

LLANVACHES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT LLANVACHES CHURCH HALL TUESDAY 16 AUGUST 2011

Present	Councillors	Tony Rex Andy Harcombe Roger George Kay James Lyndon Jones
Apologies for Absence		Jenny Scully
Public Attendance		8

2074 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (21 June 2011)

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

2075 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr Tony Rex declared a possible interest in the 'Survey Activity Long Meadow' item should a specific proposal result from discussions later in the agenda.

2076 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

2040 (i) Presentation : Sub Committee on Planning. The Clerk is still attempting to set up the meeting.

2041 (viii) Zig Zag Sanding. Cllr Tony Rex said that he had not pursued the surface water problem as it had been dry recently. However, the drain has been cleared.

2060 Any Other Business. Cllr Tony Rex asked Council to note that cheques were now not being phased out in 2016; this only applies to cheque guarantee cards.

2065 (ii) Board Papers. Cllr Tony Rex suggested that a Standing Order be written on the Issue of Board Papers and it should include a rule that a minimum of 48 hours be given for Cllrs to read a paper. Cllr Roger George proposed, and Cllr Andy Harcombe seconded, that the suggestion be accepted and agreement was unanimous.

2066 (iii) Village Bus Shelter. The Clerk confirmed that no data had been received since the last meeting. Therefore, Cllrs assumed that interest has waned and the item will not be carried on future agendas.

2066 (v) Community Renewable Energy. Cllr Tony Rex ruled that in the absence of Cllr Sally Thomas this matter would be carried over to the next meeting.

2077 COUNCIL MANAGEMENT MATTERS

(i) Risk Assessment. Cllr Tony Rex said that Risk Assessments must be conducted as part of the Annual Return process. He suggested that each Councillor should take an active part in the process and blank Risk Assessment Forms will be issued.

(ii) Review of Financial Regulations. In response to a query, Cllrs Harcombe and Thomas stated that they had not received a copy of Financial Regulations and the 'Good Councillor Guide'. The Clerk will ensure the oversight is remedied before the next meeting.

2078 MATTERS OF LOCAL INTEREST OR CONCERN

(i) Best Kept Village 2011. Cllr Tony Rex said that we were awaiting the results of the competition. In the meantime he would express our thanks to Newport Homes for the work carried out in South View during the judging period.

(ii) Road Resurfacing. Cllr Tony Rex reported that NCC had responded to our request for resurfacing of the Zig Zag. Cllr Scully observed that work on Whitebrook Lane had still not been carried out.

(iii) Survey Activity Long Meadow. Cllr Tony Rex told Council that recent survey activity had taken place on Rectory Road from the corner to beyond the 'Wheel Wash', also in Long Meadow and the fields between Long Meadow and Tabernacle Lane. In addition, Tabernacle Lane was surveyed from the A48 Junction to Holly Lodge. Residents had approached the survey team to enquire what was happening and were given various conflicting answers

from disability access to alleviating flooding in Long Meadow for building purposes. We have hearsay evidence that an application for a large sector of Long Meadow to be a candidate site for residential development had been made in June and it was rejected by NCC because it was submitted out of time. There is another opportunity to submit sites later this year. If Long Meadow is submitted as a potential candidate, the Community Council will oppose the proposal very strongly. Cllr Andy Harcombe said that residents need to be kept up to date about any proposals outside the boundary of the village nucleus. Cllr Rex said that as a community we need to be vigilant, although advice indicates that Long Meadow would not fulfil any of the criteria for a future development site.

(iv) Gray Hill Surgery PPG Report. Cllr Tony Rex reiterated that Gray Hill Surgery has been forced to end the practice of enabling various Consultants to hold clinics at the Surgery. The reason was the Aneurin Bevan Health Board ruled that Gray Hill patients were receiving an unfair advantage. Now, the Board has withdrawn Physiotherapy Services at the surgery. This is an unfortunate loss of another important amenity for our area.

