

LLANVACHES COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT LLANVACHES CHURCH HALL
TUESDAY 16 APRIL 2013

Present	Councillors	Tony Rex Liz Williams Kay James Lyndon Jones
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In Attendance	Ward Cllr	Ray Mogford
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Public Attendance		3
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2270 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Clive Bevan and Ward Cllr David Atwell.

2271 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

2272 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (19 March 2013)

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

2273 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

2245 Current Vacancies : The Clerk reported that the 'three mile rule' for potential candidates wishing to apply for vacancies, is three miles from the village boundary.

2252 (ii) Tabernacle Road Gritting : Ward Cllr Mogford said Newport City Council (NCC) will update the map showing the areas to be gritted, when resources are available.

2252 (iv) Flooding on Tabernacle Road : Streetscene are to inspect the problem. Ward Cllr Mogford reported that Ward Cllr Atwell had met with NCC and Welsh Water regarding flooding throughout the ward and when the Minutes become available he would report back to Council. Ward Cllr Mogford observed that there is no money available to improve the drainage system but servicing of drains and gullies must continue. Cllr Rex reiterated that the flooding on Tabernacle Road would be eased greatly if the silt was cleared from the drain. Ward Cllr Mogford said he would progress the specific matter.

2274 COUNCIL MANAGEMENT MATTERS

(i) Standing Orders/Procedures : Cllr Rex apologised that due to the recent installation of a new computer and software, he had been unable to progress his editing.

(ii) Website: Ward Cllr Mogford reported that there was a grant available from NCC to assist Community Councils set up their own website. The Clerk was asked to write formally to him to obtain more information for Council to consider before any application. Clerk had spoken to Mr Andy Harcombe about updating the Llanvaches Community website and they concluded that it was beneficial for LCC if Mr Harcombe continued to update the site.

2275 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no points or issues raised.

2276 MATTERS OF LOCAL INTEREST OR CONCERN

(i) Grass Cutting Contract : The Clerk has finalised the 2013 Season Contract with NCC. The Clerk will request that NCC cut the grass and trim the edges at the same time - at present these tasks are done on separate days. Cllr James said it was important to record the dates NCC cut the grass to ensure that the number of cuts matches the contract.

(ii) Jubilee Tree : The Clerk had been waiting for a site visit from Mr Joe Atkinson (NCC Arboriculture Officer) but he has left NCC. Consequently, the Clerk spoke to Ms Shona Carle who offered, via NCC, to source and plant a Tibetan Cherry for LCC at a cost of £100. The tree would be a 9ft Standard and planted in October/November (we have missed the Spring Planting Window). After a short debate, Cllr Lyndon Jones proposed that LCC accept this offer, the motion, seconded by Cllr James, was agreed unanimously.

(iii) Summer Sports Event : The Clerk informed LCC that the Llanvaches Social Events Group, will hold a *Big Lunch 'Picnic in the Park'* on Saturday 6 July with stalls, side-shows etc. Ward Cllr Mogford told Council that Ward Cllr Atwell had allocated £500 from his Ward Discretionary Fund to the Group.

(iv) Facilities Working Party : Cllr Williams has a meeting with Mr Mike McGow (NCC) on 19 April and will report on progress at the May Council Meeting.

2277 PLANNING MATTERS

Recent Applications

12/0827 Brook Farm- Additional Equine Workers House : no change

13/0238 Ty Bach, Millbrook Lane – Rear Extension of Conservatory, Living Room and First Floor Bedroom (resubmission after refusal of 12/1071) : Cllr Rex

explained that NCC had refused the original application because the design was not in keeping with the rural setting. He added that Council had not objected. Cllr Rex then proposed that Council should now respond to the Planner by stating that if the resubmission met with NCC criteria, LCC would have no objection to the proposed works.

2278 CORRESPONDENCE

Three items from the published Correspondence List were discussed.

(i) Election Recharge : NCC has issued an invoice for Election Costs incurred May 2012, to all Community Councils. Other Clerks have challenged the basis of the invoices and asked for it to be debated at the next Liaison Meeting. On Cllr Rex's suggestion, Council agreed to withhold payment and await the outcome of the Liaison Meeting.

(ii) Best Kept Village : It was agreed that Llanvaches enter the competition and the Clerk will submit the application.

(iii) Membership of One Voice Wales : The proposal from Cllr Williams that membership be renewed was seconded by Cllr James and agreed unanimously.

