

MINUTES OF THR LLAGATTOCK VIBON AVEL COMMUNITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT HILSTON PARK
on Thursday 1st October 2015 at 8.00pm

PRESENT Cllr Anthony Vines – Chairman

Cllrs Ray Bowen	Cllrs Yvonne Price
Graham Edmunds	Desmond Pugh
John Kennedy	Robin Wintour
Len Lane	

IN ATTENDANCE Mr Roy Nicholas – Clerk

NON-MEMBER PRESENCE – County Cllr Ruth Edwards

M81 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Diane Fitchett and Steve Morgan. Members were sorry that Cllr Diane Fitchett had suffered an accident; however they were pleased to hear from County Cllr Ruth Edwards that she was now out of hospital following checks and that injuries were not serious.

M82 Declarations of Interest

None on the published Agenda.

M83 Questions/Comments from the Public

A Rockfield resident had spoken on the 'phone to the Clerk concerning the junction of the B4233//B4347.(see Item M89).

M84 Minutes of the Last Meeting.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd September 2015 which had been distributed to Members and displayed on the six notice-boards the next day following were confirmed and signed as being a true record of the business transacted.

M85 Updates and Progress Reports

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M85.1 Postbox alongside M4233 Hendre. The assistance of Nick Ramsay AM was being sought to expedite its replacement with a new box.

M85.2 Police Community Council Meeting Scheduled for 15th September. This had been cancelled following lack of interest by councils.

M85.3 MCC's method of distribution of refuse collection arrangements. County Cllr Ruth Edwards explained the reasons for adopting different methods of 'leaflet distribution'.

M86 Correspondence and Consultations

From GAV0 – 'GAVO's Membership Offer 2015'. Hitherto, renewal of annual membership had consisted merely of form-filling. For next year, the intention was to levy a £5 annual charge. Having been reminded of the past advantage to persons at Skenfrith and Cross Ash, Members had no objection to accepting this charge.

M87 Planning Matters

M87.1 Approval granted by MCC Non Material Amendment

DC/2015/00720 – Cae Yu, Cross Ash – Non material amendment to previous application DC/2014/00670.

M87.2 Planning Permissions granted by MCC

DC/2015/00730 – Celyn Farm, Dawn of Day – Demolition of existing extension and construction of new two storey extension to rear of property to provide additional living area, two bedrooms to first floor level. Also new detached double garage with home office above. (Pre-application advice reference: DC/2014/ENQ/00799).

DC/2015/00753 – Forge Workshops, The Hendre – Redesign, extend and enclose porch.

DC/2015/00684 – Pencoed Bungalow, Newcastle – Agricultural building of standard construction. Building required to provide winter housing for stock fodder and equipment.

DC/2015/00632 – Land adjoining 'Westgate'. St Maughans – Proposed new dwelling on land adjoining Westgate. Relating to previous approval DC/2013/00836. Creation of new access, demolition of existing outbuildings and erection of two semidetached dwellings within existing curtilage at Westgate.

DC/2015/00661 – Hendre Hall, The Hendre – External alterations to dormer window and to provide flue to roof. Internal alterations to provide winter housing for stock, fodder and equipment

M87.3 – Application received and under consideration

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DC/2015/01113 – 5 Graig View, Cross Ash – Two storey extension to rear of existing dwelling.

M87.4 Lack of response by MCC Planning to enquiry.

DC/2014/01446 – Rockfield Farm. Following a detailed response by Cllr Robin Wintour, this was returned to MCC on 10th February 15. As nothing had been received as to its fate, the Clerk wrote to MCC on 10th August. There was no response; he then wrote to the Development Control Manager of Planning on 11th September. Again, there was no response. (It is understood that the need for the ‘mobile home’ probably does not exist at present as the then farm worker has moved away)..

M87.4 Unauthorised Works?

Two Members reported that they had received queries from the public as to whether Planning Applications had been granted in their respective areas. One was for a building which had been fitted with solar roof panels and the other concerned building work already well advanced. The Clerk would pass on these to the Planning Enforcement Officer in line with treating such matters as ‘confidential’.

M88 Financial Matters

M88.1 Letter from Wales Audit Office.

‘External Audit Arrangements: Annual Returns 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2018-19’.

“The Auditor General for Wales will become your statutory auditor following the amendment of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 by section 11 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2013 and the completion of the 2014 – 2015 audit by Mazars.

“BDO LLP will become the appointed auditor on behalf of the Auditor General as responsible for delivering the audit of your Annual Return for 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2018-19. There is an option to extend the arrangement for an additional two years but you will be notified of this at the appropriate time”

M88.2 ‘Notice of conclusion of audit and right to inspect the Annual Return’.

The Clerk confirmed that he had displayed copies of the above on the six notice-boards strictly in accordance with Section 29 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

M88.3 Authorisations

Members resolved to authorise the following payments: MCC = £15.00 for Room Hire : R Nicholas = £1,819.42 salary for 26 weeks, R Nicholas = £450.53 for reimbursements x 26 weeks (Petty Cash etc, Stationery, mileage, postage (checked by Cllr Desmond Pugh authorised financial signatory : HMRC = £454.80 for tax : Inigo Jones & Co Ltd = £ 2,397.60 for Memorial Tablets. [Payments after cash transfer into Treasurers Account next week]

M89.1 Temporary Road Closure Tregate Bridge. This will be closed on Monday 19th October for a period of 5 days (0900 to 16.00 only).

