

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MONDAY 24th FEBRUARY 2014 AT DEVAUDEN VILLAGE HALL

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

J. Williams (chair)
 K. McElroy
 N. Knowland
 M. Powell
 J. Rowlands
 I. Cavill

IN ATTENDANCE

C.C. Bob Greenland
 Judith Bolton (Temp Clerk)
 PCO70 Andy Jones
 Malcom Wigley
 David Maddocks

APOLOGIES:

Received from Councillors A. Cooke and A. Williams

1) OPEN SESSION

a) PC Andy Jones reported on incidents since the last Community Council Meeting

- i. 3rd February. A report of the theft of an Ivor Williams trailer from property on Monmouth Rd.
- ii. 6th February. A report of a motorist driving in an anti social manner through Itton village
- iii. 12th February. A report of a tree down on A
- iv. 15th February. A report of a tree down on Llansoy turning in Devauden

Chairman thanked PCO Jones for his attendance and report

b) Report by Mr M Wigley

Mr Wigley raised two issues of drainage problems.

- i. Showed photograph of water in front of Yew Tree Cottage, Kilgwrrwg and expressed concern that a drain had not been built in the area despite plans to do so in the past. He understood that a 4 drain project had been decided upon but only 3 fitted. He said this was causing practical problems for local residents but was also now a health and safety issue. Referring back to a previous report on the matter in 2013, he said that a visit from Steve Lane of CC Highways was to be organised but had not taken place. Mr Wigley asked that the Council request the fitting of a drain at the point in question.
- ii. Castle Farm drainage was also a problem. Mr Wigley said that the carriageway was breaking up because water was coming up to the surface through the road. He thought the pipe could be blocked or broken.

Councillors decided to request a visit by Steve Lane to both sites with a copy to CC Greenland.
 Councillor Powell will also telephone Steve Lane to discuss the problem.

c) Report by Mr David Maddocks.

Mr Maddocks raised two points;

- i. He asked that two written reports be appended to the formal minutes of the meeting;

Signed Chairman..... Signed Clerk..... 31 March 2014

- To clarify matters that had been discussed at earlier meetings and to alert residents to matters discussed at the Strong Communities: Select Committee meeting of 23/1/14 at Usk County Hall
- To clarify minutes of former council meetings when reporting the open sessions prior to the formal meeting

The Council agreed to this request. Please see Appendix to of these minutes.

Mr Maddocks said that he would be attending the full Council meeting on 27th February at Usk County Hall and was expecting to present the above reports and a petition. County Councillor Greenland explained that there was an item on the agenda of this meeting for the presentation of a petition but that he thought it unlikely that time would be allowed for discussion as this was a meeting to finalise the annual budget which had been agreed at cabinet last week. He added that one of the proposals to contribute to the achievement of the savings needed in the authority was to limit verge cutting to one per year but it was possible that an amendment from a member could exclude this item. It would then be up to officers of MCC to achieve their budget figures in another way.

The Council agreed that it would request a schedule of verge cuts from MCC

- ii. Mr. Maddocks also referred to the last AGM of the Council in May. He understood that it had been decided that a resolution was to be made at a future meeting about the length of tenure of the chairman. The Council agreed this should be done at the next AGM.

2) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 27TH JANUARY 2014

The chair pointed out an omission under Minute 9) Ward reports: JW, that complaints had been received about footpath 53.18. at the bottom end of Coal Lane. It is deeply rutted and walkers cannot get through because of obstructions. Ruth Rourke of MCC to be contacted. The minutes were amended

The minutes of the meeting held on January 27th 2014 were then confirmed as a correct record. Proposed by Councillor JW and seconded by Councillor NK. Signed by JW.

3) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 27TH 2014. (The reference numbers stated relate to those minutes)

3.1 Ref. Minute 9) Ward Reports JR; Deputy Chair Position. Discussion to be deferred until AGM

3.2 Ref. Minute 3.1. The clerk has now left and a replacement is to be recruited. Four applications have been received. 3 councillors JW, JR and NK to interview all applicants on Monday 3rd March from 6.00pm. Details of package/terms and conditions to be drawn up by JW

3.3 Ref. Minute 5.3 MCC has sent information on cost of grass cutting of Devauden Common, including Itton Common, The Trout and Howells Green. Chairman to email MCC to confirm acceptance and ask for rebate as only 13 cuts, not 14 were made last year

3.4 Ref Minute 9) Ward Report from KM ; A cheque for £1332.00 (a 50% payment for the defibrillator) has been sent to AED Locator

3.5 Ref. Minute 3.3 Councillors' email addresses are not yet on web site

4) FINANCE

4.1 Balances at 22/2/14 Current Account :£6480.00 Savings: £275.59

4.2. The following were agreed for payment JW and NK

To whom	Reason	Cheque No.	Amount £
Carleen Martin	Retired Clerks expenses	101388	£14.26
Carleen Martin	Retiring clerk's holiday expenses	To be sent by MCC	£214.50
Monmouthshire Beacon	Advertisement	101389	£93.60
		Total	£322.36

