

# MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Held Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024 7.15pm, Hood Memorial Hall, Devauden**

**Councilor's Present:** J Willia(Chair)  
A Kitson-Smith  
P Kenington  
J Lucas  
M Powell  
A Williams

**In Attendance:** J McLagan (Clerk to the Council), H Turner ,

**1. Apologies** Rachel Buckler Ward Cllr

**2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda.**

Cllr J Williams declared an interest in item (I) Clerks report - Well lane Management Co.

**3. Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting.**

Minutes of the previous meeting held 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024 were approved.

**4. Public participation 15 minutes** – Mr D Maddox wished to express that parking had changed this year. Showers will be located in the camping field and disposal of ‘dirty water’ was raised. The council noted that they have no role in the organisation of the Devauden Music Festival.

**5. Police Report**

Nothing received

**6. Matters Arising**

- I) **Cllr Vacancy** – DCC welcomed new Cllr H Turner to the meeting and thanked her for joining.
- II) **Website Quotes** – It was agreed to contact the Spangles website maker and request a mock-up of the website as stated. A logo will be required for the site. Cllrs to check if there any stock photos of the area for the website.
- III) **Devauden Hall – Play committee – Clerk** to investigate £2,700 sum allocated to Devauden by MHA.
- IV) **Wesley Statue** – DCC to discuss survey/inspection of statue and Dowry for upkeep, whilst discussions around taking it over continue, it is noted that Devauden CC have no funds to manage insure or maintain the statue. **Chair**
- V) **Play Equipment** – It has been confirmed that VAT would need to be paid first before it can be refunded and that DCC does not have the cashflow to accommodate.
- VI) **Cllr Allowances** – it was agreed to adopt the OVW recommendation of Cllrs reclaiming costs. Cllrs need to opt out by email if they do not wish to receive either of the two amounts.
- VII) **Meetings Attended** – Racecourse meeting was attended by the Chair, this was well attended by locals who discussed issues around the Racecourse during events including local walks. OVW was also attended by the Chair and Cllr Powell – Cost of living crisis and Clerks contracts were topics.
- VIII) **Zurich Insurance** – Price similar to last year, **Clerk to check** policy & cover.
- IX) **Itton Gateway Sign** – Cllrs of Itton to leaflet drop to residents for consultation on sign prior to installation. **Clerk** to feedback upgrading to a non reflective sign (one that can be read when headlights shine on it at night).

**7. Clerks Report**

- (a) **Grounds Maintenance**, - Acknowledged email awaiting reply. - will keep chasing as mowing has started
- (b) **Asset register** - Chair to confirm up to date.
- (c) **Allotments** – (Invoices paid x 2) 1 outstanding
- (d) **Extra hours** – 15.5 hours on accounts and audit preparation to date.
- (e) **Policies** – review adopt any for the AGM – awaiting confirmation
- (f) **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter** reconciled accounts - Signed and approved .
- (g) **Mobile Phone & Case update**: purchased and working.
- (h) **Tree Cutting**: Clive Lewis £1675 & VAT update. Waiting to hear back from Mr Lewis.
- (i) **Bus price increases** had been mentioned an email regarding prices, Clerk unable to confirm how much increase in cost.
- (j) **MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL TRAFFIC REGULATION, SPEED LIMITS AND PARKING REGULATIONS CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2019 (AMENDMENT ORDER NO 14) 2024** –Reference to new road traffic orders relating to Itton and Devauden.

Drawing 2133 relates to **30 and 40 mph extensions on the B4293 and Itton Common**; drawing 2138 **extension of 30 mph B4293 and R83; 2151 introducing 40 mph St Arvan's to Tintern.**

- (k) **Defibrillators**: 2 Defibrillators and one cabinet, ready for installation. 1 to be fitted in Devauden and the other Llanvihangle - Awaiting confirmation of site to fit. Itton requires one. The Cot now has a defibrillator and cabinet supplied by NHS. **Clerk** to seek quotes to service/install @ telephone boxes.
- (l) **Well Lane Management Co** – Enquired about a contact for our insurance company, for the Community Orchard. During a later discussion, it was stated by WLM, that the community orchard is for the use of 6 local houses only.

