

# 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	Wednesday, October 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2019 at 8.00 pm
Venue	Hilston Park, Newcastle, NP25 5NY
Chair	Councillor Yvonne Rees
Also present	Councillors: Ray Bowen, Graham Edmunds, George Edwards, John Kennedy, Len Lane, Steve Morgan, Yvonne Price, Desmond Pugh, & Robin Wintour. County Councillor: Ruth Edwards
In attendance	Mark Nicholas, Clerk to the Council

### 1. Apologies for Absence

County Councillor Ruth 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. Minutes of the Last Meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on September 4th 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)

10<sup>th</sup> Sept 2019. Boundary Changes – The Clerk has asked One Voice Wales (OVW) if there was any more news about the proposed boundary changes to Community Council, but there was no further news at that time. <https://ldbc.gov.wales/reviews>

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

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11<sup>th</sup> September, from OVW, a list of training events to be held in September and October.  
18<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September, from the Friends of St Cadoc's, minutes from their last meeting, and the Agenda for their AGM, to be held 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Also notice of an evensong to be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October, to mark the vesting of the Church in the Friends of Friendless Churches, followed by the FoFC's own AGM.

From OVW, the Agenda for the next Monmouthshire & Newport Area Committee meeting, to be held at Usk on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October, and the minutes of the July meeting.

19<sup>th</sup> September, from OVW, a copy of their September News Bulletin.

26<sup>th</sup> September, an email about the Monmouthshire Climate Emergency from Hazel Clatworthy.

27<sup>th</sup> Sept, from Monmouthshire County Council (MCC), information about their Chair's Charity events to be held next year.

1<sup>st</sup> October, an email from the CEO of Monmouthshire CAB, giving thanks for the Community Council's donation to their service.

### 8. Planning Matters

10<sup>th</sup> September, a list of new and completed enforcements from MCC.

28<sup>th</sup> September, DM/2019/01365. Bechers Cottage, Farr Farm, Newcastle. NP25 5NF.

Removal of holiday letting condition so as to allow residential letting. Approval recommended.

### 16. War Memorials

This item was brought forward at the request of the Clerk, to enable discussion prior to Item 9.

The Clerk presented this resolution to the meeting:

#### **Skenfrith War Memorial – Resolution to fund the re-pointing of the stone setts**

*The pointing between the stone setts around the Memorial has deteriorated and allowed the growth of weeds. Cleaning is difficult, as the loose joints harbour dirt and debris.*

*Following pressure washing of the setts, it is apparent that the pointing needs replacing to a depth of approximately one inch.*

*Councillors have identified that the best solution is to re-point the setts with a resin-based product – VDW 850, and have conducted a small trial with donated material. The trial has proved successful, and has also enabled the quantity of material needed to re-point the entire Memorial to be calculated.*

*Re-pointing the setts with VDW 850 will be a long-lasting repair, keep the surface weed-free, and prevent future deterioration of the Memorial. It will also keep the Memorial safe for visitors, as it will stop the accumulation of dirt and debris which would become slippery in wet weather.*

*Eight (8) 25kg tubs are required to re-point all the setts around the Memorial.*

*Councillors have identified the best value supplier as being Travis Perkins in Monmouth, with the total price being £792.00, including vat.*

Councillors Steve Morgan and Des Pugh proposed, and seconded, acceptance of the resolution, which was unanimously passed by the meeting.

The contribution of Councillors Graham Edmunds and George Edwards in conducting the costings and carrying out the trial re-pointing was noted by their fellow councillors, and also the contribution of local man Dean Probert in conducting the trial.

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### 9. Financial Matters

The meeting agreed to authorise the following payments:

**£792.00** – Travis Perkins, 8 x 25 KG tubs of VDW 850, to re-point the stone setts around Skenfrith War Memorial. (as accepted resolution at 16, above.)

The Community Council is able to fund this from Reserves contained within its Lloyds bank accounts. Balances obtained on 30 Sept showed that these accounts hold a total of £13, 679.26.

