

**MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY 26 JUNE 2012 AT DEVAUDEN VILLAGE HALL**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: N Knowland (chair), A Williams, A Cooke, K McElroy, J Rowlands.

IN ATTENDANCE: C Martin (clerk), CC Bob Greenland

APOLOGIES: M Powell, E Hall, PC L Thorpe, J Williams

1) OPEN SESSION

PC Thorpe sent her apologies and forwarded the incidents for the month, attached at the end of the minutes.

Cllr Rowlands presented emails from Mrs L Futchter, dated 21 June;

1. Enquiring why the DCC minutes for April were not on the Devauden website. Clerk confirmed that John Davis had emailed her last week to say he had not received the minutes. The minutes were resent and are now on the website.
2. Enquiring why the DCC agenda for meeting of 26 June was not on the website. Clerk confirmed that they were emailed to John Davis on 17 June and she had a response from John Davis on 22 June. The agenda was therefore with the website 7 days prior to the meeting which is what was agreed at the DCC meeting of 21st May. Cllr Rowlands said he thought John Davis may have been away explaining the delay of the agenda appearing on the website.

A letter was received from Mr D Maddocks dated 26 June and read out by the chair. Four substantive points were raised.

- The first questioned the accuracy of recorded comments as contained in the minutes of 21st May. Cllr A Williams proposed that we note the objections raised.
- The second point questioned a clash of dates between the regularly scheduled DCC meeting at which Nick Ramsey AM attended and the arranged public LDP meeting at Devauden hall. The councillors present agreed that it was regrettable but unavoidable in the circumstances.
- A point querying the origin of a public meeting held on 8 February (to discuss the LDP) will be raised at the next DCC meeting, when Councillor J Williams is in attendance.
- The final point, commenting on the conduct of a member of DCC at a previous meeting, will be raised at the next opportunity.

2) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes from the meeting of 21 May 2012 were agreed and signed by NK and CM. Clerk wished it to be recorded that although she signed the minutes it was her assertion that the statement in the open section 'Mr Maddocks was critical....' was an opinion voiced by the Councillors in the process of approving the draft minutes, as the clerk stated that she does not write minutes with opinion only what was discussed or reported. The Clerks concerns were discussed and it was agreed by DCC members present the minutes as recorded were a true reflection of his concerns and should not be amended.

3) MATTERS ARISING

- 3.1 Highways form received. Read out by NK. File. Clerk to add the electronic 30mph sign at Devauden village to the highways form again as not fixed.
- 3.2 Telephone Boxes – At the last meeting it was agreed that NK would present his analysis in the finance section to determine if there were any funds available for renovation. JR reported that he had 2 volunteers to clean up the Devauden kiosk. JR reported that he would have a better idea of cost for renovation at the next meeting. Councillors asked clerk to check if the contract with BT precludes the council from selling on the kiosks. It was unanimously agreed not to insure the kiosks for damage.
- 3.3 At the last meeting Chair asked JR if he was aware of what might have happened to the tree and the plaque planted in the Hood Memorial Hall grounds in memory of Mrs Holland. JR confirmed that he had found the tree, a copper beech, but not the plaque. He said he would continue looking for it by clearing some of the overgrown bushes around it and report back to the next meeting. AC thanked him for this and said she would inform the WI who planted it.
- 3.4 At previous meeting JW requested that the Clerk contacts Paul Egan at OVW to enquire about councillor training locally and the costs, with a view to involving Llangwm, St Arvans and Shirenewton CC. Clerk has approached all councils; Llangwm is not interested, still waiting to hear from Shirenewton and St Arvan's are going to discuss at next meeting. Councillors agreed to put this on hold.
- 3.5 Email from JW in response to email from Hugh Gorton regarding a bus stop for Devauden Green. Agreed to defer to the next meeting when JW present.
- 3.6 AW signed the declaration of office.
- 3.7 AC confirmed that she had sent an incident form to MCC regarding an accident at Windy Corner on the B4293
- 3.8 Hedge at Glebe House overgrown – at the next meeting check if JW has contacted the owner of the hedge to see if it can be cut.

Signed _____

- 3.9 KM reported he had looked into the installation costs of water at the allotments and found it would be £1000 to £1500. However the bigger problem is the water metering and cost of the supply. KM said he would continue to investigate and look at harvesting water. KM confirmed he would feedback to the allotment holders.

4) FINANCE

Balances at 24/6/12 Current; £2747.19 Notice: £775.13

- 4.1 Agreed for payment by NK and AC.

Clerk's expenses for June, £23.55, cheque no.101230

MCC Clerks salary NI contribution and admin fee £1971.94 cheque no 1012231

Hood Memorial Hall – hall hire Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec 2011 and Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr and May 2012, £112.50, cheque no. 101232

- 4.3 Clerk's Salary –Clerk reimbursed £227.46 to DCC as both DCC and MCC payroll paid clerk's salary for October 2011.

