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**Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held remotely via Zoom on February 8th 2021 at 7pm– Llanelly Community Council**

Present: Cllr R Dixon (Chair), Cllr J Pratt, Cllr G Nelmes, Cllr N Curtis, Cllr T Corfield, Cllr P Bell, Cllr H Jarvis

Attendance:

Clerk – N James, M Lewis

1. **Apologies:**

Cllr K Rose, Cllr L Dainton, Cllr H Stockham, Cllr D Williams, Cllr F Morgan, Cllr A Thomas.

1. **Declaration of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

1. **Open Session**

At the time there were no members of the public logged on. However, Mereid Lewis entered the meeting just after this agenda item. She asked whether the Council would be planting replacement trees in the woods around the playing fields, following the work there recently. The Chair confirmed that the Council planned to plant new trees in those woods and also at Llanelly Hill, and would be discussing specific locations with the Woodlands Trust. The aim was to plant at least as many as had been felled recently.

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting of the 23rd November were approved.

1. **Matters Arising from 23rd November meeting**
   1. Para 5b – work on the towpath had been deferred until April; MCC had confirmed that its funding would still be available in the new financial year.
   2. Para 5c – MCC was seeking a quote from Western Power on LCC’s behalf to provide a connection into the carpark at Gilwern.
   3. Para 5d – the Chair and Clerk had met with the local CSO to discuss the Parks Watch scheme; the police had agreed to provide notices for Gilwern playing fields with contact numbers.
   4. Para 5f – work on the play equipment had been completed and a ROSPA inspection subsequently carried out. Whilst the work earlier identified on the skate park had been carried out satisfactorily, the inspection report found that the large boards of the two main pieces now needed replacement. The Clerk was obtaining quotes for this work. **Action: NJ.**
   5. Para 11 – in Cllr Dainton’s absence the bench update would be deferred until the next meeting.
2. **Planning:**
   1. 20/18781/FUL – to demolish existing structure and construct a new dwelling at Tremfa, Church Road, Gilwern – permission granted by BBNPA.
   2. 20/19201/ful – removal of 6 garages and replacement with 6 new garages at Penallt Estate, Llanelly Hill – permission granted by BBNPA.
   3. 20/19177/CON – variation of condition 2 of 09/03711/FUL to construct a larger dwelling at site adjacent to Cottages, School Lane, Gilwern – permission granted by BBNPA.
   4. 21/19474/FUL – two storey side extension at Tyr Rhianydd, Maesygwartha –comments awaited.
   5. 21/19464/FUL – engineering works to regrade and stabilise the embankment to the north east of Plot 3 on the site of the former dwelling St Maelog, Forge Row, Maesygwartha – comments awaited.
   6. 21/19489/FUL- proposed change of use from existing holiday let to residential accommodation at 2 Cae Aberduar, Brunant Road, Clydach – comments awaited.
   7. 21/19495/FUL – proposed construction of veranda, patio and fence at 1 Brook Cottages, Waenllapria, Llanelly Hill – comments awaited.
   8. 21/19547/FUL – change of use from garage to study at 2 Hightrees Court, High Trees Road, Gilwern - comments awaited.
3. **Finance:**

a. The audits for the last 3 years were still awaited; the Clerk had chased BDO.

b. Cheques –the following cheques had been signed by Cllrs, Dixon, Pratt or Nelmes on behalf of the Council from 21st January: **3058 –** Merlin Waste – 468.00; **3059 –** HMRC Jan- 199.80; **3060 –** EON – 20. 21; **3061** – E Keen Security – 154.17; **DD** Grenke photocopying – 208.80. The following invoices were submitted for Council’s approval, and subsequently approved:

**3062 –** Betterclean - 79.73

**3063/4 -** City Illuminations for installation/recovery of Christmas lights – 5913.88 (£1000 VAT would be recovered)

**3065 –** R Dixon for Zoom contract for Council – 143.88

**3066 –** Treescape Services for work on the trees – 4500.00 (£750 VAT would be recovered)

The Chair advised that the Council had put up more lights this year -57 - and these would now be stored and annually checked locally which would save some costs in future.