(v) Community First Report. Mr John Wood said that there was nothing to report

(vi) Website Report. Cllr Andy Harcombe informed Council that he had received photographs of previous flooding in the Community Area and some will be put on the website. He added that residents should be aware of past flooding as part of our recent history and asked that if anyone else had photographs - particularly of Long Meadow. Cllr Tony Rex suggested that the Council Meeting Agenda should be published on the web. Cllr Harcombe said that it would only be fully relevant if it was issued at least a week ahead of the meeting. Cllr Rex said that the Agenda has to be issued (by law) three clear days before meeting but if we issued it a week before, then some important items might have to be missed out and delayed by 7-8 weeks and this would be counter productive. Discussion turned to issue of the Minutes. Cllr Harcombe said that for web purposes they ought to be issued earlier than at present, Cllr Roger George said that Minutes should be ready for issue to the Notice Boards about three weeks after the meeting. Cllr Rex agreed and said the Standing Order required Draft Minutes to be available for Cllrs two weeks after the meeting. The Clerk will have the objective of reducing the present time-spans.

2079 PLAYING FIELD MATTERS

(i) Grass Cutting. The Clerk reported that under the contract we have with NCC, the grass was being cut to the time schedule but the hedges were in need of trimming. Cllr Tony Rex asked the Clerk to contact NCC to obtain a date for the hedge trimming.

(ii) Inspection Report. The Clerk stated that two quotes for the replacement of the playing field gate had been obtained. However, one was for supply and installation and the other supply only. She will obtain a comparable 'supply plus installation' cost as soon as possible. It has been noted that the new picnic bench near the gate has a split at the base. The Clerk will arrange for the repair and the repositioning (with fixings) to be carried out.

(iii) Equipment. Cllr Andy Harcombe enquired about the reserve the Council had for new and replacement play equipment. Cllr Tony Rex said that the 2011-12 Budget was £5,000 and with funding support we could plan for up to £8,000. The Chairman was optimistic about support but the Clerk reported that the only funding she had identified was for new play areas, not for adding to, or replacing, established ones. The Clerk will prepare a paper with suggestions for new equipment for consideration at October's meeting.

2080 COMMUNITY EVENTS.

Cllr Tony Rex said that a basic team was in place for the Queen's Jubilee celebration in 2012 and the members should start their pre-planning. He added that his view was that Council should not support a Christmas Party this year and the budget money should be carried over to give extra support for a Jubilee Event.

2081 PLANNING MATTERS

(i) 11/0164 Lawful Use Certificate for Garden – 10 Yr Rule : The Cayo - Accepted

(ii) 11/0219 Mixed Use changed to Single Dwelling inc wdn 10/1339 : Hayloft, Whitebrook – Application withdrawn

(iii) 11/0434 Installation of Photovoltaic Generating System : Wentwood Lodge – Accepted

(iv) 11/0574 Extension and Alterations : Birchfield - Accepted

(v) 11/0653 Construction of Garage : Converted Barn near Hillside Cottage – Ongoing. A triple garage is planned but Council would suggest a double.

2082 FINANCIAL MATTERS

(i) Payment of Accounts. Cllr Roger George proposed the following items for payment

1	Clerk's salary July & August 2011	£ 240.48
2	Tax due July & August 2011	£ 60.12
	TOTAL	<u>£ 300.60</u>

Cllr Andy Harcombe seconded the proposal and it was agreed unanimously

(ii) Performance v Budget 2011-12. Cllr Roger George reported very little change in expenditure to date and consequently the budget will be maintained.

(iii) Annual Return. Cllr Roger George said that the Annual Return has to be completed before 30 September. He led Council through the Audit Systems and the series of steps Council have to go through when completing the form. Cllr Tony Rex stated that Cllrs could not be expected to agree a document that they were seeing for the first time at this meeting. He said that 'sign-off' must be postponed to another meeting. After discussion it was agreed that an extra meeting would be held in September. In the meantime, the Clerk will issue copies of the proposed Annual Return to Cllrs so that they can be fully conversant and briefed prior to the next meeting.

2083 CORRESPONDENCE NOT COVERED ABOVE

Nothing raised

2072 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nothing raised

2073 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 20 September 2011

The Meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.