

**MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY 27 MARCH 2012 AT DEVAUDEN VILLAGE HALL**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: C Martin (clerk), PC L Thorpe, John Rowlands, Kevin McElroy **APOLOGIES:**

1) OPEN SESSION

PC Thorpe presented the incidents for the period – listed at the end of the minutes. Cllr Williams thanked her for the report and PC Thorpe then left the meeting.

Mr Rowlands enquired about the telephone box in the village and its poor state of repair. Clerk reported that she had contacted the conservation officer and asked him to contact Cllr Williams. CC Greenland reported that he would be seeing Simon Robertshaw the conservation officer later in the week. Cllr Williams asked him to contact Simon Robertshaw to schedule a meeting with her as well. CC Greenland agreed and said he would contact the clerk to arrange. It was agreed that if possible the kiosks at Itton and Cobblers Plain would also be visited. Cllr Williams confirmed that if the visit could not be arranged she would contact Simon Robertshaw and reschedule.

Mr Rowlands then referred to the minutes from 31 January when it was stated that DCC would consider increasing communications with the village and that it was not discussed at the February meeting. JW replied that anyone could come to the DCC meetings and speak at the open sessions. She also said the minutes are on the web and the notice boards and she asked for further suggestions. Cllr A Williams suggested that we raise issues of a contentious nature quicker. It was agreed that clerk would notify the chair of anything that she thinks is significant and the chair will arrange for notices to be put in the shop and hall and notice boards etc.

2) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes from meeting of 28 February 2012 were agreed and signed by JW and CM.

3) MATTERS ARISING

3.1 JW presented an email that she had received from Mrs Lyndsey Futchter regarding the January minutes and requesting amendments. Cllrs agreed to minute Mrs Futchter's representation as follows:

"I would like the following amendment to be made immediately.

I stated – I agree 100% with Mr Modgett regarding the speeding traffic travelling through the village and in particular the forestry lorries both laden or unladen!

The minutes at present read – Ms Futchter asked the Councillors to take the traffic comments of Mr Modgett seriously as she agreed with then 100%.

This could be interpreted as my agreeing with Mr Modgett regarding his opinion re the top of Well Lane and this was not my intention at all!"

The minutes of 31 January 2012 were approved at the meeting of 28 February and will not be changed.

3.2 MCC replies to highways forms sent in January and February. Councillors requested that the request for the sign regarding larger vehicles along the 58.7 at Kilgwrrwg be resubmitted to MCC because it has not been satisfactorily resolved. Also issue regarding the lights at Foxes Barn should be sent to the planning department as they are private lights off the highway, although they are causing a hazard.

4) FINANCE

Balances at 25/2/12 Current; £ 1525.26 Notice: ££774.87

4.1 Agreed for payment by JW and NK

Clerk's expenses for March, £26.85, cheque no.10124

Clerk's Salary of £227.46 was paid by MCC for period ending 31March 2012.

Clerk's holiday pay (£223.70) and backdated annual increments (£267.80) were also paid by MCC

4.2 JW agreed to enquire with Mrs Christine Alway whether she would be prepared to conduct the internal audit again this year. JW will contact the clerk with the answer.

5) CORRESPONDENCE

Signed _____

- 5.1 MCC – Notice of election. Notices taken by JW to take 4 copies and put on the notice boards.
- 5.2 Independent remuneration panel for Wales's Review of Payments to Community and Town Councils. Completed the questionnaire and clerk will finish with financial details and return.
- 5.3 MCC – Launch of rural conversion grant scheme. It was noted that owners of barns can contact colinphillips@monmouthshire.gov.uk for further information regarding conversion for industrial purposes.
- 5.4 Traffic in Villages toolkit. JW took the copy and said would forward a copy to Mrs Fletcher by email.
- 5.5 MCC – Bus shelter guidance document for consultation by 20 April was taken at the last meeting by NK. NK reported back and it was agreed that DCC would respond as follows; Recommend that all bus shelters should be owned and maintained by MCC to maintain standards and consistency as well as economies of scale such as purchasing power.

