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## Ordinary Meeting MINUTES

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### AGENDA

#### 1. Roll Call

**Colin Deakins (Chair), Cllr Jenny Carpenter (Vice-Chair), Cllr Jo Storey, Cllr Jan Clarke, Cllr Ann Bowyer, Cllr Geraint Spacey**

**County Councillor Tony Kear**

**Members of public; Judith Hopkins (Woodland Group), Peter Sutherland.**

#### 2. Apologies for absence

Apologies from County Councillor Meirion Howells.

Cllr Julian Bowen-Sargent attempted to join via Teams but the connection was not successful.

#### 1. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

#### 2. Chair's Remarks

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

#### 3. Comments/Questions from the Public

Peter Sutherland – i. Has brought the matter of the container park to the council. This has been an ongoing issue and residents have complained that 'incorrect business' is taking place there. ii. Peter asked what was being done on the matter of flood alleviation.

iii – In October 2018 a complaint was made by Peter Sutherland regarding two councillors. He feels that the complaints procedure was not followed correctly. (Failure to comply with complaints procedure, failure to comply with FOI request and failure to address Chair's Allowance matter)

Request an apology for failing to follow procedure, failure to comply with FOI Act.

The Chair acknowledges that as far as The Council is aware practice was followed. This was contested by Mr. Sutherland. The Chair suggested that if Mr Sutherland was willing the council would hold a closed meeting and revisit procedure in this matter. Mr Sutherland was happy to do this.

Judith Hopkins brought forward her queries regarding the SID device;

- what is the background detail for the SID which clarifies how the decision has been arrived
- how the type of device has been chosen,
- considered locations and why Alexandra Terrace was chosen particularly bearing in mind the very small number of houses that would benefit
- the police speed/accident records
- MCC consultation
- public consultation The Chair asked if any objections had been brought forward and Judith explained that people wanted clarity on what the device was and where it was being located.

Vice-Chair explained that MCC had decided the location and the equipment that would be used, LCC had little involvement in the location and equipment selection. MCC had offered to install a SIC on the approach to

40MPOH from Usk. LCC said that this was not required as although speed may be an issue the line of sight is unobstructed for both vehicles and pedestrians.

#### **4. County councillor participation**

County Councillor Tony Kear Reports; planning has been granted for 1,700 homes on the Mamhilad Industrial Estate. A recent amendment to the planning application in terms of access has highlighted the planning matter to organisations once more. [cite] Highways Reported; effect of localised traffic from Little Mill to Usk is unlikely to be 'greatly effective' County Councillors Meirion / Kear objected this statement.

Active Travel grants have been refused along the route. Concerns over construction / high traffic. Previous major projects in the area have seen additional heavy traffic band from the A4762 between Little Mill and Usk.

Flooding around 'The Cow House' to Llanbadoc – Stretch of road became unpassable during recent heavy rain. Cllr Kear carried out a site visit with head of flooding. Using drainage maps several drains were emptied, the debris at 'Little London' bridge was cleared. Drains at Yew Tree Lane has also been cleared. Councillor Kear thanked MCC for the speed in which they responded to the issue and the amount of work that was carried out.

LCC thanked Councillor Kear for his work.

He also Reported that discussions were taking place regarding the flooding issue brought up by Mr. Sutherland.

County Councillor Tony Kear commented that Highways were responsible for the siting of SIDs and that generally the data captured by the devices was very useful. Case data shows that the devices generally help in speeding issues.

#### **Action; Rumble strips (Tony Kear) white lines, repairs to road.**

County Councillor Kear informed the council to CC him into MCC matters as he can follow up issues as County Councillor.

He updated councillors on the position of current MCC RLDP – consultation period has just closed. Glan Y Avon has been removed from prospective sites, railway yard still in the running.

Mr Peter Sutherland commented that The Railway Yard is considered part of the local flood plain but does not flood.

The candidate sites will be 'further interrogated' over the next 12 months before coming back to full council, the council decides on the action, and this goes to WA for ratification. The whole process is around two years and subject to the plans submitted by developers.

#### **5. Approval of Minutes**

Ordinary Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – proposed by Vice-Chair seconded by Cllr Geraint Spacey

#### **6. Matters arising from minutes if not on agenda**

No matters.

#### **7. Action Points / Clerk Report**

APO4 – Website updates have been carried out

AP20 – Chain has been returned repaired

AP21 – Awaiting update from Julian

AP23 – Agreed to pay 21/22 contract 22/23 draft contract sent across

AP24 – New email address setup and working

AP25 – Updates have been carried out

AP26 – New councillor information sent

AP27 – TfW invoices submitted by Clerk – 2 have been honoured.

