

DRAFT MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held Monday 30th Sept 2024 7.15pm, Hood Memorial Hall, Devauden

Councillor's Present:

Cllr H Turner
Cllr M Powell
Cllr J Williams
Cllr P Kenington
Cllr A Williams,
Cllr A Kitson Smith -online
Cllr J Lucas

In Attendance: , J McLagan (Clerk to the Council), D Maddocks, C Knight , C Farnworth, L Coulthard, B Knight, A M Richards, A W Williams, S Wellbar, R Howell, J Howell, I Morgan, A Farnworth, J Farnworth, E, Farnworth, A Morgan, L Richards, H Morgan, Pat I, M Oneil, A Netley, H Ellis, E Ellis,

1. Apologies: Cllr Rachel Buckler

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

3. Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting and AGM. Resolved - Minutes for July 2024 Monthly meeting confirmed and signed.

4. Public participation 15 minutes – 5 minutes each from 1) Mr D Maddocks, 2) Mr C Knight.

A) Mr D Maddocks reported:

Thanks to the Council for arranging the new speed signs & mentioned hedge by allotments needs cutting.

Recently attended the AGM at Hood Hall, but unable to share his concerns regarding recent music festival at the meeting. Was told he could speak at the next meeting, but this was closed meeting. Mr Maddox feels its important to discuss how the festival went, good aspects and issues that could/need improvement.

- 1) Discussed safety concerns, during the festival, including road safety, parking and villager concerns.
- 2) Mustic Festival moving to an undisclosed venue.
- 3) Mentioned grant for festival was for 3 years. (1 year remaining) this is believed to have been claimed for the benefit of the village, jobs, community etc.
- 4) Next open meeting is in October and Mr Maddox is hoping he can relay his views.

DCC thanked Mr Maddox for his comments and confirmed they are not affiliated to the Music festival but do support anything that is safe for the village.

B) Mr C Knight speaking on behalf of remaining listed attendees, reported:

Objecting to the change of use of The Star Inn Public House to a residential property. **Planning Proposal DM/2024/01036**

Technical Aspect:

- 1) Does not comply with National planning policy of Wales & MCC planning policy rules regarding public houses.
- 2) Has not been properly and adequately marketed as a public house - No evidence of this.
- 3) Within 3 months of closing, the public house was asset stripped, all the furniture and kitchen equipment sold off. Closed end of last year.

- 4) Insufficient time given to the group to put together a community plan to purchase or lease, after being approached by owner.

Community Aspect:

- 1) Catastrophic for the community, affected the heart of the community.
- 2) 77 objections received from community members.
- 3) Historic asset that was used by the community for community activities. Hub for local events.

Requesting DCC to reject the application on the above notes. Request the public house is marketed correctly and advertised as a business for the obligatory 18 months.

C) Cllr Williams agreed to discuss **Agenda Item 10**, Planning Matter **DM/2024/01036** - Change of use of public house into a residential dwelling. It was also noted that Cllr R Buckler has also registered an objection to the proposal.

It was resolved by unanimous vote to object on the following grounds:

1. Non-compliance of statutory requirements.
2. Loss of community asset and local amenities to the community and village, previously well utilised as a Hub in the area.
3. Incorrectly advertised as per rules and regulations.
4. Business asset striped within 3 months of closure.
5. The council would like to see the correct process applied to allow the Community Campaign group to put a plan/proposal forward for the Public House.

5. Police Report - None received, A Jones has not responded to emails or telephone messages. Clerk to write to Police commissioner and try and speak to another local SCPO . **Cllr Lucas** offered assistance with this.

6. Matters Arising

- i. **Gareth Freeman** – Re imagining road/road priorities – **Deferred**.
- ii. **Play Equipment** – Play group committee update– Chair reported Playground ACT group final quote £84K to supply play equipment to 0 –16 with disability access and re use some original equipment, all progressing well. Applied for Lottery grant, and looking at additional grants, including MCC. **Clerk** awaiting update from **Rob Carey MCC** community funds.
- iii. **Community Orchard** – **Deferred**:
- iv. **Allotment Land** – Clerk & Chair visited the Solicitors and explained necessary changes to original deed of sale including (but not solely) ensuring the land can be parked on by necessary trades for allotment upkeep and tree works. Clerk registered with Solicitors as a signatory. Discussion took place around the role of council members regarding signing contracts and **Clerk** to seek advice from OVW.
- v. **Litter Picking** – Deferred to Jan/Feb 2025
- vi. **Meetings Attended** - Cllr Turner attended 2 events: **Wye Valley Study tour** looking at charming and protected landscapes, Biodiversity, DEFRA & Access for all, Wheelchair and disability friendly access to sites. Some funding available. **MCC Food and Nature Event** interesting talks covering Flooding prevention, Maindiff Veteran's mental health support.
Cllr J Williams, Cllr P Kenington & Cllr Turner confirmed attendance at Hood hall AGM . Cllr Williams noted that no mention of Wesley statue endowment has been made from Hood Hall and will raise at next meeting.
Cllr Turner has identified several courses of benefit and will let the Clerk know.
- vii. **Pension** - Cllr Williams stated that DCC are obliged to provide a pension to the Clerk. Cllrs to meet separately to discuss.
- viii. **Noticeboard**, - Cllr Lucas to clarify where the notice board will be fitted so quotes for type (wall mounted or on legs) and installation can be sought, as seemed to be some confusion. Permissions, insurance and groundworks need to be sought/costed/quoted.

