

# Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council

## Cyngor Cymuned Llangatwg Feibion Afel

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 Clerk to the Council,  
 Proper Officer to the  
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<b>Minutes of the Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council Public Meeting</b>	
Date	Wednesday, December 12th 2018 at 7.30pm
Venue	Hilston Park, Newcastle, NP25 5NY
Chair	Councillor Yvonne Price
Also present	Councillors: Ray Bowen, George Edwards, John Kennedy, Len Lane, Steve Morgan, Desmond Pugh, & Yvonne Rees.
In attendance	Mark Nicholas, Clerk to the Council

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Graham Edmunds and Robin Wintour.

### 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 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018 were confirmed as being a true record of the proceedings.

### 4. Guest Speakers.

None.

### 5. Questions and Comments from Members of the Public.

None.

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

**12<sup>th</sup> November.** A final newsletter from the National Grid Team regarding the completion of power line refurbishment. It was noted that there were still signs awaiting removal and a certain amount of making good to be done.

Also, from Monmouthshire County Council (MCC), a press release “Government uses innovative tech companies to tackle rural isolation and loneliness” This included

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comments from County Councillor Sara Jones about “digital innovation”. The Clerk had exchanged emails with Sara about the continuing difficulties of residents of Rockfield and the Hendre who struggle to work or study via the internet, let alone innovate. Councillor Robin Wintour had also been in touch with Sara about the continuing stalled roll out of “Super Fast Cymru”.

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

**13<sup>th</sup> November**, from Monmouthshire Citizens Advice Bureau, an invitation to attend their AGM on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, and copies of their annual report and accounts.

Also, via One Voice Wales (OVW), a press release from the Auditor General, “Councils need to think and act differently to sustain services in rural Wales”

**19<sup>th</sup> November**, a request to use the LVACC handbells by St Cadoc’s singers. (see also item 17).

**27<sup>th</sup> November**, from OVW, the December News Bulletin.

**28<sup>th</sup> November**, via OVW, an email from the Police & Crime Commissioner notifying an intended increase in the precept of about £12 per annum

**4<sup>th</sup> December**, via OVW, a WAG survey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RDPC8ZD>  
*“The Welsh Government proposes to develop a package of resources for Community and Town Councils to increase their awareness and help increase their use of Welsh. The package will include practical resources and support in the most appropriate format whether that is online, in hard copy or delivered in other ways to assist individual Councils to increase their use of Welsh.”* Apart from an “any other comments” box at the end, there were no options to indicate that a Council completing the survey operated in an overwhelmingly English-speaking area.

**4<sup>th</sup> December**, from MCC, a press release marking the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Livestock Market at Raglan.

**7<sup>th</sup> December**, from OVW, a list of training events, January - March 2019.

### **8. Planning Matters**

**DC/2017/00552 & DM/2018/00836**, seasonally erected marquees at the Bell, Skenfrith. MCC had discharged condition 9 on the basis of a document submitted by the applicant. The Clerk contacted MCC requesting that discharge of the condition be withdrawn or suspended until a revised document was submitted. This was because some of the wording in the document directly contradicted MCC’s other conditions 3 and 7 of the planning approval.

The Clerk pointed out that venues playing music at night are quite likely to be the subject of complaints, and that the clearer the conditions around the amplitude and timing of music, the easier and quicker it will be to resolve any disputes that may arise in a way that is fair to all parties involved.

The final response from Andrew Jones at MCC Planning had included: *“... our advice would be that the requirements of compliance conditions 3 and 7 are clear and enforceable.”* And:

*“I hope this provides you with clarification on the hours of operation for the marquees at the Bell, and that conditions 3 and 7 are required to be strictly adhered to.”* (sic)

**Dm/2018/01687** Callens Croft, Maypole NP25 5QG. Change from original approval for 2 storey extension to 1 storey. A comment supporting the proposal had been placed on the MCC planning portal.

**4<sup>th</sup> December**, from MCC, a list of new and completed enforcements.

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**DM/2018/01804** Demesne Farm.

**DM/2018/01045** Pen-Y- Cwm, The Hendre, NP25 5SX (11<sup>th</sup> Dec). Rear and side extensions.

**DM/2018/017078**, listed building consent for above.

### 9. Financial Matters

It was noted that the Council had the following balances - £1396.58 In the Treasurer's account; £8964.49 in the deposit account; and £4120.00 in the Churchyard a/c.

