

DRAFT MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held Monday 24th June 2024 7.15pm, Hood Memorial Hall, Devauden

Councilor's Present:

H Turner
M Powell
J Williams
P Kennington

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

1. Apologies: Rachel Buckler Ward, Cllr J Lucas, Cllr A Williams, Cllr A Kitson Smith

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda. None declared

3. Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting and AGM. Minutes For May 2024 Monthly meeting confirmed and signed, Minutes for AGM May 2024 confirmed and signed.

4. Public participation 15 minutes – 5 minutes each from Mr D Maddocks, Mr C Mee, and Ms S Whitehead.

Raised safety concerns regarding the recent music festival:- Brief synopsis of items mentioned:

1. Last minute increase in numbers of cars on field
2. Last minute increase in number of campers on field
3. No measurement of number of public attending event.
4. Car park closed then reopened due to mud on field/congestion in village.
5. Risk Assessments – not applicable to all scenarios, and no lead person for contact.
6. No waste tanks supplied to campers using own toilets.
7. In sufficient marshalling at peak times
8. Missing child procedure/policy not in place.
9. Road covered in mud with no warning signs or clear up arranged.
10. No road safety policy for vehicles leaving the event.
11. Tankers holding effluent left on road, 4 weeks post event. Ongoing discussion between above mentioned participants & Festival Committee. **JW** to draw this to the Hall Committee's attention because of health and safety/ environmental health issues.

5. Police Report - None received, Clerk to chase with Gwent Police

6. Matters Arising

- i. **Play Equipment** – Play group committee update– have decided upon provider, now looking at equipment. Contact made with another parish council regarding "*VATGPB4440 - Section 33 bodies: recoverable VAT: community projects*". **PAG** - the launch of the fundraising for the new playground equipment will take place at the village fete. Rob Carey was the person who attended DCC Meeting Feb 2022 regarding the grant for the community. **Clerk has made contact and copied in Mike Moran, from MHA.**
- ii. **Audited Accounts** : Accounts received from internal auditor - were read, approved and signed ready to submit to OVW
- iii. **Itton sign Consultation** : Responses received and ongoing, referred to next month.
- iv. **Tree** – Successful pollarding of Allotment tree, wood/logs available on site for villagers. Tree sculptors contacted again for quotes, no response as yet.
- v. **Community Orchard** – Fencing has been put up preventing access at present.
- vi. **Allotment Maintenance** – **JW** spoken to Mr F Richards. He will pay but is unable to use internet banking. Withheld payment as work needs doing on the allotments e.g. trees & hedges need cutting back. Fencing

needs to be looked at.

Cash payment to be made and Clerk to transfer to DCC account. **JW to seek quote for allotment works.**

- vii. **Allotment Land** – Clerk and Cllr Williams to arrange meeting with solicitor in July.
- viii. **Litter Pick** – update from residents. They were not impressed with the reply we had. One of the interested person is going to talk to someone who currently litter picks in another village and see what their set up is.
- ix. **Meetings & Training Attended: 2 Items reported:** Cllr Turner confirmed attendance of 2 online training courses with OVW and was very positive. 1 more course booked.
Hall committee meeting feedback Cllr Williams reported:
 - Have the contact details of a clerk in a parish council that has successfully claimed VAT back on playground equipment. He is prepared to talk to us.
 - The hall committee would like some cherry trees for Cae Ni field.
 - They do not want the portrait of King Charles III
 - Thought the suggestion of setting aside money that would be ring fenced for future playground equipment was a good idea. They need to consider it further. *This needs to be discussed and make a decision for our budget.*
 - When asked why they wanted to get rid of responsibility for the Wesley statue. It doesn't fit within what they do which is maintenance and fund raising for the hall. The speaker is not working but was told that it is probably a battery problem. Apparently, there is a key that accesses the statue/battery which needs to be investigated/located.
- x. **Clerks hours** – It was resolved to increase the clerks' hours from 8 to 12 per week from 1st August 2024. Clerk to prepare a costing for next meeting, to include pension information.

7. Clerks Report

- (a) **Policies** – Cllr Renumeration
- (b) **Tree Cutting** - completed, Clerk seeking quotes from Tree Sculptors
- (c) **Defibrillators & Phone boxes** - Update - Electricians not keen to quote, only one has expressed an interest to quote. It was agreed to go ahead with works if under £250.00
- (d) **Audit Information preparation** - After tonight's meeting the clerk will be ready to upload the information.
- (e) **Website** – Update Clerk to re share link and Cllr Turner offered support to Clerk with website.
- (f) **Allotments payment** – F Richards will be paying outstanding by cash or cheque.
- (g) **Portrait of HRH King Charles** – still looking for a home

8. Finance

Approved finances as per schedule below

PAYEE	REASON FOR EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT £	VAT £	TOTAL £	PAYMENT METHOD
Clerk	Salary June	789.10		789.10	BACS
Clerk Expenses	May Expenses	50.33		50.33	BACS
A Williams	Microsoft	51.37	10.27	61.64	BACS
Beverley & Williams ACC	Payroll Apr – June Inv 26301	30.00	6	36.00	BACS
Clive Francis	Tree cutting	1,675.00	335	2,010.00	BACs
HMRC	PAYE 1 st Quarter	65.20		65.20	BACS
One voice Wales	Training Inv 8046	40.00		40.00	BACS

P Brabon	Audit	100.00		100.00	BACS
One voice Wales	Training Inv 8093	40.00		40.00	TRSF
HSBC	Bank charges 26/05/24-25/06/24	5.00	0	5.00	HSBC

Balances Current account **£4,413.61** & saving account **£22,006.33 (71.68 interest)**

9. Correspondence:

Emails: Previously sent Via email , with agenda.

