

**MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY 29 MARCH 2011 AT DEVAUDEN VILLAGE HALL**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: M Powell, K Reece, A Duffield, A Williams, A Cooke, J Williams (chair), E Hall CC Bob Greenland

IN ATTENDANCE: C Martin (clerk), PCSO A Jones, L Futchter, C Pilling, T Pilling, G Wood, J Rowlands (public)

APOLOGIES: N Knowland, PC Cowburn

1) OPEN SESSION

PCSO Jones presented the list of incidents for the last month. See the list at the end of the minutes. He left a selection of newsletters and information leaflets. PCSO Jones left the meeting.

Cllr J Williams confirmed that the public was there to discuss the MCC LDP preferred site PV37. She read out 2 letters from Mrs L Futchter and Mr Kirby regarding the Well Lane development (PV37). Cllr JW said that the first time DCC responded to MCC local development plans was in 2009 when newsletter number 5 came out regarding initial stages of consultation. At that time we had until Friday 17 July 2009 to respond and we had emails from S Bessell, P Gorton, J Baker, P Semple, M Butler and H Cann. DCC completed an online consultation document which talked about 5 major settlements. Cllr JW read out the response given in this document along with the further comments that were based on comments made by residents. She said a final comment was made at the end of the form which she read out that indicated that DCC was not in favour of the proposed developments anywhere in the village. Mrs Futchter asked if this referred to the original preferred site (PV04). Cllr JW confirmed this was the case. Cllr JW then said that the next response was to a notification from MCC to say that some of the sites were not suitable and they wanted response to the then preferred site PV04 only. This was July 2010 and unfortunately the public meeting organised was on the same night as the DCC regular meeting so no DCC councillor was present although CC Bob Greenland was present and gave DCC's views. Following this DCC sent a letter to MCC with its response which was read out to the meeting.

The next response apart from a request to respond after the deadline was a letter sent by DCC on 4 March, following the regular meeting on 1 March. Cllr JW read out the letter but said she was not present in the discussion as she had declared an interest and left the room. Cllr Knowland chaired that section of the meeting but was not present this evening. Mrs Futchter asked why it was not mentioned in this letter that views and access were an issue but was not mentioned in the response when PV04 was the preferred site. Cllr JW said that he may have been because several DCC councillors were at the public meeting held to discuss PV37 so had got a better idea of residents views that they had not had the opportunity to get when PV04 was discussed at a public meeting. Cllr A Williams reiterated that the MCC consultation process means that on this occasion DCC were only allowed to respond regarding the preferred site PV37 as part of the consultation process. Mr Rowlands asked if DCC could write to MCC reiterating that many of the objections relating to PV37 generally applied to any development in the village including PV04. Cllr JW said DCC would have no objection to sending such a letter. Cllr A Cooke said that back in 2009 DCC objected to all the proposed sites in Devauden as part of the consultation and stated these general objections regarding views, impact on the village infrastructure and access. Cllr A Duffield said DCC was not one sided as on this occasion they were only asked to respond regarding Well Lane (PV37). Mr Pilling asked if it could be explained why the other sites were dropped when PV37 was made available. Cllr JW said this was a MCC decisions and DCC had no information. CC B Greenland said that planning officers give their professional opinion and based on this they had determined what they believed to be the most suitable site. He said the process for putting forward sites was open ended which is why PV37 came in later. MR Pilling asked why the first sites were rejected by MCC. Cllr JW said she thought this was on the website and she would send him the link to the MCC website where this is recorded.

Cllr JW proposed that DCC would write to MCC to state that DCC would like to make it clear that the following factors should be considered in relation to any development in Devauden;

1. The village of Devauden has limited facilities, one pub and one small shop, survival of both being an ongoing concern.
2. Shirenewton School is already at capacity and it is possible that the new homes would attract families with children requiring schooling.
3. Public transport through the village is limited and at risk of being reduced further.
4. Rural living is becoming more costly and employment limited.
5. Services for the village are currently restricted. The sewage plant is at its limit, there is no gas supply, water and electricity supplies can be unreliable and it is a poor area for internet and mobile phones.

Seconded by Cllr A Williams. Unanimously agreed. Clerk was instructed to write the letter.

CC B Greenland stated that he attended the majority of DCC's meetings and it was clear that DCC's original response in July 2009 referred to a range of concerns relating to all of the possible sites. The changing of the chairperson when the separate observations were made for PV37 and PV04 may have led to confusion but that was being clarified by the further letter that DCC was sending.

Mr Rowlands asked why the discussion of this was not on the agenda of the meeting of 1st March. The clerk explained the logistics of issuing the agenda which cannot include detailed elements as it is issued at least 2 weeks before the meetings

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and so it is impracticable to include every item as many had not been received yet. Cllr JW asked clerk to check the standing orders and report back at the next meeting. Mrs Fitcher said that the January minutes were not yet on the website. Clerk said she would look into this. Cllr JW said that DCC would discuss issues of communication with the community.

Cllr JW declared the open session closed at 8.45 pm. Several members of the public left the meeting.

2) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes from meeting of 1 March 2011 were agreed and signed by JW and CM.

