

LLANVACHES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Llanvaches Community Council
Held at Llanvaches Church Hall on
Tuesday 16th December 2014 at 7PM

Present

Chairman:- Cllr Liz Williams
Councillors:- P Challenger, K James, P Lawrence
Ward Councillor R Mogford
In attendance:- Lucy Allen (Clerk)
Public Attendance:- 1

2511 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Cllr C Carlson, Cllr L Morgan

2512 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA
None.

2513 MINUTES
Cllr Lawrence proposed that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 18th November 2014 be accepted as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Williams and agreed unanimously, the minutes were signed as a true record of the meeting.

2514 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES
Item 2506 (b) Matters of Local Interest or Concern - Footpath at entrance to Wentwood Drive - Members were advised that the Clerk had raised the issue of slippery paths at the entrance to Wentwood Drive with Newport City Council again. A member further advised that they understood that Newport City Council had in fact been and removed moss etc. from the paths. The Clerk said that she would contact the Council again to ensure that the work had been carried out.

2515 FINANCIAL MATTERS

a. Payment of Accounts

i. Clerk's salary December 2014 by cheque	£180.00
ii. One Voice Wales Training "Making Effective Grant Applications"	£ 30.00
iii. Church Hall Rent for LCC meetings (£30 x 11)	£330.00
iv. Christmas Tree	£ 35.00
v. Filing Cabinet (£37.49 + VAT)	£ 44.99
TOTAL	£619.99

Cllr James proposed that the above payments be approved, which was seconded by Cllr Lawrence and agreed unanimously.

b. Cash Book and Bank Reconciliation

The adoption and reconciliation of the Community Council's bank accounts for November 2014 was confirmed.

A member of the meeting sought to vary the order of the business in order that they may consider the Draft Budget and the Concurrent / Precept Grant before considering any financial implications in relation to the Website.

RESOLVED:-

That the next item of business be Item 2515 (e) - Draft Budget 2015-2016 followed by Item 2515 (f) - Concurrent / Precept Grant

e. Draft Budget 2015-2016

The meeting considered the 2015-2016 Draft Budget prepared by the Clerk and circulated to the Members prior to the meeting.

The Clerk, in preparation of the Draft Budget, had taken into account the priorities that were set at the meeting on Tuesday, 16th November 2014 which included; maintenance of the playing field and football field, provision of a Community Council Website, initial consultation fees for a Village Plan, playground equipment (maintenance plan and replacement of equipment), bins (new/replacement) and the provision to provide funding to all four Churches within Llanvaches.

In relation to the maintenance of the playing and football field, Members were advised that quotations were being sought and that one quotation had been received to date of £1,920 (£160 per grass cut which included hedge maintenance).

Discussions ensued regarding the quality of work carried out by the current providers, particularly the grass being cut at different times and whether the hedge maintenance had been carried out. If the Community Council were to continue to use the current providers then these issues needed to be sorted out and closely monitored during the time of the contract.

With regards to the Playground equipment, it was agreed that provision be made within the budget for ongoing replacement and maintenance of the existing equipment.

RESOLVED:-

To accept the Draft Budget for 2015-2016 subject to the potential increase to Grass / Hedge cutting and the General Maintenance budget heads once all quotations had been received. The Clerk to bring the revised figures to the next meeting of Full Council on Tuesday, 20th January 2015.

f. Concurrent / Precept Grant

Members considered the Concurrent / precept grant application for the financial year 2015-2016. During discussions, Members raised concerns regarding the reduction made in the precept for the current financial year which meant that financial reserves were being used to meet the expected expenditure. The meeting agreed that as the Community Council has responsibility for both the football field and playing field maintenance that the budget should reflect this with a better grass / hedge cutting schedule and provision for the ongoing maintenance or replacement of play equipment.

RESOLVED:-

To submit a Concurrent grant application to Newport City Council and to increase the precept application to £25 per household to deliver a better grass and hedge cutting schedule to the football and playing field and to provide for ongoing repair replacement of the playground equipment.

Cllr Williams proposed the increase in precept which was seconded by Cllr James. The

resolution was agreed by three votes to one.

c. Website

The meeting considered the quotation received from Vision ICT to set up a website for Llanvaches Community Council. Vision ICT, through its partnership with One Voice Wales offer a complete internet package at a cost of £500 plus VAT for the first 3 years. In the 4th year the annual maintenance fee is £125 plus VAT. The Clerk advised that she had contacted a neighbouring Community Council regarding their website which had been set up by an individual and their costs were substantially higher.

