



Llangybi Fawr Community Council
Meeting Minutes
Monday 3rd July 2023
Llanhennock Village Hall at 7pm

COED Y PAEN Cllr Graham Rogers
LLANDEGVETH Chair Lorna Savidge
LLANHENNOCK Cllr Neil Statham
TREDUNNOCK TBC

07775 644527
07809292564
07792371624

LLANGYBI

Cllr Peter Marshall
 Cllr Andy Hunt
 Cllr Caroline Watts
 Vice Ieuan Williams

07415892161
07976 721650
07779503052
07790285572

LLANGATTOCK N.C.
CLERK Debra Davies **07966 622085**

Present:

Cllr Statham, Cllr Watts, , Cllr Williams, Cllr Rogers, Cllr Savidge
 Cllr Marshall, C.Cllr Bromfield and Clerk Davies

Apologies:

Cllr Hunt

Declarations of interest:

Members of the public present:

Stuart Johnston, Peter Dale, John Love, Ray Taylor, Royston and Sam Etheridge, Rob Lewis, Carl Pugh, Gareth Jones, Tracey Lawrence, David James, Peter and Sandy Arguile

Minutes of the last meeting:

Proposed by Cllr Statham; Seconded by Cllr Watts

Comments from members of public:

147/23 David James: David is an independent rural housing enabler who liaises with MCC , Wales Gov and others. He explained that his role was to survey the residents and discover the needs in the area for social housing and/or low cost housing. He proposes to contact all residents in the autumn to collect the necessary data. Several members of the public had questions for David regarding the pre-planning application which has been submitted for houses on the site on Ton road which had been approved as part of the 2013 RLDP; there were concerns that the drainage system is not sufficient for this development and surface water problems would occur at lower levels due to the extra buildings reducing the land area which absorbs the rainfall. David agreed that NRW would need to upgrade the current sewage plant before any building could take place, which could be several years hence; he also said that 60% of the houses would need to be affordable. He explained that with low cost housing the owner pays 50% of market value and the housing association owns the other half; when the owner wishes to sell, they must offer it first to the housing association to sell on. County Cllr Bromfield will confirm with the Head of planning that any proposals that have come forward now as part of the 2013 LDP will be taken off the new Adopted Local Development plan.

148/23 John Love: expressed concern over the speed of cars through Llangybi. As an ex-councillor he explained that volunteers had previously set up a speed watch campaign and he would like this to be reinstated because it did help to reduce vehicle speeds . C.Cllr Bromfield said MCC have added new road markings and signs and agreed to liaise with Gwent Police to borrow the equipment for a new speed watch campaign - Cllr Marshall offered to take part. Cllr Williams suggested asking MCC to do a speed recording test with the strips across the road (C.Cllr Bromfield to follow up). Several members of the public added their suggestions such as speed calming islands and permanent speed cameras; C.Cllr Bromfield pointed out the MCC would not consider these methods unless there was more hard evidence. There will be a 20mph limit through the village from September and a 40mph limit either side of the village.

Matters Arising:

149/23 Hedge cutting at junctions : work has been completed at the crossroads in Llandegfedd and at the junctions along the Usk road in Llanhennock. John Love requested the vegetation be cut back around the 30mph signs on the Usk road and Ton road.

150/23 Defib training sessions : Cllr Marshall had obtained an application form from St Johns Ambulance for defibrillator training sessions. It was decided to hold a session in each of the village halls for a midweek date in October; clerk to action. Cllr Rogers would survey CYP to see if they would want a training session in the pub as they had done previously. Info to be published on our Facebook pages, website and noticeboards to gauge the appetite from the public for this and get an idea of numbers.

151/23 Training courses: Cllr Statham is booked on to a GDPR course. It was decided to take up the Planning Aid Wales course which costs £150 for a year for up to 20 people; clerk to follow up.

Correspondence:

152/23 Portacabins at Clawdd Y Parc Farm: Peter Aaguile, who is a neighbour of this farm, gave out some information sheets and explained the history of planning applications and enforcements which have not been adhered to over the years at this property (see attached document). He is very concerned about the latest installation of another portacabin without planning permission and was very perplexed that MCC, having made many planning decisions, have seemingly not made any efforts to enforce these. C.Cllr Bromfield agreed to take the matter up with the enforcement officer Guy Delamere and Head of Planning.

Reports:

153/23 Feedback from Courses: Cllr Savidge attended the Code of Conduct course, which was good. Cllr Marshall attended the Local Government Finance course, which was interesting. Cllr Statham attended the Introduction to Understanding the Law course, but felt that it was more suitable for county rather than community councils.

154/23 Dog Fouling meeting; Cllr Savidge fed back from this meeting that the Public Spaces Protection Order should be introduced next year. Proposals include: the need to pick up dog poo in all public spaces and carry bags; where dogs are considered out of control an enforcement officer can insist they are put on a lead but it is NOT an intention to make all dog owners have dogs on leads in all public spaces. It was discussed whether any Llangybi dog poo bins could be replaced with dual purpose ones which could be collected by MCC rather than pay Merlin – need to confirm with Cllr Hunt. There are “clean it up “ signs that fix to metal posts available. Tracey Lawrence requested one to go on the post by her property Cllr Watts to follow up.

