

# LLANVACHES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT LLANVACHES CHURCH HALL TUESDAY 20 MARCH 2012

Present	Councillors	Tony Rex Roger George Kay James Lyndon Jones Jenny Scully
Apologies for Absence	Councillor	Sally Thomas
Public Attendance		15

Cllr Tony Rex opened and immediately adjourned the meeting to allow the Playdale Representative, Darren Moore, who had been invited by LCC, to make a presentation to the village attendees regarding proposed new play equipment. Playdale is one of the companies LCC will be approaching to quote for new play equipment and to survey what is available within the LCC budget. The public were encouraged to ask questions. Playdale explained that equipment was divided into three categories: *Toddlers* 18 months – 6 years of age, *Juniors* 6 – 12 years of age and *Teenagers* – this equipment would be, for example, skateboard/BMX multi use equipment. Playdale presented two options (a) £9212 and (b) £10632. Villagers and the children who attended were excited to see the options available and gave feedback on what equipment they would like to see in the playing fields. Cllr Tony Rex explained the current position with the multi frame in that some of the uprights were rotten and the life span of this equipment is only two to three years. The replacement of any equipment is an expensive purchase and it was suggested that an approach to NCC and the Community First Magazine be made for any help with funds towards this venture. Cllr Roger George suggested that a small working party be formed to discuss the views of the children and to put together a consensus that could go forward. Cllr Tony Rex agreed on the setting up of the working party. Council thanked Darren Moore for his time taken in preparing the two options and for his help in explaining alternative options available to LCC. He then left and the meeting was reconvened to discuss the business on Agenda.

Cllr Tony Rex announced that Cllr Andy Harcombe had tendered his resignation with immediate effect due to the increase in his private work load. Council would like to take this opportunity of thanking Cllr Andy Harcombe for the contribution he has made to LCC and that he had been an excellent Councillor.

### **2131 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None declared.

### **2132 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (21 February 2012)**

Cllr Roger George proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Jenny Scully and agreed unanimously by those present at that meeting.

### **2133 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**2112(ii) Posting of Notices at Gilfach** : Cllr Tony Rex said that closure on this matter was needed and must consider the advocacy of Paul Cooper. This had been a one off unfortunate occurrence and he accepted Paul Cooper's view. This had not been an act of vandalism and further discussion on this matter would benefit no one. Cllr Roger George was pleased to hear this view

### **2134 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A question was raised as to whether Mrs Monica Randall would be receiving a letter of apology from LCC. Cllr Tony Rex said that Mrs Randall was never accused of vandalism and therefore no letter would be sent.

Ray Mogford said that the recent cycle race organised by Rob Storey had been well organised. 400 riders had taken part and Cllr Tony Rex wished to add his congratulations to Rob and his Team in organising this successful event which had raised £3500.

### **2135 COUNCIL MANAGEMENT MATTERS**

**(i) Local Council Elections – Dates for Diaries :** The Clerk had attended a meeting at NCC and had been given a nomination paper pack which contained all the details needed for candidates for the forthcoming community councillor elections. The Clerk then proceeded to inform Council of the procedure and dates for nomination papers to be handed in. Cllr Tony Rex explained that if more than seven people applied for Council then an election would have to take place. LCC had budgeted £800 for an election as only one polling station would be required. He also added that LCC will have to pay a proportion of the cost for the NCC elections to cover admin costs.

### **2136 NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT – OPTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS**

Cllr Tony Rex said that as discussed previously, a working party be set up. He confirmed that Playdale are aware that LCC will be seeking three to four tenders for new play equipment. Cllr Tony Rex had seen a play park at Wimbledon where a roundabout, cone, cargo net and a short climbing wall had proved to be very popular. Playdale had recently completed the installation of new play equipment at Portskewett and it was suggested that the Clerk and Cllr Roger George visit the site to look what had been installed at Portskewett. A visit to the play area at Mathern was also suggested.

### **2137 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

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

	£
1 Clerk's salary March 2012	120.24
2 Tax due March 2012	30.06
3 Football Field Rent 2012	60.00
TOTAL	£ 210.30

Cllr Lyndon Jones seconded the proposal which was agreed unanimously  
Cllr Roger George explained that the question raised at the meeting on 21 February regarding the £312 for Designer Parks had been confused with a previous invoice which had not shown the VAT.

**(ii) Confirmation of Budget 2012-2013 :** Cllr Roger George explained that following the debate that had taken place at December's meeting there had been no change to the budget. We were still waiting on NCC for the concurrent and precept figures and the final budget figures for 2012-2013 would be presented at the next meeting on 17 April 2012.

**(iii) Grass Cutting Contract :** The Clerk was still waiting on a further two quotes.

### **2138 ANY URGENT CORRESPONDENCE**

None received

### **2139 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

(i) Cllr Kay James asked if Andy Harcombe, who had set up the LCC Website, would be continuing to update the web. The Clerk would confirm at next meeting

(ii) Cllr Tony Rex stated that money had been set aside in the budget to support the Queens Jubilee Celebrations. He understood that plans were underway for a *Big Lunch* event in the village. Details would be forthcoming shortly.

### **2140 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 17 April 2012 at 7.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

Cllr Tony Rex questioned the £312 for repairs to new grass mats saying that a similar item had been agreed in the previous POA. The Clerk and RFO will investigate. Cllr George asked that the list be accepted excluding the £312. Cllr Jenny Scully seconded this amended proposal which was agreed unanimously.

**(ii) Grass Cutting Contract :** Cllr Tony Rex asked the Clerk to obtain quotes for the Grass Cutting Contract. The areas defined to be exactly those cut by NCC in 2011 [*confirmed by e-mail dated 29 February*]. If the quotes appear to be over £1,000, then we would need to obtain (at least) three sealed quotes.

**(ii) Performance to Date v Budget 2011-12 :** Cllr Roger George said costs were significantly under budget but this was expected as £5,700 was set aside to accumulate funds for the purchase of new playground equipment.

**(iii) Budget 2012-2013 :** Cllr Roger George told Council that there had been no changes to the Draft Budget published previously but the Precept and Concurrent awards had not yet been determined by NCC. He said that these data should be available at the special meeting on 20 March 2012 and the Actual Budget for 2012-13 would be agreed then.

### **2128 CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk had circulated the correspondence list to Cllrs. Cllr Sally Thomas referred to the website address for Veolia Environmental Services with regard 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.

### **2129 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

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

Cllr Sally Thomas also mentioned that she was pleased that a new stile had been installed (without reference to Council) but no-one appeared to know who had undertaken the work. The Clerk was asked to obtain an up to date map from NCC of footpaths and ROW in area. Cllr Tony Rex said that a formal programme to check all footpaths etc would be established before the June Meeting.

**Statement by Mr Paul Cooper.** Mr Paul Cooper addressed the meeting stating that at the previous Council Meeting he had made very critical remarks about Cllr Tony Rex's aggressive attitude to Mr Cooper's son-in-law regarding a bonfire. He stated that he had been misinformed and what had been said was totally incorrect, consequently he apologised unreservedly to Cllr Rex. Cllr Rex said that the private apology that Mr Cooper had already made was sufficient. Mr Cooper said that having made the remarks publicly he wished to withdraw them publicly. Cllr Rex praised Mr Cooper's integrity and great decency.

### **2130 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.