

**MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MONDAY 28 OCTOBER 2013 AT DEVAUDEN VILLAGE HALL**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: C Martin (clerk). Mr I Cavill, Mrs E Hall, Mr D Maddocks, Mr M Wiggley

APOLOGIES: CC Bob Greenland, M Powell, PC Thorpe,

1) OPEN SESSION

Police report is at the end of the minutes – PC Thorpe and team sent apologies.

Mr Maddocks presented his views on rural verge cutting including a petition that he requested be forwarded to MCC. A discussion took place and Mr Wiggley voiced his views on verge and hedge cutting. Cllr A Williams explained the details of the proposed changes to verge cutting, especially those of direct relevance to the petition. Specifically:

- No change to current management practices for minor roads and lanes
- No changes at all to hedge cutting and trimming
- Safety cutting on main roads - at intersections, bends, driveways for example - will continue as before

The following actions were agreed:

1. Clerk to send the petition to MCC, stating that it was organised by a member of the community and reflects some sincerely held concern, albeit that DCC does not endorse its main statement.
2. Cllr A Williams will publish more details of the proposals in a leaflet (which was reviewed by the meeting) and on the Devauden community website, to promote understanding and discussion of the aims, scope and outcomes
3. Clerk to write to Alison Howard and Nigel Leaworthy at MCC inviting them to the DCC meeting on November 25th, to discuss verge cutting proposals with the community.

Together these actions will hopefully address the concerns of the people signing the petition.

On a similar theme, Mr Maddocks objected to Welsh farmers having to wait one month longer than their English counterparts before starting autumn hedge cutting. The meeting learned that this was determined by the Welsh Government as part of the Single Farm Payment policy. Action:

Clerk to write to WG to ask that the timings of hedge cutting farmers and contractors be brought in line with that of England

Mr Maddocks left the meeting.

Mr Cavill expressed his thanks to DCC for taking up the proposal regarding a footpath at Itton. Cllr J Williams confirmed that Cllr M Powell was dealing with this but was not able to attend the meeting.

Mr Wiggley requested that DCC contacts MCC again regarding drainage issues as follows:

- a) Pipeline across his property does not clear the lane properly and a further gully is required – at Glyn Lane Itton outside Yew Tree Cottage. If MCC need further details Mr Wiggley can be contacted 01291650297. Further there are issues with the drains and pipes that may need to be raised with Dwr Cymru.
- b) Drain needs to be cleared above Castle Farm by the double gates.

Open meeting closed at 8pm and public left the meeting.

2) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of 30 September agreed with amendments and signed by JW and CM.

3) MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Reply to highways form sent at end of August received. Meeting instructed clerk to develop a spreadsheet listing highways and other issues raised by members of the community to track when resolved.

3.2 Co-option of councillor for Itton – Meeting agreed the process for co-option as follows:

- a) Two of the four applications were received after the deadline and the meeting agreed that this would be discounted and the clerk would write to thank the applicants for their interest.

Signed _____

- b) Clerk to write to the other two applicants by email - Garry Wood of Devauden and Ivor Cavill – Dyer's House Itton to request that they submit the following on no more than one side of A4 by email by 18 November: "Why do you want to be the Itton ward representative on DCC and what contribution can you make?"
 - c) These responses will then be considered in a closed session of the meeting on 25 November and the applicants will be notified.
- 3.3 Reply from BT Openreach re. trees interfering with phone lines at The Wenallt. File.
- 3.4 Reply from planning re. lack of notification to adjacent residents of the Wenallt (DC/2013/0001) to state that statutory requirements met. File.
- 3.5 Meeting thanked JR for arranging the post office van at the retirement bungalows on Wesley Way for part of the time it is in the village on a trial basis.
- 3.6 NK reported that he will be looking at the bus shelter to survey what work is required and will bring to the next meeting.

