

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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NP25 5AY



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Minutes of the Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council Public Meeting	
Date	Wednesday, February 5 th at 7.30 pm
Venue	Hilston Park, Newcastle, NP25 5NY
Chair	Councillor Yvonne Rees
Also present	Councillors: Ray Bowen, Graham Edmunds, George Edwards, Len Lane, Steve Morgan, Yvonne Price, Desmond Pugh, & Robin Wintour. County Councillor: Ruth Edwards
In attendance	Mark Nicholas, Clerk to the Council

A minute's silence was held before the meeting as a mark of respect to the late Councillor John Kennedy.

1. Apologies for Absence

None

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 December 11th 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.

None

6. Death of Councillor John Kennedy

On the 23rd of December, aged 80. The well attended funeral was held on the 10th of January, at St Cenedlon's Church in Rockfield. John was a councillor for many years, took a lively interest in his community and always kept himself well informed about local goings-on.

7. Vacancy for Councillor

The casual vacancy for a community councillor for the ward of Rockfield & St. Maughans created by John Kennedy's death was published by Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) and the Community Council. John Pearson, Local Democracy Manager at MCC, informed the Clerk on the day of this meeting, that there has not been a request for an election. The vacancy may now be filled by co-option.

8 Review of Community Council Boundaries

Despite the lack of transparency and consultation, and numerous protests from Community Councils, the review has now been imposed in full by the Minister of Housing and Local Government. <https://ldbc.gov.wales/reviews/01-19/monmouthshire-final-recommendations>

One Voice Wales (OVW) have contacted the Clerk and asked:

..... *whether your Council:*

Wishes to ask OVW to make representations calling for a fresh Community Review be undertaken.

or

Whilst disappointed/frustrated that your Council was not afforded the opportunity to submit comments prior to the LDBC Report being published the Council is prepared to accept that the Review has now been completed?*

*Local Democracy and Boundary Commission.

It was proposed by Councillor Len Lane, and seconded by Councillor Steve Morgan, that the Clerk should inform OVW that the Community Council wishes that a fresh Community review be undertaken. Passed unanimously.

9. Review of County Council Wards

16th January, the Clerk attended a LDBC presentation at County hall – “Review of Electoral Arrangements in Monmouthshire”. This community council, and several others, were only aware of the meeting because they had been informed of it by OVW, rather than by the LDBC or MCC. The “Electoral Arrangements” in question, are actually the county council ward boundaries. The revised county councillor wards will not necessarily be composed of two or more whole community council areas, but may contain parts of several. It was said that the consultation to begin in March 2020.

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

The two new noticeboards have now been erected at the Hendre and Rockfield. They are larger than the old boards, and are also constructed such that less of the display area is obstructed by their frames.

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

12th Dec – From Rachel Rawlings, MCC, notice of a Cluster meeting to be held on the 21st of January.

16th Dec, an electronic Christmas card from Linda Greer, MCC Chair.

A newsletter from the SE Regional Engagement Team.

17th Dec, from OVW, notice of the One Voice Wales Innovative Practice & National Awards Conference 2020. This will be held on Thursday, 26th March at the Royal Welsh Showground.

Also, from MCC, a press release about their draft budget proposals.

3rd Jan, from OVW, an invitation for our Chair to enter a draw to attend a Buckingham Palace Garden party.

Also, from OVW, information about the 75th VE day celebrations on 8th May 2020.

<http://www.veday75.org/>

9th Jan, from Joe Skidmore, MCC Community & Partnership Development Scheme, notice and agenda for the Custer Meeting to be held on the 21st of January.

13th Jan, from OVW, a list of South Wales training dates up to July 23rd.

14th Jan, an enquiry from a member of the public about using the interior of the Newcastle bus shelter to house a noticeboard. The Clerk had replied that the Community Council had no objection to any lawful purpose acceptable to MCC, the owners of the shelter.

16 Jan, from John Pearson at MCC, a copy of the Electoral Register, approximately 880 electors.

17th Jan. A copy of the OVW response to the Consultation on the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill.

28th Jan, from OVW, the minutes of the Area Committee meeting held on the 16th of January, next meeting to be held on Thursday, 2nd April.

28th Jan, the Agenda for the Monmouth Town Council meeting to be held on the 3rd of February.

30th Jan, from Linda Greer, MCC Chair, an invitation to attend a charity ball at the Angel Hotel, Abergavenny, on the 14th Of March.

