

# Skenfrith Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held at The Village Hall, Cross Ash, on Monday, 13 January 2025 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs D Hughes Jones, A Phillips, J Bevan, K Rockach, V Diamond, S Dickens, County Cllr I Chandler

Clerk: C Arvanitis

			Action
25	201	<b>Apologies for absence</b> -None	
25	202	<b>Declarations of interest</b> -None.	
25	203	<b>Police report</b> 02/11/24 – Single vehicle RTC in Cross Ash. No injuries sustained. 08/11/24 - RTC in Llantilio Crossenny. No injuries sustained. 09/11/24 – Theft of a trailer from The Hendre. 06/12/24 – Dead sheep attacked by an animal. 18/12/24 – Burglary of power tools, chainsaws, hedge cutter and a power washer.	
25	204	<b>Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2024</b> Approved and duly signed.	
25	205	<b>Matters arising from the meeting held on 18 November 2024</b> -Skenfrith war memorial has 6 grass cuts a year. -Defibrillator training on 5.12.24 was well attended and successful.	
25	206	<b>Planning applications</b> -DM/2024/01399, Land at New House Farm, Llanvetherine, LBC (listed building consent) conversion of barns, byre and former stables at New House Farm, Llanvetherine: Cruck barn to byre link, solar PV, ground source heat pump – <b>recommend approval.</b> -DM/2024/01477, Tump Farm, Great Park Road, Llanvetherine, construction of an agricultural slurry tank – <b>recommend approval.</b> -DM/2024/01309, Ty Deri Barn, Ty Deri Farm, B4521 Pont Gilbert to Hill House, Llanvetherine, proposed new detached garage area and garden store building – <b>recommend approval.</b> -DM/2024/01576, Plas Yr Ywen, Llantellen Road, Cross Ash, Reconstruction of existing dwelling with extension – <b>recommend approval.</b>	CA
25	207	<b>Planning decisions</b> -DM/2024/00998, Whitehouse Cottage, B4347 Grosmont Bridge to Whitehouse, remove existing conservatory and construct small two storey extension, move stairs and internal alterations. Approved.	

		DM/2024/01195, Plas Yr Ywen, Llantellen Road, Cross Ash, replacement agricultural track to negate removing hedgerow from original farm track which is now too narrow for farm machinery, the new track will provide access to farm buildings and yard. The adjoining road is unclassified. Approved. -DM/2024/01346, Skenfrith Castle, Malthouse Road, Skenfrith, to fell a semi-mature Birch (dead tree). Approved.																																																								
25	208	<p><b>Accounts for payment</b></p> <p>-Further funding for Skenfrith emergency flood planning approved at £371.55 (£400 approved at last meeting).</p> <p>-Bank balance as of 24 December 2024 - £12,613.06</p> <p>-The following payments were approved:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Chq no</th> <th>Payee</th> <th>Amount</th> <th>Power to pay</th> <th>Budget pot</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>55</td> <td>Whitecastle CC</td> <td>£221.52</td> <td>LGA 1972 s214</td> <td>Admin-external audit 2019-20 and 2020-21- via Whitecastle CC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>56</td> <td>Karen Rockach for Skenfrith emergency planning</td> <td>£771.55</td> <td>LGA 1972 s142</td> <td>Amenities - grants (paid to Cllr Rockach who purchased items)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>57</td> <td>HMRC Dec (£59.80) and Jan (£85.00)</td> <td>£144.80</td> <td>LGA 1972 s112</td> <td>Salary/payroll - HMRC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>58</td> <td>Dec salary (£239.20), Jan salary (340.00) taking account of NALC pay increase and back pay – (sep calculation available), and expenses (£349.64)</td> <td>£928.84</td> <td>LGA 1972 s111</td> <td>Salary/payroll - Clerk salary</td> </tr> <tr> <td>59</td> <td>Playworks Invoice 9638 (£20.00) and 9682 (£20.00)</td> <td>£40.00</td> <td>LGA 1972 s112</td> <td>Admin - Playworks</td> </tr> <tr> <td>60</td> <td>Skenfrith Village Hall</td> <td>£400.00</td> <td>LGA 1972 s142</td> <td>Amenities - grants</td> </tr> <tr> <td>61</td> <td>Cross Ash Village Hall</td> <td>£400.00</td> <td>LGA 1972 s142</td> <td>Amenities - grants</td> </tr> <tr> <td>62</td> <td>Audit Wales Audit fees for 23-24</td> <td>£200.00</td> <td>LGA 1972 s214</td> <td>Admin-external audit</td> </tr> <tr> <td>63</td> <td>Cross Ash village hall bookings May24-Jan25</td> <td>£200.00</td> <td>LGA 1972 s112</td> <td>Admin - hire of venue for meetings</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>£3,306.71</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Chq no	Payee	Amount	Power to pay	Budget pot	55	Whitecastle CC	£221.52	LGA 1972 s214	Admin-external audit 2019-20 and 2020-21- via Whitecastle CC	56	Karen Rockach for Skenfrith emergency planning	£771.55	LGA 1972 s142	Amenities - grants (paid to Cllr Rockach who purchased items)	57	HMRC Dec (£59.80) and Jan (£85.00)	£144.80	LGA 1972 s112	Salary/payroll - HMRC	58	Dec salary (£239.20), Jan salary (340.00) taking account of NALC pay increase and back pay – (sep calculation available), and expenses (£349.64)	£928.84	LGA 1972 s111	Salary/payroll - Clerk salary	59	Playworks Invoice 9638 (£20.00) and 9682 (£20.00)	£40.00	LGA 1972 s112	Admin - Playworks	60	Skenfrith Village Hall	£400.00	LGA 1972 s142	Amenities - grants	61	Cross Ash Village Hall	£400.00	LGA 1972 s142	Amenities - grants	62	Audit Wales Audit fees for 23-24	£200.00	LGA 1972 s214	Admin-external audit	63	Cross Ash village hall bookings May24-Jan25	£200.00	LGA 1972 s112	Admin - hire of venue for meetings			£3,306.71			CA
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25	209	<p><b>2025-26 budget</b></p> <p>-The attached budget for 2025-26 was approved.</p> <p>-Within the grant payments, consideration will be given to a contribution of £400 to Cross Ash School Parents and Friends Association for the Stay and Play project and for iPads.</p> <p>-Clerk to check any restrictions on grant funding for schools.</p>	CA																																																							
25	210	<p><b>Mobile telephone mast needs</b></p> <p>-Cllr Chandler to investigate how phone companies could be lobbied to improve coverage in area.</p>	IC																																																							

