

WYE VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting and ordinary meeting of the above Council held on Monday 19th May 2025 at 6.30pm in Tintern Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs Mawdsley, Parker, Snell, Shewell, Evans, Ashman & Morrison.

Clerk: E Greatorex-Davies.

3901. Election of Chairman for 2025/26: Cllr Ashman – proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Parker.

3902. Election of Vice-Chairman for 2025/26: Cllr Parker – proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Morrison.

3903. Apologies for absence: County Cllr Webb.

3904. Minutes of 2024 Annual Meeting: Approved and signed.

3905. Chairman's Report: Read by Cllr Mawdsley.

3906. Annual Return & Statement of Accounts for year ended 31/3/2025: - Deferred until the June meeting.

3907. Annual Governance Statement for 2024/25: Deferred until the June meeting.

3908. Appointment of Internal Auditor: All Councillors in agreement with the reappointment of Mr G. Boulton.

3909. Standing Orders, Financial Regulations & Risk Assessment: Standing Orders agreed. Financial Regulations & Risk Assessment – Deferred until the June meeting.

3910. Membership of Sub-Committees:-

(1) **Finance** – Cllrs Shewell, Mawdsley, Parker & Ashman. Proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Morrison.

(2) **Planning** – Cllrs Ashman, Parker & Morrison. Proposed by Cllr Morrison, seconded by Cllr Snell.

(3) **Complaints Committee** – Cllrs Shewell & Parker. Proposed by Cllr Ashman, seconded by Cllr Snell.

3911. Representation on outside bodies:-

(1) **Village Halls** – Cllrs Shewell & Snell. Proposed by Cllr Ashman, seconded by Cllr Morrison.

(2) **Tintern Charities** – Cllr Shewell & Evans, County Cllr Webb. Proposed by Cllr Snell, seconded by Cllr Ashman.

(3) **Wye Valley Villages Delivery Group** – Cllrs Parker & Mawdsley. Proposed by Cllr Snell, seconded by Cllr Morrison.

(4) **Schools** - Cllrs Snell & Evans. Proposed by Cllr Ashman, seconded by Cllr Parker.

(5) **Lower Wye Area Committee** – No representative needed.

(6) **One Voice Wales** – Cllr Parker. Proposed by Cllr Snell, seconded by Cllr Evans.

(7) **Churches** – Agreed that Cllrs Shewell & Snell would be the Council's representatives.

- 3912. To receive Police Reports:** Tintern attached (only one issue of an injured deer). Clerk enquire what the incident involving several police cars on the A466 between the entrance to Leytons Field and the Village Hall on the late evening of the 18th May was.
- 3913. Public Session:** No members of the public present.
- 3914. Declarations of interest for items on the agenda:** None.
- 3915. Minutes of previous meeting:** Approved and signed as correct.
- 3916. Matters Arising from Minutes:** None arising.
- 3917. Planning Applications:** DM/2025/00573 – The Retreat, Barbadoes Hill – Insulation of external walls & installation of 3 rear Velux roof lights. Approval recommended.
- 3918. Financial Report:** Charitable A/ C £33,617.13, BMM A/C £3,285.16. First instalment of precept paid in £10,842.00. Clerk asked to transfer £25,000 across.
- 3919. Accounts for payment:-**
 Merlin Environmental Services - £133.78 (Ch. No. 300610)
 Zurich Council Insurance - £502.64 (Ch. No. 300611)
 SLCC – Ethical Frameworks Event attended by Cllr Parker £78.00 (Ch. No. 300612)
 Dog Waste Bin from Llangybi CC - £100.00 (Ch. No. 300613)
 Clerk’s Salary & Expenses – £369.90 (Ch. No. 300614)
 Mr Graham Boulton – Internal Audit - £105.00 (Ch. No. 300615)
 Cllr Snell – Expenses attending Llandogo School Interviews - £15.88 (Ch. No. 300616)
 All approved for payment.
- 3920. Other reports:-**
Schools – Interviews successful and 3 posts filled. Further interviews will be held; the Executive Head Teacher is also retiring at the end of the school year. Current Deputy will be acting as executive head.
Village Halls – Llandogo – Quiz Night 17th May. AGM 22nd May. Barn Dance 7th June. Village Fete/Tug of War 14th June.
 Discuss payments to Llandogo Village: The Council have become aware that Llandogo Village Hall is not complying with the Charity Commission’s guidance on reporting and accounts. Cllr Shewell proposed that the Council inform the VHC that until such time as the VHC is compliant with said guidance WVCC will be withholding all payments. Cllr Evans seconded.
 Tintern – Drain cover and surrounding edging outside the changing rooms damaged. Steve Ball is inspecting and giving a quote for repairs.
- 3921. Reports from Councillors on ward matters:**
 (1) Cllr Parker - MCC Tree Officer has contacted with the owner of land adjacent to Cleddon Brook concerning cutting of Alder trees and ground clearance. Work has been stopped pending the officer’s report.
 (2) New fences installed behind the Llandogo Play Area.
 (3) Llandogo residents are considering an event to celebrate 200 years of Bigsweir Bridge which was begun in August 1825.
 (4) Cllr Shewell - Collapsed bank at Wyebourne, Fryer’s Wharf. Cllr Shewell proposed this is reported to the Council’s insurers in case a claim arises. Cllr Evans seconded.

- (5) Cllr Snell reported there were still no road markings on the A466 between Tintern & St Arvans. Clerk write to MCC Highways for an update.
- (6) Cllr Mawdsley reported that MCC finally collected the red & purple bags after 8 months of requesting.
- (7) The Footpaths Officer has offered to give Councillors training to log problems with footpaths. Tracks & Trials – problem with off-road bikes and climate change is causing footpaths to erode. Signage will be put up in Whitebrook to monitor the bikes.
- (8) Funding for Active Travel has been reduced in Monmouthshire. There are only two projects approved in the Monmouthshire Travel Plan.

- 3922. Update on Clerk’s recruitment:** Cllrs Ashman & Parker shortlisted and called for interview three candidates. One has been interviewed and another is due to be interviewed on 21st May. Following interview the Panel propose to recommend a candidate for appointment subject to approval of this Council. It is anticipated that will be at a meeting in June.
- 3923. Proposed membership of GLEAM (Green Lane Environmental Actions Membership):** Report from Cllr Mawdsley as to the role of this body. When a proposal comes up to close a road it is difficult to get advice. GLEAM provides this advice. Cost of annual membership is £15. Proposed that WVCC join, Cllr Evans proposed and Cllr Parker seconded.
- 3924. Correspondence:** Email from OVW re Welsh Government’s proposed consultation to improve the administration and enforcement of council tax in Wales. Responses by 23rd July.
- 3925. Any Other Business:** Email from Carl Touhig, MCC re flood damage to culvert at Wyebourne, Tintern (see above under Agenda 3921).
- 3926. Date of next meeting:** 30th June.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.30.