

## Draft MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held Monday 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 2024 7.15pm, Hood Memorial Hall, Devauden

### Councilor's Present:

Cllr H Turner  
Cllr A Williams,  
Cllr J Lucas (online)  
Cllr P Kenington  
Cllr M Powell  
Cllr A Kitson,

**In Attendance:** J McLagan (Clerk) Cllr R Buckler (Online), Mrs Debbie Walker, Mr David Maddocks,

**1. Apologies:** Cllr J Williams,

**2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda.** : Malcolm declared an interest in planning matter **DM/2023/01118**

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

**4. Public Participation:** Mr David Maddocks.

### David Maddocks

- a) Discussing the recent Storm Darragh and associated very long outages, mobile phone, Electricity and water
- b) The above services only have battery back up for 4 hours.
- c) Concerned he had no method to contact emergency services.
- d) Discussed his concerns regarding legality of running the Devauden Music Festival outside the Devauden Parish, shared a document he had prepared.

Cllrs recognise David's concerns regarding the long outages and requested the Clerk contact – Western Power, Welsh Water, EE, BT, outreach, requesting what they have in place to mitigate this happening again.

Cllrs acknowledged David's concerns regarding the festival being held out of area, and Clerk to pass his document on to members of the music festival committee.

**5. Police Report** – The Police report was shared and taken as read. Clerk to request SPCO attendance at near future meeting.

*There were Three incidents around DEVAUDEN from 11/11/24 – 30/10/24, 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.*

### 6. Matters Arising

- i. **Play Equipment** – Agreed that DCC will contribute an amount towards this project, further updates deferred.
- ii. **Community Orchard** : Cllr Buckler confirmed she had contacted Paul Griffiths, that initial feedback was they were unimpressed and Cllr Buckler to chase.
- iii. **Land at Allotments** update – Confirmation received that changes had been made, Clerk to forward copy of minutes confirming resolutions relevant to signing the documents.
- iv. **Meetings attended & (forthcoming meetings)** : None
- v. **Budget & Reserves:** The Budget was discussed, voted and approved. The Precept for 2025 was discussed, voted and approved. Increases are to aid the community plus increased ongoing costs.
- vi. **Confirmation Clerk is RFO** – It was resolved that the Clerk is the RFO for Devauden CC

- vii. **Resolution Stating that the postholder (Clerk) is eligible to join the LGPS.** It was resolved that the Clerk will have a requirement of a Pension where it is mandated up to 25%. Clerk to action
- viii. **Adoption of Standing Orders Revised document.** The updated standing orders were taken as read, discussed and resolved. Clerk to Action with Solicitors
- ix. **NALC Pay agreement** – It was resolved to approve the NALC pay increase and make back payments from April to the clerk.
- x. **Clerks Pension** – previously discussed and approved.
- xi. **Noticeboard at Llanfihangel Tory & Mynydd** – quotes and costs were discussed, it was resolved to look for more quotes now a specification has been agreed. (wood effect and CC banner atop) Cllrs and Clerk to action
- xii. **Bank Mandate signatory** – Cllrs signed the new bank mandates, Clerk & Chair to complete the process.
- xiii. **Contact sheet** – All those attending completed their details with Cllr Buckler adding her own. Contact sheet is solely for internal use and not to be shared. Clerk to action
- xiv. **Tree works** update – A sum has been set aside in next year's budget to pursue the tree sculpture providing match funding can be sought. Ongoing
- xv. **AGM Date** – It was resolved to move the AGM to Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 25 providing a venue can be found. Clerk to action
- xvi. **Code of Conduct Training** – 3 Cllrs took up the bookings for Code of Conduct training. Clerk to look at attending next year.
- xvii. **Website** – It was agreed to continue with website, clerk to check method of newsletter facilities.
- xviii. **Precept** – Approved with Budget

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

#### 8. Finance December

PAYEE	REASON FOR EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT £	VAT £	TOTAL £	PAYMENT METHOD
Clerk	Salary Dec	999.75		999.75	BACS
Beverley & Williams	Payroll Qtly inv	30.00	6.00	36.00	BACS
Clerk	Expenses dec	45.65		45.65	BACS
A Williams	Microsoft Nov	49.00	9.80	58.80	BACS
HMRC	Qtly TAX & NIC	162.57		162.57	BACS
clerk	Amazon ink	13.50		13.50	BACS
Transfer	Transfer from SA/Ac – Cu/Ac	1310.00			TRANF
HSBC	Bank charges 26/11/24-25/12/24	5.00	0	5.00	
				<b>1316.37</b>	

**Balances - Bank Balances as 10/12/24** - £805.83 & £25,186.57 Interest received £125.80

**Liabilities** as circulated, read discussed and approved.

#### 9. Correspondence:

**Emails:** Correspondence list for December as circulated. Report was taken as read. MCC grass cutting quote was discussed and noted.

