

Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council

Cyngor Cymuned Llangatwg Feibion Afel

Mark Nicholas
Clerk to the Council,
Proper Officer to the
Council,
14 Rolls Avenue,
Monmouth,
NP25 5AY



Mark Nicholas,
Clerc y Cyngor,
Swyddog Priodol y
Cyngor,
14 Rhodfa Rolls,
Trefynwy,
NP25 5AY

◆ 01600 715996 ◆ 07840 283 244 ◆ clerk@llangattockvacc.org ◆ Llangattockvacc.org ◆

Minutes of the Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council Public Meeting	
Date	September 1 st 2016 at 8.00 pm
Venue	Hilston Park
Chair	Councillor Len Lane
Also present	Councillors: Ray Bowen, Graham Edmunds, Diane Fitchett, John Kennedy, Steve Morgan, Desmond Pugh, Robin Wintour.
In attendance	Mr Mark Nicholas, Clerk to the Council

Agenda Item 1. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Yvonne Price.

Agenda Item 2. Declarations of Interest.

It was agreed to provide declarations of interest as and when they arose.

Agenda Item 3. An update by Debbie McCarty on collaboration and working within Monmouthshire County Council Cluster groups.

Debbie is the Whole Place Manager within Monmouthshire County Council (MCC).

Debbie spoke for some time about the Well-Being of Future Generations Act (Wales), which came into force on the 1st of April 2016.

<http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/future-generations-act/?lang=en>

The act concerns sustainable and long term planning and co-operation between central, local and national government bodies. Councillors were concerned about the subtler implications concerning the implementation of the Act. Namely, that smaller Councils would be expected to provide (and charge for) services historically provided by larger bodies such as MCC.

A "Cluster" meeting will be held on Tuesday, 13th September at 6.30pm in Monmouth Community Hub (The library). This will be led by Peter Davies, Head of Innovation at

Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council

Cyngor Cymuned Llangatwg Feibion Afel

MCC. Community Councils within the Monmouth “Cluster” have been invited to attend. The Clerk and two Councillors plan to attend on behalf of the Community Council.

Agenda Item 4. Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as being a true record of the proceedings.

Agenda Item 5. Questions and comments from members of the public.

26th July. The Clerk had been contacted by a member of the public who had recently moved to Rockfield, and expressed concern over the poor quality of internet access. Members expressed the opinion that this, unfortunately, was a fact of life within rural Monmouthshire.

Tom Pitts-Tucker, Secretary of the Village Life Community Project (VLCP) attended the early stages of the meeting, and gave an update on the progress of his group in providing defibrillators in the Community Council area. In particular, he highlighted the difficulties that the VLCP are experiencing in registering the project as a charity. This in turn, is preventing the adoption of the Maypole phone box by the VLCP. Tom asked the Council if they might be prepared to re-consider their decision not to adopt the phone box in the event of the VLCP failing to achieve charitable status. He further asked if the Council would be prepared to consider the option of allowing the VLCP to use the Maypole bus shelter to house the defibrillator. Further discussions on this subject took place later in the meeting, under agenda item 12, Health and Wellbeing.

Agenda Item 6. Correspondence and Consultations

18th July, from One Voice Wales (OVW), an invitation to the annual conference on 1st October at the Royal Welsh Showground. Councillor Graham Edmunds will attend.

3rd August, from Jessica Tippins, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Gwent. An invitation to an event for all Community and Town Councils in Monmouthshire at 6.15pm on 27th September, 2016 at the Shire Hall, Monmouth NP25 3EA. The Clerk has reserved spaces for Councillor Yvonne Price, Councillor Robin Wintour and himself. The Commissioner will outline his strategic direction for the force and provide an opportunity for Community Councillors to comment on his proposed police and crime priorities.

26th August, a further email from PCC to request that any questions for the PCC meeting be submitted in writing by Wednesday, 26th September, and thanks for confirming attendance. Councillor Des Pugh requested that the Clerk submit a question about the level of policing within the Community Council area.

9th August, from MCC a request for nominations for making a difference award.

12th August from OVW – notice of a heritage together event on Sept 27th, in Newport.

19th August via OVW consultation launched by the Wales Audit Office on fee rates and scales, with a request to be copied into any response. Replies to be submitted by 23rd September 2016.

22nd August, from MCC, “Democratic Services”, a request to be kept updated regarding contact details.

Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council

Cyngor Cymuned Llangatwg Feibion Afel

23rd August, from OVW, Wales remembers 1914-1918.

26th August, from MCC, information about the rural development programme (RDP).

30th August, from OVW, schedule of training.

31st August Via OVW, information about a “be a councillor” workshop.

Agenda Item 7. Updates and Progress (except where covered by other headings)

Concerning the continuing vacancy for a Councillor following the resignation of Community Councillor Anthony Vines earlier in the year, no expressions of interest had been received. The Clerk had contacted John Pearson, Local Democracy Manager at MCC, who confirmed that no expressions of interest had been received by MCC in response to the vacancy being advertised.

A member of the public who was potentially interested in the vacancy attended and observed part of the meeting at the invitation of Councillor Ray Bowen.

Agenda Item 8. Planning Matters

12/08/2016 – from MCC, a request for up to date contact details. The Clerk had responded.

