



## Llanhennock Community Council

### Annual General Meeting

Held On Monday 07 May 2019 – 7 pm Llanhennock Village Hall

**Present:** Chairman Waters, Vice Chairman/Cllr Morgan, Cllr Chivers, Cllr Thomas, Cllr McLeod, Cllr Heath, Cllr Williams, and Clerk Davies.

**Apologies** Cllr Young, County Cllr Clarke.

**Members of the public present** Mrs Liz Thomas

**Minutes of 2017 AGM** Approved by Cllr Thomas

Seconded by Cllr Chivers

**Matters Arising** None

### **Chairman's Remarks For 2019**

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#### **Chairman Richard Waters**

"I would like to start by thanking all the Councillors and the Clerk for their continued support throughout the year.

I would also like to thank County Councillor Peter Clarke for his continued attendance and interest in Llanhennock Community Council. Especially given Peter's additional MCC responsibilities this year.

In addition, my thanks to Cllr Young for his attendance at HM Prison Usk & Prescoed Liaison Committee Meetings – providing on-going communication between the Prison and the Community Council.

The Council continue to consider Planning Applications received from MCC and from April 2018 to March 2019 the Community Council have considered 9 planning applications.

General and safety-based highways issues remain the most common queries raised with the Community Council. In the last 6 months we continue to enjoy a swift and efficient response from MCC, with problems resolved far more quickly than in previous years.

This year has also seen continued success in rectifying highways issues by holding Site Meetings with MCC, taking Officers to the affected areas. This has resolved several long-standing matters and is certainly the most effective way to work with Highways and Hedges departments.

We have again financially contributed to St Andrews Church, Tredunnoch and St Johns Church, Llanhennock and hope to continue this support next year. An additional donation was made to St Johns this year, for repair of the historic 'Kissing Gate' in the Church grounds. The Community Council also paid for the oil and labour required to protect the front gates at St Johns.

In addition, the Millennium bench has been removed, cleaned and galvanised. My thanks to Cllr Thomas for arranging this, with no cost to the Community Council.

I am pleased to confirm the notice boards for each ward have been removed, repaired and refurbished this year. The notice boards remain the key communication tool for residents and upkeep is therefore essential. Our thanks to John Williams, Carpenter for his high-quality work.

Perhaps our most important investment this year has been towards the Llanhennock Village Hall refurbishment fund. This is a critical project as the Hall is the only remaining communal building, across the three wards. The Community Council have budgeted for a further donation in 2019/2020 to ensure the Hall remains a hub for the local community, social groups, classes and meetings.

The most significant local matter this year is, without doubt, the Change of Use Planning Permission application for Woodbank, Llanhennock. The application is for a 'change of use' - to incorporate mixed use of self-catering/services accommodation and use as an events and wedding venue.

This application is of great concern to the residents and local businesses in Llanhennock. The Community Council objected to the application mirroring the concerns of residents across the ward.

The Council remains compliant with Audit requirements and continues to complete more detailed analysis and reviews of Finances throughout the year including budgets, Risk Assessments, reviews of reserves and predicted spend. This ensures a compliant and transparent record of accounting for the Community Council.

The Council precept for 2018/2019 was £5600 and the current balance to date for the Community Council is £3679. The precept for 2019/2020 will increase to £6,160.

(Refer to spreadsheet and bank reconciliation etc).

The Community Council continue work to increase local interest and attendance at Community Council meetings – as attendance at normal monthly meetings remains low. (However, a Community Council record was set in April 2019 – with over 20 residents attending to discuss the Woodbank planning application – more on this later). In the meantime, we have budgeted for a social event in 2019/2020, to bring the community together and to develop awareness of the Council's work.

We continue to work with Gwent Police to deal with anti-social issues arising in the area. PC Evans and his team have been unable to attend a meeting this year due to workloads, however they provide written updates on issues/crimes within our wards and Monmouthshire.

As you know there is currently an Independent Review of Community Councils underway. Recommendations have been made to merge smaller Community Councils and reduce the number of

existing Councillors. This is currently being considered by Welsh Ministers and we await further information. Though we have raised objections; we accept the proposals are financially viable given budget restraints in local government. However, until further notice we will continue to serve our three wards successfully, with the support of the local community.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to welcome our new Clerk Mrs Debra Davies to the Community Council. Debra is a highly qualified resident of Llanhennock and committed to local matters. We wish Debra every success in her new role.

Our thanks to Liz for her contribution over the last 5 years and I know we can rely on Lizzy's support with community events in the future.

To conclude thank you all again for your support and I look forward to another successful year as a Community Council."

### **Election Of Chairman**

Cllr Heath proposed Cllr Thomas as Chair; Cllr Thomas said he would prefer to stand as Vice Chairman for this year and would be happy to take on the Chairman role, if elected, next year.

Richard Waters was invited to serve a further year as Chairman. The Councillors unanimously re-elected Chairman Waters. Chairman Waters accepted the role with thanks.

### **Election Of Vice Chairman**

Cllr Waters proposed Cllr Thomas as vice chairman, seconded by Cllr Heath. Voting was unanimous and Cllr Thomas was elected as Vice Chairman.

### **Financial Accounts For April 2017 to March 2018**

A detailed budget for 2018/2019 was distributed to the Council, along with a spreadsheet detailing all receipts and expenses over the last financial year to date. Balances and reserves were noted and duly formally adopted by all Councillors.

Bank Reconciliation: Balance = £4576

**Any Other Business** None

**Meeting Closed**