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**Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of March 9th at 7pm– Llanelly Community Council**

Present: Cllr R Dixon (Chair), Cllr G Nelmes, Cllr H Stockham, Cllr J Pratt, Cllr J Peacock, Cllr N Curtis, Cllr L Dainton, Cllr D Williams, Cllr P Bell, Cllr A Corfield, Cllr H Jarvis

Chairman welcomed everyone

Attendance:

Temp Clerk

48 residents

1. **Apologies:**

Cllr A Thomas, Cllr K Rose, Cllr J Gregory-Davies

1. **Declaration of Interest:**

Declaration of interest

* Cllr R Dixon (Scouts Hut Lease) advised that, whilst he had an interest in the Scouts Hut Lease and extension application, he was not a member of the organisation and his interest was not prejudicial.
1. **15 minutes set aside for Community interaction and members of the community to ask the Chairman or Council questions of local interest. Any questions should be submitted to the clerk 3 working days before the meeting.**

The request from the local Scouts to extend their boundary within the lease had generated several responses from members of the local public. Five had specifically asked if they could speak at the meeting but, before inviting them to do so, the Chair advised that, following his meetings with various parties about the plans, the Scouts had amended their original proposals. Copies of the revised plans were made available at the meeting and the Chair explained that the revision excluded the wooded area and public footpath which he realized had been a particular bone of contention among many local residents.

The residents who spoke covered several concerns that they held although accepted that some of those concerns referred to the loss of the wooded area and footpath in the original but not revised plans. In particular: the fields were a community area and should not be restricted to one small group of the community as much as people supported the Scout movement (in this respect one resident quoted a maximum of 93 scouts from the Council area compared with 331 community children); the wooded area was very popular amongst many residents, was a valuable wildlife area with seasonal bluebells; woodland and green areas were in short supply and we should be doing all we could to retain and improve biodiversity –( in this respect the Chair invited all to take a copy of proposals the Council was considering for improvements to the fields); the field area was perhaps the most peaceful part of the overall fields; residents could not understand why the Scouts would require extra space but, if they did, there was a piece of wooded land available within a short distance from the village; the apparent lack of transparency and meaningful consultation from the Council in its dealings with residents; the fields belonged to the local community and not the Council and the rights of the community and the environmental impact should be the priorities in considering this.

A member of the Scouts advised that the very popular local group was restricted in what was possible in terms of outdoor activities given the large numbers. Moreover, it would provide a secure environment for young children, some of whom were insecure with dogs wandering loose, a requirement that was always uppermost in the minds of the volunteer scout leaders. The land outside the village was not owned by the Scouts and was not physically appropriate. The leaders tried to maintain the area as well as they could and future rubbish collections would now help that.

In discussion the Council acknowledged that there had been little time to absorb the changes within the Scouts’ revised plan, and GN proposed, seconded by NC, to defer further discussion on this subject to the next Council meeting – subsequently agreed for Monday 20th April; this was unanimously agreed. During that time the Chair and Council were available for discussion but the Chair asked at the next meeting, due to time constraints, if residents could agree on a couple of speakers to put over the views of the residents.

1. **To confirm the minutes from the Ordinary meeting of the 10th Feb as an accurate record. And to confirm that the minutes from the Extraordinary meeting of the 19th Feb were accurate.**

*Proposed by Cllr N Curtis and seconded by Cllr J Pratt that the minutes of the two Meetings were a true and accurate record.*

*However, it was noted that the minutes of the 10 January meeting were incorrect at paragraph 13 which should refer to the football posts at Llanelly Hill and not Gilwern. This amendment was approved by the Council.*

