



## Minutes Wednesday 12th October 2022

**Present:** Chair Colin Deakin, Cllr Jo Storey, Cllr Jenny Carpenter, Cllr Ann Bowyer, Cllr Julian Bowen-Sargent Clerk; Jacob Richards-Powell

**Members of the public:** Judith Hopkins Woodland Group, County Councillor Tony Kear, one other

The meeting started at 1808 as The Clerk was late to arrive.

### Apologies for absence

Lucy Rands, Helen-May Moebus Jan Clarke

Meirion Howells

### Declarations of interest

None to declare

### Chair's Remarks

The Chair was pleased to see two members of the public in attendance and noted that the council was low on councillors.

### Comments from Members of Public

Judith Hopkins requested a given number on the previous Minutes of how many members of the public were in attendance. The Clerk said that this amendment had been made.

It was asked that there was a full recording that would reflect the discussion that took place regarding the sale of common land and that it was Minuted that the interest of sale was unsolicited and directed at the council. This was agreed.

### Approval of Minutes

September 21<sup>st</sup> September – Minutes to be confirmed at next meeting, Minutes have been discussed but confirmation will be deferred until next month. This was agreed by all members of the council in attendance.

### Matters arising from Minutes not on the Agenda

No matters

### Clerk's Report

The Clerk informed the council that Councillor Lucy Ann Rands wished to resign.

The Clerk and Cllr Jenny Carpenter agreed to meet to clarify some issues in council operations such as emails and the website as there are currently ongoing issues that need to be rectified to ensure smooth operation of council.

### County Councillor Participation

County Councillor Tony Kear apologised on behalf of County Council Meirion Howells for not being able to attend as he was attending another meeting. County Council Meirion Howells reported that;

- He is due to attend the next U-TAG meeting to discuss the Usk Trail Meeting. He said that he was frustrated the project had been side-lined and suggested that it may be due to previously submitted funding forms having been erroneously filled in and not highlighting the true gravity and benefits the project would bring. He explained that the group and those involved were looking at ways in which to bolster any funding applications to help bring the project to

Signed By Chair

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completion. He mentioned an issue with the halfway point of Usk Trail which is a shared agricultural road and suggested that ways to rectify this problem were underway.

*At this point the time was 1836 and Cllr Julian Bowen-Sargent entered the meeting. He apologised for being late.*

Llanbadoc Community Council has supported the project and continues to back it. The council recognises the community benefits the route would have. It was suggested that a refresher on the project was needed to bring back local awareness and benefit to potential funding avenues. Cllr Jenny Carpenter suggested that Llanbadoc Councillors attend the Usk Trail Meetings in future to show their support for the project. County Councillor Tony Kear said that (Matt) the project leader was looking to carry out the project in stages to make it more manageable / achievable.

- That he had followed up a correspondence from Graham Kinsella & team on Monkswood. Concerning an action point that hasn't been followed up concerning road markings. He has chased this up as to date it has been five months since the action was agreed and work was due to be carried out.
- it has been reported that the speed indication sign from Little Mill bridge coming into Little Mill is hidden by foliage. Graham Kinsella has agreed that the foliage is on ground owned by Monmouthshire County Council so it must be cut back.
- Cllr Jenny Carpenter said that MCC have asked for a meeting on where the speed indication signs should go however this meeting has already taken place. County Councillor Tony Kear suggested to attend the meeting as it would better the chances of the signs being fitted.
- He reported that there has been no follow up to tubes on the road to assess speed of vehicles.
- He reported that the speed indication sign in Little Mill is now working.
- Cllr Jenny Carpenter suggested that he puts his full weight behind solving the 'snagging issues' of actioned matters that haven't been dealt with. He agreed with this point.
- Cllr Jenny Carpenter suggested that if he could facilitate the issues that Llanbadoc Community Council has it would bolster the issues put forward. He agreed with this point.

**\*Action; Clerk to copy County Councillors in on Community Matters to keep them up to speed**

**\*Action; Clerk to Set up meeting with MCC**

- Cllr Ann Bowyer put forward an issue that was raised at the previous meeting that roads within the Llanbadoc County Council wards are not in good condition. Cllr Ann Bowyer asked whether there was a plan in place that showed future road repairs. He stated that Monmouthshire County Council's annual road budget is £1.8m. The County Council is facing an £8.8m shortfall and he suggested that it is unlikely that the roads would be repaired at this current time.
- He referenced that the budget for health and social care is currently £5.5m and that £2.8m had been ring-fenced to account for teacher's salary increase to reflect the cost of living uplift.
- Cllr Jenny Carpenter suggested reintroducing 'cluster meetings' stating that previously the community council had worked with Strong Communities and Central Mon. Two organisations that improved communication and relations with County Council. They had stopped due to COVID-19 restrictions but had since to be restarted. He said that he is not familiar with these types of meetings but said that he would investigate this matter. The Chair commented that One Voice Wales is keen for Monmouthshire County Council to reintroduce these meetings and a Service Licence Agreement.
- He remarked that the legality of sharing documents prior to the council having seen it is that members of the public cannot see these documents before Council have had chance to go through it. He suggested that any documents he can legally receive prior to meetings will benefit him if possible. He asked that he be able to see Minutes if he was referred to or quoted within and this was agreed.

