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Llanhennock Community Council Meeting Held on Mon 6th September 2021 7 pm

Present: Chairman Thomas, Cllr Morgan, Cllr Chivers, Cllr Waters and Clerk Davies

Apologies: Vice Chairman Heath, Cllr Williams 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 Thomas

Seconded by : Cllr Morgan

Matters Arising:

1710/21 Speed signs in Tredunnoch and Llanhennock: From the analysis of the speed data collected, MCC had concluded that there was no evidence to suggest a need for a change to current speed limits in Tredunnoch. Councillors agreed that there was no more that could be done on this matter. However, the Highways engineer said *“It is still our current intention to consult on a proposed 30 mph speed limit within the confines of Llanhennock in the current financial year and this would be included as one of the various speed limit proposals throughout the County in Amendment Order Number 3.”*

1711/21 White lines in Tredunnoch: The lines in the centre of the road have now been repainted as requested from Cwrt Bleddyn junction up to the Tredunnoch sign.

1712/21 Drains and ditches: The clerk had written a letter to the head of highways highlighting all of the details of the 7 service requests to clear blocked drains and ditches that LCC currently has outstanding dating back to January. No reply has been received, so clerk will resend the email again.

1713/21 Welsh water tankers: Regarding the No HGV signage that had been requested to prevent WW tankers driving through the narrow lanes to the Court Farm Reservoir, the MCC engineer finally replied to emails saying *“ It has been agreed that a sign near the cemetery on Tre-Herbert Road with an arrow pointing towards the lane would be most suitable. The sign has been drawn and I am awaiting approval from my manager before issuing it to our contractor. It should take our contractor 4-8 weeks to install..... The wording will be “unsuitable for HGV’s””*

1714/21 Overhanging trees: MCC had reported that they have completed the trimming of the tree canopy along Madam Rogers wood down the right-hand side of the lane going down the hill; they have also placed an order on the owners of the land on the left-hand side of the highway to trim the trees which are on their land, in order to allow the safe passage of tall vehicles.

1715/21 Caeryder oak signs: Despite having emailed a few online companies for quotes, the clerk has only received one quote so far for a stainless-steel plaque mounted on oak and fitted to a post (£269.46. + £39.95 inc postage). Will discuss at next meeting.

1716/21 Potholes: Clerk had emailed Highways to explain that, whilst they had filled in most potholes on Gatlas lane, they had missed out largest pothole near Gatlas cottage (even though Cllr Waters told the contractors about it whilst on site). The service request had been closed but new request has now been opened.

The pothole on Llanhennock hill has been refilled, but very poorly as it still dips. Contractors were also seen throwing tarmac into random holes along the road to Tredunnock. Clerk has emailed MCC to complain about the poor standards of workmanship.

1717/21 New road signs: Despite sending 3 emails to traffic department at MCC requesting new signs, clerk has received no response yet. Cllr Chivers said he would find the name of a company that makes these signs and they are not expensive, so suggested LCC could fund the purchase and buy them directly. To be discussed further next meeting.

1718/21 Maintenance work: Clerk reported that the hedge trimming at the junctions, bus stops and Millennium bench had been done. The new contractor had also mowed the grass around the bench several times and cut around the Llanhennock signs free of charge. Local residents had commented that the wet boot and bench areas had not looked so good for many years.

However, Cllr Thomas explained he had received a complaint from the previous contractor, who had also quoted for the works, who felt there had been unfair awarding of this low value maintenance tender; he believed that the new contractor had been given prior knowledge of the other quotes. He also raised concerns that special licences, insurances and certificates were required to do this work for councils, which he thought the new contractor did not have.

A new tender had only been sought after the previous contractor had expressed a disinterest in continuing with the work. The Clerk pointed out that in the last meeting she had deliberately displayed the emails and texts of the quotes to the council with the date and time of receipt of each; the new contractor had submitted his quote before the other two quotes, hence there was no unfair practice here. The Chairman asked the clerk to check the rules about working on the highway and the insurances required with the Monmouthshire County Councillors.

PMN: The Clerk was told by the County Councillor that there was no need for special licences or insurances for such minor works in this case.

In addition, the new contractor had commented that the kerbstones at the junctions were overgrown with grass and need to be cleaned (he had exposed a section at each junction to highlight the problem). Cllrs agreed and also discussed that the kerbstones along the Usk road from Llanhennock hill to Cwrt Bleddyn also need clearing. The debris and soil deposits here force cyclists out at least a metre into the carriageway, which is very dangerous on this stretch of road. Cllr Waters pointed out that this can be done easily by machine and it always used to be done regularly. He also said that the trees along that road were overhanging and forced tractor drivers out into the middle of the carriageway, which is dangerous too. The Clerk will put in a service request to Highways.

Correspondence:

1719/21 Insurance renewal: Our insurers have adapted the LCC's policy to a more suitable one. This was looked at and councillors agreed to the terms. Proposed by Cllr Waters; seconded by Cllr Chivers. Clerk will renew the policy.

1720/21 Dogs control survey: OVW had sent the details of a survey about dog controls in public spaces. Cllrs chose not to respond to the survey as dog fouling has not been a real issue in our wards, but if any residents wish to respond they may complete the survey at <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/public-spaces-protection-order-on-dog-controls-in-monmouthshire/>

1721/21 Queens 60th jubilee: OVW had sent information regarding celebrations for the Queen's 60th Jubilee on 2nd June 2022 . Beacons are to be lit at many sites across the UK and anyone is able to refer to the website in order to register as a participant www.queensjubileebeacons.com. LCC will not be lighting an official beacon, although private groups may wish to get involved.

1722/21 Website manager: The website manager had emailed the clerk to say that she has just paid for web hosting for another year. This, along with the domain renewal earlier this year and security certificate renewal, is normally packaged with her annual fees; she wanted to know whether the website needed to stay live after the merger with Llangibby CC and at what point her contract would terminate. Cllrs decided that she could invoice pro rata for the number of months she works (once this is known). It is hoped that OVW will help explain some of the issues which will arise due to the merger (which includes website questions) and a meeting with Llangibby CC is planned this month, so the Chairman will also address these issues at that meeting.

1723/21 Net zero carbon route map: Information was received from OVW regarding the Welsh Government's net zero public sector route map and timetable. This information had been circulated prior to the meeting and Cllrs did not wish to discuss it further.

1724/21 Local election rules: A consultation document was received from OVW on the draft Local Elections (Principal Areas) (Wales) Rules 2021 and draft Local Elections (Communities) (Wales) Rules 2021.

These draft Rules make certain new provision and update, consolidate and restate the law concerning town and community and principal council elections and the rules by which they are conducted. The information had been forwarded to Cllrs prior to the meeting and they agreed with its contents.

Reports:

1725/21 Gwent Police: This month's report was displayed on screen to Cllrs. No major concerns noted.

Finance:

1726/21 Accounts: Balance in the account is currently £5897.68

1727/21 Cheques raised: Chairman and Councillors reviewed and approved paperwork for the following cheques to be raised:

Clerk salary for August and expenses for postage; Payment for maintenance work to Brian Davies

Planning:

1728/21 Relocation of K6 phone kiosk: Cllr Williams was unable to attend this meeting but forwarded his comments by email regarding this issue.

1. He reported that one resident commented that he wants the box further away from his driveway but support the application.
 2. The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales are supportive of the application
 3. MCC Highways are supportive but request an application to carry out any works in either land owned by the Council or that which forms part of the publicly maintained highway if the application is approved
 4. Cllr Williams has spoken to the heritage officer, who is concerned that the listed building status of the phone box relates to the setting at the Newbridge on Usk and not just the phone box. But on the other hand, the proposal will provide a community use for an unused structure. They need to balance out the pros & cons
- Individuals are able to lobby the planners by logging on to the application portal and posting on line comments or simply writing to the planning dept: Ref.DM/2021/01271

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/view-planning-applications/>

- View planning applications
- Planning simple search
- Input keyword eg Tredunnock or DM/2021/01271
- Click on application

Local Matters:

1729/21 Phone box library: The clerk reported that she had been to Usk Library to collect three boxes of children's books which they donated to us. The phone-box library is now well stocked and is being used. Brian Davies also re-attached the self-closing arm on the door which now keeps it closed tight.

Any Other Business :

1730/21 Tredunnoch Church Community Day: Cllr Chivers reported that this event was being arranged in the village in order to clear the ivy from the church walls and make it a social gathering for the families. The group have asked if LCC could donate some money towards refreshments for the event to which all are invited. It was agreed that a sum of £300 would be donated. Proposed Cllr Thomas; seconded Cllr Waters.

Date of next meeting : Monday 4th October 2021 at 7pm