***Resolution: Minutes of 10 Feb and 19 Feb were accepted as true and accurate.***

1. **Matters Arising from 10th Feb meeting**
2. Legacy: Cllr Nelmes reported that the meeting of the 19th February had been postponed until the 11th March.
3. Tree Survey: this was proceeding with affected trees being tagged.
4. Place Plan : the meeting did not take place due to illness and would be rearranged.
5. Towpath: the meeting took place with Canals Trust and it was agreed to combine the available monies from Canal and rivers Trust, LCC S106 and Brecon Beacons to upgrade the Towpath from bridge 101a to 103 and from 104 to 105, leaving the existing tarmac towpath in place. Cllr Curtis confirmed that they had now gone out to tender and hopefully would be able to start the work this year.
6. VE Day: discussions would continue with Gilwern Roots and the WI to see the feasibility of a function on VE Day. Cllr Nelmes had informally contacted St Elis church bell ringers about ringing the bells.
7. 106 money on former school (Llanelly Hill): the Chair had received an email from Brecon Beacons National Parks regarding the history.
8. Finance: Cllr Nelmes confirmed that the Council now had access to the Coop bank account; the VAT refund for 2018/19 had been submitted; the mandate change to Nat West Bank had been requested and he was still looking at the possibility of a new accounting system but this would now wait until a new permanent clerk was in place.
9. Data protection/Code of Conduct training: this had been discussed at the NM meeting and other councils were also interested. The Clerk would contact OVW to arrange.
10. Play Scheme: Cllr Nelmes explained the basics of the play scheme which was Monmouthshire-wide and had been set up to provide holiday activities for free school meal children in the county. Based on last year’s figures of 13 from the area the cost to the Council would be in the range of £500-600 and MCC would arrange transport for the children if asked. The cost would be dependent on numbers using it and would be requested retrospectively. It was proposed by LD and seconded by JP to offer this facility, and the Council agreed.
11. Dog bins: the Chair had met with Sue Parkinson from MCC and had agreed the siting of two more bins; these should eb in place within the next couple of weeks.
12. EV charging: investigations still underway.
13. Speedwatch sign from LLanelly hill: the Clerk was asked to obtain the cost of an appropriate sign.
14. U3A: would purchase a new screen for use in the Hall.
15. Parks Watch scheme: still being confirmed with PSCO.
16. **Scouts Hut Lease extension and extension of demise:**

This subject had been discussed at paragraph 3 above.

**7.Planning:**

* **20/18376/FUL –** timber garage at 5 Penallt Estate, Llanelly Hill – no comment.
* **20/18255/FUL –** addition of a bunded fire resistant oil tank at the Wesleyan Chapel, Clydach – no comment.
* **20/18413/FUL**  - rebuilding works to existing Grade ll dwelling house following fire damage at Dan-y-Graig, Gilwern – no comment.
* **20/18384/FUL** extension/creation of additional head space in existing bedrooms and bathroom at Hillcrest, Llanelly Hill – no comment.
* **20/18303/CON -** further information regarding the m*odification of Section 106 associated with affordable housing contribution,* Darenfelin School, Darenfelin, Llanelly Hill, Abergavenny, NP7 0NR - accepted with no further comment.

**8.Finance:**

* Cllr Nelmes summarised the Financial statement included with the Minutes but advised that in fact the reconciled and unreconciled figures should read. In addition, he had to include the details of the cheque dated 6 Feb; with these amendments however the Council accepted the financial statement.
* The temporary Clerk produced the following invoices for approval:

002853- Dorrell Flooring for £954

002854 - Thomas Waste Management for £66.40

002855 - Thomas Waste Management for £5.20

002856 – I-Wood Joinery for £200.00

002857 – EON electricity for £19.96

002858 – Merlin Waste for £525.00

002859 – Cleaning contract for £245.00

*Proposed by Cllr N Curtis and seconded by Cllr A Corfield to accept the statement and the list of payments for invoices.*

***Resolved: Financial statement and invoices for payment accepted***

* Bowls Club –Cllr Nelmes summarised the issues relating to the historic and current maintenance contract. After some discussion the Council resolved to charge the VAT inclusive amount of £4760.81 rather than the net amount of £3967.34. The Council was in the process of recovering the remittance for overpayment of £1051.48 from MCC; once this had been done a regularising invoice would be sent to the Bowls Club to finalise the account for 2019/20.