*At 1849 County Councillor Tony Kear left the meeting to attend the UTAG meeting and thanked councillors for allowing him to attend. He in return was thanked by Councillors for his time.*

*At 1849 members of the public left the meeting to attend another meeting.*

## **Finance & Governance**

Signed By Chair

Signed by Clerk

Date:

The October expenses were reviewed and authorised;

company	Amount	Date due	Reference
Merlin Environmental	£101.40	01/10/2022	Dog bins
HSBC Charges	£5.00	Monthly	
Clerk Payment	£383.23	25/08/2022	Salary
Wotton Tree Consultancy	£1,245.00	03/11/2022	Tree Report

In addition a total of: £191.40 has been made in PAYE contributions on behalf of The Clerk. These will be added to the review list in future as previously done.

The payment to Wotton Consultancy was agreed by Cllr Jenny Carpenter and seconded by Cllr Ann Bowyer. It was agreed that the asset register would be updated to include any items bought for use by The Woodland Group.

Cllr Julian Bowen-Sargent reminded the councillor that previously the matter of risk assessment regarding work in the Twyn Y Cryn Common was outstanding and advised that an accident book was purchased for The Woodland Group.

At 1926 Cllr Julian Bowen-Sargent asked for reassurance and for it to be Minuted that there was no consideration being made of the Valuation of Twyn Y Cryn Common. This was agreed. Cllr Jenny Carpenter stated that the vote had been made but felt that it had impeded any investigation that could have taken place to the legalities and possibilities of any land sale. As it is the council have no working knowledge of the implications of a sale of land.

**\*Action; order chainsaw equipment from PRS for Woodland Group**

Cllr Ann Bowyer suggested that in future The Woodland Group may be able to secure more funding for further projects within the community in the future.

Judith Hopkins of The Woodland group has requested to see The Tree Report that has been submitted to Llanbadoc Community Council to ensure that The Working Group will not be working in close proximity to any dangerous trees.

**Maintenance**

All members worked through the tree Report and noted any action that has been advised on trees across the commons and woodlands.

A discussion took place regarding Tree Surgery companies and it was agreed that three quotes would be gathered to agree who could carry the work out as advised by The Tree Report.

**\*Action; Clerk to contact 3x tree services to carry out work following Phil Dye's Tree Report.**

**Llanbadoc Island**

Verge Cutting / Signage – The Chair and Cllr Ann Bowyer have visited the site to confirm that the area requires tidying up. They both agreed that the path from the carpark to the play area needs to be treated with weed killer as it is designed to be wheelchair accessible but a wheelchair would struggle to cross it in its current state.

The Chair received a quote for about £900 +VAT for the work to be carried out but suggests that further quotes are gathered.

Cllr Ann Bowyer suggested Nigel Jenkins could tidy the trees in Llanbadoc but was unlikely to do the strimming. Cllr Jenny Carpenter suggested that Tom Morris had said the mature trees should be left. The Chair suggested that the lower vegetation would be removed, and the young trees and lower canopy thinned.

**\*Action; Cllr Bowyer to contact Graham Cummins regarding cutting back vegetation.**

**\*action; The Chair to contact two local contractors to formerly carry out the work on Llanbadoc Island**

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The Clerk stated that he had received correspondence from the Angling Club over an outstanding action to consider placing signs on the boundary of Llanbadoc Island nearest the river stating that members of public should not be accessing the river as the fishing rights are owned by the Angling Club.

Councillor Ann Bowyer expressed reluctance at putting The Council's name on a sign that would only benefit the Angling Club.

Cllr Jenny Carpenter was happy for Llanbadoc Community Council to provide a sign as it would show that all measures had been taken to prevent people accessing the riverbank.

Cllr Julian Bowen-Sargent shared concerns over whether the sign would implement or suggest any kind of legal enforcement or responsibility from the council.

It was suggested that both organisations be printed on the sign I.E 'Llanbadoc Community Council & The Gwent Anglers Ltd'

Cllr Jenny Carpenter suggested that quotations for the sign should be obtained and we could then decide if we were able to pay for it or if we would ask Gwent Anglers for the cost.

**\*Action; Chair to contact Standard Signs to be asked for price for sign**

#### **Little Mill**

The Chair had obtained quotation for £500 for hedge cutting.

The Chair showed examples of signs that could be put onto the Community Hall. Cllr Jenny Carpenter asked if there was still a sign saying, 'Managed by Goytre Community Council' and suggested that if it was still there it be removed. The Chair did not know if the sign was still there. It was proposed that the new sign will be fitted to the signpost at the Hall where it would be clearly visible.

Cllr Jenny Carpenter suggested that a site visit took place to establish the best place for the sign. Come back at next meeting.

**\*Action; In future take photographs of proposed areas for signage so they can be viewed at meeting**

#### **Planning**

DM/2022/01396 – amendments for a previous planning application. No action to be taken.

*The meeting closed at 2015*

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**These Minutes are a true record.**

Signed By Chair

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Date: