

DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Clerk: J McLagan - clerk@devaudencc.org.uk

DRAFT MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 26th May 2026 6.30pm @ Itton Village Hall

Councillors Present: H Turner, J Williams, M Powell, P Kenington, A Kitson-Smith (6.37pm)
A Williams (6.56pm)

In attendance: J McLagan (Clerk to the Council) , Cllr R Buckler (6.47pm), Guest R Edwards.

Chair's Report

It is a pleasure to present my first Chair's Report for the period April 2025 to March 2026. Over the past year, the Community Council has continued to meet regularly, with strong attendance and a shared commitment to serving our community.

I would like to begin by thanking all councillors for their dedication throughout the year. Their contributions, consistent attendance have helped ensure that the Council has been able to make informed and timely decisions on behalf of residents.

Our work this year has covered a wide range of priorities, including road safety, community wellbeing, local assets, planning matters and partnership working.

Road safety has remained one of our most important areas of focus, particularly in Devauden and Itton. Through public meetings, close engagement with Monmouthshire County Council and collaboration with St Arvans Community Council, we have listened carefully to local concerns and helped move practical improvements forward. I was especially pleased by the strong turnout from residents at these meetings and by the constructive support of MCC Highways officers. It is encouraging to see this work beginning to lead to visible results, and I look forward to the full programme of changes being delivered.

We have also continued the rollout of defibrillators across the ward, with five units now installed or close to installation at The Cot, Devauden Shop, Llanfihangel, Cobblers Plain and Howick. Alongside this, we were pleased to offer three free first aid sessions, helping

around 40 local residents gain confidence in using these potentially life-saving devices. I personally benefited from this training, having to use these skills a week after the training had been delivered.

Another piece of work has been the review of all community assets under our responsibility. Although time-consuming, this has given us a much clearer understanding of their location, condition and likely repair or replacement needs, which will help us plan more effectively in future.

In addition to routine Council business, members have taken part in wider meetings and partnerships, including One Voice Wales and the Wye Valley Villages Delivery Group. This has created valuable opportunities to work with neighbouring councils and stakeholders on shared issues such as preparedness for flood/electricity failure etc, sharing knowledge of the roll out of broadband in the area, public transport challenges and also understanding the work of the Tracks & Trails group to manage and protect paths in the area.

During the year, the Council also considered around 25 planning applications, ensuring that local views were represented in the planning process. This year we also finalised our Grants and Donations Procedure and began drafting a policy for the maintenance of the red telephone boxes in the ward.

We now have a fully functioning website....huge thank you to Andy and Jan for getting it launched and all the councillors for their feedback during the development and for contributions to content throughout the year.

Dedicated budget discussions have helped the Council manage resources responsibly while preparing for future priorities and pressures while considering value for money for the community.

I would also like to record my sincere thanks to the Clerk, whose support has been invaluable in ensuring the smooth running of meetings, maintaining compliance and providing continuity across all areas of DCC business. All this while dealing with the impacts of flooding at home.

My thanks also go to Cllr Buckler for her regular attendance at our meetings. That direct link has been greatly appreciated and has helped strengthen communication with Monmouthshire County Council departments.

We have also very much appreciated the attendance of our PCSO at our meetings, and I would like to thank PCSO Cordingly for his ongoing communication and involvement with DCC.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of residents who attend meetings or contact the Council during the year. Public participation remains a vital part of our work, helping to ensure that local voices are heard and reflected in our decisions.

We are dealing with a number of long running community issues and we look forward to making progress on drawing these to a conclusion in the coming months.

In closing, I would like to extend my thanks to all councillors, the Clerk and the community for their support, commitment over the past year. I look forward to another positive and productive year ahead.

Hannah Tuner

2. **Election of Chair** Cllr H Turner was proposed by seconded . There were no further nominations and a show of hands resolved the re-appointment of Cllr H Turner as Chair.

3. **Election of Vice Chair** Cllr P Kenington was proposed and seconded . There were no further nominations and a show of hands resolved the appointment of Cllr P Kenington as Vice Chair.

4. **Apologies** received: Cllr J Lucas (unable to access remotely)

5. **Declarations** interest: None

6. **The statutory Documents** – Financial Regulations, Standing Orders and Code of Conduct were reviewed, approved and accepted.

7. The **policies** relating to

- Biodiversity and Resilience policy
- Complaints Procedure
- Dignity at Work
- Donations & Grants Policy
- Equality and Diversify policy
- FOI Publication of Documents policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- Information and Data Protection policy
- Local Resolution Protocol
- Members Allowance/Remuneration policy

- Press & Media policy
- Retention of Documents policy
- Recruitment and Retention of staff policy
- Removable Media policy
- Social Media & Electronic Communications
- Website Accessibility Statement
- Member training plans

The above were reviewed approved and accepted, with intention to revisit them during the next 12 months.

8). To note the Internal Auditor P Brabon (minute 6xi, March 30th 2026)

9). To appoint members, including the Chair to serve on the Staffing Panel

10). To appoint members, including the Chair to serve on the Appeals Panel

11). The Council **Asset Register** was reviewed and accepted.

12). The Council's **Insurance Policy** was reviewed and additional costs accepted.

13). **Meetings:**

- i) **OVW:** Cllrs J Williams and M Powell were re- appointed representatives.
- ii) **Wye Valley Project.** Cllrs A Williams and H Turner were re-appointed as representatives.
- iii) **Hall committee** representatives continue an - as required & subject to councillor availability.
- iv) **School Governing Body:** No appointment as not DCC"s turn to sit on the Governing Body.

14). To **Review** arrangements (including legal agreements) with other local authorities, not for profit bodies and businesses.

- i) Review the Councils' expenditure incurred under s.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 or Annual charity policy.
- ii) Subscriptions and memberships ie SLCC, One Voice Wales.

15). **Meetings Dates:** Meetings will be held on the last Monday of the month except for August when no meeting will be held.

29 th June 2026 Itton Village Hall
27 th July 2026 Itton Village Hall
28 th Sept 2026 Hood Hall
26 th Oct 2026 Hood Hall
30 th Nov 2026 Hood Hall
?? Dec 2026 TBC
25 th Jan 2027 Hood Hall
22 nd Feb 2027 Hood Hall
22 nd Mar 2027
April 2027 TBC

It is recognised that alternative dates may need to be substituted in some instances.

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 6.57pm