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Llanhennock Community Council Meeting Held on 5th October 2020 7 pm

Present: Chairman Thomas, Cllr Williams, Cllr Morgan, Cllr Chivers, Cllr Waters,
Vice Chairman Heath and Clerk Davies.

Apologies: Cllr McCleod, Cllr Young, County Cllr Clarke

Declarations of interest: None

Members of the public present: None

Minutes of the last meeting: Approved by : Cllr Waters Seconded by : Cllr Morgan

Matters Arising :

1469/20 Tredunnock Speed Signs

Cllrs Chivers and Morgan and County Cllr Clarke met with some Tredunnock residents to discuss the newly erected 30mph speed signs recently. A letter has also been received from the residents explaining their views. It was felt that the speed restrictions needed to be extended further along the road in both directions from Cwrt Bleddyn to the Newbridge; there is now increased traffic through the village as a result of the traffic light system in Usk; the danger points are at the two bends in the village at either end of St Andrews walk; C.Cllr Clarke had said he would support us in requesting a speed camera from the police; Cllr Thomas felt there was a need to push for digital speed indicator signs; Cllr Williams commented that villagers in Llangibby have been seen with mobile speed cameras monitoring speeds by the White Hart ; Cllr Chivers to draft a letter to MCC Highways to explain the wishes of the community on this matter.

1470/20 Poppies

Clerk has ordered 50 poppies from the lady in Caerleon as requested by Cllrs Chivers and Thomas. She is however awaiting confirmation from Royal British Legion as to what is happening for Remembrance Day this year in the light of Covid restrictions.

1471/20 Kerbstones in Tredunnock

Clerk was advised that an engineer has visited the site but has had no information from him yet.

1472/20 Carport in Tredunnock

Cllr Chivers had a site meeting with Andrew Jones but was frustrated that he did not agree that there was a planning issue to deal with, despite Cllr Chivers pointing out that the carport clearly overhangs the neighbour's property by 300mm; either the original plans were in error or the

carport was not built to the plans. Cllr Chivers will follow this up and draft another letter to MCC.

1473/20 Water leak Gatlas lane

Welsh Water have still not replied to the clerk on this matter despite leaving a text and two voicemail messages; she will persevere again.

1474/20 Hedges and verges

Having asked MCC to give us their timetable in future for their verge cutting schedule, they replied to say “The routes in and around Llanhennock were completed end July C routes-6/7/2020 R routes-21/7/2020 Highway verges are only cut once a year as per Highway verge policy, any additional cutting must be authorized by Highways or carried out by the relevant land owner.” The clerk will reply to ask whether the same or similar dates can be expected next year.

1475/20 Fallen “No HGV” signs

Cllr Morgan reported that she had seen a van and someone fixing the one sign on Usk Road junction.

PMN: This sign has been re-erected, but not the one at the crossroads in Tredunnoch- clerk will chase up

1476/20 Postbox removed on Candwr Lane

Royal Mail replied to say that they are “ investigating to determine if a new post box is required; there must be a post-box within half a mile of at least 98% of all 'delivery points' (usually a customer's letter-box) nationally. If the team believes the area warrants the installation of a replacement post-box, they will liaise with the Highway Authority to obtain clearance for the proposed site, as well as contacting the utility companies to ensure that the proposed site doesn't interfere with existing pipes or cables, etc. This process can take up to twelve weeks.”

Cllr Williams pointed out that there should be no problem since there is already a post in situ to which the new box just needs to be attached; also the next closest postbox is over half a mile away in Ponthir.

1477/20 Broken Footbridge over Candwr Brook

Jayne Jones at MCC has confirmed that the footbridge is in the Torfaen area and their officer will report directly to us regarding its repair.

1478/20 Roman Road soil tipping

MCC officer emailed to say that he couldn't find the site of the alleged breach, but he has now emailed the owner of the land - we await his response.

