

**Present:** Cllr. Ann Bowyer, Cllr. Jenny Carpenter, , Cllr. Paula Clarke, Cllr Judith Hopkins, Cllr. Peter Sutherland, Cllr. Jo Storey, Cllr Helen May-Moebus.

**Members of the public:** Mr C Deakins and Mr Julian Bowen-Sargent

**1. Public Meeting:**

No issues had been raised prior to the meeting by members of the public.

**2. Sign the attendance book:**

Attendance book to be signed in due course

**3. Apologies for absence:**

none

**4. Declaration of interest from members:**

Cllr Bowyer declared an interest in planning application DM/2022/00514 as a near neighbour

**5. Adoption of Minutes:**

The chair moved to approve the minutes of LCC Ordinary meeting held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022, proposed by Cllr Paula Clarke seconded by Cllr Judith Hopkins, all in agreement. **ACTION: Chair to sign minutes at earliest opportunity.**

**6. Discussion with County Councillor**

County Councillor Smith was not in attendance

**7. Matters arising from recent correspondence / new business**

**a. To Note Police Report**

No report received

**b. To receive notes of joint meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022 with Little Mill for merger arrangements**

The notes had been circulated to all councillors. The chair outlined that there was uncertainty over taking over the liability of the playground which has had no investment in recent years. He was concerned over the disparagement of the independent report in relation to the playground, however there was a need to progress the matter. The options are to :-

1. Take over the lease with the funds Goytre CC offer.
2. Take over the lease with a request for increased funds.
3. Take over the Lease but hand back to Little Mill Hall Committee
4. Not to take over the lease

Cllr Jo Storey stated that she favoured option 2. Cllr Paula Clarke stated that she favoured option 2 and asked whether the information requested at the Little Mill meeting had been received regarding any residue of money remaining from the trampoline allocation which has been spent on the tree cutting. The chair advised that the information had not been received.

Cllr Jenny Carpenter stated that it was fair to say that Goytre CC has not left Llanbadoc CC in a favourable situation, she acknowledged the situation with the playground. She felt that there will be money available to spend on the improvement of the playground. She suggested that the council forward the report to the insurers to see if they will take on the liability. If they are prepared to take it on then all will be well. There is nothing that needs urgent attention.

Cllr Ann Bowyer stated that the council should move forward, acknowledge the lack of an improvement plan for the playground and develop a plan to move forward to improve the situation. She recommended that the council take it on and try to update and improve the play

area. She has visited the other local parks and noted a lot of old equipment. She felt there was funding available and there is a need to be positive.

Cllr Judith Hopkins stated that from her risk management background she was looking at it from a different perspective. Whilst recognising the need for children to access play opportunities which are challenging exciting and not totally risk free they should not be exposed to unnecessary risk, in particular death or serious injury. The playground hasn't been upgraded for many years. Some items are over 40 years old and don't comply with BS1176 ie the recent HACS survey highlights items which pose risks of strangulation due to head/neck entrapment, there are finger traps, the football posts are loose, items are rusting and there are trip hazards. Also LCC have not received a copy of a professional tree survey for risk assessment purposes for the copse running alongside the play area, nor an accessibility survey. The key risks are LCC are both legally and morally obliged to ensure the safety of the children using the equipment under Occupiers Liability Acts, Health and Safety Acts, DDA and Equality Acts as well as British Standards. The HSE suggest regular upgrades and investment to mitigate the risks as low as reasonably practicable, the greater the risk, in this case strangulation, should have a greater bias on the side of safety against the factor of cost. In its current condition LCC would knowingly be presiding over something that poses a harm to both life and limb. Secondly there is a financial risk to LCC in terms of insufficient funds to upgrade and if there is an accident was to occur there would be potential litigation as well as reputable damage. This has the potential to have punitive financial implications for the whole of the LCC residents. Short term costs in year 1 to get the playground up to current standards are in excess of £20k, LCC have no funds to cover this and Goytre CC suggested in January that they were passing on reserved in the region of £4k, how will the remaining be raised? Playground equipment can have a lifespan of around 15-20 years if maintained correctly bearing in mind the current age of the much of the equipment, the ongoing costs over the next 5-10 years is likely to be around an additional £50-80k which equates to needing to save up to £10k per year. LCC have insufficient disposable income due to its sparse population. I do not see a way of LCC raising these funds through precept alone as it is currently fully accounted for. LCC are already carrying a 10 year debt to cover the previous expenditure at Llanbadoc Island and until it is paid off it would be unwise to consider taking on additional significant liabilities. Over the last 5 years Goytre CC have had spare funds which was given away in donations of over £25k. The playground could revert to LM Village Hall or MCC who are responsible for the other 2 playgrounds in our area.

