

**MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MONDAY 27 JANUARY 2014 AT DEVAUDEN VILLAGE HALL**

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

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

APOLOGIES: PC Thorpe.

1) OPEN SESSION

No police in attendance but report at the end of the minutes received.

David Maddocks gave a report on the meeting of the Strong Community Select he had attended on Thursday 23 January at County Hall. The meeting was chaired by CC Simon Haworth. Attendees included county councillors, Nigel Leaworthy, a representative from bee pollination groups, Mr Maddock, Mr J Miles and Mr J Rowlands.

Mr Maddocks passed a copy of a letter from the NFU regarding verge cutting and a copy of a petition titled Save our Rural Verge Cutting showing 165 signatures to DCC. He had passed both of these to MCC at the meeting on the 23rd.

He explained that farmers were annoyed about the lack of public consultation regarding the changes in verge cutting. He said that MCC had agreed that there should have been more consultation with road users.

The county wants increasing pollination from bees and there needs to be a compromise between Mr Leaworthy and Mr Hoggin. He covered the issues he had raised at the meeting regarding the proposed changes to cuts on B roads which are more difficult to cut as they are narrower and have an increasing number of vehicles using them. There are also farm gateways and windiness of roads to consider. The original suggestions were not workable. Cutting on A road is a different matter as in some places one cut would be sufficient. He questioned why cuts are being made in Oct/Nov/Dec.

He stated that the community council should now receive a planned area of one cut from Nigel Leaworthy and any areas considered to be unsafe to road users will be cut twice. If those areas need a second cut MCC should be contacted. The members of the Strong Community Select stated that they felt that a compromise be reached placing road users safety as being paramount in deciding areas to be cut.

Late leaf drop has resulted in blocked gullies. Need local feedback on where the gullies have blocked. Need to consider how leaves can be removed.

He asked that the statement on the web site about the verge cutting should be removed.

Feedback from the meeting on the 23rd will be made to MCC Select Committee.

Mr Maddocks thanked the CC for forwarding the response from the Welsh Office regarding hedge cutting. Asked that a letter be written to the Welsh Office asking them to explain how they arrive at the conclusion that Wales should be treated differently from England on rural policies.

Mr Maddocks was thanked for his report on the MCC meeting on the 23rd before leaving the meeting.

Andy Williams was asked if, when the revised policy is drawn up by MCC, he would redo the article for the web site.

2) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of 23 December agreed and signed by JW and CM.

3) MATTERS ARISING

3.1 JW reported that clerk has tendered her resignation with effect from 23 February. JW wished it to be recorded that CM has been an excellent clerk and thanked her for her work in the previous years. The resignation has been accepted with great reluctance. Councillors agreed this sentiment. Following a discussion on recruiting a new clerk it was decided that JW will contact OVW and request assistance to out together requirements, advertisements and interview process.

3.2 JW had passed the application for Grow Wild to AW who confirmed he still has it and will progress.

3.3 Agreed that all councillors' email addresses will appear on notice of contact details. JW to forward a new email address.

3.4 Reply to highways form sent 1/1/14, received 3 January and reply to form sent 5 December, received 24 January.
Signed _____

- 3.5 NK reported that he had repaired the bus shelter and there were no costs. Meeting thanked NK.
- 3.6 Progress with Wesley Way drainage - email from MCC Rob Davies confirming that MCC were waiting for residents to sign an agreement to works. Any start date will be confirmed later.

4) **FINANCE**

Balances at 26/1/14 Current; £ 5441.05 Notice: £ 275.59

- 4.1 Agreed for payment by JW and NK.
Clerk's expenses for January, £14.35 cheque no.101385
MCC – grounds maintenance for 2013/14, £799.01, cheque no. 101384. Received confirmation from MCC re dates grass was cut.
MCC – reimbursement of clerk's salary July 2013 to December 2013 plus administration fee.
- 4.2 Clerk's Salary £261.13 received from MCC payroll for January. Clerk to inform MCC that last day of employment is 23 February and 23 days annual leave (pro rata) will be paid.
- 4.3 MCC – letter agreeing the precept request

5) **CORRESPONDENCE**

- 5.1 Clerks and Council's direct
- 5.2 Natural Resources Wales – forest design plan consultation
- 5.3 MCC – grass cutting for 2014 proposal – CM to request a correct proposal from MCC detailing the greens, rather than the playing field which is incorrect.

5.4

6) **PLANNING**

- 6.1 The following plans approved by MCC:
- 6.1.1 DC/2013/00873 - Extend conservatory and alter roof to tiled, Cledd-y-Tan Farm, Newchurch, Chepstow
- 6.2 The following plans was refused by MCC: None listed on MCC website
- 6.3 DC/2013/01040 – replacement building to form triple garage with home office, The Ewings, Kilgwrrwg. Recommend approval.
- 6.4 DC/2013/01134 – proposed revision to approved replacement dwelling – Yew Tree Cottage, Star Hill, Llanishen. Recommend refusal as does not comply with planning policy.
- 6.5 Completed enforcement cases from December – Cledd y tan Farm Earlswood

7) **COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

CC Greenland reported that the 2nd round of budget consultations has just been completed and final proposals have to be agreed by 27 February. There has been as much cutting back of admin as can be achieved. It is looking like a 3% increase in council tax but that would still leave a gap of £1.5 million. To close this would need to raise council tax by 5% or cut services. It seems that the general opinion of people is that they would prefer an increase rather than lose services.

JW asked if in light of the Williams Commission there had been and thinking with MCC and Newport. CC Greenland said it was only last week that the commission reported and that was the first MCC were aware of it and as they are 2 very different authorities any amalgamation would take a long time.

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

Area Meeting 16 January Agenda. File
The Voice newsletter – distributed to councillors

9) **WARD REPORTS**

KM – reported on progress with the defibrillator. The standard model will be installed and then upgraded when ambulance service agree. The supplier needs a 50% payment up front with the rest on delivery. Funds will be transferred to DCC from fund raising account and the hall committee. JW took the cheque book to organise payment as required. Meeting agreed to put a sign on the box to state that it was provided by the people of Devauden for the people of Devauden. After the installation will be another presentation by the supplier. AW will organise the phone that is required for it to work.

JR – reported that Devauden Festival would like to put children's Go Karts on the green in a track 17m by 15m. There was no objection in principle from the council on the understanding that any damage is made good and appropriate safety measures are taken for those crossing the road to the green from the hall.

Signed _____

Paddy Lease of Tredean Cottage has requested that the 30mph limit be extending north from Devauden village along the B4293. The lighting is poor between the phone box and Forest Edge House in Devauden and the pavement is very uneven making it dangerous. Requested that a deputy chair post is discussed at the next meeting.

AW – erosion on the road from Cobblers plain to Wolvesnewton has reoccurred (60.13). Also Chepstow Comprehensive School is performing Phantom of the Opera on 18-20 February.

AC – Governors meeting at Shirenewton school – is an issue with the speed of traffic around the school and the flashing sign has stopped so agreed to inform highways in support of the school. Kilgwrrwg crossroads is now even worse as recent pot holing has become very rutted where it joins existing highway tarmac. B4293 north to Devauden from Itton Common – the edge is falling away and reflectors are missing.

MP – reported that Mr Malcolm Wiggley would like Steve Lane at MCC to contact him pm 01291 650297 to arrange an appointment to discuss the water and ice through the Glyn.

Meeting closed 9.30 pm.

Meeting dates 2014 – all start at 7pm Hood Memorial Hall (other than when specified as Itton)

24 Feb, 31 Mar, 28 Apr, 19 May, 23 Jun (Itton), 28 Jul (Itton), 18 Aug (Itton), 22 Sep, 27 Oct, 24 Nov, 22 Dec

Devauden, Itton and Kilgwrrwg incidents between 24th November 2013 and 26th January 2014.

20/01 – A car collided with the wall between Chepstow and Itton (B4293) due to black ice. Vehicle recovered.

18/01 – Vehicle on it's roof by the crossroads/telephone on the B4293. Vehicle recovered.

13/01 – Dead red deer in the middle of the B4293 by Star Hill.

11/01 – Anti hunt protestors blocking the B4293 at Cobblers Plain. Police attended and no offences were committed.

10/01 – Parcel Force driver verbally abused a resident as the parcel he was collecting was too heavy for him to lift. The driver was spoken to and advised about his conduct.

10/01 – Suspicious blue transit van seen in the Newchurch area. Observations passed, but area search negative.

03/01 – Fallen tree on Itton Common, completely blocking the road. Local farmer assisted with removing the tree.

01/01 – House in Devauden burgled. Entry gained via forcing bathroom window. Jewellery and money was taken. An alarm was set off and the offenders exited via the fire escape. Investigation ongoing.

30/12 – Tree down on the B4293. Council informed and dealt with.

29/12 – Devauden to Itton Road – a member of public was seen loading pre cut forestry logs onto vehicle. Males were traced and spoken to before returning the logs, which they thought were available to take.

17/12 – A deer hit on the B4293 near Star Hill. It got up and walked away.

Signed _____