

**Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council**  
**Cyngor Cymuned Llangatwg Feibion Afel**

Mark Nicholas  
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<b>Minutes of the Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council Public Meeting</b>	
Date	Thursday, 6 <sup>th</sup> October 2016 at 8.00 pm.
Venue	Hilston Park
Chair	Councillor Len Lane
Also present	Councillors: Ray Bowen, Graham Edmunds, John Kennedy, Steve Morgan, Yvonne Price, Desmond Pugh, Robin Wintour. Also, County Councillor Ruth Edwards
In attendance	Mr Mark Nicholas, Clerk to the Council

**Agenda Item 1. Apologies for Absence**

Councillor Diane Fitchett.

**Agenda Item 2. Declarations of Interest.**

It was agreed to declare any conflicts of interest as and when they arose,

**Agenda Item 3. Questions and Comments from Members of the Public.**

None.

**Agenda Item 4. Minutes of the last meeting.**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> September were confirmed as being a true record of the proceedings.

**Agenda Item 5. Updates and Progress (except where covered by other headings)**

The Clerk had been in touch with Monmouthshire County Council's (MCC) single point of contact to progress outstanding highways issues raised by Councillor Robin Wintour, but had not received a response. It was agreed that the Clerk would email the Highways

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Department and the Single Point of Contact again, and request that the MCC Chief Executive be copied into any correspondence.

The Clerk briefed the meeting about his on-going discussions with the external auditors concerning the Asset Register.

The Auditors had enquired why the replacement slate name plaques recently bought by the Community Council for the Skenfrith War Memorial did not appear on the Council's Asset Register. The Clerk had responded that this was because the Council did not own the Memorial. Initially, this had been accepted by the Auditor corresponding with the Clerk. However, he had then been advised by a more senior colleague that not only the slate plaques, but the War Memorial itself should be on the asset register, along with the new plaques.

### **Agenda Item 6. Correspondence and Consultations (except where covered by other headings)**

**5<sup>th</sup> September** – from MCC, more information about the armed forces covenant

**5<sup>th</sup> September**, the clerk had received a reply from Debbie McCarthy concerning Cluster Meetings. The meetings are not open to the public, it is not currently planned to publish the minutes, although we could request that this be done.

**6<sup>th</sup> September** from OVW. information about chairing skills training in Bridgend.

**7<sup>th</sup> September** The Clerk had discovered that MCC's list of Community Council contact details was out of date and had requested that it be corrected.

**7<sup>th</sup> September**, from MCC, information about maintaining performance while reducing expenditure.

**7<sup>th</sup> September**, from MCC, consultation about the future generations act, high level conversations etc.

**15<sup>th</sup> September**, from OVW, an Assets of Community Value Questionnaire, this was actually on transferring assets of community value from larger to smaller bodies.

**21<sup>st</sup> September**, from MCC, details of a scheme to fund crime prevention measures for Churches.

**23<sup>rd</sup> September**, from OVW information about training – "Understanding the Law", at Pontypool on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> October 6.30PM – 9PM.

**29<sup>th</sup> September**, from Debbie McCarthy, MCC, an email to say that the Rural Forum meeting this same night had been cancelled.

**4<sup>th</sup> October**, from Tracey Thomas, MCC enterprise directorate, a request to meet with the Council to discuss savings. Len Lane had suggested our next meeting, and to start at 7.30 to accommodate, the Clerk had provisionally made this arrangement.

**4<sup>th</sup> of October** from OVW, an invitation to FG training at Bedwas on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

**4<sup>th</sup> October**, via OVW a survey concerning the consultation to help decide which inquiry the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee should investigate next.

**4<sup>th</sup> October**, from OVW, training in grant applications, at Usk, 18<sup>th</sup> October

**5<sup>th</sup> October**, via OVW, information concerning the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

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**5th October** from OVW, details about the Land Transaction Tax and Anti-avoidance of Devolved Taxes (Wales) Bill.

**5th October**, from OVW, WAG update on local government reform

During the previous month, the Clerk had also been in correspondence with Konica Minolta (photo-copier supplier), in an effort to resolve issues about meter readings and the Clerk's address.

### **Agenda Item 7. Planning Matters**

**DC/2016/00298** – orchard campsite. Previously “stayed”, the Clerk had received a consultee letter on the 5<sup>th</sup> September with an incorrect postcode. In view of this and the fact that the MCC planning portal was due to be closed for maintenance, the Clerk had contacted MCC planning to request that this be corrected and the application re-issued. MCC agreed to extend the time available for submitting comments. Councillors had examined the proposal and recommended acceptance.

**DC/2016/01083** – Steppes Farm Restaurant NP25 5SW, erection of temporary marquee for 5 years from April to September. Renewal of previous DC/2012/00013. The meeting agreed to recommend acceptance.