25	211	<b>Road safety outside Cross Ash school</b> -Local Councillors to check current safety signage outside school. -Clerk to contact Graham Kinsella re conducting a road safety review. -Clerk to contact school to ask if they could share their parking policy.	All CA
25	212	<b>Village Life Project</b> -Clerk to let Village Life Project know that agreement approved subject to some small changes.	CA
25	213	<b>Flood prevention talk</b> Cllr Chandler to investigate best time to arrange a talk in Skenfrith by Wye and Usk Foundation on flooding.	IC
25	214	<b>Remote access for meetings</b> -Clerk to test use of Google Meet to allow remote access for members of the public into monthly meetings.	CA
25	215	<b>Clerk's report</b> -Clerk to investigate whether email could be changed to 'cymru' rather than gmail. -Clerk to send training dates to Cllrs Hughes Jones and Diamond. -Cllr Dickins is now a member of the Labour Party.	CA
25	216	<b>Other reports</b> -None	
25	217	<b>Correspondence</b> MCC, Storm Bert and Storm Darragh financial support MCC, Precept 2025-2026 MCC, MEDIA RELEASE: Monmouthshire County Council becomes world's first Deforestation Free Champion Council MCC, MEDIA RELEASE: Financial support for Monmouthshire residents affected by Storm Bert and Darragh OVW, review of Senedd constituencies OVW, Consultation on Reforms to the Compulsory Purchase Process and Compensation Rules	
25	218	<b>Highway matters</b> -Drains blocked outside Graig House, Cross Ash -Culvert blocked outside Mill House, Skenfrith -Lint Hill drain blocked - B4521 between Redcastle nursery and Chestnuts - ash tree with die back (risk of falling) -Drains blocked between Lanes Garage and Firs Road	CA
25	219	<b>Urgent items (for next meeting)</b>	CA

		-Street lighting switch off times	
25	220	<b>Date of next meeting</b> -17 February 2025, 7.30pm, Cross Ash village hall.	

Meeting closed 8.45pm

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	Agreed budget 24/25	To end Nov 24	Best estimate for year as of Jan 25	Approved budget 25-26
<b>Income</b>				
Opening balance	£3,506.00	£7,627.30	£7,627.30	£8,000.00
Precept	£13,500.00	£9,000.00	£13,500.00	£15,000.00
VAT	£100.00		£224.90	£250.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£17,106.00</b>	<b>£16,627.30</b>	<b>£21,352.20</b>	<b>£23,250.00</b>
<b>Outgoings</b>				
<b>Salary / Payroll</b>				
Clerk salary	£3,888.00	£1,674.40	£2,743.00	£3,000.00
HMRC	£789.00	£418.60	£693.00	£780.00
<b>Admin</b>				
One Voice Wales Membership	£113.00	£119.00	£119.00	£119.00
New Website / IT / web-hosting	£620.00	£276.00	£400.00	£400.00
ICT equipment for Clerk				
Postage	£60.00		£40.00	£60.00
Mileage	£156.00	£97.65	£209.00	£209.00
Stationery	£25.00	£7.24	£27.00	£50.00
Misc admin	£50.00		£34.00	£50.00
Working from home allowance	£312.00	£186.00	£378.00	£378.00
Council Insurance	£500.00	£224.18	£224.00	£224.00
Accounting System set up				
Hire of venue for meetings	£375.00	£150.00	£350.00	£350.00
Internal audit	£132.00	£75.00	£75.00	£100.00
External audit	£300.00	£200.00	£621.00	£600.00
Playworks	£240.00	£140.00	£220.00	£260.00
Allowances for Councillors (if applicable)	£336.00			£1,050.00
<b>Grants / Amenities</b>				
Village Life				£1,000.00
Amenities / grants	£1,500.00	£300.00	£1,871.00	£5,000.00
Skenfrith war memorial	£105.00	£126.00	£150.00	£150.00
Satellite phone	£2,000.00			
<b>Total spend</b>	<b>£11,501.00</b>	<b>£3,994.24</b>	<b>£8,154.00</b>	<b>£13,780.00</b>
<b>Reserves</b>	<b>£5,605.00</b>	<b>£12,633.06</b>	<b>£13,198.20</b>	<b>£9,470.00</b>