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Meeting Held On Monday 05 February 2018

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Present: Chairman Richard Waters, Cllr Ieuan Williams, County Cllr Peter Clarke, Clerk Elizabeth Thomas, Cllr Jim Young, Cllr Yvonne Morgan, Cllr Tony Chivers, Cllr Lindsay Heath, Cllr Allan Thomas.

Apologies: Cllr Dorothy McLeod

Members Of Public Present John Evans, Coed Y Fon Farm, Tredunnoch

Declaration Of Interest None

Minutes of last meeting Approved by Cllr Young
Seconded by Cllr Williams

Matters Arising

None

Correspondence

1112/18 Letter from Monmouthshire County Council

The Community Council have received a letter from MCC regarding a review of community boundaries and electoral arrangements. The review dates back to 2012 when the initial working group was set up to investigate and begin consultation. Discussions continued between 2012 and 2014, however the review was postponed until after the 2017 Council elections.

Now the County Council has reconvened its working group with representatives from each political party. Proposals will be submitted to the Local Boundary Commission for Wales, who will conduct their own consultation. At this stage Community Councils will be able to respond directly, to the Commission.

Councillors agreed their position had not changed since the first consultation. Councillors strongly recommend the Llanhennock Community Council remains in its current form and continues to serve the three wards. Councillor Williams confirmed the report written to oppose the recommendations, which he completed at the time of the first consultation should be reviewed, updated and resent – in response to the proposal.

Reports

1113/18 Police Report

The report notes incidents of thefts from out buildings locally, with advice for vigilance and security for land-owners and businesses using such areas for storage.

In addition, Police urge residents to remain aware of fraudulent / scam telephone calls. Residents should not provide personal details or data over the phone in any event.

Planning

Peter Clarke, declared no involvement in any planning related matters.

1114/18 Planning Permission

DC/2017/01453

Erection of replacement dwelling and creation of associated residential curtilage.

Little Ton Lands, Tredunnoch.

Councillors reviewed the associated paperwork and plans. Councillors had no objections to the application so long as the application satisfies planning criteria.

Finance

Current Balance £5445.53

1115/18 Finance Review

Councillors reviewed and discussed the following Finance matters: -

Current balance

Review of budget.

Discussed and reviewed predicted expenditure for the next three months.

Outstanding expenses and impact - in line with existing precept and balance.

In line with the above and having reviewed the finances, Councillors agreed to request a precept of £5,600 for the next period. Clerk will confirm this with MCC accordingly. This decision was confirmed and ratified by the Chairman and all Councillors.

Cheques were requested and invoices and receipts signed-off by Councillors for the following:

(Two signatures were provided on every cheque request slip).

1116/18 Cheque for MCC in respect of Clerk Fees

For the period of October and November 2017 to the value of £252.50.

Local Matters

1117/18 Reg Watkins

Chairman Waters communicated with regret, the sad passing of Mr Reg Watkins - long term friend and supporter of the Llanhennock Community Council.

Chairman Waters confirmed a sympathy card had been sent to the family with the condolences of the Community Council. Details of the funeral were communicated, and Chairman Waters and the Councillors praised Reg for his service to the community.

Any other business

1118/18 Chairman meeting with Highways Officer

Chairman Waters confirmed he had taken time to meet with a Highways Officer to discuss Highways issues, across the wards. The following matters were raised and will be considered by the Highways Officer and / or passed to the relevant department accordingly. In addition, the Clerk will confirm all the matters discussed in writing.

- 1 Request to widen the splay at the junction of the Gatlas Lane (off the Usk Road) to improve Highway safety and improve visibility.
- 2 Request to widen the splay at the Croes Llywarch Lane junction (off Usk Road) to improve Highway Safety and to improve visibility.
- 3 Request for drains to be cleaned at Apple Tree Cottage / Farm, Usk Road which keeps flooding and greatly affecting highway safety.
- 4 Request for centre road white lines on the bottom of Llanhennock Hill (off the Usk Road), to ensure safe free flow of vehicles and avoid vehicles dangerously driving in the middle of the lane. Please note cars turning up the lane from the Usk Road take the corner dangerously wide. The road is used by school buses, farm vehicles, businesses and for access to the Leonard Cheshire Disability home.
- 5 Reinstatement of appropriate white lines and junction road markings on the Gatlas Lane, Ponthir and the Water Works junctions.

In addition, the following issues have been raised by Councillors / residents and referred to the Highways Department at MCC: -

The bottom of Llanhennock Hill would greatly benefit from a 'Road Narrowing' sign and a SLOW/ARAF sign on the carriageway.

The Bridge (next to Woodbank) on the bottom road Llanhennock is unsafe, the stone is now completely cracked and damaged. The bridge needs urgent repair and is not safe.

