

# **DRAFT MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

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

## **Councilor's Present:**

Cllr H Turner  
Cllr M Powell  
Cllr J Williams  
Cllr P Kenington  
Cllr A Williams, Online

**In Attendance:** , J McLagan (Clerk to the Council), D Maddocks , Jo Webb, Steph Whitehead, Connor Mee,

**1. Apologies:** Cllr s Rachel Buckler, A Kitson (unable to attend online), & J Lucas

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

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

**4. Public participation 15 minutes –** from A) Jo Webb, Gavo, B) Mr D Maddocks C) Steph Whitehead , D) Connor Mee.

### **A) Jo Webb from GAVO**

Jo introduced herself and gave a short talk on what GAVO do, and her role within the organisation

- 1) Jo is Community Spaces Outreach officer for Monmouthshire, offering rural support.
- 2) Her role is to support community projects and signpost individuals to possible funding sources, deadlines, and in some situations, assist with applications (national lottery) or offer guidance.
- 3) A sum may be available from GAVO, but the majority of funding is from external sources.
- 4) Jo confirmed that a community hall within the area (Itton) had received support to enable Wi-Fi at their premises. ( i connect assisted with this)
- 5) Jo welcomed Cllrs getting in touch to discuss current projects and look at any available funding.

### **DCC thanked Jo Webb**

### **B) Mr D Maddocks reported:**

- 1) Problems with the verges, they are getting larger on the roads, both narrowing the roads, and blocking the gullies, making them dangerous and prone to flooding.
- 2) Extend the 40mph on the Kilgwrwg Bend, to make it safer.
- 3) Discussed safety concerns, during the festival, including road safety, parking and villager concerns, lack of opportunity to report issues.
- 4) Mentioned Bonfire night format had been changed from previous years.
- 5) Music Festival moving to an undisclosed venue., and possibly out of Devauden
- 6) Highlighted that speed signs in Devauden are conflicting – **See Item 14** in Sept Minutes.

### **C) Steph Whitehead**

1. Raised concerns over safety at the music festival, highlighted the event didn't feel safe or controlled for both staff and attendees of the event. Worried about future events. Concerned that no process was put in place to record health and safety issues at the event or after. Would like the Council to forward these safety concerns onto the MCC.

### **D) Connor Mee**

1. Raised safety concerns with MCC directly as found it difficult to raise concerns with Music Festival organisers, having tried on several occasions.
2. MCC have said they will investigate.
3. Festival organisers missed opportunities to listen to feedback regarding the event blocking any dialogue.
4. Asking what Devauden Community Council can do with respect to safety issues in the Village, and response to village concerns.

**DCC thanked Mr Maddox, S Whitehead and Mr Mee for their comments** and confirmed there is an obligation to pass on safety issues to MCC.

**5. Police Report** – No report received; however, Clerk made contact with the team leader who confirmed he is looking for SPCO to report back for this area.

## 6. Matters Arising

- i. **Play Equipment** – A payment of £2,113.51 received today from MCC awaiting confirmation that is related to the playground. Lottery grant application form completed, will be submitted at the appropriate time. Next meeting will include discussions on further grants that can be applied for. Lynn May is leading this. A fund raiser/awareness evening was held on Saturday 26th October in the form of a Beetle Drive in the hall, organised by Debbie Heap.
- ii. **Community Orchard – Deferred**
- iii. **Allotment Land** – M Mulcahy from OVW has confirmed the method in which deeds are to be signed by a council referring to council standing orders, (section 23) Council are awaiting the revised deeds.
- iv. **Meetings Attended** - Climate action network- **deferred**, **Digital community practice**, Clerk attended online and will share relevant information regarding Wi-Fi in community halls.

Cllr JW Attended the Hall Committee meeting on 10th October 2024. Tim Walker has accepted the Chair position but only in the short term. Debbie Walker is also looking for someone to replace her as Booking Secretary. Three new trustees have been appointed. There are still some legalities to be sorted out regarding the change to the Charity Status. Hold up seems to be with Land Registry and the inevitable delay in changes to bank mandates. New arrangements for Bonfire event have been put in place. Electronic firework ignition has been purchased. Organiser is Jeremy Horton. The event will be ticketed to local people at £2.50 per ticket and £5 for parking in Cae Ni. Tickets are to be purchased in advance and strictly limited. Volunteers are needed for the event. Cllr JW left the meeting at 10 pm before the Wesley Statue came up on the agenda. Will follow up at the next meeting