AP29 – MCC could not install road sign due to post-code issues. LCC carried out site survey to assess area. Two options; Send MCC response to resident OR LCC prepared to pay for a sign? Jenny suggested forwarding letter from MCC to resident in question.

## **8. Finance & Procedure**

### **a. Authorisation of payments to be made**

Merlin Hygiene	<b>£101.40</b>
Clerk's Salary	<b>£518.78</b>
Remuneration to councillors	<b>£162.50</b>
Chair's Chain repair	<b>£50.00</b>
MCC Grounds Maintenance Contract 22/23	<b>£2751.52</b>

### **Proposed Vice-Chair – Seconded Cllr Jo Storey**

### **b. Summary of bank statement and account balances**

### **c. Review of Risk Assessment – agreement of revisions**

#### **i. Further discussions required**

### **d. Appointment of internal auditor**

LCC happy to go with Trevor Brown as suggested by The Clerk. If he says no LCC will go to John Turner who the council have used previously however he is reducing the audits he carries out. Vice-Chair proposed Cllr Ann Bowyer seconded.

### **e. Councillor training**

Cllrs Jan Clarke & Geraint Spacey to attend OVW New Councillor Training on February 27<sup>th</sup>

Chairman has attended Charing Skills Module 10

Vice-Chair has completed OVW 'Understanding The Law – Module 4.

Cllr Julian Bowen-Sargent has completed Local Government Finance – Module 6.

Cllr Jo Storey would like to complete the OVW 'Code of Conduct' training module.

### **Action; Clerk to book training modules for councillors as required**

### **f. Clerk training**

Clerk attended a SCRIBE training event 8/2/2023 – internal audits. Clerk still on Cilca course and will book additional seminars / online presentations.

### **g. Remuneration for councillors 2022/2023**

The Clerk explained that any councillor who does not wish to receive remuneration for the year 2022/2023 should write to him and state this.

### **h. Chair's Allowance for 2022/2023**

The Chair would like to receive Chair's allowance. Vice-Chair advised to discuss this at the end of meeting as a confidential matter. This was deferred to the next meeting under matters arising due to lack of time.

## **9. Report from Visit with Rachel Carter**

Rachel Carter is the Local Places for Nature Officer for OVW. Councillors attended a OVW event where Rachel gave a presentation. Following this she was invited to meet with LCC to discuss potential work that could be carried out to enhance the local ecology. The Chair and Vice-Chair met with Rachel and showed her around key areas of the Community, following these visits a Report is due from Rachel Carter on potential funding streams and biodiversity suggestions that could enhance habitat connectivity.

## **10. Maintenance**

- a. Planting of wild/bee friendly flowers in each ward – planting in front of stone bus stop at Little Mill. The Chair would also like to see wildflowers planted on the left-hand side of the area past the gate by the substation. LCC was informed that non-native wildflower mixes were used at

LCC and that is why they required re-planting annually. Vice-Chair expressed that she would be comfortable with the sites in Little Mill that was proposed by The Chair. The Chair proposed Little Mill councillors will inspect the sites and ask MCC how much it would cost for the work to be carried out. He also proposed to ask MCC how much the further clearance work would be at the COPSE at Llanbadoc Island adjacent to the Church.

- b. Clerk to email Tony Kear and MCC with photograph of poor pavement at Little Mill.
- c. Update on SIDS including quotation £4,815.40 + VAT –
- d. Cllr Bowyer asked it be Minuted that residents in Lanbadoc south of the rugby field are aware of the proposed speed reduction and are interested in having a SID (Speed Indication Sign) put up in that area.

#### **11. External Reports / Correspondence**

- a. Receipt of police Report circulated to councillors – Report was circulated by Clerk prior to meeting
- b. Receipt of Cyber Resilience newsletter – Newsletter circulated by Clerk prior to meeting.

#### **12. Planning**

- a. 17/P/0468/OUT – Mamhilad Development
- b. DM/2023/00055 - Morris' of Usk Garden Centre Usk Garden Centre

No objections

- c. DM/2023/00023 – Replacement horse menage

No objections

- d. DM/2023/00117 – Amendments to planning application - DM/2020/01283

LCC cannot approve the application and has received complaints from residents which it notes.

- e. Note receipt of enforcement notices

#### **13. Reports from Advisory Groups**

- a. Usk Steering Group – The Chair attended the previous meeting. His main concern was the issue with Bridge Street. Air pollution levels are within Welsh Government guidelines. A community Fridge event is going to take place.

#### **14. Any other business**

- a. Clerk to write to MCC regarding cessation of funding to Gwent Music
- b. Council asked to comment on tax increase for empty dwellings in Monmouthshire

#### **15. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 06.00pm at Monmouthshire County Hall**

Signed:

Dated: