

**MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MONDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2013 AT DEVAUDEN VILLAGE HALL**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: C Martin (clerk), CC Bob Greenland, Public (see end of minutes). Nigel Leeworthy and Alison Howard (MCC)

APOLOGIES: CC Bob Greenland, J Rowlands, PC Thorpe.

1) OPEN SESSION

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

Cllr J Williams introduced Mr Leeworthy and Ms Howard from MCC who had come to talk about the biodiversity plan and verge cutting. Mr Leeworthy explained the Monmouthshire biodiversity and pollinator plan and that all verge cutting would be risk assessed with road safety as the top criteria. This means that the straight low risk sections of A and B roads would not be cut back as frequently. Any area with safety implications will be cut more often as is now the case. So some sections of A and B roads will not be cut in June/July but all verges will cut their full width in September/October. Ms Howard explained that this was to ensure the sustainability of pollinators as their numbers are dropping and expert advice has been taken at government level and with Gwent wildlife. Mr Leeworthy also talked about annual bedding sites and the introduction of wildflower mixes.

Mr Maddocks asked questions about the September DCC minutes and Cllr J Williams read out the entire ward report for Cllr A Williams that related to verge cutting. Mr Maddocks asserted that leaving straight stretches uncut would cause problems and hazards and it may be that C and R roads will follow this pattern in future too.

Cllr A Williams explained that he brought this issue to DCC and MCC as he was aware that other areas have managed this very well and overall only 8% of roads will not be cut as now. Ms Howard informed the meeting that all community councils were invited to a presentation on these proposals which will then be presented at MCC on 23 January for approval.

Mr P Williams suggested there was an earlier cut in the spring to avoid damaging pollinators. Mr Leeworthy said they took advice from experts and the plan was based on this. Mr G Parry referred to road safety as a major issue and most farmers did a lot for wildlife and shouldn't areas like parks and churchyards be included. Ms Howard confirmed that this was being looked at as well.

Cllr JW asked if there would be any cost savings. Mr Leeworthy said would be a saving of £2-3,000 per year and savings further savings from doing less horticultural planting. Mr C Pritchard asked if this was only in Monmouthshire. Mr Leeworthy replied that was all over Wales. Cllr J Williams asked what the public would have to do to make representations. Ms Howard said they could email or call her at alisonhoward@monmouthshire.gov.uk, 01633 646844.

CC Greenland summarised that road safety would be paramount. Cllr J Williams thanked the MCC officers.

Mr R Parry asked if DCC and MCC have power to make someone cut their hedge. Cllr J Williams explained that DCC could ask but then would refer to MCC who could issue notices. CC Greenland said there is a policy that MCC officers have to follow but this is currently under review.

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

2) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of 28 October agreed and signed by JW and CM.

3) MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Reply to highways form sent 10/11/13 – not yet returned.

3.2 Co-option of councillor for Itton – Clerk reported that were 2 candidates however a response only received from Dr Cavill. JW confirmed that the other candidate had to withdraw for personal reasons. Clerk to email Ivor Cavill and inform him that he had been co-opted. Cllr J Williams will write a letter of thanks to the other candidate who has shown a great interest in DCC and the community as a whole.

3.3 NK reported that he has inspected the bus shelter and it will require some tile replacement which the meeting agreed to do at a cost of about £50 for materials that NK will claim back.

3.4 Email from Dr Chamberlain to Bob Greenland re. flashing sign on entry to Itton village. CC Greenland reported that he had referred this to highways and would respond to clerk when he had any further information.

3.5 KM presented a breakdown of the current situation of funding for the defibrillator. File.

4) FINANCE

Balances at 27/10/13 Current; £ 2803.60

Notice: £ 275.54

Signed _____

- 4.1 Agreed for payment by JW and NK.
Clerk's expenses for November, £15.48 cheque no.101281
Hood Memorial Hall, donation for seniors Christmas lunch £50, cheque no. 101282
- 4.2 Clerk's Salary £261.13 received from MCC payroll for November
- 4.3 Clerk instructed to produce a budget projection for 2014/15 for discussion at next meeting ahead of precept request.