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

**£322.07** Net Salary for the Clerk

**£241.60** Tax and National Insurance on the Clerk's salary for the previous quarter.

**£248.95** Clerk Expenses

**£129.60** Payroll fees from Baldwins for Q/E 30 Sept 2019.

**£34.00** Wreathes for War memorials

**External Audit for year ending 31 March 2019.** The Annual Return has now been received back from the External Auditors, and stated to be *in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.* The Return was approved and accepted by the Meeting.

**Issues arising** from Annual Report. Some of these had already been identified by the internal auditor, and corrective measures put in place, such as the production of periodic reconciliations, and better documentation of the Council's consideration of risk.

There was discussion about the issue of excessive reserves identified by the External Auditor. It was agreed that Earmarked Reserves would be more clearly identified in future, so that general reserves could also be more accurately identified. Payments for annual or infrequent purchases should be made in the year in which they are incurred. This would avoid, for example, making two payments for grass cutting in one financial year, and none in the next. Together with the usual budget monitoring, a detailed projection of year end (31<sup>st</sup> March 2020) funds will be made before the December meeting. This will identify if some of the 2020/2021 budget should be met from Reserves, and enable the Precept requested from MCC to be set accordingly.

**Councillors Published Allowances** for 2018/2019 – the Clerk had submitted a Nil return to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales. That is, to confirm that none of the Community Councillors claimed any expenses or allowances in 2018/2019.

### 10. Highways, footpaths & transport

**Existing** Newcastle Village – Speeding, have reported to MCC and the Police.

B4233, the Hendre – potential creation of 40mph limit, possibly later this year.

Boot Barn, R36/B4347 junction – direction sign has been turned around.

B4347 Crossway to Norton – blocked drains, MCC have “scheduled” the work.

B4521 by Trebella Farm – collapsed culvert, road restricted to one lane with traffic lights, no change.

River wall at Skenfrith – no further news.

B4233 coming into Rockfield from the west – blocked drains. These were cleared, but almost immediately blocked again after a spell of heavy rain.

B4233 from Rockfield to Monmouth. The effective width of the pavement has been much reduced by the intrusion of soil, grass, branches and brambles from the hedgerow side towards the road.

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### **New**

**9<sup>th</sup> September**, via OVW, news that phase 2 - **£1 MILLION** of Govtech funding has been awarded to contractors to “develop their concepts” for a “digital platform” and a “solution called connector”

**11<sup>th</sup> September**, from MCC. News about new style bus passes to come into effect from 31<sup>st</sup> December. <http://www.tfw.wales/travelcards>

**23<sup>rd</sup> September**, from Ruth Rourke, Countryside Access manager at MCC, a consultation for the draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/rights-of-way-improvement-plan-rowip/> Comments to be submitted by 26th November 2019.

Trees overhanging B4233 from the Stone Mill to the Hendre, following BT trimming around telegraph poles. Update received on 25 Sept 2019 “Trees and hedges to be monitored once hedges cut”.

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

6<sup>th</sup> September, from OVW, an email and several attachments regarding the Environment Act 2016 – Community & Town Councils Duty under section 6. OVW had responded to the Clerk’s query, and confirmed that this applies to all Community Councils, regardless of size. The duties concern maintaining, and reporting on, biodiversity.

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

11<sup>th</sup> Sept, from MCC, publication of the consultation regarding the closure of Mouton House School. <http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/schoolreorganisation>

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

6<sup>th</sup> September, from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB), notice that the Monmouthshire Talk Health Public Meeting scheduled for Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October at the Shire Hall, Monmouth, has been postponed.

13<sup>th</sup> September, from ABUHB, information about a series of “Building a healthier Gwent”

19<sup>th</sup> September, from the Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council, a copy of their annual report.

23<sup>rd</sup> September, from ABUHB, notice that the previously postponed Talk Health public meeting will now be held at Chepstow School, on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> October 5.30pm.

Also, an invitation to become a “Champion” in their “community network”, by attending an event at Newport on 21<sup>st</sup> November.

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

None.

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

(16. War Memorials was moved at the request of the Clerk, so as to allow discussion before 9. Financial Matters.)

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

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> November, at 8.00 pm.

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

Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> October at 5.30pm – Evensong at St. Cadoc's, followed by tea at the Rolls of Monmouth, £10 each. Also AGM of Friends of Friendless Churches.

Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October, at 7.30 pm, AGM of FoSC

Carol Service, Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.