

DRAFT MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held Tuesday 26th May 2026 18.57 pm, Itton Village Hall,

Councillor's Present:

Cllr H Turner- Chair
Cllr J Williams
Cllr A Williams -
Cllr P Kenington
Cllr A. Kitson Smith
Cllr M Powell

In Attendance: J McLagan (Clerk), C Cllr R. Buckler.

1. Apologies: Cllr J. Lucas (unable to connect online)

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda: Declared by H Turner, in regard of correspondence received regarding Coal Lane.

3. Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting - Resolved - Minutes 27th April 2026 confirmed and signed.

4. Public Participation: None

5. Police Report: – SPCO Cordingly was unable to attend, the April police report was noted, and SPCO is arranging police surgeries in Devauden.

6. Matters Arising:

- i. **Community Orchard:** Awaiting update from MCC (Planning application noted) **Action** MCC
- ii. **Bus Shelter - Works** required, Email from R Cook, MCC looking at any necessary works. **Action** MCC
- iii. **Road Safety:**
 - a) **Speeding/Incidents reported:** 3 incidents of speeding were noted in Devauden Village with driver overtaking dangerously. 3 incidents of speeding were also noted around Itton with aggressive driving and overtaking dangerously. Speeding incidents were also noted on the St Arvans Road.
Action: Clerk to chase SPCO for speed monitoring affected areas.
 - b) **Devauden Public consultation update;**
 1. Ongoing – Clerk to contact MCC for update
 - c) **Itton Village Road Safety**
 1. Meeting arranged for 18th June 7pm in Itton Village Hall to discuss phase 2 of the works, Signs have been ordered and should be fitted soon.
 - d) **St Arvans Road – Action:** Clerk to arrange visit with MCC.
- iv. **Defibrillators:** Howick still awaiting final electrical works, Cobblers Plain still awaiting electrical connection. R. Edwards confirmed the location of the previous Defibrillator as Fair Oak, St Arvans, which is not part of the DCC Ward.
Action : Clerk to continue to chase.

- v. **Telephone Boxes** – Quote read and discussed, DCC to continue to look at other options. The council is aware that all 3 telephone boxes require attention and seeking a cost effective solution. **Action** Cllrs to complete policy and look for other options. Clerk to contact OVW for advice.
- vi. **Meetings Attended** (& forthcoming meetings) Cllr JW and MP attend the last meeting with OVW and reported some confusion regarding County Cllrs attending meetings and prior to Senedd elections. Cost of living crisis and the current cost of Heating oil , the effects on rural areas and what Community Councils can do to help. Warm spaces was mentioned, however the ward has had a limited response in previous years. Wye Valley Villages, have a meeting coming up with Cllr HT and AW to attend.
- vii. **Coal Lane:** – Ongoing. Email received from local resident highlighting the issues around using the lane due to damage caused by off road vehicle and safety concerns. Response received from MCC, DCC have objected to this matter, hope to get a resolution soon, it is unfortunately taking a long time for MCC to rectify.
- viii. **Y Fedw Encampment** – Email received from NRW confirming they are taking enforcement action. **Action:** Clerk to chase in a week's time .
- ix. **DCC Land/Trees** - Further to an email from MCC regarding land , local knowledge of land was discussed and agreed to establish ownership, awareness of any trees on these areas and if they are land registered. **Action:** Cllr MP to establish ownership of Rhyd y Fedw green.
Allotment Tree. Concerns have been raised regarding the safety of this tree in the light of its condition, particularly in regard to the safety of allotment holders. **Action:** Clerk to seek quotes for removal.
- x. **Wesley Statue** – After discussion, it was felt that The Hall committee would be advised to apply to DCC for grant towards the repair of the village board. **Action** Hall committee.
- xi. **Clerks Laptop** – Clerk reported the laptop was not working for a period of time, it was resolved for the clerk to purchase a new one which has been budgeted for. **Action** Clerk to obtain 3 quotes.
- xii. **Meeting Dates for December, Action** Clerk to pursue alternative venue.
- xiii. **Insurance Quote** – New Quote received and accepted. **Action** Clerk
- xiv. **Grant Donations.** The charity policy was discussed and reviewed; 2 x Applications discussed and approved.
1) Application 1, Equipment for Bowls group - DCC to purchase equipment on behalf of group. Grant (not more than £500)
2) Application 2 , St Deiniol's Church A donation of £500 towards the repair of memorial lynch gate.
Action Clerk
- xv. **To read and approve the annual return for year end 31st March 2026** Cllr HT and the Clerk signed the return.

