

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



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Minutes of the Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council Public Annual General Meeting	
Date	Wednesday, 1 st May 2019 at 7.30 pm
Venue	Hilston Park, Newcastle, NP25 5NY
Chair	Councillor Yvonne Price at opening of meeting, Councillor Yvonne Rees after election of officers
Also present	Councillors: Ray Bowen, Graham Edmunds, John Kennedy, Len Lane, Steve Morgan, Desmond Pugh, & Robin Wintour. County Councillor: Ruth Edwards
In attendance	Mark Nicholas, Clerk to the Council

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillor George Edwards.

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. Election of Officers

Chair for 2019/2020, Councillor Yvonne Rees. Proposed by Councillor Graham Edmunds, seconded by Councillor Steve Morgan.

Vice-Chair for 2019/2020, Councillor George Edwards. Proposed by Councillor John Kennedy, seconded by Councillor Steve Morgan.

Councillors expressed thanks to the out-going Chair, Councillor Yvonne Price for her hard work in the previous year.

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Appointments to the following offices were then agreed:

Authorised financial signatories – Councillors Len Lane, Des Pugh, and Ray Bowen.

One Voice Wales (OVW) Representative – Councillor Graham Edmunds

Emergency Planning Contacts for Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) Councillor Ray Bowen and the Clerk.

Churchyard safety Officer – Councillor Len Lane

Appointed Officer to the Burial Authority – The Clerk

4. Whereabouts of Community Council Assets

Skenfrith War Memorial and the closed part of Llangattock Churchyard, including the War Memorial.

Documents for safe-keeping relating to the above – held at Lloyds Bank.

Set of 12 Hand Bells – in care of Councillor Ray Bowen, currently on loan to the Montessori School, Llangattock.

Old Norton School Bell – in situ at the Old School House at Norton.

7 Notice Boards, in situ. The notice boards at Rockfield and the Hendre have clear plastic panels that are becoming discoloured and will need replacing.

Minute Books 1A, 1B, 2,3,4, & 5, with Councillor Ray Bowen.

Various other minute books and documents, with the Clerk.

Laptop and printer, with the Clerk.

A plaque (now replaced) that had previously been in situ near the Skenfrith War Memorial, with Councillor Graham Edmunds.

5. Minutes of the Last Meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on April 3rd 2019 were confirmed as being a true record of the proceedings.

6. Guest Speakers.

None.

7. Questions and Comments from Members of the Public.

None.

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

Stone Cross at Rockfield. The Clerk's enquiries regarding the Community Council contributing towards the cost of repairing the Cross, and the ownership of the Cross and site are still on-going.

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

4th April, from OVW, a copy of the draft National Executive Committee minutes for the meeting held on May 8th.

9th April, from OVW, information about an OVW/SLCC Joint Event to be held on 15th May at Swansea Liberty Stadium. <http://www.slcc.co.uk/ovw>

10th April, from OVW, notice of the next Monmouthshire/Newport Area Committee meeting to be held on 18th July, also information from the Wales Audit Office and ABUHB.

23rd April, from Monmouth Town Council, the Agenda for their next meeting to be held on April 29th.

26th April, from OVW, an invitation to Community Engagement Training at Usk on Wednesday, 15th May, and also Charing Skills Training at Bedwas on the 14th of May.

10. Planning Matters

DM/2019/00145 – Far Barn, St Maughans, NP25 5QQ. A comment recommending approval for the Pool House was submitted by the Clerk following a visit by councillors. No comment was made as regards the extension, as the drawings had been “cancelled”

11th April, from Joan Lockett, WAG Local Government partnerships, details of a survey for Town and Community Councils to complete about their experience of using their Local Planning Authority. The Clerk will complete the survey by the due date of 10th May.

From MCC, a consultation on the revised Draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Housing Guidance, responses on or before 28th May.

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/planning-policy-current-consultations/>

Pitch Cottage, Crossways. Helen Etherington from MCC informed the Clerk that no enforcement action would be taken as regards gates being placed across a dangerous entrance, as “*The owner has re-erected the gates in order to fence off the area rather than use it as an entrance*”.

DM/2019/00270 Hendre Farmhouse, application for an extension to the Amenity block has been approved following a visit by the Delegated Panel.