5) CORRESPONDENCE

5.1. From Kidney Wales Foundation: Walk for Life information to be filed

5.2. From MCC. LDP Inspection report has been published.

5.3 From Chairman of MCC David Dovey invitation to Music Showcase 27/3/14

5.4 From Natural Resources Wales. Requests for Comments on Forest Design Plan (Wye Valley North Review). The correspondence will be filed

5.5 MCC has sent information on New Bus Service 65. CC Greenland explained that current bus service contract comes to an end in April. The present bus does not allow disabled access. The service is subsidised by MCC. The lowest tender for a new service was over £100,000. Therefore MCC has proposed using its own buses. CC Greenland invited the Community Council to comment on the service offered and said that an officer would come out to a future meeting if Councillors and residents would like further information. Letter passed to JR.

5.6 From MCC, Road Traffic Regulation Act. Road Closure at Tintern Cross, from 17/2/14 until no later than 6/4/14. Letter passed to KM

6) PLANNING

6.1. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM MCC

DC/2014/00094, Amendment to DC/2013/00806 to reposition the extension west by 1.6m. Council agreed that a recommendation of approval be made to MCC

6.2. PLANNING DECISIONS: APPROVAL GIVEN

DC/2013/00413 Woodbank, Itton, NP16 6BZ. Semi sub-division with extension and garage. This was given approval on 13/2/14 by delegated officer.

6.3 PLANNING APPLICATION DECISIONS: REFUSED

- a) DC/2012/00692, Woodbank, Itton NP16 6BZ Building Plot. This application was refused on 13/2/14 by delegated officer.

Signed Chairman..... Signed Clerk..... 31 March 2014

- b) DC/2013/01134 Proposed revision to approved replacement dwelling. This was refused on 11/2/14 by delegated officer.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

7.1 County Councillor Greenland referred to the VAS sign at Itton that is not functioning. The manufacturer has inspected it and decided that the problem was with the foundations which were incorrectly set, leaving the structure with a vibration. Unfortunately the contractor has gone into liquidation so MCC is likely to have to sort out the problem with the structure.

7.2 Annual Budget to be set at the next full council meeting on 27/2/14. The Council has tried to incorporate ideas and comments from the engagement meetings held recently. A 3.95% increase in council tax is anticipated. .

8) ONE VOICE WALES

8.1 Membership fee requested but can be deferred to the next meeting

8.2. Invitation to chairman for attendance at Buckingham Palace garden party.

9) WARD REPORTS

9.1 Councillor I. Cavill (Itton) reported that:

- a) There were potholes on 57.6. On Itton Church Lane at Parc Maes Ffyon there is a deep gulley which is a particular hazard to cyclists. On same road the carriageway is very narrow because the field entrance has eroded it at the Croes Bleddyn end.
- b) He has written to the working party on electoral arrangements and boundaries to restore the Dyers Cottage into Itton Ward and out of Shirenewton. Support for his request was expressed by the Council.
- c) ITV has sent a questionnaire looking into whether CCs have responsibility for burial plots. Suggested that CC should, in future, look at provision in the area for burial services.

9.2 Councillor Rowlands (Devauden) reported on:

- a) The proposal that wild flowers be grown alongside the fences of the village hall and at the rear of the hall going on to the field. There is a copper beech in this field but no reason why it should not be reclaimed for wild flowers
- b) A resident who cannot maintain her garden and who would appreciate help. Community Council to explore the gardening service offered by the prison system
- c) The Music Fest. He said that the idea of Go Karts had been dropped and, instead, a proposal for a 10x15 meter marquee to advertise 'Made in Monmouthshire' products be placed on the village green. The Council agreed

9.3 Councillor Powell (Itton) reported deep gullies at the lower end of the 57.4 and that the drain outside the Woodlands is blocked.

9.4 Councillor A. Williams (Llanvihangel Wolvesnewton)

Councillor Williams sent a report to the meeting with the following information.

- a) Reference the Grow Wild Scheme. Councillor Williams said that this requires a suitable patch of land, solid budget, well set up plan etc, and access to good advice. Prior to any decision, he recommended:

Signed Chairman..... Signed Clerk..... 31 March 2014

- meetings with groups who might assist in developing a team to take advantage of the opportunity e.g Hall Committee
 - a public meeting
- b) Reference a public phone for Devauden. This would need a very sound structure. Recommended models: Rhino 1 or Rhino 2. Recommended that the Council discuss the cost aspect prior to further action.
- c) Road side verges. Online petition has reached 750 entries. Gwent Wildlife Trust, Monmouthshire meadows Group and others have expressed support.
- d) Road number 60.13, Road to Wolvesnewton from Cobblers Plain is suffering serious road erosion.. An already deep gulley has widened and deepened further with wet weather in the last month.

