

# LLANVACHES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT LLANVACHES CHURCH HALL TUESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2012

Present	Councillors	Tony Rex Roger George Kay James Lyndon Jones Jenny Scully Sally Thomas
Apologies for Absence	Councillor	Andy Harcombe
Public Attendance		11

### 2120 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

### 2121 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (6 December 2011)

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

### 2122 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

**2091 (i) Village Green Notice Board** Cllr Tony Rex reported that the new posts had now been secured to the notice board.

**2094 (i) Grit Bins :** The Clerk reported that she had inspected the village grit bins up to and including the Triangle at Gilfach, and all were satisfactory. She had not yet heard back from NCCV with regards to her request for the position of the grit bins to be updated on the current map. The Clerk had also requested that the gritting of the road be extended to Lower Mill brook, and was again waiting for their reply.

**2101 (iii) Gilfach Triangle :** Cllr Tony Rex said the cost of resiting the current Notice Board would be in the region of £60. He asked for Council's views and it was agreed that the notice board would remain in its current position.

**2113 (i) Community Council's Emergency Plan :** Cllr Tony Rex said that Cllr Sally Thomas was preparing a paper on this matter. He asked if the Welsh Water 24 hours contact number was the same for sewage as incidents of sewage problems had occurred in the past. He suggested that Cllr Sally Thomas publicise the Emergency Plan numbers on the LCC website and notice boards and try to meet the deadline which was the end of March to put this in Community First.

**Posting of Notice at Gilfach :** Cllr Tony Rex reported that he and Cllr Andy Harcombe had met with resident Mr Paul Cooper. A long discussion had taken place and he believed that a very good conclusion had been arrived at. He said that no new arguments had arisen out of this meeting and suggested that a line now be drawn under the matter and to treat it as now closed as any continuation on this matter could be upsetting to those involved. Cllr Tony Rex said that views had been aired at meetings and e-mails and declared the matter now closed. Cllr Roger George felt that issue had been that resident Mrs Monica Randal had been associated with the word vandal and felt that the previous minutes on this matter had been badly worded. Cllr Tony Rex said that the minutes had been signed off and the only way the wording could be altered was if there was a legal issue, inaccuracy or a question surrounds legality of the meeting. The statement made was not inaccurate and the wording he had used at that meeting was before he knew that Mrs Randal was involved. He said it was unfortunate that Mrs Randal was upset. Cllr Sally Thomas said that the term used in the minutes was inaccurate. Cllr Tony Rex said the Clerk had accurately recorded what was said at the meeting. He asked how residents of Llanvaches would feel if notices appeared one morning pinned to the bench on the village green, they would see this as an act of vandalism. Cllr Roger George proposed that this matter be referred to the Monitoring Officer for his opinion. Cllr Tony Rex said that this type of action was only to be used in serious matters. Cllr Roger George felt that to some this was a serious matter. Cllr Tony Rex asked for a seconder, if none, then he would take it to a vote to draw a line under this matter or

that we wish to continue on this subject, A vote took place. In favour to draw a line under this matter – 2 votes. Against – 2 votes. One Councillor abstained. Cllr Tony Rex said he would talk to O.V.W. on this matter.

**2114 (ii) Recreational Field Gates.** Cllr Tony Rex reported that the gates had been discussed in December's meeting when it was decided to re-use the existing 12 ft gate. The gate was not in the best of condition and as we were now installing a new pedestrian gate alongside, suggested, for a cost of around £80 we replace the existing gate. The total cost being around £700. He reported that it had now emerged that permission from NCC was needed for any such alterations to gate, fencing or hedges. The debate of who is actually responsible for fence boundaries is still ongoing with NCC.

**2114 (iii) Football Field Lease Review.** The Clerk reported that the Agents who collect the rent on behalf of the Church had changed. We had not yet received the annual invoice and the Clerk was asked to find out when we would be receiving the invoice.

The Clerk reported that the zip wire matting had been replaced, as requested, by Designer Parks Ltd. Cllr Roger George asked the Clerk when this work was carried out as there was a query with an invoice date. Cllr Roger George also asked for a report with regards to an inspection that had taken place by Designer Parks Ltd with regards to the bolting system used on the children's swing. Cllr Tony Rex suggested that this be raised to the Inspector prior to the annual safety inspection due to take place around April.

Cllr Tony Rex asked the Clerk to write to Rev John Heales with regards to the invoicing of the rental for the Church Hall .