1. **Cooption of new councillor**

MCC had issued a notice for the vacancy for an elected councillor for the Clydach Ward; there were no applications and so the Council accordingly issued a notice for a co-option vacancy. Again there has been no applications forthcoming. The Council agreed to hold the vacancy open and to canvass local residents.

1. **Litter picking Station in the Community**

In the absence of Cllr Dainton this item would be deferred until the next meeting.

1. **Dedication of Community Council-owned land**

Cllr Bell advised that, due to the pandemic restrictions, she had not been able to produce a briefing note on this, and it was agreed to defer the item until the next meeting.

1. **Climate Emergency**

Cllr Bell had hoped to discuss this topic with MCC officers before raising it with councillors. As this had not happened it was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting. Cllr Pratt advised that there were funds available for community nurseries and the WG had made available to MCC a large fund for spending before 31 March on climate-related activities/items; LCC should bear this in mind for its discussion at the next meeting. In this respect Cllr Nelmes asked if support from this fund would be appropriate for contributing to an EV point in Gilwern – see para 5b above; Cllr Pratt would check on the criteria and advise. **Action: JP.**

1. **Map/Interpretation Board for Llanelly Hill**

Cllr Bell advised that there was considerable interest in Llanelly Hill for a local map/historical board. However, given the forthcoming work to be carried out in the village by MCC on play equipment and a sensory garden, she felt it more appropriate to discuss this project as a part of that venture. In the meantime she would discuss with Cllr Nelmes the content being considered for the boards at Gilwern.

1. **Reports from Members on Outside Bodies**

The Headmaster of Gilwern Primary School had raised with the Chair and Cllr Nelmes the possibility of hiring the Community Centre in the summer term as an overflow for the school use, given the pandemic distancing restrictions. The facility could be made available to the School but no formal request had yet been made and the School was still in early discussions with MCC on any reopening. The Chair was hoping for an update this week at the Governors’ meeting, and he would relay any news to the Council. **Action: RD.**

1. **Reports from County Councillor**

Cllr Pratt reported on the following issues:

* 1. Vaccine rollout – the rollout in Monmouthshire continued to mirror the national success.
  2. Census 2021 – there would be a national census held on Sunday 21st March. The census was held every ten years but this year it would be online. MCC would have a helpline and all the information received would remain confidential.
  3. Road closure – there had been local concern regarding the continued closure of the Glangwryney/Gilwern road. Resolution was proving a major engineering issue and MCC had been working with Powys County Council on it. It was hoped to start work in the Spring when the weather had improved.
  4. Transport – the recent report into support for transport infrastructure by Lord Burns had identified new, joined-up transport links which would include a new station at Magor. The WG transport report had added the aim for much-improved local bus links and six other new railway stations within the overall structure for East Wales.
  5. Llanelly Hill cemetery – she had received many complaints about the current state of the cemetery in Llanelly Hill, and was taking these up with MCC to resolve as a matter of some urgency.
  6. Bikes- bikers had become something of a real menace in Llanelly Hill over the last few months. Fortunately, recent sightings had reduced and it was hoped that this problem might now be resolved.
  7. MCC budget – council tax in Monmouthshire would increase this year due to the significant additional costs from the pandemic and flooding.

( At this point the Chair’s IT connectivity failed and Cllr Pratt as vice Chair took over for the rest of the meeting.)

1. **Correspondence received**
   1. Weekly updates on vaccinations from Aneurin Bevan Health Board.
   2. Invitation and subsequent Zoom call to hear the proposed plans for a market garden from a local resident.
   3. Details of the vacancy for the Chief Executive role at BBNPA.
   4. Electoral Register for 2020/21.
   5. Details of fake police officer courier scam and fake Amazon calls.
   6. Letter of appreciation from a local resident regarding the Christmas lights.
   7. MCC Crime reports for January.
   8. New draft Code of Conduct from One Voice Wales.
2. **Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the Council would hold monthly meetings remotely for the foreseeable future; the next meeting would be via Zoom at 7pm on **Monday 8th March**.

**R DIXON N JAMES**

**Chair Clerk**