

LLANVACHES COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT LLANVACHES CHURCH HALL
TUESDAY 16 OCTOBER 2012

Present	Councillors	Peter Challenger Lesley Morgan MBE Clive Bevan Liz Williams
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Public Attendance	5
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2204 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Philip Bishop, Sallie Mogford, Tony Rex.

2205 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared. (note comment **2212 (v)** below)

2206 MINUTES OF LAST (full Council) MEETING 21 AUGUST 2012

Cllr Morgan proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Williams and agreed unanimously.

2207 MINUTES OF INTERMEDIATE MEETING HELD 17 SEPTEMBER

Cllr Williams proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Bevan and agreed by those who were present at the meeting.

2208 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

(i) Meeting held 17 September :Cllr Challenger, who was absent from the 17 September 2012 meeting, referred to **Minute 2200** where a resident had asked how Llanvaches Community Council had initially raised Local Development Plan issues with villagers. Cllr Bevan replied that although there had been two meetings to discuss concerns on the LDP, there had been a different group of villagers who attended these meetings, due to holidays etc. He said their concerns were referring to a follow up. Cllr Challenger said that the original closing date for candidate sites was end of October but Lucie Taylor (Newport County Council) said that this date had now been extended to end of November. Cllr Challenger said LCC would keep residents informed of any progress either through LCC scheduled meetings or by posting notices on the community notice boards.

2209 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

(i) Playing Field Hedges and Surrounds: Mrs Monica Randall pointed out that that the Playing Field hedge rows had not been cut this year. Nettles surrounding the field had not been strimmed. Cllr Williams asked if the herbicide spray that we stopped contributed to this task not being done. Cllr Challenger understood that the herbicide treatment was around the football posts and park benches. He asked the Clerk to make contact with NCC for clarification on this matter.

ACTION 01/01: Clerk

In addition, Cllr Challenger reminded the council the need to remove the lower branches from trees in the park, an action resultant the Safety Inspection conducted earlier in the year. Cllr Challenger suggested this work was put out to tender and requested the Clerk to obtain quotes.

ACTION 01/02: Clerk

(ii) Playing Field Litter Bin: It was brought to LCC attention that the Playing Field litter bin was in a bad state of repair. Litter bins in both the Playing Field and Park to be inspected by LCC to ascertain repair/replacement status.

ACTION 01/03: Cllr Challenger

(iii) Gilfach Seat : Mrs. Randall reported that the seat on Gilfach Green had been re-painted by Mrs Sheila Jones's Gardener. Cllr Challenger asked the Clerk to send a letter of thanks to Mrs Jones and her gardener.

ACTION 01/04: Clerk

(iv) Notice Boards : It was noted that the last set of Minutes and Agenda had not been placed on Notice Boards at Gilfach. The Clerk said this was an oversight. However, it is not mandatory to post minutes on notice boards, minutes along with other similar documents must be made available to the public on request.

(v) Street Lighting Wentwood Drive : Mr John Woods said that concerns had been made by some elderly resident living around Wentwood Drive that street lights being were turned off at 10.30 p.m. The Clerk would contact NCC Street Scene for an update.

ACTION 01/05: Clerk

(vi) Damage to Grit Bins – Mrs. Jenny Scully reported that two grit bins had been damaged during the recent hedge cutting activity. She had reported this incident to NCC. The Clerk to follow up on this matter and ensure bins are repaired/replaced as soon as possible.

ACTION 01/06: Clerk

(vii) Tabernacle Road Hedge Cutting : Cllr Challenger said that following the recent hedge cutting on Tabernacle Road, the road had been left in an unacceptable condition. He had contacted NCC who reacted promptly and sent out road sweepers. Cllr Bevan said that the hedges along Tabernacle Lane were becoming a health and safety issue and the height of these hedges needed to be reduced. The Clerk to speak to NCC

ACTION 01/07: Clerk

2210 MANAGEMENT MATTERS

(i) Volunteer to tend Village Green Flower Bed : Cllr Challenger confirmed that Mrs Kay James, ex Cllr, had kindly volunteered to continue looking after the village green flower bed, for which LCC expressed their thanks. Cllr Challenger suggested that a maximum of £50 be spent on bulbs and compost. This was Proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Morgan and agreed unanimously. The Clerk to e mail Mrs James of this decision.