5) CORRESPONDENCE

- 5.1 Clerks and council's direct November 2013. Distributed.
- 5.2 MCC emergency contacts directory. Clerk to respond confirming the contacts as correct.
- 5.3 MCC – temporary closure of footpath 174 and 69 (131), because of safety issues with bridges. Taken by JW.

6) PLANNING

- 6.1 The following plans approved by MCC:
- 6.1.1 DC/2012/01043 The Nest Devauden – Alterations and extension – amendment to planning
- 6.1.2 DC/2013/00124 – Ty Mawr Farm, Devauden Barn conversion for separate dwelling.
- 6.1.3 DC/2013/00696 –Construction of detached bat house, Old Shop Cottage Star Hill, Llanishen
- 6.2 The following plans 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 – No objections, Recommend approval.
- 6.4 DC/2013/01003 Construction of agricultural barn, Land at Llanvihangel Court, Devauden, Chepstow. Defer to next meetings as plans not yet available.
- 6.5 DC/2013/00665 Erection of stables and hay store, Winslow Barn, Kilgwrrwg, Chepstow. Defer to next meetings as plans not yet available.

7) COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Reported that the livestock market official opening will be on 29 November. CC Greenland then went on to talk about the 5 meetings held with the public and that there had been some good suggestions on how MCC can reduce expenditure. There will be 5 further meetings and community involvement may be the way to deliver some services.

Reported that Paul Williams is now heading a commission looking at future delivery of services in Wales and most likely thing to affect us will be proposals to join MCC with neighbouring authorities. Finally there has been a review of community council boundaries but in DCC case it is unlikely that there will be any changes although maybe some changes to the wards.

8) ONE VOICE WALES (OVW)

No correspondence received.

9) WARD REPORTS

KM – Reported that has approached Spectrum about putting a phone line in for the defibrillator for free and sponsor it. No response received yet.

JW – Requested that clerk adds the hedge cutting in village properties from the previous meeting to the ongoing list. Top of Well Lane on B4293 is a street light not working properly.

MP – Sign post down opposite Holly House School Lane Itton where it looks like a hedger has taken out the sign. Footpath from the end of school lane round Chepstow Park Woods is no access for disabled people. Clerk to email Shaun Pritchard to see if this is a requirement.

AC- There is no footpath sign leading out of the car park at Wern y Cwm and at the other end of the same footpath sign is damaged. Still no action has been taken about a sign to say no heavy vehicles at Ty Bettws Hill. Clerk to add to highways again.

AW – Hedge trimming on Well Lane – a layer of material was left on the road and is now compacted causing a hazard. Also land owned by Woodland.co.uk is restricting heavy vehicles as the hedge is so high.

Date of next meeting 23 December 2013 at 6-7pm at Devauden.

Meeting closed 9.00 pm.

Signed _____

Devauden, Itton and Kilgwrrwg incidents between 27th October and 24th November 2013.

28/10 – two reports of an abandoned vehicle parked on the pavement at Itton Green – enquiries made and the vehicle had broken down and the owners were having issues in recovering it.

05/11 – report of traffic tailbacks in Devauden and surrounding roads due to a road traffic collision on the A466 and the Devauden fireworks display.

05/11 – report of a silver Volkswagen Bora parked in the lanes near to Fedw Farm – vehicle had gone prior to Police arrival.

06/11 – report of traffic issues caused by the firework display the night before.

Members of the Public Present

Mark Bunning

Brian Evans

Rhys Parry

Jeff Miles

Clive Pritchard

Ivor Cavill

Andrew Jenkes

Katherine Evans

Keith Evans

David Williams

David Maddocks

Peter Williams

Guy Parry

Signed _____