

LLANVACHES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT LLANVACHES CHURCH HALL **TUESDAY 19 October 2010**

Present	Councillors	Roger George Andy Harcombe Kay James Lyndon Jones Samantha McFadzean Jenny Scully
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Apologies for Absence	Councillor Tony Rex
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Public Attendance	4
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Cllr George explained that due a health problem he was unable to take the chair in the absence of the Chairman, and called for a Councillor to chair the meeting. Cllr Sam McFadzean volunteered and was accepted by acclaim.

The Police did not attend. Cllr Roger George mentioned that there had recently been two burglaries in the village and a report of a car parked by Long Meadow in the early hours of the morning.

2010 MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Cllr Roger George proposed that the circulated minutes be accepted as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Andy Harcombe and agreed.

2011 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

2012 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM – Boundaries and Water Flow : Mr Clive Bevan

Copies of the Position Paper and slides used by Mr Bevan are filed with the Clerk.

Mr Clive Bevan made a presentation to Council about the potential flood threats to the eastern side of the village. He highlighted the history of Llanvaches flooding since the 1990s and noted that the change in the Village Boundary some fifteen years ago, had enabled new houses to be built next to a flood plain. Mr Bevan said that when permission to build Lime Kiln Court was being sought, villagers were dismayed that NCC, Welsh Water and the Environmental Agency appeared to ignore our concerns. Cllr Roger George said that there were two issues, sewage and flooding. The sewage system was at capacity and flood water was a serious matter that could affect us all. Cllr Sam McFadzean said that the Planning Authority should be taken through these issues and formal minutes must be recorded, then at any request for development the issues could be addressed.

Mr Bevan concluded that the Community Council needs a plan which would influence any proposed development and ensure that the right development is in the right place. Cllr McFadzean asked how this would be put into action because it would need a focussed approach. Mr Bevan said that now is the time to broaden the knowledge base at the Environmental Agency and NCC Planning. Cllr George suggested that a sub-committee be formed and Mr Bevan be included: Council agreed.

2013 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None.

2014 MATTERS OF LOCAL INTEREST OR CONCERN

(i) Village Green Trees. Cllr Roger George stated that due to the condition of the ash tree on the village green, advice had been sought from NCC. Cllr George added that we have been told that it is probably the oldest ash tree in Wales, being 400-500 years old, and it should be pollarded carefully after leaf fall. Because of the importance of the tree, NCC will undertake the work without charge. Cllr Tony Rex will contact NCC.

The chestnut tree has been inspected by NCC and David Parsons. The consensus is that the damage was caused by leaf miner larvae but the condition of the bark suggests that the tree

is dead. Trees attacked by the leaf miner usually recover in the next spring, so, it was decided that we would leave any decision on this tree until next spring to see if the leaves reappear: if not then the tree will be removed.

(ii) The Lime Kiln. Council were reminded that the tree growing from the top of the Lime Kiln is damaging it. Cllr Roger George said that he had contacted the new owner of the field adjacent to the kiln but the owner claims that the kiln is not part of his land. Cllr Lyndon Jones observed that ownership of the kiln was a historic problem and had often been debated. Cllr George said that the Lime Kiln ought to be preserved and it would seem that LCC will have to pay for the work; consequently he had received a quote of £220 for the tree to be removed by a contractor. A resident (Mr Clive Bevan) said that he and another resident might be able to remove the tree and save the cost to LCC. It was agreed that the residents would report back on feasibility within two weeks.

(iii) Best Kept Village. The Clerk reported that Mathern had won the Best Kept Village within our category but Llanvaches had won the Best Kept Village Hall.

(iv) Neighbourhood Watch. The Clerk said that there was a view that because of recent events in the village the Neighbourhood Watch should be resurrected. The Clerk added that Neighbourhood Watch schemes cannot be a Community Council responsibility because they are a separate legal entity with fund raising abilities. General support within the village and a formal nominated Co-ordinator would be needed for the scheme to go forward. It was agreed that the Clerk should pursue the matter.

(v) Gray Hill Patients Participation Group. On behalf of Cllr Tony Rex, the Clerk reported back on the lack of facility for leaving repeat prescriptions at the surgery outside working hours. The post-box at the surgery had been removed because it was repeatedly vandalised. Prescriptions can be left at the Chemist in Caldicot on Saturday between 9 am and 5 pm and the new Practice Manager is examining the possibility of patients being able to e-mail repeat prescriptions to the surgery.

(vi) Noise Nuisance Cllr Sam McFadzean reported on the legal aspects of noise complaints and stated that amplified music, mechanical noise, dogs barking etc. was a Local Authority issue and they had a Local Statutory Duty to investigate noise nuisance. Cllr McFadzean stated that fireworks must not be used after 11.00 p.m.

