

DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Clerk: J McLagan - clerk@devaudencc.org.uk

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 27th May 2025 6.30pm @ Itton & Howick Hall

Councillors Present: J Williams, H Turner, M Powell P Kennington, A Kitson-Smith ,
A Williams, J. Lucas

In attendance: J McLagan (Clerk to the Council) , Cllr R Buckler, R Edwards.

Cllr J Williams thanked the councillors for their support over the past year and presented her report.

Chair's Report 2024 – 2025

I would like to start by saying how pleased I am to see the Clerk back with us again.

Thanks are expressed to all the Councillors for their support and diligence during the past year. Several Councillors have completed Code of Conduct Training and other courses provided by OWW. The Clerk has completed the first stage of her mandatory training and will soon complete another online unit. The next stage of training will start in 2026. Thank you to all those who have given up their time to complete this training.

Councillors have attended many meetings throughout the year in addition to DCC's monthly meetings. These include attendance by Cllrs H Turner and A Williams at the Wye Valley Group. New road signs will be provided in Itton. Cllr H Turner has shared updates from Wye Valley Tracks and Trails meetings. Cllrs Powell and J Williams attend the OWW meetings. Cllrs Turner, J Williams, P Kenington, A Williams, M Powell have been present at meetings in a variety of locations in Devauden, Itton and the Veddow to discuss road safety issues with residents and representatives from MCC.

County Councillor Buckley, Cllrs H Turner and J Williams met with Catherine Fookes (MP) and a local resident to discuss road safety issues. Cllrs P Kenington, J Williams and A Williams met with St Arvan's Councillor's regarding road safety between the two council areas.

Jo Webb from GAVO and Gareth Freeman from MCC have attended meetings. Several residents have attended monthly meetings to raise issues relating to road safety, noise, concerns over hedges and planning. DCC is grateful for the participation from residents as it brings to our attention matters of concern to our electorate.

A new notice board and a defibrillator has been provided to Llanfihangel Ward. We are continuing with our plan to update redundant Defibrillators and replace any that have been removed. Following on from our concern over road safety and speeding throughout the Ward, our long-term budgetary plans are that DCC is in a position to possibly part fund effective traffic calming measures. The financial constraints that MCC is operating under mean that it is highly unlikely that they will be able to provide equipment. Cllrs H Turner and A Williams are investigating, through the Wye Valley group, the potential cost of effective equipment that would fit in with the plan being developed for discussion by Gareth Freeman. Additional costs this year have been incurred during the development of Devauden Community Council web site which hopefully will be 'live' very soon. Thanks are expressed to the Clerk, Cllr Turner and A Williams for their input. The Clerk has been enrolled in the Torfaen Pension Scheme. The cost of the Clerk's mandatory training has been shared with Shirenewton Community Council. The condition of the phone boxes is deteriorating. Estimates are being obtained to find the best way to improve them. When BT stops the supply of electricity to them an alternative source will have to be provided for defibrillators.

I apologise if I have forgotten any meetings attended by Councillors. Being a Community Councillor is often a thankless task but I feel that it shows a real commitment to the area we live in. I hope that the Clerk, Cllr Kitson-Smith and Cllr Powell have felt that when they have been walking through the fields in Itton.

Jacqueline Williams

2 . Election of Chair Cllr H Turner was proposed by Cllr J Lucas, seconded by Cllr A Williams. There were no further nominations and a show of hands resolved the appointment of Cllr H Turner as Chair.

3. Election of Vice Chair Cllr A Kitson Smith was proposed by Cllr J Lucas and seconded by Cllr A Williams. There were no further nominations, and a show of hands resolved the appointment of Cllr A Kitson Smith as Vice Chair.

4. Apologies received: None

5. Declarations interest: None

6. **The statutory Documents** – Financial Regulations, Standing Orders and Code of Conduct were reviewed, approved and accepted.

7. The **policies** relating to

- Complaints Procedure
- Members Allowance/Remuneration policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- Local Resolution Protocol
- Retention of Documents policy
- Biodiversity and Resilience policy
- Press & Media policy
- Recruitment and Retention of staff policy
- Equality and Diversify policy
- FOI Publication of Documents policy
- Information and Data Protection policy
- Removable Media policy
- Social Media policy
- Website Accessibility Statement
- Member training plans

The above were reviewed approved and accepted.

8. The Council **Asset Register** was reviewed and accepted.

9. The Council's **Insurance Policy** was reviewed and accepted.

10. **Meetings: OVW:** Cllrs J Williams and M Powell continue as appointed representatives, **Wye Valley Project.** Cllrs A Williams and H Turner were appointed as representatives.

Hall committee representatives continue an - as required & subject to councillor availability.

School Governing Body: No appointment as not DCC's turn to sit on the Governing Body.

11. **Meetings Dates:** Meetings will be held on the last Monday of the month except for August when no meeting will be held.

30 th June 25
28 th July 25
29 th September 25
27 th October 25
24 th November 25
15 th December 25
26 th January 26
23 rd February 26
30 th March 26
27 th April 26
26 th May (Tuesday) 26

It is recognised that alternative dates may need to be substituted in some instances.

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 7.07pm