

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	16 th June 2021 at 8.00 pm
Venue	Cross Ash Village Hall
Chair	Councillor George Edwards
Also present	Councillors: Graham Edmunds, Len Lane, Sarah Meyrick, Yvonne Price, Yvonne Rees, Desmond Pugh, & Robin Wintour. Ian Chandler, (after co-option) County Councillor: Ruth Edwards
In attendance	Mark Nicholas, Clerk to the Council

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Vicky Hepburn-John.

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 May 19th 2021 were confirmed as being a true record of the proceedings.

4. Co-option of Councillor

Ian Chandler, of Skenfrith, was present at the meeting, and wished to be co-opted to fill the remaining vacancy for a councillor within the Rockfield & St Maughans Ward. The Clerk reminded the meeting that where there is only a single eligible candidate for a vacancy, that the Council is obliged to co-opt that candidate. The meeting then agreed to

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co-opt Ian for the vacancy (the vacancy having been on the LVACC website since January 2020). Ian and the Clerk then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

5. Guest Speakers.

Please see item 11.

6. Questions and Comments from Members of the Public.

Please see item 11.

11. Highways, footpaths & transport

This item was brought forward in the Agenda to allow contributions by members of the public earlier rather than later in the meeting.

It had been hoped that a representative from MCC Highways would attend, however this was not possible. Carl Touhig, although actually Head of Waste and Street Services, kindly attended as a replacement.

There are long-standing concerns within the community council area about the problems of speeding vehicles.

Several members of the public were present and voiced their concerns about speeding vehicles. New and existing issues are – a lack of enforcement of existing speed limits, a lack of response from MCC to enquiries about new speed limits, and a lack of consultation by MCC about the extent of speed restricted road when implementing new limits.

Residents have communicated their concerns both via their councillors and directly to the Clerk.

Carl Touhig took part in the ensuing discussion on speeding and other highways matters, and will relay concerns to colleagues at MCC.

One of the factors delaying consideration of the need for a new speed limit, or the enforcement of an existing one, is that a “speed monitoring” event(s) should be the initial action. This determines if the volume and speed of traffic is such that a new speed limit should be considered, or if the number of vehicles exceeding the speed limit is sufficient to trigger an enforcement event by the Police. Carl said he would provide details about the Community Speedwatch Programme operated by the GoSafe Wales partnership. GoSafe loans equipment to local volunteers to conduct speed monitoring in their communities. The sight of volunteers wearing hi-viz jackets while operating speed “guns” might also have a deterrent effect in itself.

There are long-standing concerns about the repairs needed to the river wall at Skenfrith, and the seemingly now permanent traffic lights near Trebella Farm, between Cross Ash and Norton. These can be seen on Google Maps Street view – they are on red from both directions.

There are continuing concerns from local residents about encroachment and blocked access on the Village Green at Newcastle. The Clerk will make enquiries with MCC as to the situation.

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The lack of clarity about the ownership and liability for bus shelters continues to stall community initiatives to repair them.

3rd June, notice of a road closure at Maypole between the 24th and 26th of June for “poling Work

8th June, from MCC news of a road closure on the R36 Celyn-Kiln to the Boot on 26th July 2021, for work by BT Openreach.

Drains on lowest point of B4233 as it passes through Rockfield. While the drains on the road leading down from the double bends have been much improved by MCC, there are still problems when there is heavy rain, as the water cannot escape quickly enough from the bottom of the hill, being restricted as it flows under the trough inset into the wall on the inside of the bend. Councillor George Edwards, together with County Councillor Ruth Edwards, met with the owner of the trough to discuss how to speed up the water flow as it passes under the trough. George, with Robin Wintour, is now planning to make some improvements in the near future.

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

1st June, from OVW, a request to identify potential problems when the community council boundary changes are implemented in 2022, with a suggestion that councils facing extinction (Including LVACC) should liaise with their neighbour councils.

The Clerk had flagged the following issues to OVW -

Precepts for 2022/2023 - How will these be requested and set in February 2022 by bodies that won't exist until May 2022?

What about accounts and returns? Existing councils will have a full year for 2021/2022, with a part year for April 2022 and part of May, while the new councils will have a truncated year from mid-May 2022 to March 31st 2023.

Insurance - how will insurance be put in place for bodies not in existence?

Assets and Liabilities - how will these be proportioned?

Clerks - how will new clerks be appointed by bodies not in existence?

Websites - now that all the existing councils have websites, these will need to be scrapped, and new ones created.

Extra costs - where will the money for extra work by clerks and website changes come from?

Councillor and Clerk shortages - the imposition of this review, and the unlawful behaviour of MCC, has left many councillors and clerks totally disillusioned, and many are likely to resign in May of next year.

Shân Bowden from OVW had replied –

The questions you set out will all need to be answered and we are hoping for guidance from Welsh Government.

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I'm guessing shadow Councils will need to be set up for new Councils but this needs to be confirmed.

Your questions will help us to obtain the answers/advice/guidance that is needed.

Community Council Handbells – Councillor Sarah Meyrick is liaising with local campanologists to assess the extent and expense of repairing the Community Council's set of handbells.

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

From Sara Mason, CSO, queries around the publication of Police Reports.

24th May, from OVW notice of the Monmouth-Newport Area Committee AGM, to be held on Thursday, 1st July, remotely.

25th May, from MCC, news of 1.8 million pounds from WG to support vulnerable children.

26th May, from OVW, information about training available in June.

7th June, a Police Report.

9. Planning Matters

28th May, from Planning Aid Wales, a newsletter giving details of forthcoming events.

10. Financial Matters

Annual Return for Welsh Audit Office, and Community Council Accounts for 2020/2021. The accounts and return had been approved and returned by Azets, the Internal Auditor prior to the meeting.

Councillors examined and approved the Return and Accounts. The Chair and Clerk then signed and dated the documents. The Clerk will now send the Return and other documents required to the External Auditors.

The meeting agreed to authorise the following payments:

£25.00 Cross Ash Village Hall, hire of room for this meeting

£322.07 Net Salary for the Clerk

11. Highways, footpaths & transport

Discussed after Item 6.

12. Environment, recycling, waste

Nothing to report.

13. Education and lifelong learning

Consultation re new Abergavenny school extended to 25th June. Information about an MS Teams Community Live Event on the 9th of June.

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14. Health and Wellbeing

24th May, from ABUHB, a consultation about a new Satellite Radiotherapy Centre, until 9th July 2021. <https://abuhb.nhs.wales/satellite-radiotherapy-centre-development/> .

24th May, and 8th June a vaccination update.

15. Visits by Councillors and Clerk

None.

16. Llangattock Churchyard (the “closed part”)

In good order, the grass was cut on the same day as this meeting.

17. War Memorials

The second of four scheduled grass cuts has been done on the same day as this meeting.

18. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held at Cross Ash Village Hall on Wednesday, 21st July at 8.00pm.

19. Announcements and Comments of Interest.

None.

The meeting closed at 21.35