M89.2 Temporary Public Footpath Closures Kings Wood. These would come into effect on 16th September and remain until 16 December. Map had been displayed on Hendre notice-board. Work to facilitate forestry harvesting.

M89.3 MCC's Road Markings on Route 20.1 Llanfaenor. Highways had responded to the Clerk's last letter by saying that such work was based on the number of letters used which gave the sum of £160. A written response had been promised so that the matter could come to a close.

M89.4 Steps leading off B4233 opposite bus shelter Rockfield. County Cllr Ruth Edwards asked that the overgrowth on these be removed.

M89.5 Junction B4233 with B4347 at Rockfield. Cllr John Kennedy had received a complaint that vehicles about to leave the narrow B4347 onto the B4233 and at the same time, a car was about to leave the B4233 and enter the B4347, it could catch its front wheel on the kerbstones which had vertical edges. The complainant had spoken to the Clerk who had passed on the complaint to Highways.

M89.6 Discourtesy by MCC Highways. The Clerk had written to MCC's Bridges Officer on 16th March 2015 under the title "Bridge on B4521 at Skenfrith opposite the Bell". The final sentence was : "We would be grateful for your views in writing at an early date please, so that they can be passed on as an authoritative answer to further questions". Photos were included. A reminder was sent on 11th July and another on 7th September. No response has been received!.

M89.7 Llymon Bridge. Nothing has been done to date.

M89 .8 Route 21.7. Nothing done to date despite extra 'prodding' by Cllr Robin Wintour who had visited these bridges again recently. The Clerk had been along the route a week ago said that the dislodged masonry first reported last year was still in a position where it might tumble into the stream below.

M89.9 Poor Communication/Delays in getting things done by MCC Highways. The Clerk had supplied Members with copies of past examples of responses from Highways which showed that today's experiences were not as a result of the Assembly's grants cuts to Local Authorities.

M90 Environment/Waste/Recycling

Cllr Graham Edmunds apprised Members with the content of a letter received from a person drawing attention to the present situation within Skenfrith village where there was no public toilet facility and also the dire consequences which could arise. At present, there was no 'official' answer to the problem.

M91 Education and Lifelong Learning

There was nothing to report.

M92 Health and Wellbeing.

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'PLAY FOR WALES' is a twice-a-year publication with an Assembly involvement. It is aimed at "Are children's rights a reality in Wales", "Creating a play-friendly Wales, "Time space and permission to play over Wales"

It was also aimed at the four political parties represented at the Assembly in advance of the 2016 elections. Their promises as to what they would do to enhance and lead the way for better children's play were published within this publication.

M93 Visits by Members/Clerk

Cllr Desmond Pugh had attended the GAVO 'Volunteers recognised for Services to the Community' event at the Bridges Centre, Monmouth.

M94 Churchyard

M94.1 Flowers in the Churchyard. It had been pointed out at the September Meeting that the Church in Wales Regulations did not permit "permanent flower vases or containers or ornaments" on graves. Today's method as could be seen at the Llangattock churchyard was to have flower holders incorporated as part of the actual headstone.

M94.2 Direction signs to the Charles Rolls Memorial. The Clerk had repainted these (to comply with the 2009 Ministry of Justice rules).

M94.3. Safety Officer's Inspection. The Clerk had carried out his regular checks of monuments for integrity and stability; there were no problems. However, he had found (not previously in sight) a broken section of gravestone which was horizontal and slippery.. He had lifted this and deposited with other broken stonework.

M95 War Memorials

The finished plaques had just been delivered in the afternoon in their safety wrappings. The Clerk was particularly grateful to Cllr Graham Edmunds for all the tasks he had carried out to seek greater accuracy of spellings and other matters which had not previously come to light. The involvement of local historians had been most helpful. It had been decided to use 1914 to 1919 as this was the date of the initial inscriptions.

The next step will be to establish whether any local builders would be interested in fixing them onto the wall of the plinth, and should this be the case, to obtain competitive quotes. Cllr Graham Edmunds and the Clerk would be working as a close team and would liaise with other Members as appropriate.

M96 Date of Next Meeting

On Thursday, 5th of November 2015 at 8.00pm at Hilston Park.

M97 Website

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Cllr Anthony Vines announced that he was at the very final stage in his preparations and had arranged to meet Cllrs Graham Edmunds and Desmond Pugh for final checks prior to presentation.

M98 Suggestions for Next Meeting

(It had been decided against changing from the traditional Thursday).

M99 Announcements/Comments of Interest

M99.1 Photocopier. The Clerk told Members that a new machine had been delivered and was in use and working well. The faulty one had been collected. The one which was delivered to await the new was still awaiting collection and a reminder had been sent to Konica Minolta.

M99.2 Lack of Communication between MCC (since it was formed) and community councils. The Clerk had provided Members with sufficient past documents to enable them to realise the problems that are likely to continue until there is a change of culture at all levels by MCC.

Roy G Nicholas
2nd October 2015
Monmouth

Minutes approved
Chairman
Date

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