- v. **Budget and Reserves & Precept** – it was agreed to arrange an additional budget meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> Nov 2024 6.30 pm.
- vi. **Pension** - Deferred to next Budget meeting & new pay scale has come out from NALC which should be backdated to April.
- vii. **Noticeboard**, - Clerk to establish if board is freestanding.
- viii. **Cllr Contact Form**, Cllrs present updated emergency contact information. Clerk to circulate once complete.
- ix. **Bank Mandates**, deferred to next meeting so that all Councilors sign.
- x. **Meetings** – Digital Calander – It was resolved to put all meetings on digital Calendar with team link, this was extended to Cllr Buckler.
- xi. **Pavement by Bus stop** – MCC will chase up with residents for hedge cutting, Highways have been notified to restore pavement width. Suggestion of increase in footway width and traffic calming have been put forward. **Clerk to chase**
- xii. **Tree Sculptor** – **Tree** height confirmed at 5.5 meters, Sculptor made aware and clerk to establish Donor contribution.
- xiii. **Defibrillators** – Llanvihangle and Devauden have new defibrillators fitted. Cllrs discussed siting of Defibrillators in other areas. Clerk has managed to locate a carpenter to look at refurbishment of Telephone box in Itton as proposed site. Clerk is forming a register of codes for the cabinets.

xiv. **AGM –** prosed date for May AGM 2025 Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> **Deferred**

**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	55.36		55.36	BACS
A Williams	Microsoft Sept 24	49.00	9.80	58.80	BACS
MCC	Grass cutting	1217.19	243.43	1460.62	BACS
Hood hall	Meetings	60.00		60.00	BACS
Transfer	Transfer from SA/Ac – Cu/Ac	2400.00			TRF
HSBC	Bank charges 26/08/24-25/09/24	5.00	0	5.00	HSBC
				<b>2410.00</b>	

**Balances** Current account **£3662.19** & saving account **£26,960.77** (**£2113.51** received from MCC and awaiting Vat refund)

**Liabilities** as circulated, read discussed and approved, including the Defibrillator works.

**9. Correspondence:**

**Emails:** Correspondence list for Oct as circulated. Report was taken as read. In addition, new emails received recently from local residents, discussed in ward reports. **Item 14**

**10. Planning:** the following were discussed and resolved

**DM/2024/01023** - Percus Barn - **No objection**

**DM/2024/01289** - Little Cophill - **No objection**

**Also:**

Following an MCC meeting 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024 - attended by Cllr R Buckler, Cllr J W circulated a copy of MCC Replacement Development Plan to various people in Devauden who will pass it on through some of their mailing lists. In addition, a link will be put on the web site . Cllr Buckler confirmed MCC voted for the report to go forward for consultation as it is.

The Churchfields site has been included as a location for 20 houses, 10 low cost/10 market value.

**11. County Councilor's Report –** Cllr Buckler was unable to attend.

**12. My Mon APP Outstanding Reports:** No new reports.

**13. One Voice Wales –** OVW Policies – Clerk reported many new policies/ assessments and reviews had been received and needed help to process these. - Rural Assets Survey, Note 9 Policy, Standing orders, Model financial regulations, Digital self-assessment.

**14. Ward Reports**

**Cllr H Turner –** No issues to report.

**Cllr P Kenington -** Reported:

1. 7 local residents had expressed safety concerns regarding this year's Music festival held in the Village and requested these be escalated to MCC. It was **resolved** that Council should pass these concerns on to MCC and make Organisers of the festival aware.

DCC to ensure local residents are happy to share their details before actioning.

**Cllr M Powell – Raised** the following:

1. Garden bench, requires replacement,
2. Itton Hall now has Wi-Fi and would welcome the Council using the facilities again. (June July – Clerk to arrange.)
3. Telephone box door is very stiff – Clerk to action **See Item 6 xiii**,
4. Mentioned hedge cutting issues in the area.

**Cllr A Kitson Smith** – Not present

**Cllr A Williams** – No issues to report

**Cllr J Lucas** – Not present

**Cllr J Williams** – raised the following points:

1. Coale Lane/Road. The sides of the road have been badly eroded and are hazardous to drive down. Need to be looked at.
2. Drains at the top of Well Lane (original Lane) and the B4293 are blocked.
3. Street light issue. **Clerk to report all on Mon App**
4. Confirmed that the December meeting will now be held 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024

**15. Items and date for next meeting** Monday November 25<sup>th</sup> 7.15 pm

Meeting closed at 22.26

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