

**MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
TUESDAY 29 JANUARY 2013 AT DEVAUDEN VILLAGE HALL**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** C Martin (clerk), Mr Wigley, Mr Maddocks

**APOLOGIES:** PC Thorpe, CC Bob Greenland

**1) OPEN SESSION**

PC Thorpe sent her apologies and the report for the month; please see the end of the minutes.

Mr Wigley raised several issues relating to highways:

- 58.2/R82 junction – the road surface just below Ty Bettws house coming from the Newchurch road- the road surface is poor and requires attention.
- 58.2/58.7 – not possible to get to the grit box because of ice. Request a grit box at top and bottom of the lane.
- B4293 require another deer crossing sign coming from Itton at Cefn Wood.
- R122 – Glyn House – is a large pot hole on the left hand side going down.
- Yew Tree Cottage – pot holes need patching
- Top of Glyn Lane at castle farm – the water pipes are leaking leading to a build up of water and ice. Contact Mr Wigley on 01291 650297
- R122 – Glyn Lane curb stones on three boxes outside yew tree cottage need removing – contact Mr Wigley.
- Hedge at castle farms and below need cutting back.

Mr Maddocks raised the following

- Many of the gullies drains and ditches in the community are blocked and so surface water is not draining away effectively. For example R80 – Cobbler Plain to Wolvesnewton road drain covered with gravel and leaves and needs clearing. Also Well Lane Devauden.
- Suggest DCC writes to MCC to set up an arrangement whereby a contract for clearing gullies etc is put in place which would reduce overall costs of road repairs.
- Hedge cutting – a lot of hedges and roads need cutting and farmers should be reminded that have until March to top and side hedges.

Issues raised by members of the public will be added to the highways forms.

**2) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of 18 December were agreed and signed by JW and CM.

**3) MATTERS ARISING**

- 3.1 Telephone Boxes – JR reported that all 3 are prepared for sandblasting provider who is waiting for better weather to start. MP reported that have not yet heard from the AONB regarding the Itton kiosk grant. Expect notification in new financial year. AC commented that she had seen a refurbished box in Surrey where different institutions in the village were using it for various purposes e.g. scouts and the church displays.
- 3.2 Risk Assessment and Asset register were reviewed, agreed by the meeting, and signed by the Chair.
- 3.3 Review of Policies – meeting confirmed are happy with current arrangements for agendas and the complaints policy.
- 3.4 JR reported that have raised £4,000 to date and need an additional £600 which will come from the 10k race planned this year. MCC has also been approached and their funding body sense of roots will cover the cost of interpretation boards. The cost will be £8,000 and there is 100% funding for it. There will be a village meeting on 16 February to talk about the plans and all are invited. The manufacturers of the board will be in attendance. Insurance for the installation has been secured by the village hall. JR requested that DCC pay for the interpretation boards to obtain VAT refund and then be reimbursed for the none VAT element by the village hall. The clerk and RFO expressed her opinion that this would be VAT fraud and refused to participate. The meeting agreed that the clerk would check the situation with One Voice Wales.
- 3.5 Grass cutting – JR said he had obtained quotes for village hall grounds cutting and MCC proved the cheapest. The hall and MCC wanted to bill DCC as part of their regular billing and the village hall could then reimburse. The meeting agreed that the village hall was a separate entity and should arrange its own billing separate to DCC. Clerk introduced letter from MCC regarding grass cutting for this year. Clerk instructed to qualification of what work would be done and when and then on billing to receive a works completed sheet
- 3.6 Agreed that next meetings Matters Arising should include the update from CC Greenland and an update on the VAT situation from the clerk.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

- 3.7 Meeting agreed that meeting days will change to Mondays at 7pm, starting with 25 February. Clerk will contact village halls to make the bookings and advise the website.

#### **4) FINANCE**

*Balances at 28/1/13 Current; £2734.60 Notice: £275.40*

- 4.1 Agreed for payment by JW and EH  
Clerk's expenses for January, £19.62 cheque no.101251  
Hood Memorial Hall – Hall hire June, September, October November and December 2012 £62.50, cheque no 101252  
Itton Church, donation for grass cutting, £50, cheque no 101253
- 4.2 Clerk's Salary –received from MCC payroll for January, £250.23, to be accrued.
- 4.3 Bank reconciliation at 31 December presented to meeting and agreed. Signed by CM and JW.
- 4.4 Budget Forecast at 31.12.12. Approved by meeting and signed by JW and CM.
- 4.5 Letter of thanks from Wolvesnewton Church for donation towards grass cutting.
- 4.6 Confirmation from MCC of precept of £8,000 for 2013/14

#### **5) CORRESPONDENCE**

- 5.1 MCC – LDP additions to the focused changes document. File
- 5.2 MCC – R94 St Arvans, temporary road closure. File.
- 5.3 Monmouthshire LDP examination – pre hearing meeting 26 February. File.
- 5.4 Enquiry from Jan Groeneweg re. Contacting an Itton resident. Clerk to reply to state cannot divulge personal information.
- 5.5 MCC – children's play questionnaire. Completed and clerk to forward to MCC.
- 5.6 MCC – telephone directory. File.
- 5.7 NAW – section 137 expenditure limit for 2013/14 is £6.98 per elector. File.
- 5.8 MCC – request for register of electors 2013-01-26, update for AC.
- 5.9 Clerks and councils direct. Distributed.
- 5.10 AON insurance – changes to employer's liability insurance – request for information regarding ERN from HMRC. Clerk to contact MCC payroll for advice.
- 5.11 MCC Budget consultation meeting 23 January Magor. No action.
- 5.12 MCC – grounds maintenance contract for 2013 – see matters arising above.

