

Meeting held on the 15 January 2019

PRESENT Davies, Phillips, R Morgan, T Morgan, R. Morgan-Evans, Bentley, Rippin, Woodier and Evans.

APOLOGIES Clr Keates and Cty Clr D Jones

The **AGENDA** was suspended to hear a presentation from the Housing Enabler for Monmouthshire, Mr D James. He informed the meeting that P and P, a building firm from Blaenavon would develop the land near the Tram. The builders together with Monmouthshire Housing Association were to meet for a pre-application meeting for which no date had yet been set. A survey of local social housing needs was to be taken and a meeting would be held in Pandy Hall to which the public would be invited. Mr James would write to all households informing them of the above and interested parties could register a housing need before or after the meeting. Clr Evans asked about the 'ripple' effect if the criterion of local housing connections were not sufficient for local people to qualify for social housing in the area. Mr James confirmed that the opportunity for social housing would not cascade outside Monmouthshire and that local people would be given priority. Mr James suggested that Monday, 11 February 6.00 to 8.30 p.m. would be a suitable date for him to arrange a meeting in Pandy Hall. This date would be confirmed after he had checked with his colleagues for availability and that Pandy Hall would be free to book for that night. Clr Evans also observed that originally, the area had been earmarked for 15 units of affordable housing whereas the latest figures from Mr James showed figure of 6 open-market properties and only 9 affordable units. The Clerk was asked to find out why the figures had changed by contacting the Planning Department at MCC. Clr R Morgan also suggested that more expensive executive-style houses would make it more difficult for young people to buy in the area. A member of the public was concerned about absentee, second-home owners in the area who were often in residence for only 3 months during the year. Mr James said that issued such as this could also be discussed at the forthcoming meeting. Another member of the public asked about flooding implications and sewerage issues with further housing developments of this kind. It was confirmed that issues of this nature, too, could be raised at the meeting. MCC Planners would be asked to attend the meeting.

COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Mr Keith Powell explained to Councillors his scheme for planting 178,000 trees over 62 hectares on Bryn Arw. Bracken would be cleared, paths would be left open and areas of special interest would be respected. This was the first time that a project of this nature had been encouraged by all the relevant authorities on common land. He explained that overplanting would take place to avoid the use of thousands of plastic sleeves and that the bracken would be cut mechanically. An Open day would be held on the 1 February at Great Bettws Farm at 10 a.m. All were invited. Mr Powell asked CCC for a letter of support re this venture. Councillors agreed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Current Account= £400 Reserve Account = £13,618.49 (both as at 5 December 2019)

Unpresented cheques not included in the above figures totalled £1430 at this time.

The Precept request for £14,150 for 2019-20 had been submitted to and acknowledged by Monmouthshire County Council.

See also financial issues under Matters Arising, Item 1, Item 2, Item 3, Item 11 and Item 18.

The **MINUTES** of the previous meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record with one small amendment which was duly corrected.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1. Mr Martin Whistance had started to lay the concrete base for the storage shed at the local primary school today (15/1). The job would be finished tomorrow, weather permitting. An estimate of £850 had been accepted by councillors at the December meeting.
2. Cllr Davies had presented his details to Star Legal for the new lease re the Hall. Councillors were reminded that the cost of a new lease would be between £500-£600.
3. Two quotes had been received from Mr Anthony Davies for the French boules area and the provision of disabled access to the play area. The quotes were as follows:
Boules area/Option 1: Clear site and provide topsoil and turf including hire of skips = £1796.
Boules area/Option 2: Clear chippings and slab the area = £2490.
Replace gate to provide dual access (to include disabled access), with self-closing gate and concrete ramp from car park to play area = £1148. (VAT zero rated on this item.)

Councillors decided to ask Mr Davies to clarify how long these quotes could be held for as it seemed prudent to follow through with the school project first.

4. Stump carving by Mr Petts. No progress.
5. No parking signs. Double yellow lines were still awaited at the top of the Skirrid Pitch before installation of the signs.
6. Road reflectors at Crossways. It had been reported that these had now been repaired.
7. Post Box at Fforest Coalpit. No news.
8. Wooden chairs at Pandy Hall. It had now been decided to offer these for sale at £25 each.
9. Cllr Bentley reported that 2 new tables were about to be purchased for the Hall along with replacement seating in the committee room.
10. No progress re the junction at the Rising Sun, road repairs between the Stanton and the Old Station and the fence at the top of the Sun Pitch.
11. Re Wi-Fi at the Hall, Cllr Keates had informed the Clerk that three groups funded the £30 monthly fee at Cwmyoy Hall and Michael Powell at MCC had sent some suggestions. His estimates for a 30 day contract were £100 initial payment followed