11. Financial Matters

Insurance - the Community Council’s existing insurer, BHIB, sent a renewal notice for £315.30. The Clerk obtained two further quotes, from Came & Company for £344.74, but this did not cover war memorials, and also from Zurich Municipal for £397.00

Councillor’s Allowance – Councillors are entitled to claim an annual allowance of £150 to cover expenses. Councillors have not opted to take this up in past years. Councillor Des Pugh had considered taking it up for this financial year due to his ongoing work on the Council website. However, as it is taxable, he did not consider this worthwhile due to the administrative burden on himself and the Council. All Councillors agreed to opt out of taking up the allowance for the 2019/2020 year.

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MCC Grass Cutting Invoice Query. The Community Council has historically paid MCC at the start of the growing season for grass cutting, i.e. in advance of the work being done. This has caused some confusion in the MCC finance department, which has been sending the Clerk demands for payment of an “outstanding” invoice. The Clerk has supplied details of payments made, and Councillor Len Lane is liaising with MCC.

Annual Audit – The due date for the accounts and return to be approved is 30th June.

The meeting agreed to authorise the following payments:

£315.30 BHIB Ltd, annual insurance for the Community Council.

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

£279.22 Net Salary for the Clerk – a balancing amount will be paid in June to reflect the extra due to the pay rise on April 1st.

£117.00 Baldwins (was Broomfield), payroll fees for previous quarter. Invoice number 14203036.

Skenfrith War Memorial – Pointing on stone setts. The meeting agreed a provisional initial expenditure of £300-400. See also item 18.

12. Highways, footpaths & transport

Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) – An email was received on 4th April from Mike Collins, Senior Traffic Engineer at MCC, detailing the takeover of CPE responsibility from Gwent Police by MCC. The Clerk will make enquiries as regards enforcement action being taken regarding parking on the zig-zags outside Cross Ash School.

Drains on B4233, approaching Rockfield from the west, these remain uncleared.

River Wall at Skenfrith– MCC has informed the Clerk that work will begin later in the summer, after the spawning season and will require the construction of a temporary dam to isolate the working area.

Crossways to Norton Drains reported to MCC.

Further Highways issues – Clerk to bring to attention of MCC:

Junction of B4347 and R21.3 (midway between Newcastle and Rockfield) Water run-off onto road during heavy rain.

Junction of B4347 and R23.4 (approaching Newcastle from direction of Hilston Park) Road drain blocked.

B4347 entering Newcastle from direction of Hilston Park, unofficial 30mph and Children Playing signs have been erected on the roadside. Councillors were sympathetic to residents with concerns about vehicles driving at excessive speeds. However, it was agreed that unofficial signs dilute the impact and reduce the credibility of official signs.

R12.12 from Skenfrith towards the B4347, potholes on road.

13. Environment, recycling, waste

Emails have been received from other councils regarding possible changes to arrangements for emptying dog waste bins, or combining them with general waste bins. In the past, the Community Council has been unable obtain MCC sanction for a litter bin in Skenfrith, and collection costs for a single dog waste bin would be prohibitive.

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Skenfrith Castle and river bank. CADW have been in touch with Councillor Graham Edmunds to discuss the possibility of erecting a fence and providing litter bin(s).

14. Education and lifelong learning

Catchment Areas – An email was received from MCC as regards the introduction of revised catchment areas from the start of the 2020/21 academic year.

15. Health and Wellbeing

8th April, from Aneurin Bevan UHB, a copy of Your Local Health News.

10th April, via OVV, an ABUHB presentation on FAQ's around "Clinical Futures"

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/866/opensdoc/310411>

Councillors were concerned to note that fewer A & E services will be provided by local hospitals in the future, as page 8 of the linked document describes:

The A&E Departments at The Royal Gwent Hospital and Nevill Hall Hospital will need to change, as they will no longer have the full range of back up services to support a full A&E Department.

16. Visits by Councillors and Clerk

Code of Conduct training. The Clerk attended an OVV training session at the Babington Centre, Trellech, on April 8th.

17. Llangattock Churchyard (the "closed part")

The grass has now been cut twice this season.

18. War Memorials

Councillors Graham Edmunds and George Edwards are continue to explore options for re-pointing and keeping safe the setts at Skenfrith War Memorial with a resin-based compound. See also Item 12.

19. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held on Wednesday, 5th June at 8.00pm.

20. Announcements and Comments of Interest.

Councillors Ray Bowen and Yvonne Price informed the meeting that St Cadoc's Church at Llangattock has now been taken over by Friends of Friendless Churches:

<http://friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk/>

The number of services will be limited to six per annum. However, the Friends are keen to allow additional volunteer-led events, such as concerts, to continue. The status of the "Closed" and "Open" parts of the Churchyard remains unchanged.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.