Two quotations had been received: one for the fire alarm repair from Tod Security. As they were the provider of the fire alarm it was proposed by Cllr H Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Corfield, and agreed. The second one was from Rubicon for playground improvements in response to our tender document. The Clerk was asked to obtain two more quotes before Council would consider this further.

**9. Grant Application Policy 2020+**

Cllr Nelmes summarised his paper and highlighted the rationale for the formalised criteria for major grants and the inclusion in the draft policy of the notification of outcomes from those given grants. There was some discussion about amendments and councillors were requested to submit suggestions to Cllr Nelmes so that he could produce a revised, draft paper for the next meeting.

**10. Biodiversity**

Cllr Bell had produced a draft Biodiversity Plan in line with the requirement recently announced by the Welsh Government. The Plan was welcomed by Council and Cllr Nelmes advised that there were various sources of funding available. It was agreed that the Plan should be published on the Council website.

**11. Community Climate Champions**

Cllr Bell reported on the Community climate champions. It was agreed to put this on the agenda for the next meeting.

**12. Legacy/LDP Playing Field**

Cllr Nelmes reported on a meeting with Mike Moran of MCC regarding the playground areas. He advised that there was £38500 available from S106 funding which MCC was proposing to use for play areas. There were proposals for four particular areas that were considered: 1. Main play area - a self-closing gate, new hard surface and updated play equipment; 2. Older area – fence around the area to enclose it; 3. Skate Park – to remain as it is; 4. BMX area – more resilient surface. The quotation received above from Rubicon was based on work required by the ROSPA inspection and that requirement could be found within these funds or the Council could use the available funds for these other improvements.

Given its relevance to improving the play areas Cllr Peacock also reported on the recent MCC Give dogfouling a Red Card meeting. MCC would be shortly undertaking a large community engagement exercise, seeking views on a variety of issues eg. should dogfouling public spaces be a criminal offence?, do we need to have public spaces protected?, where should dogs be kept on a lead. A dogfouling action day was to be held on either 16 or 17 April.

**13. Reports from members on outside bodies:**

* NLMC - Cllr Nelmes reported on the main issues amongst the Councils of North Monmouthshire; these were Green funding, dog fouling and general reports from the other Councils. Other points which were raised were: a £1 takeback in toilet agreements, 20000 trees available from MCC for planting up to 2022, joint training for local councils and difficulties in contacting MCC.
* Governors – points raised at the Governors’ meeting were: the School might have an inspection in the Summer; the School remains in financial surplus and had a positive budget outlook; plans had been received for the proposed infants extension through S106 funding and it was hoped to begin in May for completion in September; next year there could be a problem with a hump of 40 children going through the Reception year; and there would be an emphasis in May/June on financial education for children with a form of parent/children engagement.

**14. Reports from members of the County Council:**

* Cllr J Pratt reported on the devastating effect of the flooding and landslips on MCC infrastructure as well as the hardships for a number of families with over a 100 households having to move out of their homes. The Council was applying for flood relief grants from the Welsh Government but putting right all the problems would take significant time and money.
* There had been an increase in crime reported in the Llanelly Hill area and especially anti-social behaviour. A public meeting was to be held with the local police.
* The Welsh Government was to hold information evenings for local residents regarding the work on the A465 given the backlash it had received from local areas.

**15.Correspondence received. Correspondence list be presented at the meeting.**

* OVW information about registration of defibrillators.
* Planning Aid Wales information about the role of a Place Plan in your community.
* Boundary Commission – OVW email advising that, due to some councils seeking a fresh review, they had requested that of the Welsh Government.
* Email from the Gilfest and Victorian Christmas Festival teams expressing appreciation for the support received from LCC and requesting attendance at a future meeting to discuss proposals for future consideration.
1. **Agenda items from members for inclusion on the next agenda as Standing Orders 9 (b)**