155/23 Police Report: The report for June was circulated by email prior to meeting. Cllr Williams warned everyone to be vigilant as there had been several burglaries in the area targeting outbuildings and stealing tools. He requested that Gwent Police be asked to patrol the area regularly- C.Cllr Bromfield will action and she has also invited the “We Don’t Buy Crime” group to give their presentation to the council prior to the September meeting tbc.

156/23 HMP Prescoed site visit: Cllr Rogers attended the open day and reported that the new pods will be erected this autumn and should be occupied next May/June to accommodate the current increased numbers of prisoners which have resulted from the backlog of cases in the wake of covid.

Finance/Policies:

157/23_Raise cheques: Chairman and Councillors reviewed and approved paperwork for the following cheques to be raised and signed:

- a) clerk’s salary for June (including holiday and overtime payments) plus postage and office expenses, minus £18 overpaid last month in error £880.28 (proposed by Cllr Marshall; Seconded by Cllr Statham);
- b) dog waste collection for July £210 (proposed by Cllr Marshall; Seconded by Cllr Statham);
- c) HMRC £ 194.20 (proposed by Cllr Watts; Seconded by Cllr Rogers);
- d) accountant’s fees £39.48 (proposed by Cllr Marshall; Seconded by Cllr Statham);
- e) Jason Griffiths for hedge trimming junctions £95 (proposed by Cllr Statham; Seconded by Cllr Watts);
- f) Royston Etheridge for hedge trimming crossroads £216 (proposed by Cllr Marshall; Seconded by Cllr Williams);
- g) One Voice Wales for training fees £61.50 (proposed by Cllr Statham; Seconded by Cllr Watts);
- h) Zurich insurance Renewal £339 (proposed by Cllr Marshall; Seconded by Cllr Statham);
- i) Kay Reynolds was reimbursed for coronation food £15.50 even though it was noted that Llangybi had exceeded their budget allocation; it was also felt that in this instance Llandegfedd should also be reimbursed for the extra £42 that they had overspent; this was agreed due to the fact that the overall budget across the wards was not exceeded, but that next time it would be stressed that overpayment would not be reimbursed (proposed by Cllr Marshall; Seconded by Cllr Rogers).

158/23 Bank Reconciliation: The clerk prepared monthly bank reconciliation to the date given per bank statement (10 June) and had submitted the account details to Cllr Rogers to check them prior to the meeting. Clerk had noted that it did not reconcile due to an accidental overpayment of £18 on her cheque last month for £397 instead of £379. This would be corrected by the deduction of £18 from this month’s cheque. in the accounts spreadsheet to make auditing easier. Annual Return was studied and approved; proposed by Cllr Statham, seconded by Cllr Rogers.

159/23 New website manager: Our current manager has given three months’ notice to resign. Clerk has obtained some quotes from firms after looking online- these vary considerably and need to be more tailored to our needs; clerk to ask Andrew what hours he currently works per month and what the costs of hosting etc are. Clerk’s son in law has also offered to do the job; happy to work for the same rate as the current manager. To be discussed further next meeting.

Planning:

160/23 Rich Hill Farm, Tre Herbert Rd DM/2023/00875: There were several points raised in objection to this proposal:

1. Photographs which were displayed on screen of the field show that the drainage work and re-profiling of the field has indeed NOT been completed yet.
2. The state of the field is very poor; it has been used as a tip with a variety of waste materials dumped and covered in subsoil. Many large fires have been noted at the property burning unpleasant toxic materials.
3. The drainage has not been connected to the stream on the field as it should.
4. The field is not suitable for agriculture in its present state
5. The track is visually prominent from the main Usk road
6. There seems to be no justification to keep this track as a permanent structure, it is not required if it is merely to access the field; there is no need for a track across the length of a field.

Local Matters:

161/23 Mowing schedule: MCC are cutting back on their mowing schedules. Cllr Rogers suggested that we ask them to cut certain pathways in the Llangybi park short and leave others long. C.Cllr Bromfield will liaise with Carl Touhig.

162/23 Japanese knotweed Ton Rd : Clerk had been asked to report to MCC that Japanese knotweed had returned to the verge in Ton Road. MCC said they would treat it in Sept. Cllr Williams pointed out that the summer is the best time to treat it, this was confirmed in an online article found by Cllr Statham. Clerk to follow up.

163/23 Churchyard upkeep; Cllr Savidge suggested that we could contact the churches to ask about the costs of grass cutting in the churchyards and other maintenance jobs which we could contribute towards, since we are not allowed to donate to the churches directly under the new rules. Cllrs Watts, Statham, Savidge and Rogers to ask their respective church wardens.

164/23 Community Plan- active travel routes : C.Cllr Bromfield attended a meeting with the active travel dept in Monmouthshire. She had enquired about reopening the footpath between Llangybi and Cwrt Bleddyn but told that this was for the highways to action not active travel dept ; she will speak to Mark Hands.

Any Other Business:

165/23 Verges: Cllr Williams reported that verges need cutting on Candwr road. C.Cllr Bromfield will email Carl Touhig

166/23 Meeting Date: Clerk asked that the meeting date for Sept be moved to the second Monday Sept 11th. All agreed and change will be published on website and noticeboards.

Meeting closed 9.15 pm

Date of Next Meeting : Monday 7th August 2023 in Llangybi Village Hall at 7pm

All members of the public are welcome to attend. If remote access is required, please notify clerk in advance to arrange this. If any members of the public require to see these minutes in Welsh please contact the clerk: d.davies@llangybi.org