

(iii) Councillor Training Courses. Cllr Tony Rex reminded Cllrs that there were OVW Training Courses available at Usk in June and July; he added that if anyone wished to attend a course, they should contact the Clerk.

2054 MATTERS OF LOCAL INTEREST OR CONCERN

(i) Green Spaces in Village. Cllr Tony Rex reminded the meeting that in previous years Newport City Council had cut most of the green spaces in the village free of charge, although some spaces, such as the Village Green and the Castle Rise Junction Triangles, were in private ownership. He said that it was important that whoever was contracted to cut the grass cut all of the areas done previously by NCC. Cllr Rex observed that the cost of grass cutting was likely to be over £900pa and this represented a very large additional cost. Although Ward Cllr David Atwell is still trying to obtain a reversal of the policy to withdraw free cutting, he has not so far been successful. Cllr Rex expressed the thought that perhaps the most that we could hope for would be a rebate on this year's expenditure. He said that the football field is now costing almost £500 per annum (rental and grass cutting costs) and in future we must take a definite decision about continuing the lease rather than it being done 'on the nod'. Cllr Kay James opposed the suggestion of losing the football field and said the playing field and its equipment was more of a drain on finances than the football field. Cllr Roger George stated that we were only putting the cost into context and there was no suggestion that we should cease renting the field from the Church in Wales.

(ii) Lime Kiln Repairs. Cllr Tony Rex reported that NCC Building Control had inspected the kiln and concluded that there was no immediate danger from the structure. He said that Mr Joe Hutson (NCC Conservation Officer) had confirmed that the Land Registry records show that the kiln is clearly part of the adjacent field in terms of ownership. Cllr Roger George reminded Council about the tree growing out of the roof of the Lime Kiln. Cllr Rex said that following the safety clearance from Building Control, he had asked Mr Clive Bevan to trim the tree to trunks of about 18 inches to remove the sail effect and prevent damage. Cllr Rex added that this remedial action did not prejudice Newport Enforcement's efforts to demand (via Listed Buildings Regulations) that the owner makes repairs. A lot of work will be needed to restore it fully and Cllr Rex will progress this action with Mr Hutson.

(iii) Village Green Horse Chestnut Tree. In October, Council decided to wait until spring to decide about action to be taken with the chestnut tree (Minute 2014(i)). The tree is dead. Newport CC will fell the tree and remove the roots free of charge. Cllr Tony Rex suggested that a replacement specimen tree be planted next year to mark the Queen's Jubilee.

(iv) Website Report. Cllr Tony Rex said that more information about the village and surrounding area was required. He also stressed the need to publicise the fact that the village website was 'up and running'. Cllr Rex will discuss this issue with the Clerk.

(v) Village Bus Shelter. Council is still waiting for Mrs Michelle Hayes and the Clerk to present suggestions for suitable locations (cleared by Highways), styles and costs for the bus shelter. The matter is in abeyance until this information is presented. Cllr Sally Thomas said that children at Caerleon School did not take coats to school as there were no facilities to store them at Caerleon. So, unfortunately the children do get wet. Cllr Kay James remarked that they would also get wet walking from the bus park to school. Cllr Tony Rex said parents should take up this matter direct with the school.

(vi) Village Green Parking. Cllr Tony Rex said he had spoken to Capitol Coaches about the danger of parking too close to the junction of Wentwood Drive and Rectory Road. They said the problem was the cars parked on the road dropping children off to catch the bus.

(vii) Best Kept Village 2011. The Clerk reminded the Chairman that she had received the application form for the 2011 Gwent Best Kept Village Competition. Cllr Roger George said that some of the community was apathetic about this event and he opposed entry unless there was a positive general effort to make the village look its best. Cllr George suggested that a Tidy Up Team be formed and Cllr Sally Thomas supported the idea. Council decided to enter the competition and the Chairman asked Cllrs George and Thomas to lead the village's efforts to win this year.

(viii) Village Green Raised Garden. Cllr Kay James volunteered to tend the garden again and Council agreed that up to £35 should be spent on flowers and compost.

(ix) Gray Hill Surgery PPG Report. Cllr Tony Rex said that at the recent meeting the Practice Manager had reported that (a) Telephone consultations could now be arranged for a specific time (as for face-to-face appointments) (b) From 5 May patients will be able to book appointments on line if they have registered (c) An on-line repeat prescription service might be available towards the end of the year.

(x) Community First Report. Mr John Wood said there was nothing specific to report. Cllr Tony Rex referred to the anonymous letter that had appeared in the latest issue of

Community First and felt that anonymity was inappropriate. Mr Wood said that he had already written a critical letter to the Managers about this issue. Cllr Sally Thomas thought that anonymity was acceptable as it gave freedom of speech to some people who were nervous about giving their name

2055 PLAYING FIELD MATTERS

(i) Inspection Reports . The new goal nets have been installed but the bench is now a hazard because it had been placed on the net behind the goal post. The Clerk agreed to organize relocation and said that there were no other inspection items to note.

(ii) Replacement Tables and Seats. Cllr Tony Rex said that the two new benches and two new picnic tables had been delivered and installed earlier than expected. The Clerk reported that only two of the legs of each item are secured in the ground and Designer Parks will be asked to return to secure all four legs. Concern about privacy was raised because the second picnic table, near the entrance gate, was too close to the Bishops' fence. Designer Parks will resite the table near the plaque and behind the weeping tree, with the seats facing the opposite corner of the field. A resident stated that the grass under the table was growing long and had not been trimmed. Cllr Sally Thomas offered Council some redundant paving slabs that could be laid under the table. The Clerk will organise the installation.

(iii) Recreation Field Gate. Cllr Roger George asked if the gate to the playing field was necessary because the latch was causing some difficulty and the gate needed to be re-hung. Cllr Kay James said that a closing gate was essential for the security of small children. The Clerk will obtain a quote for the gate to be re-hung and painted. Cllr Sally Thomas suggested that it may be possible to use volunteers to paint the gate.

(iv) Grass Cutting. Three quotes had been received. The lowest quote, by a few pounds, came from the Haines Bros but Brighter Gardens had quoted a much higher total cost than NCC. Cllr Tony Rex expressed the view that LCC should grant the contract to NCC in view of the small difference and the hoped for rebate. Cllr Kay James proposed and Cllr Lyndon Jones seconded the motion that the contract be awarded to Newport CC for the total of £919 for the year as detailed in their schedule: Council agreed unanimously. The Chairman asked the Clerk and Cllr Roger George to arrange for the contract to be let as soon as practicable.

(v) Annual Inspections. The Clerk reported that the Langstone Community Council had informed her that six councils would participate in the inspection scheme and therefore it would cost each Council £50. Cllr Roger George proposed that we confirm participation and there was unanimous agreement to this proposal seconded by Cllr Lyndon Jones.

(vi) Boundary Fences. Cllr Tony Rex reminded Council that the leases for both fields stated that LCC was responsible for the integrity of the boundary fences/hedges. Cllr Rex said that the Bishops' hedge was very sparse in places so a fence might be needed along that section of the boundary of the Recreation Field. He asked the Clerk to obtain quotes to provide a fence, such as galvanised wire type farm fence, to fulfil our obligations. Cllr Kay James mused about whether the resident would be happy with this type of fence.

2056 COMMUNITY EVENTS.

Cllr Tony Rex reported that a Royal Wedding Tea Party was being organised in the village by a team of residents led by Mrs Lynda Johnson. He added that Council had already indicated that a fund of about £150 was available towards this event. Cllr Roger George proposed and Cllr Lyndon Jones seconded the motion that a grant of £150 be made. The motion was carried unanimously.