**10. Planning: : DM/2023/01118 - Cllrs objected to this planning application**

**11. County Councilor's Report – Cllr Buckler reported**

- (a) Star Hill – things put in place to address speeding are in the pipeline – no change
- (b) The Star – no update
- (c) Following concerns expressed by residents, particularly in rural wards of Monmouthshire such as Devauden, a motion was brought to Monmouth County Council on 12th December by Councillor Jan Butler following flooding experienced in Monmouthshire.

**Submitted by County Councillor Jan Butler**

***This Council:***

- *Thanks, to the emergency workers, volunteers and all those who supported Monmouthshire residents during Storm Bert.*
- *Expressions of concern that a lack of maintenance of the county's drainage infrastructure will have exacerbated flood risks.*
- *Calls on the council to reassess its processes to mitigate flood events and evaluate the size and funding of the workforce dedicated to drainage maintenance and environmental management.*

**It was debated and an amendment was put forward by Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and The Environment. 21 Councillors voted against the amendment, and 21 Councillors voted for it, with the Chair having a casting vote.**

**Amendment**

- Thanks the emergency workers, volunteers and all those who supported Monmouthshire residents during Storm Bert
- Recognises the increased frequency of severe weather events related to climate change, and the need for many forms of intervention to mitigate the impact on our communities
- Calls on the council to reassess its processes to mitigate flood events and evaluate the size and funding of the workforce dedicated to drainage maintenance and environmental management.
- Councillor Tomos Davies proposed a further amendment that recognises the need for maintenance of the county's drainage infrastructure. The following sentence was added 'including maintenance of the county's drainage infrastructure'.

**The Motion was carried by 37 votes for and 2 votes against.**

- (d) Following on from the announcement in the October budget by Chancellor Rachel Reeves that there would be fundamental changes to the Agricultural Property Relief (APR) and Business Property Relief (BPR) affecting family farms, a motion was brought to Monmouthshire County Council on 12th December 2024 by Councillor Rachel Buckler

**Submitted by County Councillor Rachel Buckler**

***This Council:***

- ★ Greatly values the role of Monmouthshire farmers in producing high quality food, providing food security and acting as the guardians of our natural environment.
- ★ Regrets the UK Government's proposed changes to inheritance tax, specifically the removal of Agricultural Property Relief, which threatens the future of family farms in Monmouthshire.
- ★ Agrees to work with local farming unions and other Welsh councils to persuade the UK Government to protect our rural communities and not kill off family farms.
- ★ It was debated and an amendment was put forward by Councillor Sara Burch, Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, Housing & Tourism.

***Amended:***

- ★ Greatly values the role of Monmouthshire farmers in producing high quality food, providing food security and acting as the guardians of our natural environment.
- ★ Recognises that many farmers are facing a particularly difficult time as a result of the policies of previous Westminster governments, including Brexit, poorly negotiated trade deals and the failure to rein in the power of the supermarkets, as well as global instability and the growing impacts of climate change.

- ★ Acknowledges that the UK Government's proposed changes to inheritance tax, specifically the limiting of Agricultural Property Relief, are perceived as a threat to the future of family farms in Monmouthshire.
- ★ Agrees to work with local farming unions and other Welsh councils to protect our rural communities, supporting them to thrive and to sustain the inter-generational transfer of family farm businesses

**The motion was passed with 17 Councillors voting against it and 21 for it.**

- (e) **RLDP**–Submitted an objection to Devauden 20 house and Monmouth's 270 housing plan. Closing date for consultation is today.

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

**13. One Voice Wales** – nothing to report

#### **14. Ward Reports**

**Cllr H Turner** – Coal Lane – reported status has changed to 'maintainable highway' by MCC from beyond the Tarmac. Significant damage has been caused by motorbikes and this change will now permit this to continue. No notification of change received by DCC or residents. Clerk to contact Cllr Buckler

**Cllr P Kenington** - Discussed confusion over emails regarding complaints. Nothing new to report.

**Cllr M Powell** – Nothing to report, Will Speak to landowner regarding locked gate.

**Cllr A Kitson Smith** – Nothing to report, still a lack of proper speed limits, looking for more progress.

**Cllr A Williams**– A) Traffic Calming - Clerk to arrange a meeting with St Arvan's to discuss road safety – open discussions between the two communities. Cllr Buckler confirmed once achieved, then a meeting with Gareth Freeman can be arranged, and that DCC are prepared to contribute should be well received.

- B) **RDLP - Ref: CS0214 Land at Churchfields Residential - 20 houses** - Objection statement submitted to Clerk to upload same day.

**Cllr J Lucas** – No issues reported (offline)

**Cllr J Williams** – Not present

**15. Items and date for next meeting** 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.15pm at Hood Hall

Meeting closed by Cllr Turner @ 9.25pm

**Clerk, J McLagan    Mobile: 07410 272079    Email: [clerk@devaudencc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@devaudencc.org.uk)**