12. Planning Matters

12th Dec, from MCC, information about a Planning Aid Wales event – “Responding to Planning Applications”, to be held at Rogiet on 22nd January. (5.30pm to 8.30pm)

15th Dec, a query about planning permission at Grove Farm, Newcastle.

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18th Dec, from the WG Planning Directorate, a consultation on proposed changes to planning fees. https://gov.wales/changes-planning-and-related-applications-fees?_ga=2.233246302.1926474314.1576494937-1869591993.1570433432

Responses invited by 13th March 2020.

DM/2019/00857 – siting of Railway carriage – Delegated Panel to attend on Wed 15th Jan 2020. (planning permission subsequently granted)

DC/2017/01335 – Open Market and Affordable housing at site of former garage in Cross Ash. Re-consultation.

6th Jan, from MCC, a list of new and completed enforcements.

Dm/2019/02004 (17th Jan) – Llan Farm, The Hendre, NP25 5NX. Convert traditional barns into a single residential dwelling.

DM/2020/00058 – Lean-to extension to existing agricultural building. Hendre Farmhouse, NP25 4DJ. (24th Jan)

13. Financial Matters

The meeting agreed to authorise the following payments:

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

£129.50, Baldwins, payroll charges for quarter ending 31st December 2019. Invoice number 14256111.

£322.07 Net Salary for the Clerk

£109.00 The Society of Local Council Clerks

£40.00 The Association of Local Council Clerks.

£200.00 – Cross Ash Village Hall – for the celebrations marking the 75th anniversary of VE day.

Precept for 2020/2021. An acknowledgement and schedule have been received from MCC.

31st Jan, from Baldwins, a form to verify employee information, completed and returned by the Clerk.

Motion to increase the Community Council's Allocated Reserves by transferring £1000.00 from the Lloyds bank account, to the Nationwide Churchyard Account. Also, to change the account name to "Churchyard and War Memorials Account". Proposed by Des Pugh, seconded by Len Lane, passed by all as a resolution.

14. Highways, footpaths & transport

B4233 – kerbside drains blocked near Rockfield Studios – done.

B4233 - (4792841) Llymon Bridge, surface water failing to clear, "under review" by MCC.

B4233 – introduction of 40 mph speed limit at the Hendre. This has been the subject of an order by MCC, without further consultation with the Community Council. This is despite emails over a period of several months requesting updates and an opportunity to comment on the proposal.

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Whitehall Lane – ongoing problems with potholes and poor drainage.

MCC car parking – publication of changes in charges. OVW advise that there is no statutory duty for County Councils to publish notices of increase:

However, you would hope that a County Council would inform a local council that this was their intention as part of the Charter agreement between the County Council and its Community & Town Councils and to simply keep them informed and able to answer any queries they may receive from the public.

21st Jan, a press release from MCC announcing 6 new electric vehicle charge points. All these are situated in towns.

Temporary access road to Charles Church site, off B4233 between Rockfield and Monmouth. This is on a dangerous bend, should have mandatory warning signs that have not been enforced by MCC, and should have been closed several year ago. The Clerk will enquire with MCC.

15. Environment, recycling, waste

It had been hoped that a report about the October flooding at Skenfrith would have been produced by MCC in time for this meeting. County Councillor Ruth Edwards and Community Councillor Graham Edmunds will make enquiries with MCC as to when this will be available.

16. Education and lifelong learning

Cross Ash School. There continue to be acute problems with inconsiderate and dangerous car parking. It is planned to have a meeting to discuss means of alleviating these issues.

17. Health and Wellbeing

16th Dec, notice of a meeting of the Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council, on 8th January.

2th February, from MCC, a forwarded link about the Coronavirus:

<https://phw.nhs.wales/news/public-health-wales-response-to-outbreak-in-wuhan-china/>

18. Visits by Councillors and Clerk

16th February – The Clerk attended a LDBC presentation at County hall, see also items 8 and 9.

Councillor Graham Edmunds attended the OVW Area Committee meeting at Usk the same evening.

19. Llangattock Churchyard (the “closed part”)

Nothing to report.

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20. War Memorials

Nothing to report.

21. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held on Wednesday, 11th March at 8.00 pm, at Hilston Park Lodge.

22. Announcements and Comments of Interest.

The other councillors and the Clerk were much saddened when Ray Bowen informed them that he was standing down as a councillor. Ray has been a dedicated councillor for decades, but has been so disheartened by the on-going lack of consultation from MCC over several issues, and especially the boundary review, that he feels unable to continue with his good work.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm