

**MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY 18 DECEMBER 2012 AT DEVAUDEN VILLAGE HALL**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: C Martin (clerk)

APOLOGIES: PC Thorpe

1) OPEN SESSION

PC Thorpe sent her apologies and informed us via email that she would attend the January meeting and discuss cold calling zones then. Her report for the month is below. Councillors requested that clerk emails PC Thorpe regarding reports from residents that they have been unable to get through on the 101 number.

2) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of 27 November were agreed and signed by JW and CM.

3) MATTERS ARISING

- 3.1 Telephone Boxes – X2 connect can supply the undercoat for the phone boxes once they have been stripped. Unanimously agreed that the paint would be paid for in advance by pro-forma invoice (see finance below). MP reported that he would be submitting an application for AONB funding for refurbishment of the phone boxes. EH reported that she had signed the application and declaration. MP agreed to speak to the AONB about trying to start work before the money comes through in the new financial year as the box is deteriorating.
- 3.2 Donation of £50 for OAP Christmas lunch – email received from Hood Memorial Hall committee to state that they would not be able to open up access to the lunch beyond Devauden village. Councillors agreed that would donate £50 this year but will reconsider it again for next year.
- 3.3 Response received from MCC Footpath officer regarding scheduling the work for Footpath opposite the firs. File.
- 3.5 Discussion of Matters Arising – Cllr Rowlands referred to page 26 of the Good Councillors guide and it was agreed that in future at each meeting it will be decided what items should be tabled for discussion at the following meeting under matters arising. Clerk instructed that if any correspondence of particular public interest is received it will be discussed with chair to determine if the public should be alerted to its discussion. At the next meeting the following will be tabled:
 1. Telephone boxes
 2. Report from CC Greenland on domestic abuse, clinical futures and welfare reforms.
- 3.6 Councillors discussed scheduling of the meetings for the next year and it was agreed that DCC will meet on 29th January and then on the first Tuesday of the month from 5 March, see list of dates at end of the minutes. There will be no meeting in February. Also agreed that MP will approach Itton Hall to see if hire costs could be reduced.

4) FINANCE

Balances at 17/12/12 Current; £795.85 Notice: £275.40

- 4.1 Agreed for payment by JW and EH
Clerk's expenses for December, £18.31, cheque no.101247
Pro-forma invoice for primer paint for phone boxes – X2Connect Ltd - £127.38, cheque no 101248
Holy Cross Church Kilgerrwg, donation for grass cutting, £50, cheque no 101249
Hood Memorial Hall – donation for OAP Christmas lunch, £50, cheque no 101250
- 4.2 Clerk's Salary –received from MCC payroll for December, £250.23, to be accrued.
- 4.3 Receipt from HMRC for VAT reclaim 2011/12 - £396.26. Donation of £200 from Dr Huw Davies for Devauden phone box refurbishment. A letter of thanks has been sent to Dr Davies by the clerk.
- 4.6 Proposed budget for 2012/13 presented – there was a discussion regarding the budget and how much should be requested for the precept. JW proposed increasing the precept by £1000 to £7000, JR proposed an increase of £2000 to £8000 per annum, seconded by AC. NK wished it to be recorded he would be more comfortable with an increase of £1500. Vote taken for £2000 increase proposal by JR – 6 voted for therefore proposal agreed. Clerk instructed to request a precept of £8000 and to update the budget according to the following items which account for the precept increase;
 1. Increase in clerks salary expected of at least 1% following 3 year pay freeze
 2. Possible expenditure on a defibrillator for the village
 3. Maintenance and repairs to the bus shelters
 4. Grass cutting for graveyards
 5. Phone box refurbishments

Signed _____

5) CORRESPONDENCE

- 5.1 MCC – Christmas cards from Leader and Chair. No action.
- 5.2 MCC – LDP consultation on recommended focused changes. File
- 5.3 MHA – Love where you live project – availability of grants. Passed to KM for consideration for water at the allotments.
- 5.4 National Parks Calendar. Taken by Chair.
- 5.5 MCC Lower Wye Area Committee. File 2 months.
- 5.6 NAW – Consultation on Local Government Bill – deadline 31 January. Councillors agreed a reply and Clerk to forward to NAW.