**DC/2016/00945** – Forge Cottage, The Hendre, NP25 5HG. Demolish existing single garage and replace with a new wooden, triple bay garage. Councillors to examine with a view to arriving at a recommendation.

### **Agenda Item 8. Financial Matters**

The meeting agreed to authorise the following payment:

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

### **Agenda Item 9. Highways, footpaths & transport**

**5th September**, the Clerk had received a response from MCC to his question about how to report Highways issues. This had been to use both the existing form (sent to the Highways Department) and also, to copy in the new Single Point of Contact.

In relation to an earlier query, Councillor Graham Edmunds confirmed that MCC had inspected the retaining wall upstream of the bridge at Skenfrith.

**Whitehall Lane (route 21.7), Rockfield.** Councillor Robin Wintour and the Clerk had contacted MCC on several occasions concerning the road surface and drains; but had not received a satisfactory response. This was now causing greater concern with the approaching onset of winter.

It was agreed that the Clerk would email the Highways Department and the MCC Single Point of Contact again, and request that the MCC Chief Executive be copied into any correspondence.

### **Agenda Item 10. Environment, recycling, waste**

**5th September**, from MCC, news of a trial of a glass recycling scheme in other parts of the County.

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**15<sup>th</sup> September**, from MCC, information about Red Card (anti dog-fouling scheme) awareness day.

**21<sup>st</sup> September**, from MCC, information about prosecuting dog owners who do not clean up after their pets. The Clerk had enquired as to how many successful prosecutions had been brought in the last 12 months by MCC?

**23<sup>rd</sup> September**, MCC had replied to say that none had been brought by either themselves or the Police.

### **Agenda Item 11. Education and Lifelong Learning**

**12<sup>th</sup> September**, from MCC, information about the Young People's Library Survey.

**28<sup>th</sup> September**, from Amy Baker, Cross Ash Governor support. A request to the Council, (together with Llanover, Llantilio Crossenny and Grosmont Councils) to make a nomination for the position of an additional community governor for consideration by the Governing Body by Friday, 4 November 2016.

### **Agenda Item 12. Health and Wellbeing**

**19<sup>th</sup> September**, the Clerk had again contacted MCC to request that they oppose any moves by British Telecom to remove the Maypole phone box. This being so as to allow additional time for the Village Life Community Project to complete their charity registration in order to adopt the box and use it to house a defibrillator.

**5<sup>th</sup> October**, from MCC. MCC to host an engagement forum for residents with disabilities on 19<sup>th</sup> October at County Hall in Usk.

### **Agenda Item 13. Visits by Councillors and Clerk**

**13<sup>th</sup> September** - Monmouth Cluster (MCC, Monmouth Town Council and other local Community Councils) meeting at Rolls Hall, Monmouth. Councillor Robin Wintour and the Clerk had attended. Concerns were expressed at the meeting about a lack of responsiveness and accountability from MCC. The issue of an imbalance between the provision of education and health services, the availability of jobs and the imposition of new housing was also raised. MCC has not yet published minutes or answers to the questions submitted beforehand by the Clerk. The Clerk had asked again on the day of this meeting (6<sup>th</sup> October), but had been informed by MCC that the person responsible was away.

**27<sup>th</sup> September**. Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Community Council Event at the Shire Hall, Monmouth. Councillor Robin Wintour and the Clerk had attended. Concerns were raised at the meeting about the effectiveness of the 101 number and the actual Police presence within communities. The Clerk had not yet received answers to questions submitted in advance of the meeting or copies of minutes.

**1<sup>st</sup> October** - One Voice Wales (OVW) National Conference at the Royal Welsh Showground. Councillor Graham Edmunds had attended. The Speakers had included Mark Drakeford, AM and Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, Stephen Mulholland and Julie May of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) and Peter Davies CBE, Chair of the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA).

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### **Agenda Item 14. Llangattock Churchyard**

Councillor Len Lane reported that the grass had been cut the previous Friday (30<sup>th</sup> September), giving a total of 14 cuts for the year to date.

### **Agenda Item 15. War Memorials**

The Clerk was still in discussion with the external auditors as to whether the War Memorial at Skenfrith should be placed on the Community Council Asset Register.

### **Agenda Item 16. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, at 7.30 pm, at Hilston Park.

### **Agenda Item 17. Announcements and Comments of Interest.**

None raised at the meeting.

### **Agenda Item 15, amendment to be inserted following Community Council meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016.**

“Councillor Graham Edmunds told the meeting that he intended to cut the grass around the war memorial before the memorial service to be held later in the month. The meeting agreed to pay a suitable contractor £15 per cut to cut the grass around the memorial in the following (2017) season.”