### **2123 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

*Resident Mrs Mogford* said she had moved to the village last September and queried why we do not have road sign for Tabernacle Lane. Deliveries had been problematic because drivers do not know where Tabernacle Lane is. She had been in contact with NCC but asked for comments from LCC. Cllr Tony Rex said that LCC had raised this matter previously but unfortunately nothing more happened. He said Rectory Road had no road sign either but he would raise the matter again with Richard Lloyd at NCC.

*Resident Mrs Val Smith* raised the question of lighting at the bottom of Tabernacle Lane. She said it was difficult to see the turning from the A48 when turning right in to Tabernacle Lane. Cllr Tony Rex said that this had been raised previously but it was not clear whether this boundary came under Monmouthshire or Newport Council, but agreed that it needed looking into.

*Resident Mr Clive Bevan* suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr John Wood who had kindly carried out the work to replace the existing notice board posts which had rotted. He also said that, following the discussions with Liz Williams, Paul Cooper and Monica Randall, the wording of the minutes regarding Gilfach incident were correct but would suggest that a note be put in these minutes to fully clarify the position that no one sees Mrs Monica Randal as a vandal. Cllr Tony Rex said that any amendment to previous minutes was not in our hands but he would ask O.V.W. to go to the Monitoring Office informally. We need to be very careful if we start to change or define certain things in previous minutes and are leaving ourselves wide open in the future. He understands and accepts the problems surrounding this subject and will ask O.V.W. for advice as a 'one off'. Cllr Roger George said he understood the problems in altering minutes but would like a form of words in the minutes referring back to December minutes. Mr Clive Bevan wished to say that Monica Randal does a super job with regards to the Church, her village work and park history. John Wood also does a lot of work for the village and community.

Resident Mrs Liz Williams told Council that Mrs Randal was not here tonight because she is still upset over the wording of the minutes. Clive Bevan suggested that if necessary a form of words be added to the minutes. Cllr Tony Rex asked Cllr Roger George to lead the way on this and try and come up with something that can be agreed by all.

Resident Peter Richards told Council that the plaque in the Playing Fields had fallen over and that he is repairing it.

### **2124 MATTERS OF LOCAL INTEREST OR CONCERNS**

**(i) Parking near Church Hall** Cllr Tony Rex explained that stones had appeared along the road at the back of the Church Hall but the matter is now back to normal. This incident occurred when the residents found it difficult to get past parked cars using the Church Hall. He said that people should use the Church Hall as the boundary as to how far down they can park and not to park beyond the Church wall. Although the un-adopted road is not owned by anyone, he would ask that people using the Church Hall to park sensibly and close to the wall.

**(ii) Door to Door Collections.** Cllr Tony Rex reported that during January he had someone knock his door after dark saying they were collecting on behalf of Unisef. He telephoned some people in the village and found that some residents had also had these people call and were frightened because of the time they were knocking on doors. The Police were called

And following an investigation it was found that the callers were legitimate and were working as part of an international market collection whereby people signed up to a direct debit. Cllr Tony Rex said that these people do not require a licence for this type of work but would have thought they would have contacted the local police and authority to inform them of their activities. He said that we could say we would prefer not to have door to door collections after sunset and he is awaiting feedback.

**(iii) Sewage Blockage :** Cllr Tony Rex reported that there had been two incidences of sewage overflows in Long Meadow. Whilst they have been clear for the past five days it did take 10 days to clear. The second leakage took five days for someone to come out and inspect. The blockage was down-line, beyond the manhole in the field, and backed up to the village. He said that this problem would be worth noting when future discussions arise regarding the sewage capacity in the village.

**(iv) Community Council's Emergency Plans :** Discussed earlier in meeting

**(v) Gray Hill Surgery PPG Report :** Eneurin Bevan Trust plans to talk to Councils on the PPG Report

**(vi) Community First Report :** No update received

**(vii) Jubilee Celebrations :** Cllr Tony Rex said that £500 had been set aside towards celebrations for this event. Cllr Sally Thomas said she had received notification with regards to Jubilee Trees for the Community. The problem being the minimum number of saplings to order is 105. The Clerk to liaise with Cllr Sally Thomas on this matter. The Playing Fields might be a suitable area for the planting of such trees.

### **2125 PLAYING FIELD MATTERS**

**(i) Inspection Report :** As reported earlier in meeting, the matting to the zip wire had been fitted.

**(ii) Hedge at North Boundary ;** Cllr Tony Rex asked resident Mr Simon George if he had written in his Deeds that NCC have to supply hedging at bottom of garden. NCC do currently cut all these hedges.