(vii) Community First Report. Our representative was not at the meeting. The Clerk said that the Chairman had asked that Community First Grants be raised by our representative. It had been stated that grants were not available now and we needed to know whether this was long term policy or just a temporary result of the magazine's current finances.

2015 PLAYING FIELD MATTERS

(i) Inspection Reports . Due to the bad condition of the football nets in the football field, the Clerk had removed them and with the approval of Council was purchasing a new set. A resident (Mrs Monica Randall) had told Council about a young girl jumping from one of the swings and breaking her arm. Cllr Andy Harcombe said that he had spoken informally to the girl's mother and was told that she was recovering well.

(ii) Replacement Table(s) The Clerk had obtained a quote from the local sawmills for a picnic table with attached benches. This would be in the region of £120 plus concrete installation costs. It was suggested that another quote be obtained from the company that installed the equipment in the Playing Fields. The Clerk will report back

(iii) Additional Equipment. The Clerk has made enquiries as to what type of additional equipment was available and reported that Penhow had installed a basketball post and ring but unfortunately this had been vandalised. The Clerk plans to talk to ex Councillor Michelle Hayes who had been asked to discuss equipment provision with other parents.

(v) Grass Cutting after October 2010 Newport City Council intends to cease mowing the playing fields without charge. They have offered to meet LCC to discuss this matter. Cllr Roger George, Andy Harcombe and Kay James volunteered to attend this meeting. The Clerk will obtain potential meeting dates from NCC. A resident enquired whether NCC will be cutting the hedges around the playing fields.

(vi) Annual Inspections Newport City Council will not offer the annual playground inspection service after 1 November. NCC has provided names of registered playground Inspectors and enquiries will be made by the Clerk.

2016 PLANNING MATTERS.

(i) 09/1219 Appeal - Refusal of Retention of Hard Standing – Rock & Fountain. This appeal had now been withdrawn

(iii) 10/0718 Retention of Proposed Completion – Hillside Barn (see 07/0103). Retrospective planning permission has been approved

(v) 10/0814 Single Storey Extension, Stables, Garage & Store – The Cayo. Ongoing.

2017 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Cllr Roger George presented the following items for payment

1	Clerk's salary	- August 2010	£ 120.24
		- September 2010	£ 120.24
		- October 2010	£ 120.24
2	Tax due	- 3 months	<u>£ 90.18</u>
		Sub total	£ 450.90
3	Clerk's expenses		
	63 miles @ 42p/mile		£ 27.09
	Envelopes		£ 8.87
	Stamps		£ 9.84
	Copying paper		<u>£ 2.84</u>
		Sub total	£ 48.64
4	Pair of new Football Nets		£ 65.00
		TOTAL	<u>£ 613.18</u>

Cllr Roger George proposed that the above payments be approved. Cllr Jenny Scully seconded the proposal that was agreed unanimously.

2018 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk presented the correspondence list to Council and highlighted the two items of correspondence from NCC about grass cutting and their inspection service.

2018 VILLAGE WEBSITE

Cllr Andy Harcombe presented an update on the website. He gave a timescale of about four weeks but said he still needed some historic photos and some local topics. A discussion took place about the name of the website and Cllr Roger George suggested Llanfaches.co.uk. Cllr Jenny Scully was concerned that Llanvaches with an ` f ´ would confuse people but Cllr Andy Harcombe said that when Llanvaches was typed in to access the website, a link would take them automatically to the Llanfaches website. Council agreed Cllr George's suggestion.

2019 THE NEWPORT CHARTER

The Clerk reported that the signing of the Charter was to take place on Thursday 21 October at The Civic Centre.

2020 FINANCIAL MATTERS

(i) Budget v Actual The RFO, Cllr Roger George, presented the accounts to date against the 2010-11 Budget. Cllr George said that there were no causes for concern and we were on target for expenditure of £4,958 which would give a year-end balance of £11,880.

(ii) Risk Assessment Cllr Roger George reported that following the recent audit by Mazars, they had insisted that we undertake risk assessment covering financial and operational risks and they also suggested that LCC review the Fidelity Guarantee cover. Council agreed with Cllr George's view that this item should be postponed to the December meeting.

(iii) Church Grants. Cllr Roger George said that no decision had yet been made on the annual Church Grants for the current year. He said that Cllr Tony Rex had recommended that the grants be the same as for 2009-10. Consequently, Cllr Andy Harcombe proposed that £120 be granted to St Dubritius Church and £120 be granted to the Tabernacle Chapel. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Sam McFadzean and agreed unanimously.

2021 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Jenny Scully mentioned that the recent contract for cutting hedges in her area had changed and the tractor used was too large and her hedge had been damaged.

2022 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 15 December 2010

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.