Cllr Jenny Carpenter proposed that Goytre CC be asked for a further £2k in addition to the £4k to begin a playground fund and provided that Zurich confirm that they will insure the playground then LCC will take on the responsibility of the playground. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Ann Bowyer and the motion was carried.

**Action :** The Chair to write to Goytre CC with the proposal

**c. To receive update on noticeboard in Monkswood {near entrance to BAE systems}**

The Chair stated that John Wright was dealing with the board

**d. To receive update on recruitment of new clerk [**

The Chair invited suggestions as to where to post the advertisement for the post. Cllr Jo Storey suggested that LCC could advertise in the Jobcentre. Possible suggestions were Linkdin, Facebook etc. It was agreed that all Cllrs share the advert as widely as possible. **Action:** Chair and Cllr P Clarke to progress

**8. Planning**

**a. MCC enforcement cases [confidential] – to note information**

Nothing to report.

**b. Planning applications**

**Signature:**

**Date:**

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- I Planning application DM/2022/00514 – no objection, proposed by Cllr P Clarke seconded by Cllr P Sutherland, all agreed
- II Planning application DM/2021/00535 – no objection, proposed by Cllr P Sutherland seconded by Cllr Ann Bowyer. **Action Cllr Clarke to write to MCC planning**

#### 9. Finance

The chair asked if any councillor wished to take on the role of RFO, no response was received.

**a) To approve pink paper for October and authorise payments.**

Cllr Jenny Carpenter outlined the payments to me made however requires further information to progress.

**Action: Chair to send on information,**

**b) To approve update of Bank Mandate**

No action required.

**c) PAYE and HMRC update urgent.**

**d) Finalise accounts for 2020/21 and ensure documents are provided to internal auditor**

**e) Complete annual return and submit to auditor**

**f) External audit to be completed**

**g) Temp Clerk pay add onto PAYE and do as leaver 16 March to 11 April**

**Action Cllr Carpenter to take laptop to progress above tasks**

#### 10. Reports from Advisory Groups

**a. Procedural and Financial** – Cllr Carpenter, Cllr Hopkins, Cllr Jo Storey, Cllr Sutherland

Nothing to report

**b. Environment** – Cllr Ann Bowyer, Cllr Paula Clarke, Cllr Judith Hopkin, Cllr Peter Sutherland

1. The saplings need to be planted. Following a question from Cllr Carpenter regarding the location of the tree planting, Cllr Bowyer advised that they are to be planted at Llanbadoc Island.

#### 11 Reports from representatives on other bodies.

**a. One Voice Wales Monmouth/Newport Area Committee**

Nothing to add

**b. Give Dog Fouling the Red Card working group**

Nothing to report

#### 12. Options for Speed Reduction

To be considered by the new Council in May 2022

#### 13 Matters to be considered for the next agenda (at the discretion of the Chairman)

To be considered by the new Council in May 2022

The chair stated that as he is up for election he may not be a Councillor of the new Council however he enjoyed his role and thanked all Councillors for the work and help especially during COVID. He paid great tribute to Cllr Judith Hopkins for all her hard work. Cllr Hopkins said she hopes she has left the Council in a better position than when she started.

#### 19. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022, 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

Llanbadoc Community Council

Signature:

Date:

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