The Bridge at the Newbridge On Usk, Tredunnock is also compromised and unsafe. Large cracks are evident in the stone work, with trees etc growing through. Request a Highways Officer visit these sites urgently to review the damage and decide how best to progress.

A road narrowing sign and a 'not suitable for HGV' sign is required urgently for both ends of the Croes Llywarch Lane, Tredunnock. In addition, a 'Not suitable for HGV' sign is required near the Wheatsheaf Pub on the top road, Llanhennock to avoid HGVs approaching the lane from all routes. HGV vehicles keep using the Croes Llywarch Lane and getting stuck. A local Land Owner has had to assist in releasing and moving HGV/Artic on many occasions and the situation is becoming more and more frequent.

Road side parking (by users of the facilities) directly outside the Leonard Cheshire Disability Home, Llanhennock continues to cause problems. Cars and farm vehicles are regularly unable to travel the carriageway during busy times.

On more than one occasions lorries have been unable to navigate past the vehicles parked on the road side.

The Community Council have contacted the home to resolve this issue, but the problem persists, and highway safety remains compromised, double yellow lines to be considered.

1119/18 Croes Llwyarch Lane, Tredunnoch

Chairman Waters welcomed Mr John Evans of Coed Y Fon Farm to the meeting. Councillor Young noted Mr Evan's experience in Community Council matters, given the many years' service Mr Evans provided to the Community as a Councillor.

Mr Evans explained heavy good vehicles and articulated lorries are regularly traveling the Croes Llwyarch Lane due to issues with satellite navigation systems and/or poor directions. The Lane is simply too narrow to accommodate vehicles of this size and they therefore end up jack-knifed or stuck. In addition, the carriageway is left with debris, pulled from the banks by the offending vehicles. Mr Evans has assisted in moving stuck vehicles on several occasions.

Mr Evans asked if a sign could be added to the Tredunnoch crossroads – stipulating no heavy goods vehicles. Councillor Chivers explained it is not possible to add to a directional sign, however a narrow road/ No HGV sign should be added to each access point for the lane. Councillor Chivers confirmed the signs should be placed at either end of the lane, as well as the top road of Llanhennock. This will hopefully ensure vehicles are notified of the situation – before they enter the lane from any direction. Chairman Waters agreed the proposal and asked the Clerk to communicate with the Highways Department at MCC urgently.

1120/18 Website

A proposal for a more interactive community forum has been suggested by Councillors. The existing website provider IntuDesigns have submitted a provisional template for consideration by the Councillors. Chairman and Councillors agreed a change to the existing format may encourage more users and involvement from the Community.

Councillors suggested a more detailed look at Caerleon Matters and other sites who have successfully rolled out this type of site for communities. Clerk to discuss with Intudesigns.

1121/18 BT Openreach

Councillor Williams confirmed extremely poor broadband speed in Llangattock Nigh Caerleon continues to cause residents serious problems. Although cabinets and posts have been installed in the area for some time, there is still no sign of fibre and no communication from the provider on timescales. Councillor Williams explained the speed is currently so slow it fails to register on the BT Openreach 'Speed Test'.

County Councillor Peter Clarke confirmed this remains a huge problem across much of Monmouthshire and suggested the Council contact Cabinet Member Sara Jones. Sara is involved in the roll out across Monmouthshire and may be able to offer additional advice/support. Clerk to arrange this as soon as possible.

Councillor Thomas reminded Councillors of the service offered by Country Connect and the improvements his customers have yielded to date.

Any Other Business

1122/18 MCC Payroll Matter

Clerk Thomas has requested further information from MCC regarding running payroll through HMRC. However, no details have been received yet. County Councillor Peter Clarke is aware the costly proposal by MCC for running payroll has been poorly received by all Community Councils. Therefore, MCC may need to review the proposal and the Community Council should not act, until MCC get in touch.

1123/18 Defibrillator Training – Tredunnoch

Cllr Morgan confirmed the above training will take place on Thursday 15th of February 2018, 7 pm in Tredunnoch House – all residents welcome.

1124/18 Welsh Government Review of Community & Town Councils

Chairman Waters and Cllr Williams confirmed an independent review panel has been set up to consider the future role of Community and Town Councils. The Panel will review the role, format and practices of Councils. The Review Panel would like to hear from Councils and are inviting comments through a short public survey. Councillors reviewed the questions and discussed the responses. The Clerk will draft a response in line with the above and send to the Chairman for his consideration.

Date of next meeting

Monday 05 March 2018, 7 pm in Llanhennock Village Hall.

(County Councillor Clarke and Councillor Morgan gave apologies for the next meeting).