DC/2016/00759 Certificate of Lawful development, The Bryn, Llanvolda Road, The Hendre. The Community Council had submitted a comment objecting to the proposal, on the ground of not reducing the stock of housing available to agricultural workers. (still open)

DC/2016/00803 Red House Farm, Stable Block. (still open)

DC/2016/00893 Cops Cottage, Cross Ash, NP7 8PP – two story extension. 18th August 2016. Councillors have recommended approval and a comment to this effect has been placed on the MCC Planning Portal. (still open)

DC/2016/00840 Councillors had recommended approval. Old Stables, Rockfield. Garden Shed. (approved 26/08/2016)

DC/2015/01527 Caxton Tower/Newbold’s farm Original Comments will also go to appeal. – appeal re refusal of permission for unlawful extension.

22/08/2015 Via OVW, a survey from the Planning Directorate of the Welsh Government, responses to be submitted by 30th September 2016.

As a point of interest, the Clerk mentioned to the meeting that **DC/2016/00486** Cwm Newydd, had now been approved, this was following an earlier refusal, a failed appeal, and more recently, a “re-submission”.

Agenda Item 9. Financial Matters

The Clerk had engaged in correspondence with The Agincourt Practice concerning their internal audit of the Community Councils’ external audit. Due to key members of staff being absent, the Clerk had been unable to collect the audited accounts until 01/09/2016. (collected today). These had now been posted to the external auditors.

The meeting agreed to approve the following payments:

£15.00 – Gwent Outdoor Centres, hire of room for this meeting.

Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council

Cyngor Cymuned Llangatwg Feibion Afel

£284.88 – Net salary for the clerk.

£71.40 – PAYE on Clerk salary (quarterly)

£180 – Agincourt Practice, Internal Audit.

£70 approximately, for Councillor Graham Edmunds to attend the One Voice Wales annual conference.

Agenda Item 11. Highways, footpaths & transport

19/08/2016 From MCC details about car parking changes following earlier consultation.

31/08/2016 The Clerk had emailed MCC to enquire about the best point of contact for highways issues.

Councillor Ray Bowen had been contacted by a concerned resident about the excessive speed at which vehicles were driving through the village of Newcastle. He had contacted MCC highways but had not received a satisfactory response, and had also not been informed in advance of a visit by a member of MCC Highways' staff.

Councillor Bowen will continue to progress this issue with MCC.

Agenda Item 11. Environment, recycling, waste

11th July, the Clerk had made a request to MCC to supply a litter bin for Skenfrith Village and received a most helpful reply on the 13th of July from the Street Scene and Technical Support Officer for MCC.

20th August from MCC, an email detailing high rates of recycling.

22nd August, via OVW, a consultation by a new WAG committee on coastal erosion and flooding. Consultations open from 18th September to the 3rd of November 2016.

<http://gov.wales/consultations/environmentandcountryside/establishment-of-a-flood-and-coastal-erosion-committee/>

1st September, from MCC – Susan Parkinson, notice of Red Card Awareness Day(s)

Agenda Item 12. Education and lifelong learning

9th August. The latest Estyn report for Cross Ash School had judged that every area investigated in June had achieved a "good" rating.

https://www.estyn.gov.wales/sites/default/files/documents/Cross%20Ash%20C.P.%20School_0.pdf

18th August, a press release from MCC outlining the outstanding A level results throughout the County.

25th August, another press release from MCC outlining the GCSE results throughout the County.

26th August from MCC, Monmouthshire's community hub activities encourage youngsters to develop a love of reading, Monmouth's community hub will celebrate Roald Dahl Day from 4 to 6pm on Tuesday 13th September.

Agenda Item 13. Health and Wellbeing

Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council

Cyngor Cymuned Llangatwg Feibion Afel

8th August, the Clerk had contacted MCC to request that they make a representation to BT to stay any proposals for removal of the Maypole phone box.

9th August, via OVW, an update from the Older Peoples Commissioner

The VLCP had engaged in further correspondence with the Clerk about using the phone box or Bus Shelter at Maypole to house a defibrillator. British Telecom has a scheme whereby it will sell redundant phone boxes to either local councils or charities for a nominal sum of £1. The Community Council had previously declined to “adopt” the phone box due to concerns about incurring future liabilities as regards the upkeep of the box and the power supply. The VLCP has applied to become a charity, and this would allow it to adopt the Maypole phone box. However, there have been delays in the process and the VLCP asked the Community Council if they could use the Bus Shelter to house their defibrillator, or re-consider the earlier decision not to adopt the phone box.

At the meeting, the Community Council were in agreement that the School Bus Shelter is the property of MCC, and it is not in their power to give or loan it to another body. The Council still takes the view that it would be inappropriate for it to adopt the phone box and incur unknown future liabilities as regards its maintenance and electrical supply.

Agenda Item 14. Visits by Councillors and Clerk

None to report.

Agenda Item 15. Llangattock Churchyard

Councillor Len Lane told the meeting that the grass would be cut the following day (Friday 2nd September), and that this would be the last cut of the season.

Agenda Item 16. War Memorials

Councillor Graham Edmunds told the meeting that grass had been cut earlier in the year and now needed another cut.

Agenda Item 17. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held at Hilston Park on Thursday, October 6th at 8.00pm.

Agenda Item 18. Announcements and Comments of Interest.

Councillor Ray Bowen reminded the meeting that the Llangattock Vibon Avel & District Ploughing and Agricultural Society were to hold their annual ploughing match and show on Sunday, 18th September. The venue for this being The Mardy, Llandenny. The Clerk had earlier placed an announcement and copy of the programme on the Community Council website.