

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held Monday 27th January 2025 7.15pm, Hood Memorial Hall, Devauden

Councilor's Present:

Cllr H Turner

Cllr J Williams Chair

Cllr A Williams arrived 7.33pm

Cllr J Lucas (online) left meeting 9pm

Cllr P Kenington

Cllr A Kitson,

In Attendance: J McLagan (Clerk) Mr David Maddocks,

1. Apologies: Cllr R Buckler

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda. : No declarations declared

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

4. Public Participation: Mr D Maddocks.

David Maddocks

- a) Discussing the recent meeting held by Hood Hall, expressed concerns regarding the location of Devauden Music Festival, (not being in Devauden) and number of days, (1 or 2 day) event.
- b) Raised concerns over blocked drains and gullies within the locality, including (but not exclusive) Star Pitch, Forest Track by Hood Hall, and Well Lane Drain (which he attempted to clear himself). Cllrs confirmed that it would be wise to keep reporting on Mon APP, and DM to share additional locations so **Clerk** can also report.

Cllrs thanked Mr Maddocks for his comments and confirmed DCC has no involvement in the festival.

5. Police Report – The Police report was shared and taken as read. **Clerk** to affirm a definite date with E Park.

*There was **one log** around DEVAUDEN from 01/12/24 – 31/12/24, this involves different types of incidents. These were dealt with by NPT and Response officers from the Monmouthshire south area.*

There are two incidents, we cannot disclose with the community council as they are too personal to discuss.

1) There was a report about speeding in the area, this has been dealt with by NPT who have been doing speed monitoring around the area during the Xmas period.

What we plan to do in January:

- Active patrols the area.*
- Still conduct speed monitoring in the village.*
- Attend the next council meeting (If possible).*

6. Matters Arising

- i. **Play Equipment** – Cllr J Williams was pleased to confirm that the local group have been granted a lottery grant of £55k towards the play area (STC) This with the donation of £25k from Hood hall puts them closer to the full amount, which should be finalised soon.
- ii. **Community Orchard** : Cllrs expressed their concerns regarding lack of progress, and **Clerk** to chase with Cllr Buckler. **Discussed Section 106** and how this can be escalated.
- iii. **Land at Allotments** update – **Awaiting the documents** to sign
- iv. **Meetings attended & (forthcoming meetings) :**
 - i) Several Cllrs attended the meeting held by Hood Hall discussing the new set up with trustees. It was well attended by local residents.

- ii) 3 Cllrs attended the Code of Conduct Training, It was well received and informative. **2 more Cllrs to attend** later this year and clerk (if required).
- iii) Meeting with Mr H Dibble (see item 6 viii).
- v. **Noticeboard at Llanfihangel Tory & Mynydd** – Quotes were discussed, and it was confirmed that the Clerk will purchase from Greenbank's. Clerk to confirm insurance arrangements with Llanfihangel community group. Group have also requested first aid training. **Clerk** to enquire on courses available.
- vi. **AGM Date** – Clerk confirmed that the AGM will be held in Itton Hall on Tuesday 25th May 25
- vii. **Website** – Nearly ready to launch, Cllrs and Clerk to finalise areas on website.
- viii. **Meeting with Itton Landowner.** Cllr Kitson and the clerk met with the landowner who walked the area and explained the issues, it was concerning to hear that the landowners stock fence had been cut (apparently for dogs, but sheep could go the other way) and damage to the gate. Also other field gates left open during last year by “ramblers” not on footpaths, resulting in stock in the wrong fields and in some cases, shut in without access to water. There are some genuine concerns from the Landowner who was trying his best to be accommodating. Cllr Kitson produced a detailed report, showing possible solutions. This was shared at the meeting and also with Landowner. **Awaiting feedback landowner.**
- ix. **Devauden Tree** – Cllrs discussed the tree and funding; additional funding is required to progress with the sculpture. It was noted that now the hedge is cut, the tree is a very prominent feature for the area. Current funding DCC £2k, Private offer of donation £1k & £1k, plus match funding of additional £1k, **local contributors/business sought.** Clerk to look at funding source
- x. **Itton Telephone Box** – awaiting quote for new door.

7. Clerks Report – as circulated. Reported relevant updates and taken as read.

8. Finance January 25

PAYEE	REASON FOR EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT £	VAT £	TOTAL £	PAYMENT METHOD
Clerk	Salary Jan 25	760.35		760.35	BACS
Defib store	Defibrillator pads	135.00	27.00	162.00	BACS
Clerk	Expenses Dec 25	62.18		62.18	BACS
Hood Hall		60.00		60.00	BACS
A Williams	Microsoft Jan	49.00	9.80	58.80	BACS
Thomas Becket Church	Donation towards grass cutting	150.00		150.00	BACS
Torfaen LGP	Pension payments Employee & employer	230.24		230.24	BACS
Transfer	Transfer from SA/Ac – Cu/Ac	1500.00			TRANF
HSBC	Bank charges 26/12/24-25/01/25	5.00	0	5.00	
				1442.52	

Bank Balance as 20/01/25 - £1720.56 & £31,376.57

Liabilities as circulated, read discussed and approved.

9. Correspondence: Emails: Correspondence list for January as circulated. Report was taken as read. Telephone call from Welsh water, awaiting email.

10. Planning: : None received

11. County Councilor's Report – Cllr Buckler reported via email

- (a) Can you please let Cllr Turner know that I have flagged up concerns regarding Coal Lane with Peter Davies. I'll update when updates received.
- (b) Llanvihangel Tor y Mynydd. Following concerns raised by Llanvihangel residents, a new dead-end sign is proposed for the entrance to Church Lane from Star Pitch, and a blue sign (bilingual) will be positioned at the last place to turn before Llan Pill (by Llanvihangel Court) saying no passing places beyond this point.

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

13. One Voice Wales – Cllr Williams unable to attend.

14. Ward Reports

Cllr H Turner – Reported lots of Mon App reports regarding blocked drains in the locality in progress.

Cllr P Kenington - No new issues to report.

Cllr A Kitson Smith – Reported a lack of cats' eyes on the road from Howick to Itton making travel in fog very dangerous. Reiterated concerns from residents on lack of proper speed limits around the junction of B4273 and the Kilgwrrwg/Newchurch T junction, looking for more progress. **Clerk** to contact Highways and copy in Cllr Buckler.

Cllr J Williams: – Well Lane drain blocked making it dangerous to cross the road with such a large area of standing water. Looking for a group who can appreciate a portrait of the King, as it requires a permanent home. **Clerk** to email School and scouts.

Cllr A Williams : No issues to report, Confirmed the Road safety meeting being held 3rd Feb with St Arvan's. Donation to Thomas Becket Church for grass cutting. Confirmed and agreed.

Cllr J Lucas : – No issues reported (offline)

Cllr M Powell : – Not present

15. Items and date for next meeting 24th February 2025 at 7.15pm at Hood Hall .

Meeting closed by Cllr J Williams @ 9.30pm.