

MINUTES OF THE LLANGATTOCK VIBON AVEL COMMUNITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING AT HILSTON PARK
On Thursday 3rd December 2015 at 7.30pm

PRESENT Cllr Anthony Vines – Chairman

Cllrs Ray Bowen	Cllrs Steve Morgan
Graham Edmunds	Yvonne Price
Diane Fitchett	Desmond Pugh
John Kennedy	Robin Wintour
Len Lane	

IN ATTENDANCE Mr Roy Nicholas – Clerk

NON-MEMBER PRESENCE County Cllr Ruth Edwards

M119 Apologies for Absence

None

M120 Declarations of Interest

Members had nothing to declare on the published Agenda.

M121 Questions/Comments from Public

Two members of the public - Dr Tom Pitts-Tucker and Mr Five Cram of St Maughans/Maypole were present, having kindly informed the Clerk in advance of their wish to attend.

Their intention was their desirability of having a **Defibrillator** in their area. This had been highlighted following an accident involving a horse-rider and the delay in the arrival of an ambulance. They told Members that to date, they had formed an independent project working group "*St Maughans and Maypole Village Defibrillator Project*" and passed on their explanatory leaflet to each to read at leisure.

2018

Following the discussion which included the possibility at a later stage of involving other areas within the LVACC area, it was decided that it would be desirable to meet again at the Community Council's February Meeting to allow time for them to give an update on progress. Members were appreciative of this opportunity to discuss defibrillators.

M122 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th November 2015 which had been distributed to Members and displayed on the six noticeboards the next day following were confirmed and signed as being a true record of the business transacted subject to the addition of the following item.

“M116 Website

Cllr Anthony Vines apprised Members with his final appraisal and conclusions which he had reached together with Cllrs Graham Edmunds and Desmond Pugh in deciding the best suited website for LVACC. Costs had figured prominently in their considerations. There had been close consultation with MCC and expected the “£500 grant” money to be available within days.

The Council unanimously resolved, on condition that the tender was concluded by MCC to be in accordance with the requirements of the grant, to award the contract for the provision of the domain name and construction of the website to Tregate Design Limited in accordance with the company's tender dated 9 October 2015.”

M123 Updates and Progress Reports

M123.1 Postbox on B4233 The Hendre. A new box had now been installed.

M123.2 The gas beacon remaining from HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations had now been checked and the hose pressure-tested prior to handing over to Monmouthshire District Scouts for use or spares at their Jamborees.

M123.3 Danger to children playing near top of steps at Rockfield. Members were grateful to Cllr Len Lane for liaising with MCC's Safety Officer which resulted in the decision to have a gate installed,

M124 Correspondence and Consultations

M124.1 From MCC – Improvement Plan 2015. The Clerk had obtained and distributed to each Member the leaflet 'Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities.

M124.2 From ex-Monmouth CAB Members Meeting. The Clerk had photocopied for each Member a copy of the statement 'Citizens Advice Services in Monmouth Town and Community Area – update report and proposal'. (Members of the 'old' CAB were still discussing what was to happen to Bank balances remaining when it closed in June!)

M125 1 Middle Crwys DC/2015/00540

This was an Application which LVACC had recommended 'Approval' on 30 July 2015 but had heard nothing since despite having sent a reminder on 17th November. There was much criticism of the situation..

M125.2 Unauthorised building work?

The Clerk told Members that he had written to MCC's Mr Guy Delamere complaining of suspected building work on a property which he had reported on early morning on 5th October did not appear to be on MCC's Enforcement List.

M125.3 MCC's Discharge of Condition

DC/2015/01126 – Celyn Farm – Discharge of condition 5. (Method Statement for demolition and groundworks) and 6 (Lighting Plan), relating to application reference DC/2014/0134.

M125.4 MCC's Certificate of Proposed Lawful Use or Development.

DC/2015/01114 – Provision of log mobile home on a base hub.

M125.5 MCC's Non Material Amendment Final Decision – Approve

DC/2015/01016 – Non material amendment to application DC/2010/00741. Relocate building by 1.7m bringing it closer to the Restaurant. Seek to utilize rock outcrop as retaining wall rather than full use of gabion baskets – still to be used along the front elevation.

