

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting held on the 18 May 2021.

PRESENT Clrs Davies, Evans, R Morgan, T Morgan, Morgan-Evans, Bentley, Rippin, Catley and Cty Clr Jones. Clr R Morgan chaired the meeting.

APOLOGIES Clrs Woodier and Phillips

COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC None

FINANCIAL REPORT

Current Account: £400 Reserve Account £16,822.36 Both as at 6 May 2021. The Reserve Account total included the first payment to CCC of the 2021-2022 Precept of £5766.

Cheques signed since the last meeting as follows: £136.93 (Merlin Waste) and £231.84 Zurich (CCC Insurance).

A further payment of c. £5,000 (+ VAT) was owed on the Hall toilet renovations. VAT would be reclaimed on the whole cost of the renovations in due course.

Progress on the toilet renovations had been held back somewhat because of delays in the delivery of certain materials. The vanity units had now been completed and the material for the cubicles had recently been received. Special brackets and sanitary ware were still awaited.

A trial balance and a list of all cheques issued in 2020-2021 had been sent to all councillors as preliminary information for the audit on the 19 April and following this, the Clerk had sent the required documentation to the internal auditor, Mrs Haines, on the 5 May. There had been some delay in the completion and submission to CCC of the Internal Auditor's Report, however, as Mrs Haines had recently been in the process of moving house from Grosmont to Pembrokeshire. She had promised the report ASAP although and it had been hoped that the report would have been ready for tonight's meeting. In the normal time scale, the report would have been signed by Mrs Haines on/around the 25 May and presented to and confirmed by CCC shortly after. Last year, in fact, a special short virtual finance meeting had been held on the 28 May for the latter confirmation.

Hopefully, this will still be the case this year although it was felt that a back-up Internal Audit of all CCC's Financial Documents and a Final Report was needed, just in case CCC's normal process hit a snag. As a back-up, therefore, the Clerk suggested that Mr A. Hanks (former Auditor with the Audit Commission for Wales: Wales Audit Office and at present, Senior Schools' Support Officer for Torfaen County Borough Council) could be approached to act as a reserve to Mrs Haines. Mr Hanks is the Clerk's son-in-law but as he would not be paid a fee, all councillors felt that there was no conflict of interest here especially as the Council's Accounts would be the subject of an external Audit as well. The unanimous decision was, therefore, that Mr Hanks should be asked to carry out this task in the event that Mrs Haines could not meet the requirements of the Community Council's normal timeline.

The **MINUTES** of the previous meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1. Status of the road at Dan y Bwlch. Ongoing, as County Clr Jane Pratt had not progressed the matter with Cty Clr Jones. It was reported, however, that the state of this road was causing the drains to block at the bottom, on the other side of the bridge, by the footpath. During rainy weather, mud was washed down from the hill outside the farm. Clr Jones would ask MCC Highways to investigate and at least unblock the drains.
2. It was reported that the revetement process near the Show Ground was now complete with 2 to 3 bags of stone shoring up the river bank but not, seemingly, the road. Cty Clr Jones reported that the work so far was regarded as temporary and more work would be carried out in the summer.
3. It was reported that the work at Capel y Ffynn seemed to have stopped with no barriers in the road so, surprisingly, there was access for everyone along the dangerous section. Cty Clr Jones reported that the sale of a piece of land at the side of the damaged section needed to be finalised before work could recommence. Clr Rippin pointed out that communication between MCC and local residents was not good enough and that a greater effort should be made in this respect. It was also noted that CCC's suggestion re a more informative sign telling motorists

how far along the road they could travel had not been acted upon. The existing signs (Road Closed Ahead) in Llanvihangel Crucorney at the top of the Skirrid Pitch was being frequently turned around to hide the latter instruction and to allow motorists to traverse the road. Turning the signs was also proving hazardous for motorists negotiating the top of the Skirrid Pitch. Cty Clr Jones agreed to take up these matters with MCC.

4. There was a discussion of the reply from Welsh Water/Dwr Cymru to CCC's letter to them of the 13 April during which various councillors expressed disappointment re the explanations given. It was decided, therefore, to write a follow-up letter expressing councillors' opinions about the lack of clarity and contradictions in the letter received. It was reported to the meeting that Welsh Water would be sending a cheque for £40 to CCC because they had not answered CCC's letter within the time limit legally allowed. The Clerk would liaise with Clr Evans re past and present issues which would be cited in the letter although all councillors were invited to submit their views as to what should be included.
5. Trewyn Road. Clr T Morgan reported some further progress in cutting back excessive growth of trees etc. at the side of the road.
6. Upstream of the footbridge at Allt yr Ynys. No further news.
7. The Clerk and Chair had now made contact with Lauren Cooke re fundraising for the provision of defibrillators. They had been informed that the scope of Lauren's fundraising had been curtailed somewhat because of the pandemic but that CCC should contact her when the situation had improved to see what could be done. She reported that costs of defibrillators and their cabinets had now dropped to the more modest sum of c. £800 for the two items, half the cost of what it had cost CCC some years ago.
8. A robust letter of support had been written to BBNP re the Court Farm planning application discussed at the last meeting (21/19781/FUL) . Clr Rippin was thanked for her detailed information on the family's circumstances and their application which made the writing of the letter that much easier.
9. Re the Neuadd Llwyd Application, BBNP had responded to CCC's concerns and would be visiting the site.

10. Clr T Morgan reported that swift action had been taken on the removal of flood signs etc. from the A465. Cty Clr Jones added that County Councillors had been reporting this sort of issue across the County now for many years.
11. A letter had been written on the Council's behalf to MCC Highways re the state of the road through the Mardy. A reply had been received which stated that there were no potholes in the road but that this stretch was on MCC's list for repair work for 2021-2022 should funding allow.
12. Clr Evans reported that some 'patching' had been carried out to repair the surface of the pavement near the double yellow lines near the top of the Skirrid Pitch.