- by £40 per month. He also mentioned vouchers which could be obtained from the Welsh Government. Clr Bentley agreed to continue researching what was on offer.
12. MCC had acknowledged the damage to the road below Cwmyoy Hall.
 13. Contact with CSO Davies. No progress.
 14. The CEG had replaced the damaged litter bin mentioned at last month's meeting.
 15. A reply had been received from SWTRA re the Redwood Trees near the Lancaster Arms. Councillors felt that the explanation given was unsatisfactory and asked for a response to be sent to SWTRA indicating CCC's dissatisfaction with SWTRA's response.
 16. Work had started on the refurbishment of the railway bridge near the Old Station. Clr R Morgan and the Clerk had met with Mr Terry Davies a representative of Alan Griffiths, the contractors who had given very useful information about how the work was to be carried out. The main points were that the work would take 11 weeks; night work would only be carried out on Saturdays between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m. and local residents would be moved to suitable accommodation if the noise became unbearable; a progress board would be placed on either side of the bridge; the bridge would be closed to all traffic; pedestrians would be allowed to cross the bridge if accompanied by one of the contractor's employees for health and safety reasons and there would be a defibrillator on site. Contact numbers were 01873857211 and 07812003055 (Mr Terry Davies) and 07977280411 (Mr Peter Dorans, Site Agent).
 17. Dead tree on the Patch at Tre Honddu: no progress.
 18. A Notice of Vacancy in Office of Councillor in the Llanvihangel Crucorney Ward would be posted in the community. If ten electors from the Ward requested an election to fill the said vacancy, an election would take place no later than the 10 April 2019; otherwise, the vacancy will be filled by co-option. The cost to the community of an election had been estimated to be in the region of £1800 to £2000.
 19. Re the installation of bus shelters, information had been received from MCC that there was no money available in any 'pot' that they held for such a project. The officer spoken to said the bus operators had no responsibility for erecting bus shelters and that recent bus shelters erected in the area around Abergavenny, for example, had been funded by Costain (A465 at Llanelly Hill) and Morrison's near the new supermarket. The cost for the recommended standard two-berth cantilever bus shelter stood at just over £6000 without groundworks. Councillors agreed that the Community Council was in no position to fund such an enterprise.

REPORTS

1. Cwmyoy Hall. The recent Light Entertainment Evening had raised £135 for Hall fund. The New Year's Day Duck Race and Big Swim had raised £430. Of this, £80 had been given out in prizes and £50 to the Half Moon for their charity Welsh Air Ambulance. The balance of £300 was given to Hall funds. The next schedule of films were : Mama Mía (23/1); A Star is Born (26/2); First man (27/3) and Bohemian Rhapsody (24/4) A successful Garden Club Evening had been held on the 14 January with a talk by Jackie Mills who had been involved in a very successful garden project in the Cotswolds.

Panto tickets were selling very well for the 21, 22 and 23 February. Mention was made of the programmes on Llwyn Celyn due to be shown on More4TV on the 16 and 23 January. Fundraising for the car park project had realised £10,000 so far.

2. Pandy Hall. As minuted above re chairs, other seating and tables. A profit of £130 had been made on the pantomime. Various minor jobs were being done in the Hall such as the replacement of some tiles in the ladies' and gents' toilets, fire door adjustment etc.
3. Primary School. As CCC's representative on the governing body, the Clerk had liaised with the new head teacher re the school sports equipment and storage project. The School was very grateful to the Community Council for its interest in helping to provide local children with much needed items. Councillors also wished to thank Mrs Wixey for her research into suppliers of those items.
4. CEG. Mrs Jackman reported on recent development with regard to the anti-litter programme which included a meeting with representatives from MCC, KWT and with people from Pontypool and Usk Community Council. 'Carrot and stick' signs were about to be put out and would be moved regularly. MCC and CEG were liaising well especially in the collection of rubbish bags. Woodcraft course continued to be popular and firewood sales were steady. 50 new bird boxes were to be placed in Court Wood and many less common species of bird had been spotted including Pied Flycatchers, Spotted Flycatchers, Marsh Tits, Willow Tits, Redstarts and Black Caps. CEG and the Landmark Trust were to meet soon to discuss the proposed walking boards including 2 in the village, 1 near the Llwyn Celyn car park and 1 possibly opposite the Skirrid Inn. The boards would be accompanied by a booklet/wallet of A3 maps.

OBITUARIES Mr Phil Jones (Blaengavenny); Mrs Vanessa Bayliss (Upper Parc Farm) and Mrs Diane Collins (Wern Gifford).

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Clerks and Councils Direct. Taken by Clr R Morgan
2. Emails sent out to councillors : MCC/M. Powell re Wi-Fi in Village Halls; Community and Town Council Update; Bridge repairs at the Old Station; Agenda for Children and Young People; Bus shelters' advice from MCC; BBNP Scoping Report for Sustainability Report; Code of Conduct Training; OVW Agenda and Papers; Bridge Repairs; SABS from OVW (flooding issues on site); D H Jones re bridge repairs; Ken Skates reply re Crossways; South Wales HAUC Coordination; OVW Bulletin; Middle Gaer; Recycling waste MCC; Llwyn Celyn News; Planning at Troed y Rhiw Gou, Cwmyoy; Trees at Lancaster Arms; Cwmyoy Hall needs you; Information re free LDP Training; Decision Sheet for Cabinet (9119) from MCC; The Park Hotel planning; Older people's Commissioner; Audit of area's facilities from MCC; A465 Road Closure; Spreading the Word; CEG Agenda .

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Cllr T Morgan reported that a dog owner was leaving bags of dog waste near Zoar Chapel. He offered to place a sign in that vicinity.
2. Cllr Evans agreed to remove the broken notice board from the Old Post Office area.
3. It was reported that the field near the Old Pandy Inn was being accessed along the grass verge parallel to the pavement alongside the A465. Councillors asked for this matter to be reported to SWTRA.
4. Cllr R Morgan asked for assistance with regard to the erection of the new storage shed on the school's premises when it arrived in the near future. The concrete base was in the process of being finished. Cllrs R. Morgan-Evans, T Morgan and R Evans agreed to help. Cllr Bentley offered the services of her husband, James.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.