M125.6 MCC's Planning Permissions

DC/2015/00664 – 1861 Restaurant - Stabilisation of stream bank adjacent to car park.

DC/2015/01113 - 5 Craig View – Two storey extension to rear of existing building.

M125.7 Planning Applications received and recommended for Approval

DC/2015/01213 – Rock Cottage, Newcastle – 2 storey extension to create additional bedroom with en suite and living area.

DC/2015/01275 – Box Busk Cottages, Hendre – Single storey rear extension.

DC/2015/01028 - Orchard Bungalow, St Maughans – Conversion of garage into living accommodation and alterations to roof to provide bedroom within loft.

DC/2015/01420 – Ty Castle Farm, Newcastle – Proposed single storey dwelling with parking areas adjoining.

M126 Financial Matters

M126.1 MCC's Public Meeting at Shire Hall on 17th November 2015 to consider 'Biggest Challenge to reduce Costs and Make Savings'.

Cllr Robin Wintour and the Clerk attended this Meeting to discuss how to cut costs following the Welsh Government's reduction of £6.319m in its funding of MCC. (as always Monmouthshire was allocated the lowest per capita funding of the whole of Wales).

The main speaker was Cabinet Member for Finance Philip Murphy who explained in plain English all the ideas (mandates) proposed and also the many related issues raised by the public. After all the savings already being achieved, there remained a gap of £1.743m which required to be eliminated by further cuts and savings. The Clerk has photocopied for each Member MCC's 10 mandates raised at the Meeting as these affected the entire population. The other 13 mandates where there was little room for manoeuvre had been decided upon following savings by MCC.

In answer to a question by the Clerk, there would not be any change in the method of calculating the Precepts added to Council Tax. These would continue to be directly relative to the Precept of the particular area.

M126.2 Authorised Payments

Members resolved to authorise the following payments: War Memorial wreaths = £34.00 : Room Hire = £15.00 and SLCC annual Subscription = £103.00.

M126.3 Budget for 2016/2017

Clerk	£3,639	
HMRC	910	
CLCC	110	
OVW	150	
Auditors	500	
Photocopier	450	
Noticeboards	90	
Expenses	1,000	
Room Hire	200	
Donations	400	
Contributions	1,000	
Courses	200	
OVW AGM	150	
Insurance	390	
Churchyard	310	
Website	150	Total = <u>£9,649</u>

The Community Council Precept is the annual amount of money Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council spends in a year. The cost is then divided by the number of houses in the community area (about 400) and this is added to the County Council's annual basic tax bill which is sent to every household in April of each year and called *Council Tax Demand*.

Following careful consideration, Members resolved that the Precept for 2016/2017 should be £9,000.00.

M126.5 OVW's contribution towards setting up Website.

The amount was distributed via MCC and was £500.00 for each Council. This had been received and credited to LVACC's Treasurers Account.

M127 Highways/Footpaths/Transport

M127.1 Hazardous dip in Highway 30.5 near house 'Beechgrove'. This issue was first raised in October 2014 and was caused by lorries on this narrow road cutting deeply into the soft edge at a corner. The Clerk was pleased to report that he had just seen work in progress to implant very substantial retaining kerbs.

M127.2 Flooding of B4347 at Rockfield near Church. Cllr John Kennedy had 'phoned the Clerk to say that there was a considerable depth of water at this location. The Clerk had gone along with a spade when luckily, a passing MCC lorry arrived with two men who had shovels and were able to remove all the leaves causing obstructions at various points,. This is likely to be an annual problem during leaf-fall.

M127.3 Drainage at Skenfrith. Cllr Graham Edmunds reported serious flooding of the B4521 which could result in an accident. This was just below the telephone building where it appeared that a culvert was in need of attention. The other location of concern was at the lower stretch of Lint Hill. The clerk was to speak to MCC's Andrew Welsh.

M127.4 Obstructions at Pool Lane, Newcastle. Cllr Ray Bowen was in receipt of complaints that an obstruction had been placed along this lane resulting in the loss of free access to the public to which they were entitled. The Clerk was to inform MCC.