10. Planning: None

11. County Councilor's Report - Rachel Buckler County Council Update

My apologies for not being able to be with you this evening.

Generally regarding the County Council business, things are very quiet during the election period, and we will get back to normal after the 4th July.

One of the things that keeps being flagged up to me are the pothole repairs, and how little time they last for. Myself and fellow Councillors in the rural wards are increasingly disappointed by the approach of the Council in dealing with this issue. It is an enormous waste of resources, and things need to change. I will update you on our plans to lobby for change in the way these are handled.

I am pursuing road markings on Star Pitch, as residents feel there should be more markings to try and slow down the road users.

I'd like to invite Gareth Freeman, Assistant Road Engineer for Monmouthshire Council to our next Community Council meeting, to discuss a plan for reimagining the road configuration in Devauden to make it less dangerous for pedestrians and road users alike. I think it would be much more productive for us to discuss this in person. He is on annual leave until 3rd July, but I can flag it up for him on his return.

On a County Councillor level, it is good to see that residents are contacting me to help them with problems they are experiencing, and there is a healthy amount of engagement by residents of the Devauden Community Council area.

There is nothing that I need to flag up to the Community Council at the moment. Again apologies I cannot be with you this evening. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Regards Rachel Buckler

12. My Mon APP Outstanding Reports: No reports,

13. One Voice Wales – nothing to report

14. Ward Reports

Cllr H Turner – No issues to report – asked if DCC attend the Wye Valley Tracks & Trails meeting, and offered to feed back.

Cllr P Kenington – Reported Japanese knotweed on the road side of the fence by Hood Hall, near to salt box. The council have been notified stating they would wait till it was mature before doing anything. **Clerk to raise with Cllr R Buckler** to see if anything can be done sooner.

Cllr M Powell – Reported issue with telephone box, bulb needs replacing, Door needs maintenance, outside needs painting, suggested making it a community project.

It was highlighted that the bench requires cleaning and painting.

Cllr Powell also reported he was pleased to have received feedback from residents regarding the Itton Sign consultation. **Clerk to create poster for noticeboard asking for volunteers and making locals aware that materials can be paid for by DCC with prior approval. Clerk to look at electrical supply to phone boxes.**

Cllr J Williams – Concern reported over the spread of branches of large tree (silver birch) by the phone box in Itton. High sided vehicles having to move across the road when approaching the B4293 -**public to report on Mon app, and Clerk will also report.**

Problem with sewage vehicles accessing the sewage plant in Well Lane. Large tankers travel along the pavement for a considerable distance and have demolished the bank on 15 Cwm Fagor. See photo. Numerous tankers were using the lane the week before the music festival for the annual emptying. They were seen parking and waiting in the 'for access only' part of Well Lane while one tanker went down before they could proceed. Incident when one tanker's mirror was knocked by a branch into the side window of the cab which smashed. Residents were assured by contractor (Celvac) that smaller tankers would be used but the large ones are still being used. **Clerk to contact Sewage Works/Welsh water in the first instance.**

Cllr J Lucas – Submitted the following in her absence from J Howell.

Hi Jane,

I've been tasked by the Projects Group to check with you on the progress of acquiring the Defibrillator and Noticeboard.

- I see from DCC minutes that two defibrillators and one cabinet have been purchased and that DCC is awaiting confirmation of location for Llanfihangel.

I can now confirm that Marjorie Williams/Claire Whitehouse have agreed to locate the defibrillator on the wall of the Hairdressing Salon at Glen View.

What's not clear from the minutes is the intended allocation of the cabinet. I'm assuming that it's intended for Llanfihangel as we don't have a telephone box. Am I right?

I also note that the Clerk is to seek quotes to service/installation. Do you know what the intended (or hoped for) timescale for completing this (seeking quotes/achieving installation) is?

- Regarding the replacement Noticeboard, Minutes dated 23 September 2023 refer to this request and state "when the budget will be considered" but I can't find any further reference to this in subsequent minutes. Could you clarify this for us please.

I know it's a busy time for you so, many thanks Jane.

Jadwiga x

Clerk to thank the group and make contact to arrange quote/fitting. Clerk to agenda noticeboard for next meeting.

15. Items and date for next meeting

Monday July 29th 7.15 pm

Meeting closed at 9.30pm