



RAGLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26 January 2005 at Raglan Junior School.

Present: Councillor T. Phillips (Chairman),

Councillor Mrs. M. Chilcott, D. Brown, R. Parry, D. Watkins, Mrs. J. Harry, Mrs. H. Williams, R. Watkins, N. Porter.

In Attendance: The Clerk, Ms S. Wood and Mrs. M. Pike (Press),

Mr. J. Morrow (Llanarth Court Liaison Committee Chair), and Police Sergeant Huw Jones, both for part of the Meeting.

854. Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor A. Crump and Councillor N. Robinson.

855. The Chairman welcomed Mr. Morrow to the meeting and invited him to address the Council. Mr. Morrow linked the concerns about Llanarth Court with similar concerns about Usk Prison. Some of the patients at Llanarth were referred from prison, some from the NHS and some from the Courts.

Llanarth is a medium secure establishment and most patients are there due to the effects of alcohol and drugs.

The number of patients absconding had risen from 4 in 2000 to 10 in 2004. Most had absconded when on unescorted grounds pass, shortly before being due for discharge, due in part to a preference to stay at the hospital. Patients average stay is about 18 months. Any patients who have absconded have been recovered. There have been no incidents of violence, only a couple of thefts of vehicles.

Neighbourhood watch has assisted with recovery of patients. The advice if the public see a stranger about is to report him but not to approach him. There have been occasions when the public have been unnecessarily scared by the impression that patients are dangerous.

The increase in the numbers absconding may be due to there being more patients there now or to there being different types of people there now.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Morrow for coming to talk to the Council. It had been a very useful session. Mr. Morrow then left the meeting.

856. The Chairman next introduced Police Sergeant Huw Jones, the officer in charge of Usk Police Station including the Raglan area.



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Sergeant Jones introduced himself and explained that Inspector Smith was in overall charge of the area. He invited Members to ask him questions. The following points were noted:

There had been a problem with the telephone at Usk Station which should revert to HQ if it is not manned. This will be sorted out. The Usk mobile phone, number 07967 633972 is carried by whoever is on duty and may be used to contact them directly.

The Usk group of officers provide cover other than 3. am to 7. am when it is provided by Monmouth.

A Ward Officer, Pc Tony Sadler, had been appointed and he will have a role to liaise with local people and organisations and will only occasionally respond to incidents,

Station surgeries are due to be introduced when the Ward Officer will be available. His reports will be acted upon in liaison with Sergeant Jones.

An additional Community Support Officer is due to start in Usk shortly.

The Chairman thanked Sergeant Jones for attending and expressed the opinion that the meeting had been more useful than some previous meetings. Sergeant Jones then left the meeting.

857. The Minutes of the Council Meeting on 15 December 2004 were received and adopted as a correct record.

858. The Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 12 January 2005 were received and adopted as a correct record subject to an amendment that Penyclawdd PCC would get £75.00, not £70.00.

859. Matters Arising

Re: Minute 852, the Chairman agreed with Councillor D. Watkins that thanks should be recorded to local businesses in Raglan for the Best Kept Village Competition effort.

860. It was formally Agreed to confirm the Council's precept for 2005/06 as £13,729.

861. Planning Matters

a) Plans Lists, Agendas were received.

b) The following decisions of the Planning Authority were noted:

M10490 - 2 Storey Extension to side of 3 Fairfax View, Raglan - Permitted.



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M10715 - Proposed garages and stables, West Barn Fedw Farm, Llandenny Walks - permitted.

c) The following Planning Applications were considered:

M11120 - Conversion of Storage Building to dwelling Building next to Elmcote, Chepstow Road, Raglan - Agreed.

M11098 - Alterations to roof pitch to provide storage area - Cartref, High Street, Raglan. It was agreed to object to the window in the gable end - window not necessary for storage. (Councillor Mrs. Chilcott declared an interest as a neighbour of this property and left the room during the discussion.

862. Finance Matters

a) Agreed to pay the following accounts:

Clerk's salary £220.00

Hire of Parish Room £7.00

Internal Auditor's Fee £75.00

B. Jones - erecting/removing lights £200.00

Councillor D. Watkins was requested to produce a bill for light costs.

b) The Annual Audit return for 31 March 2004 was received and duly signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

c) Other items of correspondence were received.

863. Highway Matters

a) A report concerning cutting of the hedge at Wilsbrook House, Usk was noted.

b) Members Concerns

Councillor D. Watkins will follow up concerns about the Monmouth Road footpath with the Highways Inspector.

Councillor Parry was concerned about potholes in the Penyclawdd to Llangovan Road and Graig Road was still in need of attention as was the Penyclawdd to Trellech Road.



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864. General Correspondence

A number of items of general correspondence were received.

865. Consultation concerning Brooks Farm, Raglan

Members received the consultation report and a draft response prepared by Councillors Brown and Phillips. Some amendments were agreed to the draft which was then agreed for dispatch to the County Council.

866. Members Reports

Councillor R. Watkins referred to the Police Liaison Committee where it had been stated that violent crime was up 21% in the Monmouth area.

Councillor D. Watkins referred to the School Governors meeting. There had been support for the Village Hall and Puddleducks schemes and concern expressed about parking needed for the school. A question was raised by Councillors as to whether Village Hall money invested in the school would be repaid if the Village Hall is built.

867. Any Other Business

The Chairman referred to a letter from Councillor N. Robinson concerning his inability to attend meetings. It was agreed regrettably that he should be asked to resign.

The meeting ended at 9.30 pm.