

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**1. Attendance**

Chairman Colin Deakins, Ann Bowyer, Jan Clarke, Jenny Carpenter.

County Councillors: Meirion Howells, Tony Kear

Members of Public: Elen Wharton on behalf of SEWRIGS and Hannah as resident.

**Apologies**

Julian Bowen-Sargent sent apologies. These were accepted. Geraint was not present. This was accepted.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Ann Bowyer - Planning

**3. Chair's Remarks**

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

**4. Clerk's Report**

**a. Action Points**

- i. The Clerk updated Councillors on actions since the last meeting.

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

- a. Elen Wharton gave a brief presentation on SEWRIGS and her role within the organisation. This is in correlation with item 8A below. Information on SEWRIGS can be found [here](#)

**6. County Councillor Participation**

**a. Tony Kear reported:**

- i. An anticipated 7% increase in Police and Crime Commissioner precept for Monmouthshire
- ii. Pressure for owner of Beaufort to tidy it up but enforcement officer not helpful.
- iii. Brook flowing through a culvert at the rear of the Little Jockey (Formerly Halfway House). Not known who is responsible for it. Welsh Government cut PCSO funding from 80 to 60. 'Natural Wastage' scheme to lose up to 13 Officers.
- iv. The Welsh Government draft Budget for 2024-2025 shows a cut in funding for PCSOs in Wales of £7.5m. The proposal would see a loss of up to 13 officers in Monmouthshire through 'natural wastage'.
- v. Meeting held for planning for Material Changes for Hinkley Power Station: It has been proposed that Trostrey Weir be removed to allow ease of access for salmon and Chad to move upstream during breeding season.
- vi. Update on trees at corner of Llanbadoc trees between the footpath coming down to the road by Twyn Bell and Kensington Cottage. Current landowner not known as land not registered. Was a cottage, no longer standing, lived in by Bill Jenkins, chimney sweep by the quarry, now grown over. Once owner is found they will be subject to enforcement notice from Local Authority.

**b. Meirion Howells reported:**

- i. that data from the SIDS will soon be available to the county / council to assess the traffic movement / speed situation in the area.
- ii. Usk Plan first draft proposal should be available to view by the end of January.
- iii. A large tree is stuck against Usk Town Bridge. Meirion has reported this to NRW. Potholes and non-working streetlights have also been reported.

**7. Approval Of Ordinary Meeting Minutes**

- a. The Minutes of the meeting which took place on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 were approved as accurate:
  - i. Proposed by Jenny Carpenter. Seconded by Ann Bowyer.

**8. Community**

- a. Review and agree placement of Geology trail sign at Llanbadoc Island Car park
  - i. Elen Wharton attended the meeting on behalf of SEWRIGS an organisation that works in the mapping and protection of geological sites. Promote and maintain the sites.
  - ii. One of the sites is Llanbadoc Cliff (adjacent to Kensington Cottage) this is part of a wider trail in the area. One information board has been fitted at Cefn Ila. The introductory information board needs to be fitted at Llanbadoc Island. The RIGS group would like to know where the A1 sign can be placed at Llanbadoc Island. Funds have been sourced for the sign.

**9. Finance & Procedure**

- a. Authorisation of payments to be made

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Merlin Environmental</b><br><i>Emptying of 6x dog poo bins</i> | <b>£109.20</b>                          |
| <b>Staff Salary January 2024</b>                                  | <b>£568.40</b>                          |
| <b>HSBC Monthly Charge January</b>                                | <b>£5.00</b>                            |
| <b>Part Payment for SID as per December invoice</b>               | <b>£2849.94</b>                         |
| <b>Monthly debit SMARTY Sim Card for Clerk / Remote data</b>      | <b>£84 PER ANNUM<br/>(£7 PER MONTH)</b> |
| <b>PAYE / HMRC PAYMENT</b>  | <b>UP TO £90</b>                        |

Payments authorised. Proposed by Ann Bowyer and seconded by Jenny Carpenter

**b. Review Training Plan**

- i. The Clerk displayed the Training table which shows the training modules that Councillors have completed either with One Voice Wales or Planning Aid Wales. There are funds available within this year's budget for councillors to complete further modules. Councillors can email The Clerk to enrol onto modules. The latest training schedule has been shared with Councillors.

**c. Discuss website changes**

- i. Councillors were taken through the website and Councillor Jenny Carpenter shared her suggestions and advised, with the Clerk which pages needed assessment on the Council website. Whilst the website is fit for purpose it would benefit a series of updates and accessibility improvements.

**d. Confirm receipt of debit card**

- i. The Clerk confirmed receipt of a debit card linked to The Council bank account which will allow LCC to make purchases online when required.

## **10. Maintenance**

- a. Review quotation for removable fencing at Llanbadoc Island
  - i. A quotation has been requested from MCC to install removable bow-top fencing at Llanbadoc Play Park to improve access onto the common for the benefit of maintenance (see fig. 1 appendix for location)

## **11. External Reports (if received by meeting)**

- a. Confirm receipt of cyber resilience report
  - i. Acknowledged
- b. Confirm receipt of Usk Steering Group Minutes
  - i. No Minutes however an update was provided. Usk Town Masterplan underway.
- c. Comments from last Little Mill Village Hall Committee meeting
  - i. LCC have notified LMVHC of a tree which requires urgent work on the land adjacent to Little Mill Village Hall. The tree has been marked red and a copy of the Tree Survey with map has been past onto LMVHC.

## **12. Planning**

- a. DM/2024/00017 – The Cedars Llanbadoc - Proposed erection of a domestic outbuilding to accommodate an indoor pool, home gym and associated well-being facilities.
  - i. No objections made.
  - ii. Ann Bowyer did not comment.

## **13. Set Date of Next Meeting**

- a. Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at Little Mill Village Hall

Signed:

Dated:

## Appendix



### Abbreviations:

LCC – Llanbadoc Community Council

MCC – Monmouthshire County Council

SEWRIGS – South East Wales Geoconservation Group.