6) PLANNING

- 6.1 Dc/2012/00692 – Building Plot, Woodbank, Itton Common. EH proposed recommend refusal on the grounds that the site is too small, will be crowded infilling and will have an adverse environmental impact on the village. Seconded by AC- 5 voted in favour so the proposal is carried. MP abstained.
- 6.2 DC/2012/01029 – Siting of street side broadband cabinet in the grass verge in front of Wesley House and installation of a telegraph pole in order to provide point to point wireless/microwave broadband, Wesley House Devauden. AW declared an interest and completed a declaration of interest form. No objections, recommend approval.

7) COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

County Councillor reported that in the New Year he would like to discuss the following with DCC;

Domestic Abuse

Welfare reform – effective April 13 and impacts on 18% of household in Monmouthshire who receive housing benefit.

Proposals from Aneurin Bevan health board plans to build a new critical care centre at Llanfrechfa and there will be down grading at Neville Hall and Royal Gwent.

8) ONE VOICE WALES (OVW)

No correspondence

9) WARD REPORTS

All issues raised by the councillors are forwarded to MCC or other appropriate bodies for action if required.

- JR –** 30mph sign on entrance to Devauden needs repairing.
Corn Farm – the road is now in danger of collapsing due to the earth being moved. Clerk to put on highways form as already contacted planning regarding enforcement.
- NK –** Reported that MCC did a presentation at Raglan and had a speaker on the installation of water for allotments by sinking bore holes, powered by solar panels. There were grants available and CC Greenland agreed to forward details to clerk to be forwarded to KM.
- KM -** Reported that Stacey Harris was visiting from MCC to look at the signage at Wesley Way.
- JW –** Dog mess bins – requested that Clerk contacts MCC highways regarding installing and emptying
B4293 – between Devauden and Itton there are lots of cat's eyes missing.
- AW-** BigDiG – reported MCC made a funding offer and WAG will hopefully match their offer. It is hoped that the service will be available by the end of January.
Lower House Barn Wolvesnewton- water diverts off the road and floods the gardens. 60.13 – could something be installed to stop this – MCC to contact AW if required.
60.3 – Clyddach Farm off Cwm Fagor Lane, Wolvesnewton – enquiring if it is possible to firm up the passing places with stones as on boggy grass.
- AC –** Suggested that clerk approaches the forestry commission regarding cutting Howells Green when they cut the car park opposite. Agreed clerk will write to Richard Gable providing AC contact details.
Ty Bettws Hill – requested that MCC are again informed that vehicles including ambulances are still getting stuck as sat navs take this route that is not suitable.
- MP-** 57.4 – Itton drain outside the Woodlands is still blocked. Junction of B4293 and 58.7 – water is running off the forest cross roads and when it freezes it is dangerous and the grit in the bin is too compacted to be used.
- EH-** Packers Hill – the drain is blocked at the top and water is running down the 57.3.

Signed _____

Meeting closed: 9.30 pm

Next Meeting: 29 January

Meeting dates 2013

29 Jan, 5 Mar, 2 Apr 7 May – All Hood Memorial Hall Devauden

4 Jun, 2 Jul, 6 Aug - All Itton Hall

3 Sep, 1 Oct, Nov date to be determined, 3 Dec – All Hood Memorial Hall Devauden

Devauden and Itton incidents between 27th November and 18th December 2012.

21/12 – delayed report of theft of a quad bike on the 21/11 from address in Newchurch.

30/11 – suspicious incident reported in Devauden, where a quad bike was heard to drive past a house very slowly just past midnight. Officers patrolled the area – including dog and helicopter – but nothing was found.

01/12 – report of a gas tap having been damaged overnight at a dwelling in Itton. Emergency work had to be carried out, but nothing was seen or heard.

07/12 – burnt out transit van found in Chepstow Park Woods Devauden – it was actually stolen from a farm in Shirenewton where work was being done on it. It is believed that the Forestry gates were damaged in order for the van to be dumped on a forestry track.

17/12 – suspicious vehicle seen in Devauden area – same vehicle as seen two months before in similar location – white transit tipper registration MW04RYJ – not a local keeper, looking at peoples drives. When spoken to before was looking for scrap, but appears to look first before asking the occupants.

Signed _____