10) DATE OF APRIL COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

It was agreed that the April meeting be held on the 22nd April as long as accommodation is available in the hall.

Thanks were expressed to the temporary clerk

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING: 24/2//14 APPENDIX

2 Reports Submitted by Mr Maddocks in Pre-Meeting, Open Session

Points missed by Devauden C C minutes November /December

Comments made on the petition Save Our Rural Verge Cutting.

1. The policy presented in the minutes of 30th September are a personal view point and do not represent the residents who have signed the petition.
2. Any policy regarding reducing verge cutting and policy on wild flowers should have been discussed at an open meeting of Devauden C.C.
3. A number of proposals put forward will make driving on the B.C. and R roads more dangerous as the overhanging uncut verges will push Tractors, Cars, School busses and Lorries further into the centre of the road.
4. Will leaving long stretches uncut till late autumn help flowers prosper and pollinate.
5. Large areas left at present uncut on wide verges on first cut are full of nettles, docks, brambles, and bracken with no sign of wild flowers.
6. Cutting a large swath once a year will further restrict any hope for wild flowers.
7. It should be noted that the second cut is still taking place in October this would leave some roads in a totally dangerous state, as it is proposed to include C and R roads in future in the new management regime.
8. One of the main causes of rural road traffic accidents are overhanging verges.
9. The minutes of 30th September are misleading; C and R roads will not be included.
10. Details of proposed changes to verge management on the Devauden web site from A.W. would have massive safety implications and could not be included in the new management regime Mr Leeworthy confirmed.
11. Farm gate ways should be included in 2 cuts.
12. All B roads are too narrow for the changes.

David Maddocks

MEETING AT USK COUNTY HALL

ATTENDED BY : DAVID MADDOCKS, GEOFF MILES AND DAVID MADDOCKS.
MESSRS HOGGINS, LEWORTHY, MRS HOWARD, "BEE REPRESENTATIVE"

DAVID MADDOCKS PRESENTED A PETITION TO THE MEMBERS, TOGETHER WITH PAPERS RE COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC AND A LETTER FROM NFU WALES.

OUTCOMES FROM THE MEETING WERE AS FOLLOWS;

1. THE COUNTY WOULD LOOK INCREASING POLINATOR PLANTS, WILD FLOWERS AND HELP FOR BEES. (100% AGREEMENT FROM ALL COUNCILLORS PRESENT)
2. ALL COUNCILLORS AGREED THAT A COMPROMISE WITH ROAD SAFETY PARAMOUNT
3. THEY ACCEPTED THAT B ROADS ARE MORE DIFFICULT FOR ONE CUT LATE AUTUMN, B ROADS ARE MUCH NARROWER, FARM GATES WAYS NEED TO BE INCLUDED AND THERE IS MORE TRAFFIC USING THE ROADS. THE ANDY WILLIAMS PLAN WAS PASSED TO COUNCILLORS. COMMENTS WERE; UNSUITABLE, SLOPING VERGES, WARNING SIGN VISIBLE AND FARM GATEWAYS SHOWING. NIGEL LEWORTHY CONFIRMED THAT 2 CUTS WOULD TAKE PLACE ON THIS SECTION OF THE ROAD.
4. COW PARSLEY ETC WAS CONSIDERED TO BE A MAJOR HAZZARD ON B ROADS
5. A ROADS ARE A TOTALLY DIFFERENT MATTER, SUCH AS THE A449 AND A48. IT WAS FELT THAT SOME LONG STRAIGHT SECTIONS COULD HAVE 1 CUT
6. CUTTING VERGES NOV. DEC. AND JAN HAVE DAMAGED VERGES AND STORM GULLIES.
7. COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS SHOULD NOW RECEIVE A PLAN OF THE PROPOSED AREAS, WITHIN DCC AREA, FOR 1 CUT.
8. C.C.'S SHOULD CONSIDER ANY STRETCHES OF ROAD THEY CONSIDER TO BE UNSAFE. THESE WILL RECEIVE 2 CUTS.
9. C.C.'S MUST CONSULT WITH ROAD USERS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.
10. FARM GATEWAYS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CUTTING PLAN.
11. LARGE AREAS NOT CUT IN 1m CUT FOR SAFETY REASONS.
12. NOT A COST CUTTING PROJECT DUE TO INCREASED SPENDING ON WILD FLOWERS AND POLLINATOR PLANTS.
13. THE "BEE" REPRESENTATIVE SUGGESTED THAT ALL HEDGES AND VERGES REMAIN UNCUT AT ALL TIMES AND THAT HEDGES ARE ONLY CUT IN FEBRUARY. THESE WERE NOT ACCEPTED BY THE MEMBERS.