

# Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council

## Cyngor Cymuned Llangatwg Feibion Afel

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<b>Minutes of the Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council Public Meeting</b>	
Date	April 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2019 at 8.00pm
Venue	Hilston Park, Newcastle, NP25 5NY
Chair	Councillor Yvonne Price
Also present	Councillors: Graham Edmunds, George Edwards, Len Lane, Steve Morgan & Yvonne Rees. County Councillor: Ruth Edwards
In attendance	Mark Nicholas, Clerk to the Council

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Ray Bowen, John Kennedy, Desmond Pugh, and Robin Wintour.

### 2. Declarations of Interest.

Councillor George Edwards declared an interest as regards the Cross discussed at item 5. Being the owner of a building business, he had prepared an illustrative quote (with photographs) for repairing the Cross. He emphasised that he was not actively seeking the work, but had prepared the quote to give his fellow Councillors an idea of the scale and potential cost of repairs.

### 3. Minutes of the Last Meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on March 6<sup>th</sup> were confirmed as being a true record of the proceedings.

### 4. Guest Speakers.

None.

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

**Stone Cross at Rockfield.** This stands on the triangle of grass formed by the junction of the B4233 and B4347 at Rockfield. Also standing on the triangle are a redundant phone box, a letter box, and a wooden seat. Previously, the grass had been maintained for many years on a voluntary basis by local resident, Mrs Sue Senekal.

Local residents Tony Bevan and Kate Davies spoke to the meeting about the Cross.

Tony Bevan talked about the history of the Cross, and informed the meeting that it had been the "Preaching Cross" at St. Cenedlon's Church in Rockfield. It had been moved to its present location in the late nineteenth century, following the erection of a new cross in the churchyard.

Kate Davies spoke to the meeting about the work that she and fellow volunteers had done on the site in conjunction with the Village Life Community Project. The phone box had been adopted, restored, and converted to house a defibrillator, the grass had been cut, and the Cross cleared of an enveloping creeper. Clearing the creeper had revealed that one arm of the Cross was damaged and in need of replacement.

The volunteers had obtained a quote from a local craftsperson to carry out the repair. This had not been seen by the Clerk or any councillor prior to the meeting, and was rather less than the illustrative quote (see item 3) provided by Councillor George Edwards.

Tony and Kate requested that the Community Council consider providing a contribution towards the cost of mending the Cross.

Tony and Kate were thanked for their interesting contribution to the meeting, and it was agreed to discuss the matter in more detail at Item 9.

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

**Proposed boundary changes** for Community Councils in Monmouthshire, as previously reported at item 6 of the March 2019 minutes. The Clerk had submitted a new response, regarding the Community Council's opposition to the proposals, and also provided the full text of earlier comments going back to 2014 for reference.

Judith Davies, from the Local Government Democracy Division, had replied on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March:

*Your views will be included in the advice to the Minister for Housing and Local Government as part of the process of making the Electoral Order.*

The Local Government Minister, Julie James had also replied to the Clerk on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March:

*I am grateful to you for sharing your concerns about the current review which I will consider these views as part of the process of making the Community Order for Monmouthshire.*

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

**11<sup>th</sup> March**, from One Voice Wales (OVW), a News Bulletin. Amongst other matters, highlighting the Assembly's intention to reduce the voting age in Wales to 16.

**19<sup>th</sup> March** Notice of the Area Committee Meeting to be held in Usk on the 4<sup>th</sup> Of March

**27<sup>th</sup> March**, from Matt Phillips, Head of Law & Monitoring Officer at Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) – notice that the "Clerk's Council" has been postponed to Weds, 26<sup>th</sup> June. The Clerk has submitted "Boundary Changes" as a discussion topic.

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Also, several invitations to training events run by One Voice Wales. Unfortunately, most of them at too great a distance to easily attend.

### 8. Planning Matters

**7<sup>th</sup> March**, and **1<sup>st</sup> April**, from MCC, lists of new and completed enforcements.

21<sup>st</sup> March, from Mary Keech at MCC Planning. Guidance notes for viewing applications:

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning/research-planning-history>

**28<sup>th</sup> March**, from Jill edge at MCC, notification about a consultation on infill development. –

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

Responses to be sent by 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019. The Clerk had enquired if this would cover developments such as the former garage site at Cross Ash.

**DM/2019/00145** – Far Barn, St Maughans, NP25 5QQ – detached pool house. (25<sup>th</sup> March)

### 9. Financial Matters

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

**£209.40** Tax and National Insurance on the Clerk's salary for the previous quarter.

**2<sup>nd</sup> April**, via OVW, news of a consultation on amending the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2013. <http://senedd.assembly.wales/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=22432>

The Clerk had asked OVW to clarify some of the details with a view to the Community Council submitting a response.

**Community Council Funds.** The Clerk informed the meeting that the Council has in the region of £8500 in the deposit account, and £4000 in the Churchyard account.

**Rockfield Cross** (see also item 5). Councillors were supportive of the Community Council paying for the entire cost of repairing the Cross - £900. However, there are a number of issues to be taken into account before finalising any arrangements, such as any existing or potential future ownership of, or liability for, the Cross and grass triangle. Councillors requested that the Clerk seek further advice as regards options for funding repairs and ownership of the Cross and grass triangle.

### 10. Highways, footpaths & transport

**B4233**, drains blocked on the hill coming down to Rockfield from the west/ The Hendre. Still blocked, although MCC had informed Councillor George Edwards that work would start on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March.

**B4233**, as above, bend sign on hairpin, above Rockfield was missing, has been replaced.

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**Graig View, Cross Ash.** Unadopted Road. No response from MCC, despite the Clerk contacting them twice and inviting a representative to attend the meeting.

**Skenfrith** – river wall. This remains in need of additional repairs to prevent further damage in the event of prolonged raised water levels. Still no response from MCC.

**Crossways to Norton** – Roadside drains blocked again.

**18<sup>th</sup> March.** A press release from MCC about the County Council taking over responsibility for on-street parking enforcement.

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

Nothing to report.

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

**18<sup>th</sup> March,** from Debbie Morgan at MCC – notice about a statutory consultation on the closure of Mounton House School. [strategicreview@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:strategicreview@monmouthshire.gov.uk) Responses by 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

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

20<sup>th</sup> March, from Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council – issue 34 of the Patients Voice News Bulletin.

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

Councillor Graham Edmunds will attend the OVW Monmouth/Newport Area Committee meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April.

### **15. Llangattock Churchyard (the “closed part”)**

Councillor Len Lane reported that the grass will be cut this same week.

### **16. War Memorials**

Councillors George Edwards and Graham Edmunds continue to examine options for re-pointing the setts on Skenfrith War memorial.

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

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting. This will be held at 7.30 pm on May 1st at Hilston Park.

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

Vernon Pugh, Councillor Des Pugh’s father, passed away on Monday. Councillors requested that the Clerk pass on their condolences.