REPORTS

1. Cwmyoy Hall. No report.
2. Pandy HMC. Clr Bentley was in the process of arranging a date for a meeting of the Hall Management Committee and Councillors to review progress on the Hall renovations. Clr Rippin had also reviewed the Hall website with Mrs Marlene Howarth in an attempt to bring the website up to date as it contained wrong information. It was reported that a Zumba Class and a Keep Fit Class had been held in the Hall car park with Covid regulations applied.
3. CEG. No report.
4. Primary School. Councillors had confirmed a decision to pay for new basket ball nets and backboards for the community tennis court area at the school.
5. Police Report as follows:
People had been setting up camp in Cwmyoy; a suspicious-looking truck with 3 males inside had been noticed in Llanvihangel Crucorney; a vehicle had parked on the 'no stopping area' on the A465; damage to a lorry parked on the A465 had been reported; a scrap truck had got stuck under the railway bridge by the Pandy Inn; sheep had been loose on the A465; fuel had been stolen from 2 lorries on the A465; a suspicious-looking van had been patrolling the lanes around Pandy.

Patrols and Priorities along with descriptions of the latest 'Scams', information re a Campaign with regard to Domestic Abuse, On-Going Operations and an Appeal for Witnesses to a fatal accident near Tintern were also included in the Newsletter.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1. MCC DM/2021/00657 Ty Derlwyn Farmhouse. No objections.
2. BBNP 21/19669/FUL Pen y Bont, Llanvihangel Crucorney. No objections.

PLANNING DECISIONS

1. BBNP 20/19394/FUL Permission given by BBNP.
2. BBNP 21/19571/CON Permission given by BBNP for Black Mountain Cycle Centre.
3. BBNP 16/13649/FUL Great Llwygy farm. Permission given by BBNP.
4. BBNP 21/19591/FUK Trewyscoed Barn. Permission given by BBNP.
5. BBNP 21/19756/FUL Sunset Cottage. Permission given by BBNP.
6. BBNP 20/18810/FUL Land at Penyworlod. Permission given by BBNP.
7. BBNP 21/19589/FUL Bryn Arw Garages. Permission given by BBNP.

PLANNING UPDATES

1. BBNP ENF/21/02256/MCUP2 Land to the South West of Neuadd Llwyd Farm. Alleged unauthorised material change of use of the land and associated building operations etc. Noted.
2. Letter from Galloway Estates (Chartered Surveyors) to BBNP re Consultation Airwave Solutions Ltd. Proposed base station site upgrade, Land at The Rock, Neuadd, Cymyoy. Noted.

OBITUARIES

Mr Jim Elliot , Llanthony and Mrs Christine Lea from Llwyn Gwyn House.

CORRESPONDENCE

There were no comments on emails sent to councillors.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Private Chapel at Trewyn.(Documentation received from Alwyn Jones, Architects.) Most councillors felt this to be a fascinating project and agreed that an urgent letter of support be sent at this pre-application stage.
2. Clr Rippin asked about parking at the Welsh Primary School in the Mardy as a child had nearly had an accident there. Cty Clr Jones said that this was a longstanding issue and any improvement in the situation was in the hands of Llantilio Pertholey Community Council.
3. Clr Bentley reported that the drains on the back road were blocked especially near Ty Dolau . Cty Clr Jones would report the issue to MCC Highways.
4. For a good many years, CCC had been asking for speed restrictions on the A465.Cty Clr Jones had also been in contact with SWTRA as had the Police CSO. There had been talk in the past of a road island/crossing at the entrance to Wern Gifford but nothing had materialised. In the light of recent reports of speeding and two recent serious accidents on the A465 (not Pandy or Llanvihangel Crucorney) both CCC and Cty Clr Jones would once again ask SWTRA what plans they had for discouraging speeding and making the road safer for both motorists and pedestrians.
5. It had been reported on Facebook that full 'dog-poo' bags were being left around the area but especially at Llanvihangel Court, recently. It was decided that a notice would be put on Facebook asking for cooperation from all dog owners to keep Crucorney a 'dog-poo-free zone'. After all, there were 7 dog bins in Llanvihangel Crucorney and Pandy supplied by CCC and local residents were also allowed to put 'dog-poo bags' in black bags for normal rubbish collection.
6. It was decided that the large trees overhanging the Hall car park should be cut back in the autumn.
7. Clr Rippin agreed to be a back-up for Clr Woodier in putting up planning applications on screen for councillors' perusal during virtual meetings.
8. It was reported that BBNP had put TPOs on all trees in the orchard at Llanvihangel Court. Councillors were concerned that apparently, there had been no liaison between BBNP and the owners of the Court in this matter and that BBNP officers had turned up in vans, accessed the orchard, made their decision and eventually informed the owners.

Councillors felt that the procedure adopted by BBNP in this instance left a lot to be desired.

9. Cllr Rippin wondered whether the drop from the bottom of the slide to the ground in the play area could be made more user friendly for children. After some discussion, because this matter had not been raised before and there had been no complaints during the years that the slide had been in use, councillors felt that no action was necessary.
10. Cllr Davies reported a large pothole on the Old Hereford Road towards the junction with the A465.
11. Councillors agreed to hold a short virtual Finance Meeting on the 26,27 or 28 of May or at the beginning of June so that the Accounts could be signed off by the RFO and the Chairperson.
12. Councillors also agreed that the next monthly virtual meeting would be held on Tuesday, 22 June 2021.

The meeting closed at 21.32. Date of next virtual meeting 22 June 2021