- 4.4 Clerk emailed MCC to find out the estimated cost of elections. MCC have passed on the enquiry to the relevant department however they confirm that the total has not yet been worked out and as soon as it is they will send an invoice.

- 4.5 Aon insurance confirmation that policy is in place and payment received.

- 4.6 NK presented the budget and issued a copy to all councillors present. Agreed to change the forecast for the grass cutting to £800, the notice board to £0, and the contingency to £0.

NK requested that clerk forwards the 2011/12 to him. JR requested that a "Last year v Budget" comparison be added so as to enable us to track the spend.

5) CORRESPONDENCE

- 5.1 MCC – Forms for councillor's request for copy of electoral register. Completed by those present and clerk will forward to MCC. Those not present will defer to the next meeting.

- 5.2 Nick Ramsey AM – introducing himself and offering to visit community council if required. File.

- 5.3 MCC – Feedback forms for clerks regarding the Local Council Elections. Completed at the meeting and clerk will forward to MCC.

- 5.4 Public services ombudsmen for Wales annual report. No action.

- 5.5 Swansea Metropolitan University research questionnaire for All Wales Centre for Governor Training and Research. NK to complete and forward on.

- 5.6 Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council meeting agenda 26 June. File.

6) PLANNING

- 6.1 Planning committee agenda for 12 June 2012. File 2 months.

- 6.2 The following plans were approved or delegated decisions;

- 6.2.1 DC/2012/00400 Steel Framed portal building, Land at Rhyd y Bedw Itton.

- 6.2.2 Erect a garden shed; retention of existing garage and proposed car port, Foxes Barn, Cobblers Plain, Devauden

- 6.2.3 Single storey extension to the rear of the existing house providing a new bedroom for the applicant who suffers from walking difficulties, Benson Bush House, Itton Common.

- 6.3 DC/2012/00464 – Conversion of a redundant stable to residential accommodation for tourist use, Yeovil House, The Veddw, Devauden. Unanimously agreed to recommend approval.

7) COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

County Councillor informed the meeting that he had received a notice from the legal department regarding the 30mph limit on B4293 at Itton. Subject to there being no objections the change should be made in the next few months.

8) ONE VOICE WALES (OVW)

Confirmation of renewal of subscription – meeting agreed to defer the completion of the OVW representative documentation to the next meeting.

Area AGM at Llandenny, 12 July

9) WARD REPORTS

Signed _____

AC- Finished pot holing Kilgwrrwg hill and AC will email highways with our thanks. Shirenewton School has been experiencing some difficulties in having plans approved for changes to its car parking and there have been delays. Shirenewton CC will be holding a special meeting regarding this and AC wondered if there was anything DCC could do. CC Greenland said he would look into the objections and delays.

JR – Requested that the discussion on the agenda be done at the next meeting. JR has the standing orders to review agenda setting requirements.

Informed the meeting that the simplest way to gain planning permission for the John Wesley bust on the green will be to write to planning with our intentions and confirm that DCC owns the green. JR will draft a letter regarding this and the gaining of funding; send it to Clerk to be sent officially from DCC.

Hood Memorial Hall does not have an official address and it needs it for applications for grant funding. Clerk will enquire with Amanda Perrin at MCC to ask advice on what needs to be done.

CLERK confirmed that she would be on annual leave from 6 to 22 July, therefore she would not be able to co ordinate the draft minutes and have them put on the website at least one week before the next meeting. No councillor agreed to take on this task so the clerk will co ordinate the draft minutes when she returns from leave but as a result will not be able to have them published a week before the meeting. The agenda will be published before her annual leave to meet statutory requirements.

Meeting closed: 10.00 pm

Next Meeting: 31 Jul (Itton)

Proposed Meeting dates 2012 28 Aug (Itton), 25 Sep, 23Oct, 27 Nov, 18 Dec

Devauden, Itton and Kilgwrrwg incidents between the 20th May and 25th June 2012

27/05 – an unknown male attended a remote house in Devauden in the early hours. No entry was gained, but an attempt at identifying the male was done and a known male was arrested with in 24hrs.

Unfortunately, he had a plausible alibi so no further action was taken.

06/06 – theft of a car from the side of the road in Itton. It appears to have been found, before it was reported stolen in Llandevaud, Newport.

06/06 – an elderly couple managed to get locked in the Chepstow Park Wood car park, Devauden – thankfully, they were released by someone from the Forestry Commission.

15/06 – attempted theft of farm machinery from Devauden – it was found elsewhere on the land, apparently stuck.

22/06 – the alarm at the Forestry Commission went off – checked all in order, there was a fault on the line.

Signed _____