**2018/2019 Budget monitoring** – please see annex 1 of these minutes. The meeting discussed how known and expected expenditure for 2018/2019 compared to the amounts budgeted. Overall, the amount spent is expected to be in the region of 20% less than the budget. There are several smaller items that are expected to be below the budgeted amounts. However, the principal contribution to lower than budgeted spending has been the decision not to make any “Contributions” to the Churchyard Account. The Community Council is responsible for the closed part of Llangattock Churchyard, and keeps funds in an account to allow for planned or emergency works that might arise. As there are no planned works envisioned at present, the existing funds were felt to be an adequate reserve for unexpected works that might arise in the future.

**Reserves** - the Council expects to have reserves in its Lloyds Bank accounts in the region of 80% of its annual expenditure at the end of the financial year. This was felt to be more than adequate, and it was decided to meet some of next (2019/2020) year's budget by drawing from reserves. This is in addition to the funds held in the Churchyard account to make provision for any works required in Llangattock Churchyard.

**2019/2020 Precept.** The meeting agreed to request a precept of £9300 from MCC, being the same amount requested in the two previous years.

**2019/2020 Budget, expenditure** – please see Annex 2 of these minutes. The Clerk had earlier circulated a draft budget and notes. After some discussion, the meeting arrived at the budget shown in Annex 2.

There is a new item in the 2019/2020 Budget - “Councillor Allowances and Expenses”, for which £1500 has been allowed. Historically, the Community Councillors have not claimed allowances, and only rarely claimed any expenses actually incurred. However, there are changes happening, and proposed, to the running of Community Councils. These changes may compel councillors to accept allowances, and could involve additional work and expenses on the part of Councillors that would necessitate compensation. Councillors decided that it was prudent to make provision for this in the budget.

**2019/2020 Budget, Income** – with the precept frozen for the third year running, the balance to meet budgeted expenditure will be met by drawing from the Community Council's reserves:

Sources of funds to meet LVACC budgeted expenditure in 2019/2020		£
Precept Requested from Monmouthshire County Council		9300.00
To be drawn from LVACC reserves		1385.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10685.00</b>

The meeting agreed to authorise the following payments:

**£17.00** Monmouthshire County Council, hire of room for this meeting

**£279.22** Net Salary for the Clerk for November.

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**£279.22** Net Salary for the Clerk for December, to be banked in January.

**£343.05** Wales Audit Office, for external audit of the 2017/2018 year.

**£209.40** Tax and National Insurance on the Clerk's salary for the previous quarter. (due by 22/01/19)

**£497.84** Clerk Expenses January 2017 to December 2018 (less an interim payment of £500)

Approval for grass cutting fees in 2019/2020 was deferred pending further discussions on the scope of the work with MCC.

**9<sup>th</sup> November**, from Broomfield Alexander, an invitation to move to electronic payslips.

**26<sup>th</sup> November**, from WAG, a letter stating that the section 137 Discretionary Expenditure Limit for 2019/2020 has been set at £8.12.

### **10. Highways, footpaths & transport**

**12<sup>th</sup> November**, from Ruth Rourke at MCC, a rights of way improvement Plan workshop, to be held at the Shire Hall, on Weds 21<sup>st</sup> Nov.

**23<sup>rd</sup> November**, from MCC. Notice of free parking in Abergavenny and Monmouth on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

**27<sup>th</sup> November**, from MCC, a press release about stricter enforcement of short-term parking.

**10<sup>th</sup> December**, from MCC, a press release about a £3.5 million grant from WAG, of which £750,000 will go towards a third lane at Monmouth Wye Bridge.

Also, an email about essential services continuing to operate over the Christmas period.

**11<sup>th</sup> December**, via OVW, a "Connecting Communities in Wales Newsletter" from the Community Transport Association.

### **11. Environment, recycling, waste**

**3<sup>rd</sup> December**, from MCC, minutes of the latest Red Card meeting. There had been discussion about MCC initiating a collection service for dog waste bins.

### **12. Education and lifelong learning**

Nothing to report.

### **13. Health and Wellbeing**

19<sup>th</sup> November, via OVW, a newsletter from Aging Well in Wales, including a guide to respite provision.

### **14. Visits by Councillors and Clerk**

None.

### **15. Llangattock Churchyard (the "closed" part)**

Please see comment about grass cutting under Item 9, Financial Matters

### **16. War Memorials**

Councillors laid wreathes at Skenfrith and Llangattock on Remembrance Sunday.

### **17. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held at Hilston Park, on Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm.

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**18. Announcements and Comments of Interest.**

23<sup>rd</sup> December at 6.00 pm. St Cadoc's Carol singers with the LVACC handbells, at St Cadoc's Church. An item to this effect had been placed on the Community Council website.

The meeting was informed that discussions to wind up the Llangattock Vibon Avel United Charities (no connexion with the Community Council), and distribute the remaining assets are still ongoing.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.