3) MATTERS ARISING

- 3.1 Highways form reply from 7/3/11 - File
- 3.2 Old school bell - mounting for the church – Andy Williams will talk with Colin Evans a local carpenter to take a look and provide a quote for the next meeting. Mr Evans now has the bell and it is coming up with some ideas for potential mountings. It was decided that JW not contact other potential suppliers as the bell weighs half hundred weight and cannot be easily moved out of the locale.
- 3.3 CM reported that Hood Memorial Hall has now agreed to let the mobile One stop shop stop in the village hall grounds and that Hugh Gorton was going to enquire about the use of toilet facilities at the next meeting.
- 3.4 Updated list of DCC councillors contact details was issued. CM will also email.
- 3.5 Grass cutting – emails received to say that ‘The rougher greens are on a 4 cut schedule with cuts in May, late June, mid August and October. The rest of the areas will be cut from early April onwards.’ And ‘We will be carrying out 14 cuts on a 10 working day throughout the summer period thereby ensuring that our existing standards are maintained.’ Meeting agreed that clerk should send a chart with all the greens on and ask them when they will be cut.
- 3.6 JW had reviewed the consultation on electoral arrangements but CC B Greenland said MCC had received a communication to say this is no longer valid.

4) FINANCE

Balances at 28/3/11 Current; £ 640.73 Notice: £2773.70

- 4.1 Agreed for payment by JW and AC;

Invoice C. Martin, clerk's salary and expenses for March £ 244.36 Cheque no.101194

Kilgerrwg Village Trust – payment of the outstanding balance of the best kept village winnings £79.09, cheque no. 101195 (£150 minus £35.93 and £34.98)

One Voice Wales, membership 2011/12 - £109, cheque no 101195

- 4.2 Devauden Community Council agreed to include Andy Williams on the bank mandate as the new councillor. Christopher Knight to be removed from the mandate as he has resigned from the post of councillor. All other councillor's details remain unchanged. Form completed by Andy Williams, and approved by signatures of Jacquie Williams and Malcolm Powell. Clerk also signed the form as manager of the account.
- 4.3 £20 received from Mr Richards, Mr Nicholls and Mr Maggs for allotment rent. Will be banked in April as is for 2011.
- 4.4 Bank reconciliation 25 December and budget report at 31/12/10. Approved by clerk and chair.
- 4.5 Receipt for donation to Chepstow play scheme received.

5) CORRESPONDENCE

- 5.1 WAG – Fire and Rescue authorities' consultations available on WAG website. Taken by AC and JW.
- 5.2 Monmouthshire Local Services Board – Making equalities real event – 30 March. File.
- 5.3 GAVO – nominations for volunteer awards in Monmouthshire. File.
- 5.4 Wye Valley AONB – management plan, picturesque. Distributed. Plan taken by JW/AC.
- 5.5 MCC – updates to electoral register – JW, KR, MP. Distributed.
- 5.6 Letter from Mrs Jadwiga Howell about the hedges on Star Hill. Meeting agreed clerk should write to Mrs Howell and thank her for the letter and bringing this issue to our attention and that DCC appreciates the situation is resolved. Also commend her for her efforts in maintaining the appearance of Star Hill.

6) PLANNING

- 6.1 Planning committee agenda for 15 and 29 March. File 2 months.
- 6.2 Planning lists for registered applications –February to March 2011. File
- 6.3 The following plans were approved by MCC or acceptable delegated decisions;

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- 6.3.1** Dc/2011/00077 Proposed garage conversion to create family room with master bedroom and ensuite. Also new garage car port and hobby room. Cobblers Hill, Devauden.
- 6.3.2** Two storey extension to cottage, Nightingale Cottage, Devauden.
- 6.4** DC/2011/00263 – Erection of rear two storey extension and side conservatory, Yew Tree House, Kilgwrrwg, Chepstow. No objections recommend approval.

7) COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Nothing additional to report.

8) ONE VOICE WALES (OVW)

National Training programme for Community and Town councils in Wales. Taken by AW and agreed that he could book 3 training sessions. Invoice to be sent to CM.

Invitation for membership for 2011-12 - £109 – see finance

9) WARD REPORTS

Communication issues raised in open session – meeting agreed that AW should investigate an email address for DCC. CM will review technology she uses and report back on the implications of a separate lap top etc. CM will also arrange for AW to sign the code of conduct.

AC – Confirmed that she is now on the Shirenewton School Governors as the DCC representative.

Meeting closed: 10.15pm

Next Meeting: April 26 Devauden Village Hall

Meeting dates 2011 May 24 (AGM), June 28 (Itton), July 26 (Itton), August 30 (Itton), Sept 27, Oct 25, Nov 22, Dec 20

PC Cowburn's report

Devauden & Itton incidents February 22 to March 27

- 26/2 Broken down vehicle at Itton.
- 1/3 Neighbour problems near Devauden.
- 3/3 Youths in Chepstow Park wood causing a nuisance.
- 13/3 Sheep on the road near Devauden.
- 14/3 Trees and bushes cut at Itton without permission.
- 21/3 Scrap metal collectors near Devauden.

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