

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held Monday 31st March 2025 7.15pm, Hood Memorial Hall, Devauden

Councilor's Present:

Cllr J Williams - Chair
Cllr H Turner –
Cllr A Williams –
Cllr J Lucas -
Cllr P Kenington -
Cllr Malcom Powell –

In Attendance: J McLagan (Clerk) Cllr R Buckler, David Maddocks

1. Apologies: Cllr A Kitson Smith

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

3. Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting - Resolved - Minutes February 24th 2025 Monthly meeting confirmed and signed.

4. Public Participation: Mr D Maddocks

- i) Mr Maddocks raised concerns regarding hedgerow, on the Tintern to The Cot Road opposite the fish pond by the bridge.
- ii) Hedgerow in Wolvesnewton, near Well Lane / Great House Farm, needs siding

Clerk to action report on Mon, and DCC reminded Mr Maddocks that he can also report to MCC online using the same service.

5. Police Report – Police report was not received Clerk to chase

- i. **Play Equipment** – Cllr J Williams reported from the Playgroup Action Group, that the cost increase was 170, and that there is expected to be a small shortfall. A fit date beginning of June is planned. The group are still fundraising and applying for grants for the cost to install fencing around the play area. **No Action**
- ii. **Community Orchard:** Cllr Buckler confirmed that MCC planning had contacted the Management company regarding the Community Orchard and requested the fencing be removed, to enable the village community to enjoy the gifted space. **No Action - Monitor**
- iii. **Meeting with Itton Landowner.** Landowner confirmed that members of the public had damaged padlocked gate on the permitted path, this damage creates difficulty in creating a work around for walkers. **Cllr Kitson Smith to contact and discuss.**
- iv. **Audit – Resolved** to contact Phil Brabon as internal auditor. **Clerk to arrange.**
- v. **Land at Allotments: Resolved –** No action required for the land prior to purchase. **Clerk** to notify Solicitors.
- vi. **Meetings attended & (forthcoming meetings):** Cllr A Williams confirmed he had attended a walk around meeting with MCC, looking at a shopping list of items needed and awaiting minutes of this meeting.
- vii. **Noticeboard at Llanfihangel Tory & Mynydd –** Noticeboard has been delivered. Awaiting confirmation it's been checked. **Clerk to add to asset register and insure.**
- viii. **Website –** Nearly ready to launch, Cllrs Williams, H Turner and Clerk to meet to finalise and go live.
- ix. **Road safety meeting –** A report from Gareth Freeman was received and discussed, regarding Devauden Road safety, and crossings, comments and suggestions were fed to Cllr Buckler. Cllrs expressed concerns that there was still no safe place to cross, especially for Hood Hall and play area. Drop kerbs were mentioned and it was felt all agencies would benefit from consultation. A Local

resident had also contacted Cllr Fookes and a meeting in the village is planned next week to discuss road safety. Several Cllrs confirmed they would attend.

- x. **Itton & Howick Hall Funding –£7500 requested.** Whilst DCC are happy to make small donations to local projects it was agreed it could not solely fund projects. **DCC to make contact to discuss the halls fundraising options.**
- xi. **Archives – Costings and type – Clerk to clarify shelf size**
- xii. **Request £150 grass cutting donation – Agreed & Clerk confirmed payment.**

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

8. Finance March 25

PAYEE	REASON FOR EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT £	VAT £	TOTAL £	PAYMENT METHOD
Clerk Salary	Salary March	760.35	0	760.35	BACS
Clerk	Expenses Feb	55.71	0	55.71	BACS
Torfaen	Pension (employee/er)	230.24	0	230.24	BACS
HMRC	Paye 4 th Qtr	92.40		92.40	BACS
A Williams	Microsoft March	49.00	9.80	58.80	BACS
Beverley & Williams	Last Qtr payroll.	30.00	6.00	36.00	BACS
Beverley & Williams	End of year works	54.49	10.90	65.39	BACS
One Voice Wales	Membership	224.00		224.00	BACS
St Michaels Church, Llanfihangel Tor-y-Mynydd	Grass cutting	150.00		150.00	BACS
Transfer	Transfer from SA/Ac – Cu/Ac	1675.00			TRF
HSBC	Bank charges 26/02/25 - 25/03/25	5.00	0	5.00	HSBC
	total			1527.89	

Bank Balance as 25/03/25 - £5,274.92 & £27,898.10, Noticeboard outstanding, £121.53 interest received

Liabilities as circulated, read discussed and approved.

9. Correspondence: Emails: Correspondence list for March as circulated. Report was taken as read.

10. Planning: To consider **6** matters

DM/2025/00100, - Planning permission Conversion of Attic above stable – The Coach House, Devauden, NP16 6PB – Cllrs voted unanimously and with **no objection** to this matter

DM/2025/00284, Fast track householder, Proposed single storey extension, Lower House Barn, Wolvesnewton, NP16 6NY Cllrs voted unanimously and with **no objection** to this matter.

DM/2025/00 210, Full fast track Planning, Proposed new agricultural building with native hedgerow planting.

Cllrs requested more information on where the muck comes from, position - as prominent, and potential light pollution, visual impact.

DM/2025/00333, Householder - Erection of a Porch, 13 Cwm Fagor Rd, Devauden, NP16 6PJ,

Cllrs voted unanimously and with **no objection** to this matter.

and DM2023/01734 - Retrospective permission - Telecommunication development – to consider the colour of the mast – Cllrs agreed to look at this in the next **7 days** whilst Cllr Buckler engages with the community.

11. County Councilor's Report – Cllr Buckler, in addition to items already discussed, reported

- Concerns regarding MCC using a single care agency for care instead of the pool or agencies they have been currently using to outsource care in the county.
Cllrs discussed micro carers, are they still available and how the agency change may affect carers in the area.

12. My Mon APP Outstanding Reports: No further updates

13. One Voice Wales – Next meeting due 3rd April 2025, New website shared with Cllrs.

14. Ward Reports

Cllr H Turner – Coal Lane update, visited MCC with Rachel Buckler and pointed out that the road - listed as a restricted byway but had been changed to unclassified road, which means motorcycles are now using it (and being advertised to motorcyclists as such). MCC acknowledged the error and said they would investigate. The published status is not legally correct and so needs to be rectified.

Jane Lucas – Still awaiting dead end signs on Church Lane,

Cllr P Kenington - Met up with residents and Gareth Freeman and junction to Y Feddw, Road needs clearing and white lines put in to make pulling out safer. **Action MCC May/June**

Cllr A Kitson Smith – Absent.

Cllr J Williams: – As discussed previously Coal Lane issues with motorbikes reported on the lane and trees belonging to Natural Resource Wales in need of cutting back. **Clerk** to chase NRW on report bikes to MCC.

Cllr A Williams: - No new issues to report.

Cllr M Powell: Concerned about Defibrillator not working, concerned about state of phone box, **Clerk** to make sign and put in telephone box, and ensure 999 are aware it's out of order. **Cllr Powell to seek additional quote to repair door.**

Resolved – **Clerk to purchase new Defibrillator** and to arrange for electricians to test phone box, replace light bulb if electric supply is secure.

15. Items and date for next meeting 28th April 2025 at 7.15pm at Hood Hall.

Meeting closed by Cllr J Williams @ 9.50pm.