Ordinary Meeting Tuesday 25th June 2024 – Buffet Room, Little Mill Village Hall – 1800 - 2000

MINUTES

1. **Attendance**

Colin Deakins, Jenny Carpenter, Ann Bowyer, Hannah Dando, Julian Bowen-Sargent, Jan Clarke, Jo Storey

Tony Kear, Meirion Howells

Nonattendance: N/A

2. **Apologies**

No apologies

3. **Declarations of Interest**

Colin Deakins declared interest in Planning item 13A

Chair's Remarks

4. **Clerk's Report**

The Clerk updated councillors on current and outstanding business.
- Tree work has been carried out at Llanbadoc Island, Little Mill and throughout Glascoed.
- New directional signs have been ordered for Llanbadoc Island to aid in traffic flow to and from the car park.
- The Pathcare Group has carried out significant path improvements through Lower Common in Glascoed and have added a bridge structure to aid in walkers crossing the open culvert / land drain
- An email has been sent to POBL requesting information on how social and affordable Housing is allocated throughout Monmouthshire
- A further session of Balsam Bashing organised by Gwent Wildlife Trust has taken place at Llanbadoc Island and was well attended.
- An email has been sent to the Liaison Officer at HMP Prescoed querying whether the Community Liaison Meetings will be restarted as they were found to be beneficial
- Arrangements have been made for an initial site-assessment of Twyn Y Cryn woodland with Farming Connect for the benefit of setting out a woodland management plan
- A draft letter and planning report has been circulated to councillors (agenda item 12C)

5. **Comments / Questions from the public**

No members of the public were present

6. **County Councillor Participation**

Meirion Howells reported:
Local SIDS that are either not working or working incorrectly have been logged with MCC (including the SID on the corner of the A472 eastbound into Little Mill)
Meirion attended the second balsam bashing session at Llanbadoc Island and commented that it was well attended and informative.
The grass verge between the Glen Yr Afon Hotel and County Hall and along the brook by island House have been cleared and the pavements are scheduled to be swept and cleared.

The condition of the pavement adjacent to Morris' garden centre has been reported to MCC as it is in a terrible state of repair

Tony Kear reported:
In response to local verge cutting, MCC is currently limited to carrying out one verge per annum. However the clearing team have clarified that areas of high concern may be prioritised if reported.
The verge adjacent to the ROF at Glascoed has now been cleared as far as MCC are authorised.

Ann asked if there was an update identifying the woodland opposite Morris' where a tree has previously fallen onto the road. Tony stated that the scheduled work to deal with the immediately dangerous trees will take place in the Autumn as the type of work required cannot be carried out in the summer.

Play equipment is due to be replaced in Little Mill following the removal of equipment for the construction of affordable housing. Colin suggested that there be investment in the 'pocket park' as opposed to the old equipment being replaced. **Suggest a non-material amendment from MCC to invest in pocket park.** (Kurt Marray Gwent Police)

7. **Approval Of Meeting Minutes**
    a. Ordinary Meeting May 28th, 2024
        i. Minutes accepted. Proposed by Jenny Carpenter seconded by Jo Storey
    b. Extraordinary meeting June 17th, 2024
        i. Agreed to defer the acceptance of these Minutes as not all councillors had been able to read through them in detail.
8. **Community**
    c. Update on Farming Connect
        i. An initial site-inspection will be carried out by a member of Farming Connect at an estimated cost of £350. LCC will then deliberate whether to commission a full woodland management report which is estimated to cost around £1200 however up to 80% of this cost is subsidised through Farming Connect.
9. **Finance & Procedure**
    d. Authorisation of payments to be made and payments made. All payments accepted on the payment list.
        i. Proposed by Jenny Carpenter seconded by Hannah Dando
    e. Review and adopt Press / Media Policy. A draft copy of the policy had been circulated to Councillors and has been available on the LCC website. The policy was accepted.
        i. Proposed by Ann Bowyer and seconded by Jenny Carpenter
10. **Maintenance**
    f. Discuss waste bin collection issue in Glascoed
        i. Jenny Carpenter has received complaints from members of the Glascoed Community who are having to place their domestic bin waste in central locations at the top of their respective lanes because the waste collection vehicle does not travel down all the lanes. The waste is not being collected or is being broken up and strewn about by foxes and night critters. It was suggested that perhaps MCC could use a smaller vehicle to access the more remote properties. Councillor Tony Kear stated that he emailed the relevant officer at MCC on the 4th of June but had not received a response so would chase up the matter.
    g. Discuss 'opt-in' for PSPO sign scheme for Little Mill play park
        i. MCC has offered to supply LCC a PSPO sign for Little Mill Play Park (at cost to LCC) outlining the requirements of dog owners and their responsibilities when accessing the site. Accepted to accept offer of sign at cost.
            1. Proposed by Jenny Carpenter and seconded by Colin Deakins. Julian suggested contacting Little Mill Village Hall to notify them of the enforcement.
    h. Discuss Park maintenance quotation for Little Mill Park / field.

i. The quotation is for the matting beneath the play equipment in Little Mill Park to be cleaned and re-sanded and for the goal posts to be sanded and painted. It was agreed that further quotations should be sought before an agreement is made.

11. External Reports (if received by meeting)

i. Cyber resilience newsletter
   i. Circulated to councillors – noted.

j. Local Police Report
   i. Circulated to councillors.

k. Confirm receipt of Usk Steering Group Minutes
   i. 24th July 2024 is the next meeting to be held. No Minutes so far as no meetings have been held.

l. Comments from last Little Mill Village Hall Committee meeting
   i. No Councillors in attendance. Comments raised about an event on July 13th, 2024. LCC has not been notified that the playing field will be used. Clerk to write to LMVHA for information.

12. **Planning**

m. DM/2024/00677
   i. Planning application discussed No objections. Lodged with LCC.

n. DM/2024/00588 – Standing Orders were suspended to allow discussion of this planning matter as it had not been brought to the attention of LCC due to a system error at MCC's Planning Office.
   i. Planning application discussed. The application is supported with conditions. Proposed by Colin Deakins and seconded by Ann Bowyer.
      1. Conditions raised by LCC: No electricity on the structure, no construction of toilets, cannot be enclosed, can only be used during the hours of daylight.

o. Approve draft letter and report to send to Planning Authority
   i. Councillors agreed that the comments raised for planning comments are acceptable and a separate letter.

13. Set Date of Next Meeting

p. Tuesday 23rd July 2024 – Usk Room, County Hall

Signed:_____

Dated:_____