**(iii) New Playground Equipment :** The Clerk handed out booklets and recommendations for a range of new play equipment. Cllr Tony Rex suggested that Councillors take away these booklets and that a meeting, devoted solely for playground equipment be held on Tuesday 20 March to discuss the type of equipment needed. Cllr Roger George suggested dialogue with some parents in the village for their view, Cllr Tony Rex said that he was surprised at the number of children using our play facilities, outside of the area. Cllr Sally Thomas said this was probably because there was now no adventure playground in Wentwood Forest.

**(iv) Recreational Field Gates**

**(v) Zip-Wire Runway Maintenance :** The Clerk reported that Designed Parks Ltd had recently attended to the tension on the runway wire and it had been adjusted accordingly.

## **2126 PLANNING MATTERS**

**(i) Excavations alongside Turnpike Road :** The owner is currently raising the level of land with topsoil to grow Christmas Trees and had struck rock. NCC Planning Department were surprised by this type of development but stressed it was not permitted to break down rock and crush it on site and then remove from site. The owner had told NCC that he had taken too much off ground. Cllr Tony Rex said that he was surprised NCC had not put a stop to this work until planning permission was sought. It is at the fill back stage at present

**(ii) 11/1107 Installation of Larger Velux Windows – Mulberry Barn, Millbrook Lane :** Granted

**(iii) 12/0060 Detached Garage with Storage Loft – Forest Lodge :** Cllr Lyndon Jones said there is a footpath and Right of Way in the area where they want to build on. NCC have no trace of this but on the current OS Map of 1982 it shows a ROW. Planning should stop or they should re-route footpath.

## **2127 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

(i) Payment of Accounts – Payments Due and Payments Received. Cllr Roger George proposed the following items for payment

	£
1 Clerk's salary December 2011	120.24
2 Tax due December 2011	30.06
3 Clerk's salary January 2012	120.24
4 Tax due January 2012	30.06
5 Clerk's salary February 2012	120.24
6 Tax due February 2012	30.06
7 Audit fee (Mazars)	144.00
8 Clerk's expenses	35.16
9 Playing field repairs-new grass mats	312.00
TOTAL	£ 941.16

Cllr Tony Rex queried the £312 due to repairs to new grass mats. Cllr Roger George and the Clerk would confirm this amount but Cllr Roger George asked that they be accepted excluding the £312. Cllr Jenny Scully seconded the proposal which was agreed unanimously.

**(ii) Grass Cutting Account:** Cllr Tony Rex asked the Clerk to obtain quotes for the grass cutting. If the quotes were above current amount, then we would need to obtain sealed quotes. Definition of what is required to be cut to be made clear, eg Gilfach Triangle and two patches of grass at Castle Rise.

**(ii) Performance to Date v Budget 2011-12 :** Cllr Roger George said we were not significantly under budget as the £5,700 was for the purchase of new playground equipment. There was nothing spent on tree maintenance. The forecast is under £1500 which gives us a good start. Cllrs have all received hard copy of paperwork.

**(iii) Budget 2012-2013 :** Cllr Roger George presented the Draft Budget. Before approval, central to this is the precept and concurrent figures, as yet we have had no feedback from NCC on these figures. Once we have these figures we can confirm budget at the special meeting on 20 March 2012.

## **2128 CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk had circulated to Councillors the correspondence list. Cllr Sally Thomas referred to the website address for Veolia Environmental Services with regards to their planning application at Llanwern and said there was a problem in accessing it. The Clerk read out a letter received from the Countryside for Wales informing Council they were reviewing maps of open country and registered common land. The review would commence on 16 July and access to their web is [www.ccw.gov.uk](http://www.ccw.gov.uk)

## **2129 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Sally Thomas was concerned with the recent BT activity at Reservoir House and Tope House. Cables had been left lying around and residents were without telephones. She was trying to make contact with CEO of BT on website.

Cllr Thomas also commented on styles and footpaths and mentioned that a new style had appeared. Who put this up, would it be ramblers ?

Cllr Thomas asked if we could get an up to date map from NCC of footpaths and ROW in area. This could take as a project when out walking, checking on maintenance of such. The footpath sign is down at Gilfach but Cllr Jenny Scully said the sign had been removed because of tree cutting and would be put back up.

**2130 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at 7.00 p.m.

At the close of meeting Cllr Tony Rex made the following statement received from Mr Paul Cooper

I apologised unreservedly.....and wish to withdraw the statement publically.