

Minutes of the Crucorney Council Council 'Hybrid' meeting held at Pandy Hall and on Zoom on the 17 October 2022

PRESENT Clrs Davies, R Morgan, R Morgan Evans and Cty Clr Jones. 5 members of the public were also present.

APOLOGIES Clr Phillips

COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A local resident reported that she had received a reply from the local MP, David T C Davies on 3 issues she had raised with him.

The first concerned the use/non-use of the Grwyne Fawr Reservoir. David Davies, MP had contacted the Managing Director of Water Service at Dwr Cymru who had replied that although the reservoir was currently not used for water supply, the situation could be changed in the future particularly given the potential impact of climate change. In addition, Dwr Cymru was installing a new hydro generation turbine on the reservoir so that energy could be generated when releasing water. He further stated that this turbine was expected to be fully operational within the near future.

The second issue concerned the use made of the Mardy Park Resource Centre in Abergavenny. The Head of Adult Services had been asked whether there had been any recent changes. Although no reply had yet come through as yet, it was noted that the Mardy Park site had been used initially as a rehabilitation and respite care unit with about 16 beds. It was also used as a day centre for older people but gradually over the years seemed to have reduced the number of beds to about 8 (all based in one wing) and the rest of the building seemed now to be used as more of an office base for various aspects of Social Services.

The third issue concerned the possibility of introducing a bus service to connect Abergavenny Town Centre to the railway station. A reply had been received from the current Cabinet Member for the new Administration at County Hall which mentioned that MCC had been planning this transport interchange for a long time under the previous administration but there had been several land ownership issues which had caused delays. MCC would continue to support this initiative but in the meantime the message was that there is a bus stop near to the station in Holywell Crescent (a short distance away). Signage to this bus stop would be improved to increase awareness of this alternative option. The reply further stated that this stop is currently served by bus route 3 which will shortly be renamed as Route A5. Further updates would be supplied in due course.

A fourth issue re the lack of bus shelters in the village was also raised separately. CCC had explored the possibility of bus shelters some time ago now but research into the costs of erecting bus shelters had seemed prohibitive. An MCC Officer at that time had estimated

that a bus shelter similar to the one near the Morrison Supermarket in Abergavenny (cantilever design-including ground works/installation etc.) was in the region of £6k-£7k. The cost would probably be more now given the rising cost of all materials. (As a matter of interest, Llanvihangel Crucorney and Pandy had 10+ bus stops.) When CCC had last enquired in 2019, they had been informed that no help with the costs would be forthcoming from MCC or the Stagecoach Bus Company. Indeed, Stagecoach had refused to post timetables at the existing bus stops in Llanvihangel Crucorney/Pandy, insisting that all such information could be found online. CCC had, in fact, printed out the Stagecoach timetables, laminated them and posted them on the relevant boards at the bus stops.

Another resident gave an update re the current situation relating to the low water pressure being experienced at certain times of the day in the middle to southern end of Llanvihangel Crucorney and at Crossways. In all, 12 houses were affected in Llanvihangel Crucorney and 4 at Crossways. CCC had for the last month or so been in contact with Dwr Cymru and finally seemed to have made Dwr Cymru acknowledge the seriousness of the situation. The latest news received had been that there was a 'restriction' in the water pipe somewhere between Abergavenny and the local area. This imprecise location had been followed up by CCC and it was pressing Dwr Cymru to be more proactive in its attempts to solve this problem and be more precise as to what the problems were and where exactly. CCC had also asked Dwr Cymru to supply it with a map showing the layout of water supply pipes to Llanvihangel Crucorney and Pandy. Dwr Cymru's water pressure manager was currently updating CCC once a week by telephone. It was the intention of residents and CCC to 'keep the pressure on' Dwr Cymru until a solution was found. The local resident had thanked CCC for its efforts in this matter.

