

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	Wednesday, November 6 th 2019 at 8.00pm
Venue	Hilston Park, Newcastle, NP25 5NY
Chair	Councillor Yvonne Rees
Also present	Councillors: Ray Bowen, Graham Edmunds, George Edwards, John Kennedy, Len Lane (from 8:40), Steve Morgan, Yvonne Price, Desmond Pugh (from 8:50), & Robin Wintour. County Councillor: Ruth Edwards (from 8:50)
In attendance	Mark Nicholas, Clerk to the Council

1. Apologies for Absence

Some late arrivals, see above, due to a concurrent Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) meeting with local residents about the recent flooding at Skenfrith.

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 October 2nd 2019 were confirmed as being a true record of the proceedings.

4. Guest Speakers.

None.

5. Questions and Comments from Members of the Public.

None.

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

The two new noticeboards for Rockfield and the Hendre have been ordered, and it is hoped that delivery will soon follow.

A new Broadband cabinet has been installed at Rockfield, and broadband speeds have greatly improved.

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

4th October, from One Voice Wales (OVW), details of the criteria used by MCC to select the Phase 2 suppliers for the GovTech programme. This had been requested by community council representatives at the Monmouthshire/Newport Area Committee meeting.

14th October, from OVW, a survey about the use of “digital mechanisms”, completed and submitted by the Clerk.

15th October, from OVW, the minutes of the Monmouth/Newport Area Committee meeting held on 3rd October. Of particular note, news about a “Litter Strategy” being developed by the County Council, please also see item 11.

Also from OVW, information about commemorating the 75th anniversary of VE day (Friday, 8th May 2020) <http://www.veday75.org/>

18th October, from OVW, a list of November training sessions.

Also, a consultation from South Wales Fire & Rescue Service, completed and submitted by the Clerk.

22nd October, from the Friends of St Cadoc’s, information that their AGM has been postponed from the 23rd of October, to the 24th of November, at 4pm.

23rd October, from OVW, their October News Bulletin.

29th October, from Monmouth Town Council, the notice and Agenda for their meeting to be held on the 4th of November.

30th October, from MCC about volunteering and funding.

3rd November, from Sara Mason, CSO, news about free Rural Tool and Property marking events.

8. Planning Matters

03 October, from Planning Aid Wales, a reminder about a training event to be held at the Shire Hall, Monmouth, on Monday 11th November – “Introduction to Planning”.

DM/2019/01656 – Graig Farm, Cross Ash, NP7 8PH – room to store animal feed (for information only)

16th October, via OVW, news about WAG planning consultations. Of particular interest at the moment, the “Revised planning guidance in relation to flooding and coastal erosion” –

<https://gov.wales/technical-advice-note-15-development-flooding-and-coastal-erosion>

This consultation closes on the 17th January 2020.

DM/2019/01705 The Old School House, Newcastle. Annexe to provide accommodation for an elderly relative.

From WAG, via OVW information that Planning Policy Wales (PPW) 10 sets out that “planning authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions. This means that development should not cause any significant loss of habitats or populations of species, locally or nationally and must provide a net benefit for biodiversity” (para 6.4.5 refers).

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5th November, via OVW, news of a proposed amendment to the Sustainable Drainage (Enforcement) Order 2018. This will remove the upper limit of £20,000 for potential fines.

9. Financial Matters

The meeting agreed to authorise the following payments:

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

£420.49 MCC for grass cutting in 2019 at the closed part of Llangattock Churchyard, and around Skenfrith War Memorial.

£35.00 for the Clerk to attend the Planning Aid Wales event at the Shire Hall on November 11th.

£322.07 Net Salary for the Clerk for October.

15th October, from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, a copy of their draft report, and an invitation to make representations prior to final publication. (10th December).

[Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Draft Annual Report - February 2020](#)

28th October, a donation of £500 from Steve Clarke.

The Community Council has received a donation of £500 to be spent on the Skenfrith War Memorial from the Monmouth Christian Spiritualist Church.

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, scheduled to be done before Christmas.

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.

The trees overhanging the B4233 from Rockfield to Hendre have now been trimmed.

New B4233, south side, going past Rockfield Studios, water lying against kerb failing to drain away.

B4233 – Bridge over Llymon Brook, water failing to drain from road surface on top of bridge.

11. Environment, recycling, waste

Please see item 8 as regards the “Revised planning guidance in relation to flooding...”

23rd October, from MCC, news about a trial of re-useable recycling bags – not operating in the Community Council area at present.

Also, from OVW, more information about the 2019 Environmental (Wales) Act

Rats at Oak Grove, Clerk had reported to MCC, but no further news.

Flooding at Skenfrith, 29th of October. The flooding in Skenfrith was unprecedented in recent years, with virtually every house suffering damage.

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Councillors and residents praised the quick and responsive work of MCC's Jan Baldwin and Carl Touhig in helping those villagers affected by the flooding. There was a meeting for Skenfrith residents this same evening that overlapped part of the Community Council meeting. This was attended by County Councillor Ruth Edwards and MCC's Carl Touhig. The flood damage is such that many of the houses will not be in a state to be re-occupied for several months. The Clerk will contact Gwent Police and request that they pay special attention to the empty properties in Skenfrith.

5th November, from Sue Parkinson at MCC, a response to the Clerks enquiry, that the MCC litter strategy was yet to be adopted, but would appear as a policy document in due course.

12. Education and lifelong learning

Nothing to report.

13. Health and Wellbeing

30th October, from ABUHB, an invitation to a "Health Community Network Event", to be held in Newport on November 21st.

31st October, from ABUHB, their "Your Local Health Newsletter"

5th November, from Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council, to capture the patient experiences of maternity patients.

14. Visits by Councillors and Clerk

Councillor Graham Edmunds attended the OVW Monmouthshire/Newport Area Meeting on the 3rd of October.

15. Llangattock Churchyard (the "closed part")

Councillor Len Lane informed the meeting that the grass had been cut the previous Friday, leaving the Churchyard in good order for the forthcoming Remembrance commemorations.

16. War Memorials

Councillors gave thanks to Dean Probert and Councillor George Edwards for their work re-pointing the setts around the Skenfrith War Memorial. The work was completed in time for the remembrance commemorations, and has much enhanced the safety, appearance and longevity of the Memorial.

17. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held on December 11th, at 7.30 pm.

18. Announcements and Comments of Interest.

31st October, from the Friends of Saint Cadoc's, an invitation and information about the remembrance service to be held at the War memorial in Llangattock Vibon Avel Churchyard.