

Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council

Cyngor Cymuned Llangatwg Feibion Afel

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Minutes of the Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council Public Meeting	
Date	Thursday, March 8 th , 2018, at 8.00pm (Meeting of March 1 st cancelled due to adverse weather)
Venue	Hilston Park, Newcastle, NP25 5NY
Chair	Yvonne Price
Also present	Councillors: Graham Edmunds, George Edwards, Len Lane, Desmond Pugh, & Yvonne Rees.
In attendance	Mr Mark Nicholas, Clerk to the Council

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Robin Wintour, Steve Morgan, John Kennedy, and Ray Bowen.

2. Declarations of Interest.

None were received as regards the published Agenda. Councillors agreed to identify any that arose during the course of the meeting.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 1st of February, 2018, were confirmed as being a true record of the proceedings; except for part of Agenda item 5, Questions and comments from Members of the Public. The minutes had stated that "Mr B informed the meeting that he considered this to be private ground, and therefore not a layby." The meeting agreed that this should actually state "Mr B informed the meeting that he did not consider this to be a layby". The minutes will be amended accordingly.

4. Guest Speakers.

None.

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5. Questions and Comments from Members of the Public.

None.

6. Updates and Progress (except where covered by other headings)

14th Feb, an email from the National Grid team to say that work has started on re-furbishing the overhead power lines, at Cilfynydd.

A resident of Maypole had enquired about broadband progress. Councillor Robin Wintour had replied in the light of existing knowledge to say that Rockfield had yet to be switched to fibre, but it was hoped this would happen in the near future. Robin will speak to Openreach (again!) about the matter.

7. Correspondence and Consultations (except where covered by other headings)

3rd February, a member of the public enquired if the “disused” Bus Shelter in Newcastle could be used as a “Pop-Up” Shop. The Clerk had replied that the Shelter actually belonged to Monmouthshire County Council (MCC), and that it was still in use. The amount of use varies, depending on the numbers of school age children in the area. The Council would not object to it being used for the benefit of the community if this was acceptable to MCC and did not interfere with its function as a shelter.

14th Feb, via One Voice Wales (OVW), details of a proposed vacant land tax.

22nd Feb. Information from Felicity Cotton about Agincourt Square “Public Realm”

An email from Llantilio Crossenny Community Council with a copy of their response to the proposed changes in Community Council boundaries. Their view is that the current boundaries should remain unchanged.

From OVW, the February news bulletin.

Via OVW, a strategic partner survey from Aging Well in Wales.

27th Feb Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report.

From MCC, an email about the budget proposals.

2nd March, from WAG, an email giving details of funding support for clustering and engagement.

Via OVW, a pdf of “Guidance for Principal Councils on the Review of Communities”. Of particular relevance is 1.4:

“From time to time, because of developments or shifts of population, there may be a need to make changes to the community areas. Such changes may involve changes to the boundary of the community and, where a community council exists, changes to the community council electoral arrangements. The legislation that covers community reviews is the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 (the Act).”

Councillors agreed that as the population of the Community Council area had remained constant for many years, the guidance reinforced their view that the present Community Council boundaries should remain unchanged.

Welsh Language Scheme. The Clerk had sought advice about the potential requirement for Community Councils to adopt a Welsh Language Scheme. It was concluded that it was not compulsory for Councils to have such a scheme. However, Councils should consider if it was appropriate for them to adopt a scheme.

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The Meeting considered the matter and decided that the Council will not adopt a Welsh Language Scheme. This is because of the very small incidence of Welsh speakers within the Community Council boundaries.

8. Planning Matters

12th Feb. An email from MCC Planning to implementation of a new IT system will begin on the 16th of Feb, and should be completed by the 6th of March

9. Financial Matters

The meeting agreed to authorise the following payments:

£142 annual membership of OVW.

£17.00 Gwent Outdoor Centres, hire of room for this meeting

£317.75 MCC grass cutting.

£279.22 Net Salary for the Clerk

The meeting considered it inappropriate to respond to a request for funds from Home Start Monmouthshire.

10. Highways, footpaths & transport

At the last meeting, two members of the public had put forward differing views as to the status of a gravelled area on a wide verge on the B4233, just west of Steppes Farm. The Clerk had sought clarification of this issue from MCC. An email was received on the 7th of February from Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Services at MCC. This stated that the area in question is in fact, a layby.

Also, at the last meeting, another member of the public had raised concerns about parking problems along the same stretch of road on the 27th of January. CSO Sarah Mason confirmed that the Police had been informed in advance of an event that might attract a lot of vehicles. However, while advance notice is helpful, the Police would never give approval for dangerous parking. She also advised that illegal or obstructive parking could be reported to the Police by phoning 101, and dangerous parking could be reported by phoning 999.

Again, at the last meeting, queries were raised about the possibility of introducing speed limits at the Hendre, and the frequency of speed checks carried out at Rockfield. The Clerk had contacted MCC and received an acknowledgement under the reference number 027025.

He had also contacted CSO Sara Mason who had offered advice on setting up a speed monitoring group, and also indicated that no speed checks had been carried out at Rockfield within the previous 12 months.

7th March. Further information and social media content from National Grid concerning the ongoing work on the power lines.

Councillor Steve Morgan raised the issue of the frequent traffic lights and roadworks caused by Welsh Water digging up the road at Norton on the crossroads of the B4521 and B4347. The Clerk will make enquiries with Welsh Water and MCC.

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Councillor Graham Edmunds highlighted a problem with the edge of the road crumbling on the B4521 as it approaches the Wales/England border.

Councillor Len Lane informed the meeting that the potholes on route 12.9 as it leaves Cross Ash continue to get worse. This has been a subject frequently reported to MCC in the past, when various temporary repairs have been carried out.

11. Environment, recycling, waste

Nothing to report.

12. Education and lifelong learning

5th February, from MCC, an email about standards improving in Monmouthshire's schools.

13. Health and Wellbeing

14th Feb. A newsletter from AHB.

20th Feb. An update from Tom Pitts Tucker of the Village Life Community Project (VLCP). It is now planned to install defibrillators at Rockfield and Newcastle. The VLCP continues to provide first aid training to local residents.

14. Visits by Councillors and Clerk

None.

15. Llangattock Churchyard

Nothing to report.

16. War Memorials

Nothing to report.

17. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held on Thursday, April 5th at 8.00pm

Agenda Item 18. Announcements and Comments of Interest.

None.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.