite a request from the local councillor, so councillors were unable to make a recommendation. The clerk was asked to request full details, and to request an extension until after the January TUCC meeting.
- 01044, Catbrook, Organy Pool, Whitelye, 4Kw solar array on hay barn. Recommended for approval
- 01104, Llandogo, Tighnabruaich, change of use to B & B. Recommended for approval

11326 **FURTHER PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- 00805, Catbrook, Whitelye Farm, creation of timber loading bay for use by Forestry Commission. Recommended for approval, but with a condition that, rather than just truncating the stone wall, it should be rebuilt on the realigned junction entrance.

- 00990, Trellech, Cleddon House, alteration & extension to existing building, revised scheme to M10257 and 2009/01089. Amended plans. The meeting was temporarily suspended, as the applicant was present at the meeting and was able to answer some of the councillors' queries. On resumption of the meeting the following was decided. Councillors recognized and applauded the reduction in size of what was a 2-storey extension in the previous application. They still felt that the proposed linking entrance hall was too large, and would detract from the two original buildings. Recommended for refusal.
- 01118, Trellech, 7 de Clere Way, listed building consent, removal of internal plaster wall and replacement with new tanking system with plasterboard. Recommended for approval

11327 PRE-PLANNING CONSULTATION

- To consider proposal by Overlooking the Wye to place an interpretation board on The Boat, Penallt. Councillors approved in principle, but without any details of the design would await the planning application.

Clerk

11328 PLANNING DECISIONS

No decisions had been received:

11329 FURTHER PLANNING DECISIONS

- 2010/00609, Llanishen, Homestead, demolish existing garage, workshop etc & erect 2-bed single storey disabled annex for parents. Approved
- 2011/00982, Penallt, Church Farm, Birches Rd, barn & machinery store. Unacceptable
- 00985, Penallt, Underhill Cottage, Tregagle, ground mounted pv array. Approved
- 01041, Trellech, Stone View Cottage, summer room, log store and porch. Approved
- 01074, Whitebrook, Park Farm, storage building. Acceptable

Enforcement reports:

The clerk was asked to report two items:

- the green lane to Little Bottom Barn in Penallt (bulldozed and chippings laid)
- the property identified as the agricultural storage barn referred to in 2010/00008, being developed as a dwelling.

Clerk

11330 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were presented and agreed:

Cheque:	500215	MCC summer play scheme, 2011	£350.00
	500216	G Boulton, internal auditor	£45.00
	500217	Llanishen Hall Committee	£500.00
	500218	B Boycott, materials to repair Penallt map board	50.00

The clerk's salary was to be paid by bank transfer by MCC.

Clerk

11331 MCC PLAY SCHEME 2012

It was resolved to contribute £350 to the scheme in 2012. The clerk was asked to enquire how many children from the TUCC area used the scheme last summer, as opposed to the number of "attendances". The report mentioned a deficit for the Monmouth scheme: who would cover this? And what does MCC contribute?

Clerk

11332 BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2012-13

The finance group had prepared a draft budget. **It was resolved** to adopt the budget, and a copy is attached to these minutes.

It was further resolved that the precept for 2012-13 should be £11,500.

Clerk

11333 **PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVING BROADBAND ACCESS**

Councillors noted that broadband access and speeds are very patchy through the council area. They felt that the proposed solutions using mobile phone technology might not fully meet the needs of residents. They were also unwilling to take on personally the role of broadband champion, although they would willingly support any member of the public who wished to do so.

The meeting was temporarily suspended, to discuss this issue with David May, of Penallt, who was present at the meeting. He is currently carrying out a survey in Penallt to assess how many residents have unacceptable broadband speeds and how many are concerned to improve broadband access. He is arranging a meeting with MP David Davies in January, which will be advertised on the Penallt village website.

TUCC thanked him for his efforts and asked to be kept in touch with his findings. He will send details of the January meeting to TUCC, and to Councillor Woodman..

Clerk

11334 **BABINGTON MEADOW**

Councillor Woodman had sent a written report of the Committee meeting held on 6th December. She confirmed that the committee were aware of the ongoing discussions over an easement for drainage, and that TUCC was obtaining a quotation for securing the lid to the cesspit. The accounts for 2009 had now been completed and a copy provided to the clerk. The Committee is in the process of drawing up a 12 month plan of fundraising activities to cover ongoing maintenance.

11335 **CESSPIT COVER IN BABINGTON MEADOW**

Postponed to next agenda, as quotation not yet received. It was noted that a decision over spending funds on securing the cover would need to be part of a risk assessment.

Clerk

11336 **PENTWYN GREEN**

The clerk is still to obtain "no parking" signs

Clerk

11337 **CATBROOK FOOTBALL FIELD**

Nothing to report

11338 **TUCC ANNUAL DINNER**

To be held at The Fountain, Trellech Grange on Friday 13th January. Menu choices should be forwarded to Councillor Gooding at least a week before this.

JG

11339 **OTHER REPORTS**

(a) Llandogo School. It was reported that the school had achieved the NACE Challenge Award (National Association for Able Children in Education) - one of only a handful of schools in Wales to do so. The clerk was asked to send the congratulations of the council.

Clerk

(b) Fingerpost restoration. Work is about to start on this project

11340 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was received and noted:

MCC, M Moran, Summer Holiday Scheme 2012 and 2013
MCC, Cabinet agenda, 7 Dec 2011
MCC, T O'Donovan, re securing cesspit cover
MCC, Electoral register for 2012

MCC, D McCarty, cessation of Local Service Bus
MCC, Special Cabinet agenda, 14 Dec 2011
MCC, LDP: Consultation on alternative sites
MCC, Temporary road closure, The Narth, from 3 Jan for 3 weeks
MCC, J Pearson, Elections Briefing Sessions for potential councillors

AONB, Sue Middleton, Overlooking the Wye Interpretation Board at The Boat, Redbrook
Came & Co, Request for PAYE employer's ref as link for Employers' Liability insurance
Came & Co, Reply re securing cesspit cover
WAG, Fire and Rescue Framework 2012 onwards, consultation
GAVO, e-bulletin on funding opportunities
Gwent Wildlife Trust, Access to Pentwyn Farm
Open Spaces Soc, New threats to green spaces, appeal for funds
D Davies MP, Rural internet proposals
Welsh Water, Update on water mains scheme in the Narth
GAVO, Funding available from Energy Saving Trust
GAVO, Entry for Monmouthshire Community Directory
GAVO, Monmouthshire Network, Christmas 2011
OVW, Strong Roots Project, funding available
OVW, Buckingham Palace Garden Party
WAG, Consultation on Local Government Byelaws (Wales) Bill
AON, Insurance offer

11341 **ITEMS FOR CONSORTIUM OF WYE VALLEY COUNCILS**
None

- 11342 **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**
- Cesspit cover in Babington Meadow
 - LDP consultation on alternative sites
 - WAG consultation on local government byelaws (to be circulated to councillors)

Clerk

11343 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
Monday, 16 January 2012, 7 pm, at Catbrook Memorial Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm

Clerk:
Date:

Chairman: