

LLANVACHES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT LLANVACHES CHURCH HALL TUESDAY 21 JUNE 2011

Present	Councillors	Tony Rex Roger George Jenny Scully Sally Thomas Andy Harcombe
Apologies for Absence		Kay James Lyndon Jones Ward Cllr David Atwell
Public Attendance		4

2062 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (19 April 2011)

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

2063 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr Sally Thomas declared a possible interest in agenda item '*Playing Field Matters*' should lottery funding be discussed.

2064 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

2040 (i) Presentation : Sub Committee on Planning. The Clerk will continue attempts to set up the meeting.

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

2041 (ix) Heavy Vehicles. Cllr Jenny Scully reported that she had had no response from her e-mail to Ward Cllr David Atwell on this matter. Cllr Tony Rex suggested she send a reminder to Ward Cllr David Atwell and copy Mr Richard Lloyd (NCC Highways).

2054 (iii) Village Green Horse Chestnut Tree. Cllr Tony Rex reported that NCC had cut the tree down free of charge.

2060 Any Other Business. Cllr Tony Rex said that the phasing out of cheques is planned to go ahead in 2016 and the cheque guarantee scheme will cease in a few weeks time.

2065 COUNCIL MANAGEMENT MATTERS

(i) Councillor Training Courses. Cllr Tony Rex reminded Cllrs that there was an OVV Training Course available at Usk in July.

(ii) Board Papers. Cllr Andy Harcombe suggested that Cllrs who ask for items to be placed on the agenda should prepare a short paper describing their views/item, for the Clerk to send to all Cllrs before the meeting. Council agreed that for general matters the production of a 'Board Paper' would be at the discretion of the Cllr who raised the item but if a specific proposal was to be made, then a Board Paper ought to be produced.

2066 MATTERS OF LOCAL INTEREST OR CONCERN

(i) Best Kept Village Cllr Roger George said that judging was taking place between 6th–30th June and we should remind residents to continue to keep up maintenance for the whole month. Newport City Homes had tidied the grass and weeds in the South View area.

(ii) Road Resurfacing. Cllr Tony Rex expressed surprise about the recent resurfacing of Wentwood Drive and Castle Drive - again Rectory Road had not been included because it was not in the urban part of the village!

(iii) Village Bus Shelter. Cllr Tony Rex said that no further information on a possible site, design or cost of a village bus shelter had been received from Mrs Michelle Hayes and team. If, in a few weeks, no data are received from the supporters of the suggestion, we must assume that interest has waned.

(iv) Lime Kiln Repairs. Cllr Tony Rex informed Council that the NCC Conservation Officer (Mr Joe Hotson) had not yet made contact with the owner of the Lime Kiln to request the necessary repairs. If the owner refuses, an enforcement notice could be served to carry out these repairs. However, failure to comply could lead to considerable legal costs and it is thought that NCC would be unwilling to pursue any such case. Cllr George stated that he had been advised that the person defined as the owner by the Land Registry claimed that the kiln was clearly excluded from his purchase of the adjacent land. After debate on our options, Cllr Andy Harcombe reiterated that LCC do not have the authority to maintain the kiln and Council decided to continue to press the Conservation Officer to obtain the repairs.

(v) Community Renewable Energy. Cllr Sally Thomas said she wished to raise awareness on renewable energy. If people generate their own resources any excess can be sold to the utility companies. Cllr Tony Rex suggested that Cllr Sally Thomas speak to Welsh Water and the Forestry Commission to see if there are any plans for renewable energy schemes in the area. Cllr Andy Harcombe noted that a resident was building a large renewable plant for a site in Caldicot.

(vi) Gray Hill Surgery PPG Report. Cllr Tony Rex said that the updated surgery website was now live. Patients, after registration, could now book appointments on-line in advance. Forms are available from the surgery – proof of identity is required. Previous pressure regarding repeat prescriptions has resulted in this service being available on-line now rather than postponed to later this year.

The Local Health Board has recently forced Gray Hill to stop allowing Consultants to hold clinics at the surgery. Equality of services across the area was quoted. The Chairman said that this was clearly a reduction in the facilities available to patients and a gross example of levelling down. It is understood that Natal Services and Physiotherapy will continue.

(vii) Community First Report. Our representative, Mr John Wood, said the financial position had improved and he was optimistic that there would be profits released for distribution in the near future.

(viii) Website Report Cllr Andy Harcombe said that more history of Llanvaches was needed and there was now a facility for people to post images on the website. Cllr Tony Rex suggested that we publicise the site by a display poster on the boards. Cllr Andy Harcombe asked that the website address be typed on top of the Agenda and similar papers. Mr John Wood said that he would ensure that details appeared in the next issue of *Community First*.

2067 PLAYING FIELD MATTERS

(i) New picnic tables – update. The new picnic table positioned near the entrance to the playing fields is to be moved to the right, giving the neighbouring garden more privacy. The picnic table at Gilfach, which is in disrepair, will be replaced.

(ii) Boundary Fence – Northside. Any decision to erect a boundary fence along the neighbouring gardens to the north of the playing field will be postponed until the autumn to establish what new growth of hedging has formed.

(iii) Grass Cutting - Review & Update. Cllr Roger George confirmed that a contract had been signed for NCC to cut grass in the village. They are cutting all of the same areas that were done in previous years without charge by NCC.

(iv) In-House Inspection Report. The metal gate at the entrance to the playing field needs attention. To repaint and re-hang the gate would cost approximately £115 (it also needs some re-strengthening) whereas a new gate and posts could cost about £210. Cllr Roger George's proposal that a new gate be purchased was seconded by Cllr Lyndon Jones and agreed unanimously. The Clerk will obtain quotes for a gate – ensuring that it meets safety guidelines.

The Zip Wire staging matting needs to be re-pinned and in parts replaced. Also the tension of the wire needs some attention. The Clerk has a price from Designer Parks for the work and will obtain a second quote.

(v) Annual Inspection Report. The Annual Inspection had been undertaken by Combined Playgroup Services Ltd in May. Copies were circulated to all Cllrs. The report was very thorough and no serious risks were identified. The items raised will be actioned.

(vi) Climbing Frame. Various inspections have drawn attention to the rotting of the wooden support posts. There is no immediate danger of collapse, but the equipment (made in 1986) has a remaining life estimate of less than 2 years. It would be very expensive to replace. Cllr Tony Rex said that we must now review the play equipment and produce a plan for additions and replacements to suit all ages. The Clerk will investigate any funding/grant opportunities that might be available and report at the next meeting.

2068 COMMUNITY EVENTS.

The recent Royal Wedding celebrations held in the Church Hall were a success and well attended. A grant of £150 had been previously agreed for this event but the costs rose to £240.46. Cllr Andy Harcombe proposed this additional grant be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Sally Thomas and agreed unanimously.

2069 PLANNING MATTERS

(i) 11/0164 Lawful Use Certificate for Garden – 10 yr Rule : The Cayo – Consultation still taking place.

(ii) 11/0165 Alterations to Main House (resub part 10/0814) : The Cayo – Accepted

(iii) 11/0129 Mixed Use changed to Single Dwelling inc wdn 10/1339 : Hayloft, Whitebrook – Still pending

(iv) 11/0337 Erection of One + Half Storey Agricultural Store (Resubmission of rejected 10/1089) : Red House - Approved. Cllr Tony Rex said that Council had opposed the application strongly and when NCC Planning were minded to accept (quoting the Ty Bach appeal as key grounds) Ward Cllr David Atwell had asked for the application to be taken to full committee. The Planning Committee supported the Planners. Cllr Tony Rex said that NCC Planning has again ignored LCC opinions and it seems that we are just consulted on applications as a matter of routine to tick a box. Cllr Roger George asked what opportunities were left open to LCC. Cllr Tony Rex said that we could invite the Planning Manager to meet Council and to explain the reasons for the various approval decisions against our opposition. It was agreed that the Chairman would have discussions leading to such a meeting.

(v) Installation of Photovoltaic Generating System : Wentwood Lodge - Ongoing

2070 FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

1	Clerk's salary May/June 2011	£ 240.48
2	Clerk's expenses May/June 2011	£ 45.03
3	Tax due May/June 2011	£ 60.12
4	Plants for Village Green	£ 32.99
5	Benches/Tables for Playing Field	£ 768.00
6	Annual Playground Inspection	£ 72.00
7	Annual Insurance - Aon Ltd.	£ 678.77

TOTAL £1,897.39

Cllr Jenny Scully seconded the proposal and it was agreed unanimously

(ii) Performance v Budget 2011-12. Cllr Roger George presented the 2011-12 Performance to Date Accounts. There were no items of concern.

(iii) Insurance Quotes for 2011-12. Cllr Tony Rex reported that he found only three companies in the Local Authority Insurance market and he had obtained quotes from all three. The quote from Zurich was the lowest initially but, after negotiation, he had obtained a one-off 'no claims' discount, equivalent to 20%, from our current insurer. This discount reduces the premium to £678.77. He recommended that next year we again test the market because Aon had emphasised that the discount was a one-off.

2071 CORRESPONDENCE NOT COVERED ABOVE

Nothing raised

2072 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nothing raised

2073 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 16th August 2011

The Meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.