Upon checking previous minutes regarding the Community Orchard, it states “Indeed the development would make efficient use of the land whilst making a contribution to improve the housing shortage and providing a community orchard for the village to enjoy.” (*Democratic Services report (panning committee meeting) 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2018 Agenda item 6.12*) [DM-2018-01741.pdf \(monmouthshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/DM-2018-01741.pdf)

- (m) **Portrait of HRH King Charles** – this has arrived, consideration required for siting.
- (n) **Audit and Accounts** – Accounts dropped to local auditor. Wales audit and preparation of accounts progressing. Audit report for last year received, **Clerk to seek clarification** on presenting audited/ unaudited accounts.

## 8. Finance

Approved finances as per schedule below

PAYEE	REASON FOR EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT £	VAT £	TOTAL £	PAYMENT METHOD
Clerk	Salary	479.88		479.88	BACS
Clerk Expenses	April	50.10		50.10	BACS
A Williams	Microsoft	44.10	8.82	52.92	BACS
Beverley & Williams ACC	Pension regulator	100	20	120.00	BACS
Zurich Insurance	Annual insurance	328.01		328.01	BACS (hold)
Clerk	New phone case 50%	6.91	1.38	8.29	BACs
Defibrillators	2 x units and one cabinet 1000242346	2310	462	2772.00	BACS

2 x Claims @ £208 pp	Reimbursements	416.00		416.00	BACS
Mobile Phone	50% cost	48.91	9.79	58.70	BACS
Amazon	Inks	18.55	3.71	22.26	BACS
HSBC	Bank charges 26/03/24-25/04/24	5.00	0	5.00	HSBC

**Balances** Current account - **£527.66** & saving account **£14,934.65**

## 9. Correspondence:

**Emails:** Please see attached

## 10. Planning: The following notices were considered by Councillors.

**Consultee Letter for Householder DM/2023/00358** - no objections

**Consultee Letter for Householder DM/2024/00276** - no objections

## 11. County Councilor's Report - Unable to attend

## 12. My Mon APP Outstanding Reports: None

## 13. One Voice Wales – As above Item 6 vii

## 14. Ward Reports

**Cllr P Kenington** – No issues to report

**Cllr J Lucas** – Local group form to discuss options for keeping local pub. Potholes still an issue, need to be reported on Mon app.

**Cllr M Powell** – Reported Potholes being filled and Issue with Phone box unable to open. - **Clerk** to seek a repair .

**Cllr A Kitson-Smith** – Kilgwrrwg – a lorry hit low branches, damage to lorry and unsure who owns tree – reporting on MON App.

**Cllr A Williams** – Discussed funding for Broadband in rural areas, no funding for Mobile or Fibre, however there is limited funding for Satellite broadband in the region of £2-300 - CRB looking at hotspots/finding

**Cllr H Turner** – No issues to report (new to post).

**Cllr J Williams** – Hedge report ripped out near Cobblers Plain during nesting season - **Clerk to report on Mon app**. Bus stop still overgrown, **Clerk to report on Mon App and Chase Cllr Buckley**. DCC noticeboard has been cleaned up.

### AOB

Locals have requested to **litter pick** when out on walks, discussed purchasing pickers & acquiring orange bags to put in the phone boxes for public use. **Clerk to enquire**. Cllr Lucas suggested a local litter pick.

**Free Cherry Trees** available via the Sakura Cherry Tree project – **Cllrs to look at possible sites** and feedback at next meeting.

**Cllr Training Bursary** – Claim up to £100 (50% of cost)

## 15. Items and date for next meeting

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May AGM 7.14 - 7.45 and Monthly meeting @ 7.45 - 9.45pm

**Meeting closed at 9.45pm**

**Clerk, J McLagan**

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