6) PLANNING

- 6.1 Planning committee agenda for 13 March. File 2 months.
- 6.2 The following plans were approved or delegated decisions;
- 6.2.1 DC/2011/00072 Erection of single storey extension to form a hobby room, Castle Farm, Kilgwrrwg Devauden, Chepstow.
- 6.3 DC/2011/01195 – Erect a garden shed; retention of existing garage and attach an oak framed car port to the south elevation of the existing garage, Foxes Barn, Cobblers Plain, and Devauden. Agreed to recommend refusal on the grounds that there is insufficient information to make a considered decision.
- 6.4 DC/2011/00181 – Essential repairs to curtilage listed lower barn building, Duffryn Farm, Llansoy – No objections, recommend approval.
- 6.5 DC/2011/01162 – Conversion of existing barn which has previously been converted in part to form an annexe to create one dwelling, Barn at Kilgwrrwg House, Kilgwrrwg, Devauden. Agreed to recommend approval but wish to raise the following :
- The existing footpath between the barn and Kilgwrrwg House does not appear on the plans but must have current land owner approval
 - Any existing footpath diversions should not be detrimental to the current landowners use and must have current land owner approval
 - The existing right of way between the barn and Kilgwrrwg House for the neighbouring landowner must remain.
 - If it is intended to fence in the footpath that pass over currently grazed land then responsibility for grass cutting and maintenance must be agreed and confirmed.
 - Certain hedgerows are owned by a neighbouring landowner and should therefore not be altered without that owner's permission
 - Any decision by MCC should be consistent with previous decisions relating to changes to residential properties within the area.

7) COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

County Councillor had nothing further to contribute other than to say that he would be standing at the upcoming elections and had enjoyed being the community's county councillor

8) ONE VOICE WALES (OVW)

Membership renewal - councillors agreed to review this at the next meeting in the new financial year

9) WARD REPORTS

JW – Hood Memorial Hall committee Meeting –

1. They are revising the trust deed with advice from GAVO. They are proposing 1 member for DCC and 1 for WI and 1 for the church. There are however implications associated with being a trustee and JW will explore with GAVO what these implications are for DCC and she will report back at the next meeting.
2. 10KM race and music festival will be taking place in May – further information is on the Devauden website.
3. The Wesley memorial will need permission from WAG and AC confirmed that we need legal approval to put something on a green.
4. Hall has a vacancy for a cleaner at £8 per hour, 3 hours per week. She asked that the word is spread.
5. She also suggested that the hall minutes should go on the Devauden website.

The sign at Cole Lane has still not been repaired and should be put on the highways form again

The drains at the top of Well Lane need jetting as full of mud and ineffective.

AC – Asked if DCC would have input into the text on the proposed Wesley Memorial. JW said she would enquire at the next hall meeting. AC also reported that Shirenewton school has had an excellent Estyn report. Agreed that the clerk will write to Jane Edwards at Shirenewton School congratulating them on an excellent report.

Signed _____

EH – Enquired about progress with the reduction in the speed limit at Itton. CC Greenland confirmed that it would most likely happen very soon as the consultation notices will be going out shortly for 2012 implementation.

AC – Reported that Kilgwrrwg Hill is very pot holed.

AW – Reported back on the potential for Broadband for the community. He said WAG still has available the grant scheme of £1,000 per house with slow speeds. Jeff Owens has already done a lot of work on this – but it only works if 50+ households choose to buy the service. This is currently going on, but Desiree Mansfield of MCC has also now become involved as MCC has funding too for this work. She is currently working towards directing money towards communities like DCC. She wants to involve community and town councils and individuals to take proposals forward. AW said he would keep working on this and at some point in the future the community council will be approached to become involved further.

KR – B4293 80 yards south of Devauden village on the right hand side travelling towards Itton at Pike Road is the lay by that MCC could not locate from the January highways form – the lay by is poorly defined and confuses motorists.

AD – Reported that she would not be standing at the next election and thanked the other councillors and clerk for making her term of office so enjoyable.

Meeting closed: 9.30 pm

Next Meeting: 24 April at Devauden Village Hall

Please note change of date for the May AGM to Monday 21 May to meet the obligations associated with the election on 3 May.

Proposed Meeting dates 2012 24 Apr, AGM 21 May, 26 Jun (Itton), 31 Jul (Itton), 28 Aug (Itton), 25 Sep, 30 Oct, 27 Nov, 18 Dec

Police Report -

Devauden and Itton incidents between 30th January and 27th March 2012

22/02 – report of a scam letter having been received in Devauden, claiming that the recipient was owed millions of dollars!

27/02 – report of a dog having killed a lamb in Itton – both parties spoken to and no further police action required.

04/03 – report of a one vehicle road traffic collision on the B4293 in Devauden towards Monmouth – no injury.

19/03 – attempted break to garage in Devauden, where the screws were removed from the padlock – nothing was taken.

Signed _____