

MINUTES

1. Attendance

Colin Deakins, Jenny Carpenter, Jo Storey, Jan Clarke, Ann Bowyer, Hannah Dando

County Councillors: Meirion Howells & Tony Kear

2. Apologies

Julian Bowen-Sargent

3. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

4. Chair's Remarks

Chair thanks everyone for attending and remarked that it is a nice evening.

5. Comments / Questions from the public

No members of public were present at the meeting.

6. County Councillor Participation

Meirion reported that:

The stray dog that has been sheep worrying in and around Llanbadoc has been humanely caught and taken to the dog warden.

Ash Die Back at the corner of Rumble Street. These works are ongoing – awaiting update from MCC.

Meirion has reported potholes throughout Little Mill and on the A472.

Tarmac budget is currently £2m and there is an estimated £40m worth of road repairs in Monmouthshire.

MCC aren't considering installing a road-sign at Trostra Rd. Suggested that LCC look to get quotes for a sign.

Tony had nothing to report this month.

7. Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting along with a copy of the action points.

8. Approval Of Meeting Minutes

a. Tuesday 26th March 2024

- i. Little Mill & District Women's Institute referred to as Monkswood WI in March Minutes.

Resolved: Proposed by Colin Deakins that they are a correct record. Seconded by Jan Clarke

b. Finance & Procedure Meeting March 2024

Resolved: Proposed by Jenny Carpenter and seconded by Jan Clarke

9. Community

- c. Welcome new Councillor.
 - i. Hannah Dando was introduced to Councillors who may not have met her since her appointment. She had completed Code of Conduct and enrolled onto New Councillor training for later this month.
- d. Note incident at BAE plant 17.04.2024.
 - i. An explosion took place on the site however no injuries were reported. Tony Kear reported that he had had a discussion with David Davis and a police sergeant who apologised that Councillors were not included in the cascade system. The explosion took place in a restricted part of the site specifically dedicated to the decommission of shells. It was carried out remotely by a robot mechanism (unmanned). No superficial damage took place, the explosion was controlled. A review will be taking place on the site to ascertain what happened and local MP will be kept involved.
- e. Note request to survey Jenny's Bushes as a wildlife habitat (Gwent Wildlife Trust)

Resolved: Councillors happy with survey to be carried out.

- f. Discuss and agree whether to allow Gwent Wildlife Trust access to Llanbadoc Island for a free course on treatment of Himalayan Balsom

Resolved: Colin met with Natalie of the Wildlife Trust on site with Tom Morris and other members of the community. Colin was shown the process of the removal of balsam. The balsam that is pulled will be put into a heap where it will dry out and become straw-like. It then breaks down. The heap is monitored to ensure that no shoots take place. Gwent Wildlife Trust will provide a risk assessment and carry appropriate insurance. The scheme has been initiated by the 'Usk Together for the climate' scheme. Pulling season is May – June. First session on 11th May 10am. Second session on 6th June at 10am. 15-20 volunteers anticipated to attend. **Clerk to notify Natalie to proceed. Clerk to contact Gwent Anglers to inform them of what is going on.**

- g. Agree potential dates for an online meeting to discuss suitability for the National Forest Wales scheme.

Resolved: Councillors have presented interest in attending an online meeting to find out more about the scheme and what is available for the existing woodland. **Clerk to confirm dates with NFW for online meeting.**

10. Finance & Procedure

- h. Authorisation of payments to be made. (Councillors receive Payment list)
*Note clerk's monthly salary removed as it is a contractual payment that does not need 'monthly authorisation'.

Resolved: Proposed by Jo Storey seconded by Jenny Carpenter

- i. Note end of year balance(s) for 2024

End of year for the current account was: £17,299.25.

- j. Agree automated monthly payments to Merlin Environmental 2024/2025 (Standing Order)

This has been agreed at the previous F&P meeting. Clerk to monitor invoice numbers for payments.

- k. Review grant request from Little Mill Village Hall for replacement doors to building.
 - i. Resolved: Motion to award a grant of £3,000 towards the installation of new doors at the Hall in accordance with the copy of quotation provided and match funding provided by MCC. A

second grant opportunity for up to £2,000 upon completion of the work will be available to LMVHA. Proposed by Jenny Carpenter seconded by Ann Bowyer.

- l. Review received invoice from Video Voice
 - i. Resolved: Motion to submit a counteroffer of payment to Video Voice as The Council are not satisfied that all work was carried out. An alternative IT person had to be appointed to complete the work. **Action: Hannah to assist Clerk and Councillors in considering what work should be paid for and submit a counteroffer.**
- m. Agree date for Annual Meeting
 - i. Resolved: Meeting will take place at 6pm on the 14th May 2024 at County Hall.
- n. Review and agree renewal of OVW membership.
 - i. Resolved: Council will renew annual OVW membership. Proposed by Jenny Carpenter seconded by Jo Storey.

11. Maintenance

- o. Review and agree quotations received for tree works on commons / woodland.
 - i. Deferred: Jenny is going to carry out another site survey to prioritise trees that are the highest risk based on proximity to footpaths.
- p. Review and agree replacement of Monkswood notice board or suitable alternative.
 - i. Resolved: LCC already have a notice board in Monkswood which is under-utilised. Council sees no reason to place second board on BAE property as it will unlikely be used.

12. External Reports (if received by meeting)

- q. Cyber resilience newsletter
 - i. Noted and received.
- r. Local Police Report
 - i. Noted and received.
- s. Confirm receipt of Usk Steering Group Minutes
 - i. No Minutes received. The next meeting is the 15th May Session House.
- t. Comments from last Little Mill Village Hall Committee meeting
 - i. Colin and Hannah attended LMVHA AGM. Reasonable attendance. Trustees urgently required although they have had new members join. New committee will choose Chair & Treasurer. Satisfactory bank balance and reserve. Looking to establish a social club.
- u. OVW Local Area Committee Meeting
 - i. Chair attended meeting with Jo Storey. Guest speaker was unable to provide suitable slides for the presentation.

13. Planning

DM/2024/00162 – Use of land for 22 articulated lorries at Woodside Trading Estate.

No objections

DM/2024/00356 – Replacement of cedar shingle roof with weighted metal roof. Glascoed Lane.

No objections

14. Set Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 21st May 2024 at County Hall

End of Meeting at 2000.