

Minutes of the Virtual meeting held on the 17 January 2023

**PRESENT** Clrs R Morgan, Davies, Phillips, R Morgan-Evans and Rippin

**APOLOGIES** Clr Bentley and Cty Clr Jones

### **COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

A local resident thanked community councillors for their efforts in persuading Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water to investigate the causes of low water pressure at the Abergavenny end of Llanvihangel Crucorney. He was especially grateful to the Chairperson, Clr R Morgan and the Clerk for their insistence on replies/updates from Dwr Cymru re progress made in rectifying problems. The latest update was that water pressure has improved and that the outlook was positive.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Current Account: £400 Reserve Account: £26,212.87. Both as at 17 January.

Councillors were aware that the 2023-2024 precept request had to be sent in to MCC by the 20 January. It was noted, however, that the final opinion from the external auditors (Audit Wales) for the Financial Year 2021-2022 had still not been received. Moreover, it was also noted that the final audit opinion from Audit Wales for 2020-2021 had not been received until the 10 March 2022. Both the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 precept requests, therefore, had had to be made without the final opinion from Audit Wales for 2 successive years.

In the light of the above, and after discussion, councillors approved the draft budget proposals for 2023-24 (the Precept requested would be £13,800) which they had also had sight of prior to the meeting. (Proposed by Clr Davies, seconded by Clr Morgan-Evans and approved unanimously.)

The decision was taken with the recognition that attempts to implement various projects/proposals over the past 3 years had met with varied success mainly because it had been difficult to find tradespeople/contractors to take on (or even quote for) what for many were minor projects and also because of supply issues and rising costs. Councillors felt that following more positive responses from tradespeople/contractors lately, completion of projects still outstanding seemed more hopeful which would improve various aspects of

amenities for the community despite the restrictions on budgets across the board.

It was noted that since the December meeting, one of the projects re better access to the main notice board on Wern Gifford had been completed at a cost of £150.

A résumé of proposals on CCC's list (with some approximate costings) taken into account by councillors when setting the budget for 2023-2024 (as above), some of which would address health and wellbeing and biodiversity considerations, was as follows:

Village Hall - boarding out part of the attic space above the foyer in the Hall for storage purposes; altering the main lighting system in the Hall to make maintenance more accessible and cheaper to run; repairs to damp penetration in the bar area; completing foam injections around the boiler room entrance as per suggestion from Blackwood Fire Risk Assessment; automatic electronic flush for gents' urinals; finally, handrails for 2 sets of steps to the Hall stage. An approximate cost for all the items here with labour would be in the region of £3k.

Various locations in the Crucorney Area - a roundabout for children's play area (c.£4k); dog-friendly gates to replace stiles – this could possibly be a joint funding exercise with BBNP; new fencing inside car park beneath the big trees ; clearance of the undergrowth behind the fence (c. £250 ); a new good quality picnic bench for the play area to replace an existing damaged bench, (c. £300).

Bowling-green area - patio-type (covered?) seating/linked area outside Hall next to bowling green ; replacement door for existing door to former store room; raised gardens for primary school re new curriculum ; sensory garden ; small orchard ; fixed adult outdoor keep-fit equipment (c.£4k for varied 'starter' apparatus).

Light-up speed signs for village areas were also suggested and these would be investigated with MCC and SWTRA from the point of view of the necessary permissions needed and the substantial cost of such items.

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

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

1. Groes Lwyd Road near Dan y Bwlch Farm. No further news had been received as to whether MCC drainage plans mentioned in the December meeting had started yet. Cty Clr Jones would be asked to update CCC by the February meeting.
2. Councillors agreed that the new dog-waste contract with Merlin Waste Environmental Services should now be finalised and sent off.
3. Pavement through Llanvihangel Crucorney. No progress.
4. No request for co-option to the vacant seat in Llanvihangel Crucorney had been received.
5. Parking bays outside Llanvihangel Crucorney Primary School entrance. No update had been received from Clr Bentley.
6. The inspection chamber cover near the Lancaster Arms had been safely replaced by MCC. There still seemed to be an issue among the various authorities as to who exactly was responsible for the inspection chamber in this area, however.

### **REPORTS**

1. Pandy Hall Management Committee. As above under financial report.
2. Cwmyoy Hall. The children's show and the Suitcase Theatre production of the Aspern papers had raised just over £1,000 for the hall. The chestnut tree next to the hall had been reduced by 30% and its condition would be reviewed regularly.
3. Primary School. Governors had been required to fill in a questionnaire in relation to the forthcoming inspection.
4. CRC. No report.
5. CIC. No report.
6. Police Reports for November and December. The reports mentioned: a burglary at a holiday home in Llanvihangel Crucorney where goods to the value of c £17,000 had been stolen; a single-vehicle traffic accident in Llangua with no injuries sustained; a suspicious incident in Llangua where 3 males were walking around a property supposedly looking for

telephone cables – they left when asked to by a resident; a report of a neighbour dispute over building work in Grosmont where officers attended and suitably advised both parties.

## **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

1. BBNP 22/21664/FUL Rock Cottage, Coed y Gerig Lane. Installation of telecommunications cabinet, transmission dishes etc. Part of the programme to improve telecommunications in the area. Supported by CCC.
2. BBNP 23/21702/FUL Trevallog Farm, Llanthony. As per item 1 above. Supported by CCC.
3. BBNP 23/21701/FUL Sychtree, Llanthony. As per items 1 and 2 above. Supported by CCC.
4. BBNP 23/21700/FUL Maes y Beran Farm, Cwmyoy. As per items 1,2 and 3 above. Supported by CCC.
5. 23/21709/FUL Strawberry Wood Barn, Pandy. Supported by CCC.

## **OBITUARIES**

Mr Peter Whistance, Pandy and Mr Ray Harris, Llanvihangel Crucorney.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Further correspondence re the Cefn Farmhouse planning application had now been received. A response would be sent once again to try to bring the matter to a satisfactory conclusion with a further explanation of CCC's approach

Councillors had no further comments re any of the correspondence emailed to them.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. The Clerk had received a phone call from a member of the Green Party who said he was researching vacancies on community councils. The Clerk would ask Cty Clr Jones to throw a little more light on this request for information by speaking to Cty Clr Chandler at County Hall.
2. An enquiry had been made re the possibility of obtaining a brown and white (tourist) information sign pointing to Zoar Baptist Chapel in Pandy. Cty Clr Jones would be asked to find out further information at MCC.

3. It was reported that a further landslip had occurred at Capel y Ffin.Cty  
Clr Jones would be asked to obtain an update from MCC including any  
proposed time-frame for the resolution of this matter.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

Date of next meeting: 21 February 2023