A member of the Crucorney Environment Group CIC then gave an update re its activities. He reported that the main activities in recent years and throughout COVID had been in Court Wood with the agreement of the owner of Llanvihangel Court. The group had a woodland management plan which had been reviewed by the Woodland Trust and was a member of Llai y Goedwig. Main activities in the Wood were: charcoal making with the charcoal produced being sold through the Skirrid Garage shop; firewood which after stacking and seasoning was also sold with customers picking up from a storage shed or having the firewood delivered and milled timber which was also being seasoned in a facility near the Court. The finer brash which is cut with the tree is left to decompose naturally and become habitat for woodland insects, birds, animals and fungi etc. Nothing is wasted. Products are mostly consumed within a 5-10 mile radius of the village. The Crucorney Litter Picking Group was also still running. New members of the Group were always welcome.

Finally, two members of the public acknowledged that CCC had sent comments into the BBNP re a planning application (22/21328/FUL) at Cefn Farmhouse near to their dwelling.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Current A/C £400 Reserve A/C £24,145.97 Both as at 14 October 2022.

Cheques still unpresented were 2 payments of £1250 (Pandy Hall Management Committee) and £294 (Blackwood Fire). The overall balance in the Reserve Account would therefore be £21,351.97 when those cheques were presented.

Welsh Ambulance had loaned one of its defibrillators to CCC for Pandy Hall. Since then, the CU Medical Systems Defibrillator had been repaired and a new battery fitted. (£195). A Defibrillator /CPR training session had now been arranged for the 17 November at Pandy Hall, starting at 7.30 p.m.

Thumb-turn fire safety locks mentioned in the previous months' minutes had now been fitted at a cost of £210.

A new dishwasher had been purchased and fitted for the bar area of the Hall at a cost of £235.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

The Minutes were signed as a true and accurate record with an amendment under Obituaries.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1. No further news re the 20 mph limit/double yellow lines/A465 traffic speed.
2. The new dog-waste contract being organised by MCC had still not materialised. Two tenders had been submitted but one was too expensive and the other did not meet health and safety standards. The tender process would be started again.
3. Groes Lwyd Road. A local resident had presented County Cllr Jones with a résumé of how MCC had reacted to this issue since 2003. It was hoped that he could use this in his attempt to get the road surface repaired. Cllr Jones reported that he had twice tried to arrange a meeting at the site with the MCC Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment and a Monmouthshire County Council engineer recently but both meetings had to be cancelled because the engineer was not able to attend.
4. Pavement through Llanvihangel Crucorney. No progress.
5. Path behind Trehonddu. No progress.
6. The manhole cover at the southern entrance to Llanvihangel Crucorney had not been repaired.
7. The Headteacher of Llanfoist/Llanvihangel Crucorney Primary School reported that vandalism and other unwanted behaviour on the Llanvihangel site had now diminished. He had thanked the Community Council for helping him in his letter campaign.

REPORTS

1. Pandy HMC. As above under Financial Report re work done and items bought with their costs.
2. Primary School Report. The AGM would be held on the 19 October.
3. CRC. No report.
4. CEG. As above under Comments from Members of the Public.
5. Cwmyoy Hall. No report.

PLANNING

1. BBNP 22/21328/FUL Cefn Farmhouse. CCC observations had been sent to BBNP before this meeting to comply with the deadline for comments set by BBNP in its letter of the 22 September.
2. BBNP 22/21438/Con. Middle Gaer. No comment – variation of condition 2, ‘pursuant to approved planning application 19/18027/CON’.

OBITUARIES

Ron Noyes (Pandy)

CORRESPONDENCE

There were no queries from councillors re correspondence emailed to them.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. It was reported that the state of roads in the area was generally bad. One area highlighted was from the southern end of Llanvihangel Crucorney right through the village and past the church. Cty Clr Jones agreed to report back to MCC.
2. The issue of Hybrid or Virtual meetings needed to be debated for the winter months.
3. The Remembrance Day Service in St Michael’s would be on the 13 November at 10.45
4. The chair agreed to research possible venues for a Xmas Meal if numbers were sufficient. Members of the public should note that councillors pay for their own meals at this event.

The meeting closed at 21.00 Date of next meeting: 14 or 15 November 2022. (TBA)