2057 PLANNING MATTERS

(i) 11/0164 Lawful Use Certificate for Garden – 10 yr Rule : The Cayo – No objection

(ii) 11/0165 Alterations to Main House (resub part 10/0814) : The Cayo – No objection

(iii) 11/0129 Mixed Use changed to Single Dwelling inc wdn 10/1339 : Hayloft, Whitebrook – Council agreed Application 10/1339. It had been resubmitted because the original permission for an office restricted its use to Fish Farm administration. Council has no objection to the change of use because the Fish Farm business is defunct.

(iv) 11/0337 Erection of One + Half Storey Agricultural Store (Resubmission of rejected 10/1089) : Red House. It was noted that the height of the proposed building had been reduced but it was still One + Half storeys. It was also noted that the applicant had referred to an accepted appeal regarding a garage / sheep shelter at Ty Bach. Cllrs observed that the building at Red House would be much larger than the garage at Ty Bach and the purpose was clearly different. Cllr Rex reminded Cllrs that when we were considering 10/1089 we had said that we would accept a small single storey garage at Red House. There

was unanimous agreement that NCC Planning should be asked to reject the resubmitted application because –

- It would be a large new building in open countryside and we oppose such building.
- The proposed building's size is disproportionate to the scale of agricultural and equestrian operations on the site
- The need for a new store appears to have been generated by permission to convert redundant agricultural storage into a holiday let. In effect we are being asked to support a new building to enable a holiday let.

2058 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Cllr Roger George presented the following item for payment.

1	Clerk's salary - April 2011	£ 120.24
2	Tax Due - 1 month	£ 30.06
	TOTAL	<u>£ 150.30</u>

Cllr Lyndon Jones proposed that the above payment be approved. Cllr Jenny Scully seconded the proposal and it was agreed unanimously.

2059 FINANCIAL MATTERS

(i) Draft Accounts 2010–11. Cllr Roger George presented the Draft Accounts. The income in 2010-11 was £6,744.46 and expenditure was £4,399.12 giving a surplus of £2,345.34 and a closing balance at 31 March 2011 of £12,508.81, Cllr Kay James proposed that these accounts be sent for audit by Mr Paul Waters our Internal Auditor. The motion was seconded by Cllr Lyndon Jones and agreed unanimously.

(ii) Budget 2011-12 Cllr Roger George presented the data and all Cllrs accepted the Budget which, in summary, shows total income of £6,845 and expenditure of £11,184 giving an outflow of £4,339 and a forecast year-end balance of £8,170.

(iii) Insurance Quote for 2011-12. The Clerk reported that the renewal premium quoted by Aon for 2011-12 was £868.37 but Cllr Tony Rex was confident that reductions in All Risk valuations and a lower Fidelity Guarantee would probably save about £25. Cllr Roger George queried the Fidelity Guarantee Limit: Cllr Tony Rex said that the indicated value (£11,340) was based on Aon's rule-of-thumb and it should be sufficient. He went on to say that the marketplace for Parish Council Insurance was small but he intended to obtain other quotes.

(iv) Asset Register. Cllr Tony Rex distributed an updated copy of the Asset Register. He said the salient points were that the total Asset Value was £7,214 after average depreciation of 8% and the estimated Replacement Cost was £37,125. Cllr Rex asked for and obtained agreement that Benches 5.04 and 5.08 should be scrapped (5.08 will be sold to the Clerk for £5) and 5.07 will be repaired and relocated to the Glebelands Field. Inspection of the Picnic Table at Gilfach (Asset 5.05) revealed that it was broken and should be scrapped. Cllr Sally Thomas proposed and Cllr Roger George seconded the motion to buy a replacement Picnic Table for £165 to be placed at Gilfach Triangle. The proposal had unanimous support. The Clerk will provide the necessary details to Cllr George so that he can place the order. Council also agreed that the new Picnic Tables and Benches should be included in the All Risks Section of the 2011-12 insurance policy.

2060 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Sally Thomas questioned whether the phasing out of cheques in 2016 would create problems for LCC. Cllr Roger George said that all payments were made by cheque and Council must discuss the matter at a later date.

2061 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Annual General Meeting : Tuesday, 17 May 2011
Ordinary Council Meeting : Tuesday 21 June 2011

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.