ACTION 01/08 : Clerk

(ii) Best Kept Village Competition : Llanvaches had won the 'Highly Commended' award for the Best Kept Village, losing out to Mathern. The Clerk to display the Certificate on all three Notice Boards. Llanvaches also won the Best Kept Churchyard.

2211 PLANNING MATTERS

(i) 12/0827 Brook Farm – Update : Cllr Morgan commented that there was no change on the plans since they were discussed previously.

(ii) 12/0920 Woodside Cottage Farm, Mynydd Alltir-Fach Lane, Llanvaches

Proposed roof extension to north elevation, erection of balcony to south elevation, new chimney and erection of detached garage with first floor accommodation : In the absence of Cllr Mogford, Cllr Challenger read verbatim a written statement provided to the Clerk by Cllr Mogford. In précis Cllr Mogford had no objections to the proposed alterations to the main house but was concerned the two storey garage could be used in the future for holiday lets. Both Cllr's Morgan and Challenger advised they had visited Woodside Cottage Farm (drive by) and did not consider the proposed alterations would have any adverse effect on the local vicinity. Following a brief discussion about concerns that were expressed, Council decided not to object.

(iii) 12/0656 House Adjacent to Gwent Lea : Cllr Challenger said that retrospective approval had been given for this house to connect to the main drainage system. Cllr Bevan was disappointed with NCC who already acknowledged the problem with the sewer capacity in Llanvaches, and that this house was initially approved with a cesspit. Cllr Challenger said that this did not appear to be the first time that NCC Planning had overturned recommendations and suggested that LCC meet with the a representative from NCC Planning to establish how processes like this, once agreed, are then overturned. Objections needed to be upheld.

(iv) Barn Conversion nr Hillside : Cllr Challenger said that despite objections being raised, the developer had just gone ahead. It appears that NCC had issued a 14 day Enforcement Order but had not executed this through.

(v) Pike Road Excavations : Cllr Challenger reported that the piles of rock seemed to be diminishing but was still concerned on the excavation being carried out.

2212 MATTERS OF LOCAL INTEREST OR CONCERN

(i) Alternative Candidate Site – Update : Cllr Challenger said that there was no update at present. NCC had extended the closing date to the end of November 2012.

(ii) Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation – Update : Cllr Challenger said there was no further update at present. Cllr Morgan said that individuals had sent their objections to Newport County Council.

(iii) Trackway behind South View Llanvaches : Cllr Challenger explained that rubbish had been dumped on trackway behind South view, blocking access. Newport City Homes had notified the homeowner responsible and had asked for this debris to be removed. Cllr Rex to monitor the situation.

ACTON 1/09 : Cllr Rex

(iv) New Fence in field opposite Slaughters Field : Cllr Williams reported that she had contacted NCC with regards to the stile and gate at Slaughters Field. The field opposite Slaughters Field had been split into two and one part sold. The footpath across the field has not been affected. Cllr Williams said that NCC were compiling new software for a project map which would show the condition of paths in all of Newport area. They have expressed an interest in addressing LCC at a future meeting. When the project is launched NCC would be looking for volunteers to walk the paths. Cllr Williams suggested they be invited to the February Meeting.

(v) Christmas Festivities : The Clerk and Cllr Morgan outlined a proposal from a group of ladies, for 'Christmas Carols in Llanvaches' on Friday 21 December from 4.30 – 6.00p.m. Carols would be sung around a Christmas Tree on the green and at various points around the village, followed by hot dogs and drinks in the Church Hall. A donation from Council was requested towards the cost of such an event which would include the Christmas tree lights, installation of a power supply and food for the event.

A local business had kindly donated a Christmas tree to the village in support of this event. The donor was prepared to erect the tree provided a suitable 'hole' was provided. The suggestion by the donor was a 250mm diameter 'tube' 900mm in depth sunk into the village green. This could be covered by a 600mm sq paving slab when not in use and would be available for use in future years. Cllr Challenger suggested this may be able to be undertaken by volunteers from the village, but it would be a good idea to put the work out to tender, and suggested the Clerk obtain quotes for the work to be completed.