M127.5 Latest from MCC. "The percentage of principal (A) roads, non principal (B) roads and non-principal (C) roads that are in overall poor condition is 9.7%. This is better than the previous year".

M128 Environment/Waste/Recycling

M128.1 Recycling: Latest from MCC – "A recycling rate of 63% once again achieved in 2014/15. The recycling rates continues to outperform the national target and is amongst the best performances for local authorities in Wales".

"The levels of residual waste produced however has increased above level from last year and the target for this year".

M1282 Latest from MCC : Energy saving: "The 3% reduction in carbon emissions from council buildings has been achieved through renewable energy installations and ongoing building and services improvements. Renewable electricity generated in 2014/15 accounted for 3.74% of electricity used in our buildings".

Monmouth Comprehensive

The Clerk was pleased to announce that “**More Able Talented**” was now operating at this school.

M130 Health and Wellbeing

The Clerk had distributed to each Member the leaflet *Careline Service* and *Monmouthshire Meals*.

M131 Visits by Members/Clerk

9th November – The Clerk had deputised on behalf of Cllr John Kennedy at the Monmouth Meeting of the Trustees of the former CAB.

17th November – Cllr Robin Wintour and the Clerk had attended MCC’s Public Meeting at the Shire Hall to discuss “Biggest Challenge to Reduce Costs and Make Savings”.

M132 Churchyard

Nothing to report.

M133 War Memorials

M133.1 Llangattock. The Remembrance Service – British Legion non-sectarian form was at 11 o’clock alongside the Memorial on 11th November and conducted by Rev Simon Guest. Again, the young pupils of the local Monmouth Montessori School played a leading and impressive part of the service with individual pupils reading the names of the fallen and related passages. They were well aware of the significance of the occasion and added to its solemnity.

Again, by courtesy of Rolls Royce, Mr Tim Baldwin sounded the Last Post in an exceptionally impressive manner. The Clerk had written to the Montessori School and to Rolls Royce.

M133.2 Skenfrith. The Remembrance Service was on Sunday 8th November at the Memorial. It was conducted by the Rev Jean Prosser and the Baptist Minister Ken Prosser. The newly erected Slate Plaques were consecrated

There had been many favourable comments about all the names – the men who made the supreme sacrifice and those who went to war and returned home – being immediately visible after so many years of neglect. Local resident Capt R A Lyons had written on 16.3.1981 “The condition of the inscriptions on the war memorial is in a very bad condition and unfortunately some names have been obliterated”.

Members were grateful to Cllr Graham Edmunds and assisted by Mrs Edmunds for taking care of the grass and removing the leaves on the Saturday.

M134 Date of Next Meeting**Page 2023**

On Thursday 4th February 2016 at Hilston Park commencing at 7.30pm.

M135 Website

Cllr Anthony Vines opened the discussion for on-line contact of Members by the public and it was established that this would not create any problems. He was now making arrangements for the Clerk (as Proper Officer) and Chairman to have email addresses. Members were given a resume of the information already available for the website.

M136 Suggestions for Coming Meetings

None

M137 Announcements/Comments of Interest

M137.1 County Cllr Ruth Edwards told Members that Rockfield Church had been successful in obtaining a grant of £1,000 from the Welsh Church Fund to allow for the repairs and improvements to their Churchyard.

M137.2 Latest from MCC

“However, there has been a decrease in the percentage of people who agree they can influence decisions affecting local area to 21% which places Monmouthshire as 10th compared to other local authorities, the Welsh Average is 21%”.

Also,

“The National survey for Wales has revealed there has been a decrease in the percentage of people who agree the local authority is good at letting them know how we are performing to 39% which places Monmouthshire as 9th amongst local authorities. There has also been a decrease in the percentage of people in Monmouthshire who agree the local authority provides high quality services from 63% to 57% in 2014/15 which ranks Monmouthshire as 7th in Wales”

Roy G Nicholas
4th December 2015
Monmouth

Minutes Approved

Chairman

Dated

MMXV