- ix. **Grants form.** Cllrs happy to use the new grants form, Cllr Kenington suggested quarterly rounds for applications. Noted to utilise new website for this.
- x. **Logo For DCC** - Cllrs thanked Cllr A K Smith and Cllr Turner for their design for the new logo and **resolved** to use it going forward.
- xi. **Website.** Cllrs perused the back office and **resolved** to go ahead with the website. **Clerk to action**
- xii. **Tree Sculptor** – Cllrs liked the designs shared by the Tree carver, it was agreed **clerk** to seek additional quotes, 2/3 and provide proof if no additional quotes are forthcoming.
Run a consultation with the community regarding design when ready. Utilise new website for this.
To measure the tree to establish costs & budget.
Put a band around the tree. Look at other local tree carvings.

Cllr M Powell left the meeting at 20.45pm

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

8. Finance

PAYEE	REASON FOR EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT £	VAT £	TOTAL £	PAYMENT METHOD
Clerk	Salary Sept	771.36		771.36	BACS
Clerk Expenses	Sept Expenses	61.85		61.85	BACS
A Williams	Microsoft Sept 24	49.00	9.80	58.80	BACS
Bev & Williams Acc Serv	Quarterly Payroll	30	6.00	36.00	BACS
St James Church	Churchyard Maintenace	150		150	BACs
SLCC	Training Clerk	60	12	72	BACS
HMRC	Quarterly Payroll	105.40		105.4	BACS
Transfer	Moved £6000 to Savings acc/	6000			Transf
HSBC	Bank charges 26/08/24-25/09/24	5.00	0	5.00	HSBC
				1260.41	

Balances Current account **£2,689.09** & saving account **£26,960.77** Interest rec'd **£104.44** (& 2nd precept rec'd)

Liabilities as circulated, read discussed and approved.

It was noted Churches in the area had not all requested grants. **Churches to email Clerk** with requests

Draft reserves budget circulated and taken as read.

Budget meeting planned for Wed 16th Oct at 6.30 venue to be confirmed.

Items for discussion: Budget, Precept, Reserves & Pension. **Clerk to circulate financials prior** to meeting.

9. Correspondence:

Emails: Correspondence list for Aug & Sept as circulated. Report was taken as read.

Email received from A Washbourne – Cllrs discussed the issues of speed and associated costs of possible equipment for the locality.

Mr Washbournes concerns were noted and recognised, Devauden C Council will be/are looking at the road safety plan for the whole of Devauden and will include Alans concerns in that discussion. Current main issue is the changing of "give-way" area within the Village.

It was noted (in future) to look at "*finding, how other areas have funded speed cameras in their villages*".

10. Planning: In addition to the above planning matter (**item 4 C**) the following were discussed

DM/2024/00907 - Installation of Air Source Heat pump – **No objection**

DM/2024/01028 - Existing Lawful use of farm shop – **No objection**

DM/2024/00978 - Detached Garage and Plant room – **Cllrs would like to see plans of the access** prior to decision.

DM/2024/00518 - Single storey extension to existing Dwelling and replacement of tiles with slate – **No objection.**

Public Path Diversion FB Devauden Order 2024 was taken as read

Notice of Making Consolidation 2019 (Amendment order 14) 2024 – Speed Restrictions was taken as read.

11. County Councilor's Report - Rachel Buckler was absent but issued the following report

***The Star;-** I have been in communication with the planning officer involved to express my objections to this planning application, and this objection will be ongoing, and I have been in communication with David Davies; the lead of the community group who are spearheading the plans for a positive outcome for The Star.*

The road markings on the star hill. They are in the process of being looked at in the schedule of works, and I hope to have updates in the next couple of weeks.

I shall be back next week and will update and get updates regarding these matters.

12. My Mon APP Outstanding Reports: No new reports, current reports showing as completed or ongoing.

13. One Voice Wales – OVW 2 Policies – **Note 8** and **Code of Conduct** discussed and acknowledged. Clerk to forward example of reserves policy to Chair. Cllr Williams noted that OVW had stated policies need to be personalised for each Council.

14. Ward Reports

Cllr H Turner – No issues to report. Discussed Hood Hall AGM, resolved it would be beneficial for Cllrs to attend the meetings when they were able to. Noted that Hood Hall are actively looking for Trustees from the Village.

Cllr P Kenington – No issues to report

Cllr M Powell – Reported issue regarding grass cutting problems on Itton green, received from N Chamberlain.

Cllr A Kitson Smith – No issues to report

Cllr A Williams – No issues to report

Cllr J Lucas – No additional issues to those already discussed.

Cllr J Williams – raised the following 2 points:

1. An anomaly on speed signs, Road marking states 40 mph and Road sign states 30mph. Windy corner. It is confusing to drivers. It is believed this will be rectified upon implementation of **Notice of Making Consolidation 2019 (Amendment order 14) 2024 (speed restrictions)** listed in planning matters Agenda item 10.
2. No action from council regarding pavement near church leading to bus stop, still unsafe. **Clerk** to progress matters with Graham Kinsella, Gareth Freeman and Cllr Buckler. Cllr raised issues last year.

15. Items and date for next meeting Monday October 28th 7.15 pm

Meeting closed at 21.36.

Clerk, J McLagan **Mobile:** 07410 272079 **Email:** clerk@devaudencc.org.uk