Cllr Challenger suggested, in principle, a maximum of £250, to be confirmed at the next full Council Meeting, be made available in support of this function. He suggested that suitable exterior Christmas tree lights were purchased by the organising group, however the lights could become an LCC asset for use at future events. Proposed by Cllr Challenger, seconded by Cllr Williams and accepted nemo contra, Cllr Morgan abstained from voting.

ACTION 01/10: Clerk

(vi) Status of the Footpath. Stiles ad Gate in Slaughters Field : Covered in (iv) above.

(vii) Jubilee Tree : Cllr Challenger asked on progress of the purchase of the tree. The Clerk will confirm the type and cost of the tree and e mail councillors on progress before purchase and planting.

ACTION 01/11: Clerk

2213 PLAYING FIELD MATTERS

The Clerk updated Council on the damage to the 'Nellie' play equipment in the Playing Field. NCC had accepted liability and had been out to take photos of damage and were in the process of repairing/replacing the piece of equipment.

2214 FINANCIAL MATTERS

(i) Tax Rebate, Current Situation Report : In the absence of Cllr Rex, who is currently dealing with this matter, Cllr Challenger had no update on this.

ACTION 01/12 Cllr Rex

(ii) Payment of Accounts – Payments Due and Payments Confirmed.

The Clerk presented the following items for payment

	£
1. Clerk's salary July 2012	143.10
2. Tax Due: July 2012	35.77
3. Clerk's salary August 2012	143.10
4. Tax Due : August 2012	35.77
5. One Voice Wales (Training Course)	<u>60.00</u>
TOTAL	£417.74

Cllr Challenger proposed that the above payments be approved, Cllr Bevan seconded the motion and it was agreed unanimously.

(iii) Mazars Audit 2011-2012 : The RFO brought to Council's attention that some of the figures in the original audit form have been changed at Mazars request. There were three unpaid items at the end of March 2012. At the internal auditors advice, they were shown as Debtors/Creditors. Mazars recommend a Receipts and Payments account which has now been amended. Council approved by acclaim the amended audit document which was then signed by Cllr Challenger and the RFO.

(iv) Grass Cutting ; Cllr Morgan asked if the annual charge for NCC grass cutting had been finalised. The Clerk will contact NCC on this matter and report back at the next meeting.

[ACTION 1/13 : Clerk](#)

(v) Budget 2012-13 : Cllr Morgan referred to the 2012/13 Budget and asked for clarification with regards to 'General Maintenance £2,500'.

[ACTION 1/14 : Clerk](#)

2215 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Planning Training : Cllr Morgan asked if there was any progress on the planning training for Cllrs. It had been agreed previously that most LCC Cllrs would benefit from this type of training. Cllr Morgan referred to previous correspondence on this matter where 'Lead Council' had been mentioned and she enquired who were 'Lead Council'.

[ACTION 1/15 : Clerk](#)

2216 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Cllr Bevan wished to remind Councillors that there needed to be an open exchange of e mails between all Councillors.

(ii) Cllr Challenger had received a report from a concerned resident that there had been incidents of local children misbehaving on the village green and also by the wheel wash. Cllr Challenger had been approached by a parent of one of the children, who assured him that their child had been reprimanded and there would be no further misbehaviour of this kind from him. Whilst Cllrs Challenger and Bevan could not condone this type of behaviour, Cllr Bevan suggested that some of the children might get together to carry out small task e.g. cutting the ivy from the Church walls, cutting branches from tree on village green, closely supervised by a Councillor. This could make them feel appreciative of their surroundings.

[ACTION 1/16 : Cllr Bevan](#)

(iii) Cllr Williams suggested that an 'Action List' be included at each Council meeting

(v) Cllr Challenger noted that Community First had published incorrect LCC telephone numbers. The Clerk said she had already noted this and spoken to Mrs Penny Lawrence for this to be corrected.

(iv) The Clerk said that Nash College welcomed project work, within the community, for their students. Work by the students is carried out free of charge, as part of their course but materials need to be provided. Council might wish to make use of such skills for any small future project within the village.

2217 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 4 December 2012

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.