#### **6) PLANNING**

- 6.1 Following plan approved by MCC - Dc/2012/00876 – Change of use from agricultural to Itton Village Hall car park, Croes Bleddyn Farm, Itton.
- 6.2 Enforcement cases list for December 2012. File
- 6.3 Email from planning re. DC/2012/00760 – enquiring whether DCC want it to be presented to the delegation panel on site. Clerk to respond; for planning to go ahead as changes required appear to have been made.

#### **7) COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

County Councillor not present.

#### **8) ONE VOICE WALES (OVW)**

The Voice newsletter – distributed

Agenda for area committee meeting 10 January and minutes from 10 October 2012. File 2 months

Minutes of OVW and MCC meeting on 6 December re. Charter working. File 2 months

#### **9) WARD REPORTS**

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

**JR –** Missing cat's eyes on B4293 – raised in last highways form but will be followed up again. 30mph signs should be extend out further along the B4293 both north and south.

**NK –** Requested that Clerk passes on DCC's thanks for MCC's efforts with snow clearance.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

- KM -** Drainage on Wesley Way – still nothing has been done. Clerk will email County Councillor regarding water drainage generally with reference to this and issues raised in the open session. KM will chase MCC re. Signage for Wesley Way. KM will explore the options available for purchasing a village defibrillator.
- JW –** Ken Reece has been in touch to say that was still getting correspondence from Lower Wye Area committee. Clerk to write to MCC again.  
Well Lane Devauden – debris from the village hall lane is covering the road.
- AW-** R80 road from Cobblers Plain to Wolvesnewton opposite the turn to Swallows Barn is damage to the road surface and has eroded deep ruts which are all carrying water.
- AC –** R82 – large rut at the side of the road opposite Devauden Court. R82 – water pooling on Kilgwrrwg crossroads. R82 – general erosion of the verges and curb sides.
- EH-** Large pot hole on B4293 travelling north from Chepstow at Howick double bend– currently full of water

**Meeting closed: 9.30 pm**

*Next Meeting:* 25 February 7pm

**Meeting dates 2013 – all start at 7pm**

---

25 Feb, 25 Mar, 29 Apr 20 May – All Hood Memorial Hall Devauden  
 24 Jun, 29 Jul, 19 Aug - All Itton Hall  
 30 Sep, 28 Oct, 25 Nov, 30 Dec – All Hood Memorial Hall Devauden

Devauden, Itton, Kilgwrrwg and Wolvesnewton incidents between 19<sup>th</sup> December 2012 and 28<sup>th</sup> January 2013

20/12 – flooding reported on the B4293 Devauden – no further details.  
 20/12 – report of five cows running down Coal Lane, Itton – no trace by officers.  
 22/12 – report of power cables having come down in Rock Road, Devauden – Western Power in attendance.  
 26/12 – report of a road traffic incident on Star Hill, between a milk tanker and a horse. The tanker ended up in a hedge but there were no injuries. A helpful farmer assisted the tanker driver.  
 04/01 – theft of twenty bales of silage from a field near Kilgwrrwg – the believed offender was using a large John Deere tractor pulling an old black rusty trailer – any ideas?  
 11/01 – report of a road traffic collision on the B4235 near Wellhead Lodge – a car went into a wooden fence – no injuries. The driver said he swerved to miss a fox.  
 15/01 – report of suspicious people attending Phillips Transport in Devauden and trying to sell lumberjack equipment. This has happened on two occasions – once in a grey transit reg. 11CE263 and the other a red transit reg. CA10EOB. The males with the vans had very strong accents and the first van is probably on Irish plates.  
 15/01 – report of a male having kicked out at a dog for no apparent reason, whilst it was being walked in Chepstow Park Wood by its female owner. The male was described as being in his 30's, approximately 5ft11 tall, slim build wearing a grey beanie hat and a blue fleece. This may have also happened before this reported incident – same description of incident, place and male.  
 16/01 – vehicle was seen acting in a suspicious manner on Star Hill so was stopped by officer – a male occupant was arrested for possessing drugs.  
 26/01 – report of believed anti-hunt supporters parked up in a vehicle near to the Curre Hunt kennels – area search by officers proved negative.  
 26/01 – flooding reported on the B4293 Itton – Council informed.  
 28/01 – many reports of a large tree across the road just before Itton from Chepstow on the B4293 – at this time the Council have cleared half of it and hope to come back tomorrow to remove the rest – one lane is open.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_