Members raised concerns regarding the validity of the quotation as the Community Council would not be looking to set the website up until the next financial year (2015-2016).

RESOLVED:-

Members agreed to proceed with Vision ICT in providing a Community Council website for Llanvaches subject to the Clerk seeking clarification that the quotation would be valid from the start of the new financial year. Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Lawrence and agreed unanimously. (LGA 1972, s111)

d. Football Field Gates

Members considered the quotation received to repair the gates on the entrances to the football field and were advised that the Community Council are responsible for the maintenance of the gates. A member advised the meeting that they had contacted Newport City Council footpaths department to see if the repair / replacement of the wooden gate would be their responsibility due to it being a public "Right of Way", to date no response had been received. Concerns were raised regarding the safety of children running straight onto the road and the member advised that they would contact Newport again.

RESOLVED:-

To defer consideration of the quotation received to reset the field maintenance gate until the next meeting of Full Council on 20th January 2015.

To contact Newport City Council "Footpaths" department to see if the repair / replacement of the wooden gate would be their responsibility and if not to accept the quotation received to supply and re hang the wooded pedestrian gate at a cost of £160.00.

g. Second Defibrillator

Members discussed the effectiveness of having a second defibrillator in the Whitebrook / Gilfach area of the village and were concerned that this may set a precedence throughout the village.

RESOLVED:-

The Clerk to contact the 1st Responder who resides in the village to discuss the effectiveness of having a second defibrillator in the Whitebrook / Gilfach area of the village.

2516 COUNCIL MANAGEMENT MATTERS

a. The Clerk advised the meeting that she had contacted Newport City Council with concerns regarding the hedge and grass cutting in and around the village. A response had been received confirming:-

1. That the tops of the rural hedges is the landowners responsibility however the City Council have carried out the work to keep the highway clear. This policy may change in the future with cuts in budgets.
2. The village green and grass verges are maintained by Newport City Council as part of highway verge maintenance.

3. That the playing field and football field received 12 cuts this year (not 10) as everything grew so fast and that the Community Council will not be charged for the extra cuts.

Ward Councillor Mogford agreed to discuss the issues with grass cutting being carried out at different times with Newport City Council.

2517 PLAYING FIELD MATTERS

- a. **Weekly Inspection Report** - Members were informed that there were no issues to date on the weekly inspection report.
- b. **Replacement Play Equipment** – The meeting was advised that “Awards For All” lottery bid application was now complete and would be sent off.

2518 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the bins in the playing field being very full and that it would be impossible to recycle any items placed in the bins. Members suggested removing the bins for a set period of time to see if there would be any issues regarding litter. The Clerk advised that she would put a notice in the “Community First” magazine advising that the bins had been removed and that all residents were to take their rubbish home.

2519 MATTERS OF LOCAL INTEREST OR CONCERN

a. **Green Bin Collection**

Members noted that the green “garden waste” bin collections would be stopped from 19th December 2014 until 16th March 2015. Ward Councillor Mogford advised the meeting that the decision had been made by Cabinet members as a cost saving exercise over the winter which would see Newport City Council save approximately £80,000.

2520 CORRESPONDENCE LIST

Members received and considered the correspondence set out in the schedule emailed to members prior to the meeting.

2521 PLANNING MATTERS

None.

2522 FURTHER COMMENTS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

Cllr Kay James advised the meeting that after 9 years of looking after and planting the village green flower bed that she was felt it was time another volunteer or Newport City Council took over the job. The Chairman thanked Cllr James for all the hard work that she had put into making the flower bed look attractive each year. Members suggested that as the village green was adopted highways that the Clerk contact Newport City Council to see if they would take over the planting. The Clerk also advised that she would put a notice in “Community First” magazine to see if there was a local volunteer who would like to take over the planting.

A Member requested that a thank you letter be sent with the cheque for payment of the Christmas Tree as the Nursery had provided the tree at a very reasonable cost.

The notice of intention to co-opt will be at the next meeting of Full Council on Tuesday, 20th January 2015.

Ward Councillor Mogford advised that the next ward meeting will be in early February and that this may be a good opportunity to discuss grass and hedge cutting issues with the Head of Streetscene for Newport City Council.

2523 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Llanvaches Community Council would be held on Tuesday, 20th January 2015 at 7.00pm in the Church Hall, Llanvaches.

The Meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Signed.....**CHAIRMAN**

Date.....