1479/20 Japanese Knotweed

The clerk has been in contact with several departments at MCC to find out who owns the Gatlas lane (that has the knotweed growing on it) and/or is responsible for its maintenance. The response from the senior operations officer in the Grounds Dept was “*Unfortunately this area has not been adopted by any department in MCC so MCC would have no remit in the area.*”

PMN: Estates Dept have now actually emailed to say that “*MCC Highways confirm it does form part of the publicly maintainable highway*” and they attached an extract from the highway

records to prove this. Also an Assistant Rights of Way officer said *“I have no idea however who owns the lane itself. My records are indicating that it is not owned by MCC and that it probably has no registered owner. None the less as the lane is very probably a County road, MCC will have an interest in the lane”*.

Consequently Green Infrastructure & Countryside Access dept have confirmed that the Grounds dept will deal with the issue of the knotweed and that Highways Dept will look into the general condition of the lane too.

1480/20 Cars in layby

Clerk had reported to PC Evans that groups of cars had been seen parked in the layby on the top road of Llanhennock with young lads inside and there is concern again about drug taking at this spot. PC Evans said that they do try to patrol this road when they are in the area and if there are particular evenings, or days of the week that are an issue, then he would like to know. He also recommended calling 101 when the issue is noticed again.

1481/20 Website update

Cllr Morgan had sent photographs and text from the Tredunnock newsletter to the clerk; the website manager had used photoshop to enhance the low-quality images and the article is now on the website. Linda has asked if, in future, photographs could be sent as originals in a better format.

Correspondence:

1482/20 LDBC boundary review

The clerk read out a letter from the legal team for OVW who replied to say that no more can be done regarding this issue; the case is now closed and the changes to the community council boundaries will take place as per the LDBC report.

1483/20 Independent Remuneration Panel

The draft Annual Report 2021/22 has now been published for consultation and has been received. Cllrs looked at it but said that they were not interested in receiving any remuneration for their work.

1484/20 Risk Assessment for use of hall

Clerk Davies has amended the risk assessment form due to new restrictions in place by government restricting indoor meetings to six people; it now includes the wearing of face masks during meetings. OVW had sent recommendations which included the statement that *“A risk assessment will be required and this would be an expectation of the Council’s insurers, this would require an assessment of the risks faced by those attending physical meetings; action needed to control the risk; who will carry out the actions and the target date for completion of the actions. The risk assessment will need to be a written document which should be shared with those attending such meetings.”*

PMN: The clerk received a reply from OVW to her question regarding the numbers allowed to meet for council meetings indoors and whether they would be allowed to refuse members of the public to be present - OVW said that as council meetings are regarded as a business, the rule of six does not apply, but the numbers are restricted depending on the size of the meeting hall. Llanhennock village hall is permitted to have 10 persons present, so in future LCC meetings can take place face to face, although Welsh Gov still advise zoom meetings as a precaution if

possible. It is accepted that members of the public may not be permitted to attend if numbers do not allow.

Reports: None

Finance:

1485/20 Cheques raised Balance in the account is £ 6,400.26

Chairman and Councillors reviewed and approved paperwork for the following cheques to be raised and Cllr Morgan will sign the withdrawal slips in her garden with the clerk (the clerk herself is also an authorised signatory) :

£338.60 and £14.39 in respect of clerk salary and expenses for Sept.

£78.72 in respect of accountant's fees

£147.20 in respect of HMRC payments

£595.83 in respect of website manager fees and costs

£319.20 in respect of Zurich Insurance fees

Planning:

1486/20 Ashbrook House

This was an amendment to a previous planning application for information only.

1487/20 Roughton House

This application to build a first-floor annexe accommodation over the garage was approved by all councillors

Local Matters:

1488/20 White Lines

Cllr Waters noted that the white lines at the following junctions needed to be repainted, as they haven't been done for several years now:

- The junction of Pentopyn lane with Roughton lane
- The junction of Pentopyn lane with Court Farm waterworks road
- The junction of Ty Isaf lane onto Gatlas lane

It was also noted that the junction at the bottom of Llanhennock hill is dangerous as cars driving downhill tend to drive directly out into the bus stop area; the layout needs to be reconfigured and white lines re-painted. Clerk to inform Highways dept.

1489/20 Broken drain

Cllr Waters reported a broken drain on Gatlas lane which is potentially very dangerous to pedestrians and cyclists in particular. Clerk to report to MCC

Any Other Business

Date of next meeting _Monday 2nd November 2020 at 7pm via zoom TBC