4) **FINANCE**

Balances at 27/10/13 Current; £3174.83 Notice: £ 275.54

- 4.1 Agreed for payment by JW and NK.
Clerk's expenses for October, £15.23 cheque no.101279
Donation to Hood Memorial Hall for firework display insurance £200, cheque no. 101279
- 4.2 Clerk's Salary £261.13 received from MCC payroll for October
- 4.3 Review of risk register – agreed and signed by JW
- 4.4 Asset register checked and relevant councillors signed to confirm assets checked. It was agreed that councillors would check the assets and email clerk with an update, periodically.
- 4.5 Reconciliation at 30 September, presented and signed by JW/CM.
- 4.6 Clerk provided budget forecast – signed and agreed by JW/CM.
- 4.7 Agreed that a donation of £50 would be given for the Devauden pensioners' lunch at next meeting.

5) **CORRESPONDENCE**

- 5.1 Clerks and Council's direct – taken by JW.
- 5.2 Urdd Eistedfodd – request for funds. No action.
- 5.3 Wye Valley AONB – picturesque magazine. Distributed.

6) **PLANNING**

- 6.1.1 The following plans approved by MCC: none listed on MCC website.
- 6.2 The following plan was refused by MCC: None listed on MCC website
- 6.3 DC/2013/00873 - Extend conservatory and alter roof to tiled, Cledd-y-Tan Farm Newchurch – received via email from MCC but plans not yet available to view. Defer to next meeting.
- 6.4 DC/2012/01043 The Nest Devauden – Alterations and extension – amendment to planning. No objections. Recommend approval.
- 6.5 DC/2013/00806 Pyotts Cottage Itton – Remove existing conservatory and replace with two storey extension. No objections, recommend approval.

7) **COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

County councillor not present.

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

Agenda for area meeting on 17 October. Minutes of meeting of 11 July. File.

9) **WARD REPORTS**

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Clerk instructed to forward all emails relating to fox and hounds planning case.

KM – Reported that Hall committee say need to use the village green as a car park for the fireworks and commented that there are other events on the green such as the hunt. The Wesley memorial will be roped off. Meeting agreed this could go ahead and any damage rectified. Also some of the forestry paths are not clear so reported that he would investigate further which ones. KM has been asked to be a governor at Welsh speaking school in Caldicot and meeting agreed that were happy for him to be the minor authority representative. KM reported that MCC were looking into any land available in the village that could be used as a community garden. KM is awaiting a response. KM agreed to email councillors with details of the funds raised for the defibrillator. When the total is finalised the model to be purchased will be confirmed. Requested that clerk write to highways requesting a written response regarding the soakaway drainage to Wesley way and Wesley gardens , as no satisfactory response had been received from the letters issued last year.

JR – Reported that is still a racecourse sign on the floor coming into the village. NK agreed to dispose of it.

AC – Reported that on Sunday 22 September someone collapsed in Itton Church and it took 50 minutes for a paramedic to arrive. Clerk to write to WAG again and copy in CC Greenland. Fallen tree in the road at Devauden Court has been chopped up but not fully removed. AC said she had emailed MCC about it but it needs to go on highways form. Kilgwrrwg crossroads drainage is still a problem – ask MCC to contact AC.

NK – Reported that at the meetings with MCC about budget cuts it was said that more would be delegated to minor authorities and volunteers. Proposed that DCC should raise this with electors as it could affect the precept as shift burden to community councils. JW agreed to forward this to Chair of MCC and copy CC Greenland.

Date of next meeting 25 November 2013, Devauden.

Meeting closed 9.40 pm.

Meeting dates 2013 – all start at 7pm

30 Dec – All Hood Memorial Hall Devauden

Police Report for the Devauden, Itton and Kilgwrrwg area.

Following report received from PCSO Sally Parker:

There were no incidents reported for Devauden, Kilgwrrwg and Itton between 29th September and 27th October 2013.

We apologise for not being able to attend tomorrow evening's meeting, but look forward to seeing you soon.

Signed _____