7. Clerks Report – As circulated and taken as read.

8. Finance May 26

PAYEE	REASON FOR EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT £	VAT £	TOTAL £	PAYMENT METHOD
Clerk	Salary May	826.10		829.10	BACS

Clerk Expenses	Expenses	83.33		83.33	BACS
A Williams	Microsoft May	48.30	9.66	57.96	BACS
P Brabon	Auditor	150.00		150.00	BACS
Torfaen	Pension	195.72		195.72	BACS
Zurich	Insurance	411.15		411.5	BACS
Ebay	Inks	23.32	4.67	27.99	BACS
Cllr remuneration	3 x Cllrs	968.00		968.00	BACS
				2,573.00	Transfer

Balances: Current Account **£3,974.90** & Savings Account **£65,967.96**

Liabilities as circulated, discussed and approved.

9. Correspondence: Emails: Correspondence lists as circulated and taken as read and discussed as appropriate. Email regarding Well Lane, DCC are aware and are liaising with MCC.

10. Planning: 3 x Items Cllrs considered, discussed and where able, voted upon the following: _

- a) **DM/2026/00432** - Listed Building Consent Heritage – Itton Village Hall, Itton, 'No Objection'
- b) **DM/2024/01107** - Planning Permission – Access route Cwm Fagor Road to Field, Devauden "Objection" on the following points:
 - i) The application is referring to the area as 'marginal land' which is incorrect. It is referred to as community orchard both in the planning application and the planning report. There should not be a fence blocking public access.
 - ii) The 5 metre green link between houses 11 and 12 is a route to the Community Orchard and wild flower meadow area. Residents cannot walk through the community orchard and exit towards the B 4293 because of the fence.
 - iii) The informal footpaths traverse the community orchard but are no longer accessible.
 - iv) The two blocks of fruit trees referred to in the plan are no longer accessible.
 - v) Rear gardens of the new houses clearly stop at the edge of the community orchard. Hedges should not be put across the community orchard to extend those gardens. Their boundary is described as a post and rail fence.
 - vi) Throughout the application the community orchard was referred to as a community amenity, not purely a 'visual' amenity as stated by one resident/well lane management Co member. Unless someone stands in the privately owned adjoining land it is not visible, as the hedge blocks any view from the B4293.
 - vii) When in discussions with the developer DCC were advised that the potential buyers of the properties would be part of a management company who would be responsible for maintaining the community orchard in perpetuity.
- c) **DM/2026/00505** - Planning Permission - Corn Farm, Old Quarry Road, Devauden "No Objection"

d) **NRW – 3 x sites** – applying to place a in locality/but not the ward, - Change of use of part of car parking area , for the provision of one mobile food/drink van in the car park.

Comment would like to see Dates for the season they will be sited, ideally no generators and an action for managing litter.

Action: Clerk to notify MCC planning

11. County Councillors' Report: –

C Cllr R Buckler welcomed the forthcoming RDLP consultation taking place in June & July as some very large projects have been pushed through, that require more consultation.

12. My Mon APP Outstanding Reports: Nothing outstanding.

13. One Voice Wales:– As above

14. Ward Reports:

Cllr J Lucas: – Unable to join meeting

Cllr P Kenington: - Nothing extra, not already reported.

Cllr A Kitson-Smith: – In addition to speeding issues, reported pot holes in the area

Cllr J Williams: Nothing extra to items already discussed.

Cllr A Williams: Nothing extra to report

Cllr M Powell: Reported potholes on the Itton to Shirenewton Road, and requested a copy of the footpaths map for the area. **Action:** Cllr MP to report potholes, Cllr Buckler to forward details of Footpaths officer. Clerk to contact Footpaths officer.

Cllr H Turner: Nothing extra to items already discussed.

In answer to a matter raised by R Edwards, it was confirmed that DDC have supplied litter picking equipment placed in the 3 x Telephone boxes for public use. DCC is unable to fund any insurance or signs due to safety concerns. Noticeboard for Howick, this was discussed and it was concluded that there is insufficient benefit to place a Noticeboard in Howick plus it was not budgeted for 2026/7 financial year.

15. Items and date for next meeting: Monday 29th June 7pm monthly meeting at Itton Village Hall. Meeting closed by Cllr H Turner @ 8.55pm

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