2279 FINANCIAL MATTERS

(i) Payment of Accounts – Payments Due and Payments Confirmed

The Clerk presented the following items for payment

1	Clerks Salary April 2013 (by Standing Order)	143.10
2.	Tax Due: re Clerks salary April 2013	35.77
3.	NCC Grounds Maintenance Quarterly Charge	255.00
4.	Membership of OVW (Annual Renewal Subscription)	44.00

TOTAL £ 477.87

The Clerk explained that NCC split the Annual Grounds Maintenance Contract into four equal Quarterly Invoices, so, Item 3 is acceptable although 25% of the contract work has not yet been done. Cllr Rex proposed that the above payments be approved, Cllr Williams seconded the motion and it was agreed unanimously.

(ii) Asset Register and Insurance Review :

a) **Asset Register** : Cllr Rex presented the revised Asset Register to Council and highlighted the following salient points

- Assets worth £96 at Written Down Value were scrapped during 2012 namely Metal Field Gate @ £9 and Wooden Climbing Frame @ £87
- The only additional assets in 2012 were the new Field Gates now with wdv £486
- Total Asset Value is £5,497 at wdv with an estimated Replacement Cost of £28,025

Council accepted the Asset Register as a true record by acclaim.

b) **Historic Records** : On at least two occasions Council has decided that the Minute Books prior to 1998 and the Research Papers by Julian Mitchell should be placed with County Archives, but, they remain in safe storage with the Clerk and Chairman. Cllr Rex clarified the situation by saying that the first of the Minute Books covered the period from 1894 to 1981 and he had found that reference to meetings in the 1970s had been essential. Incidentally, the 1894 entry records the decision not to have a Parish Council and for several years the Minute Book covers meetings that relate to the Poor Law of the times and, on one occasion, the distribution of the Wroth Charity. Cllr Rex said that all of the Minute Books are useful resources for reference by Cllrs and he suggested that these be kept in safe keeping with LCC rather than placed in County Archives at Ebbw Vale. He also suggested that the research papers and copies of old maps that had been prepared by Julian Mitchell, together with the related Parish Register Transcripts, be placed in Ebbw Vale Archives. He confirmed that he had spoken to Julian Mitchell who had agreed that the papers be archived. By acclaim Council accepted Cllr Rex's suggestions. The Clerk will contact the County Archivist and make the necessary arrangements.

c) **Insurance Review** : Cllr Rex explained that the document showed minor decreases in cover for several items and major increases for the Notice Boards (in line with new list prices). He said that these changes would probably increase the premium by c£15. The following points from the Policy Schedule were noted

- The standard level of Fidelity Guarantee has been increased from £2,000 to £250,000
- Previously the Personal Accident insurance for Cllrs reduced after Age 75, it now does not reduce until Age 85
- For 2013-14 there has been a reduction in the Insurance Rate.

Cllr Rex proposed acceptance of the changes in cover and the various terms of the policy. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Jones and agreed unanimously. Cllr Rex went on to say that the Insurer had offered LCC a Three Year Deal at the current reduced rate and he recommended acceptance. Cllr Williams proposed that Council accept the Three Year Deal, Cllr Jones seconded the motion which was agreed unanimously.

(iii) Final Management Accounts : Council examined the Management Accounts presented by the Clerk and Cllr Rex. The Clerk said that the Year End Bank Account Statements were available and the Management Accounts were showing the state at 31 March 2013. The reconciled bank data shows that Council has £16,890.64 in the bank and two cheques (£285.77) have not yet been presented. Cllr Rex asked Cllrs to accept the accounts for review by the Internal Auditor. This motion was proposed by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Williams and agreed unanimously.

(iv) Budget 2013-14 : Amend and Agree: Cllr Rex said that the Budget could be finalised because the Year End Account Balance was available. He added that this 'Brought Forward' figure was the only change to the Budget agreed in March. The 2013-14 Budget was approved unanimously by Council having been proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Jones.

2280 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Village Green Furniture : Cllr James noted that the benches and notice board on the village green required maintenance - sanding down and staining. Historically this had been carried out by members of the community. It was however agreed that the Clerk obtain a quote from a local handyman to carry out this work.

(ii) Rock & Fountain Junction : Cllr Jones had witnessed a school mini-bus exit from St Bride's Road opposite the Rock and Fountain and cross the A48 to Pike Road. Cllr Jones said that it was a dangerous practice and was not allowed. The Clerk will speak to the police about the incident.

2281 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

AGM and Business Meeting Tuesday 21 May 2013 at 7.00 pm

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.