

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 22nd April 2014 at Itton Village Hall

Councillors present:

J. Williams (Chair)
K. McElroy
A. Cooke
N. Knowland
M. Powell
I. Cavill

In attendance:

N. James (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from CC Greenland.

2. Open Session

There was no police report for this meeting and no members of the public were present.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting of 31 March were accepted as a true record and signed by JW.

4. Matters Arising

a. Minute 2civ – JW had attended the recent Area Meeting of OVW and had obtained a list of all training courses available. The Clerk would circulate to all members to see whether anyone wished to attend any of the courses. Although there was no course available on best practice the Clerk would contact OVW to see whether it was possible for a representative to attend a future Committee meeting. **Action: NJ.**

b. Minute 4a – MP had discussed again the provision of a fourth drain near to Mr Wigley's property with Ryan Pritchard of MCC. MCC were definitely of the opinion that a fourth drain was not feasible because of the insufficient fall although it was possible that affordability was also a factor.

c. Minute 4d – KM confirmed that the defibrillator would be dispatched by the end of next week. KM would then arrange for its installation and for the power connection. The Clerk was asked to arrange payment of £1332.00 for the second half of the charge. **Action: KM/NJ.**

d. Minute 10a – the West Glos and Forest motor cycle club had advised that they had clearance to hold their trial along Devauden Lane, a lane not known as such by the Committee. The Committee were still of the opinion that the club used routes which had not been cleared for use in previous years. As a consequence the Clerk was asked to

contact them again to obtain a copy of the route through Devauden that they used.
Action: NJ.

e. Minute 10m – JW had spoken to Ann Wareham who had advised that she would be delighted to get involved with a working party looking into areas of natural planting/wild flowers in the village. The Council wished to record their appreciation for her support and their thanks for what she would contribute.

5. **Finance**

a. Balances at 31 March 2014 were: Current Account £2607.20, Notice £275.64.

b. The following were agreed for payment: Clerk's salary of £712.63 for January, February 2014 and holiday pay, received from MCC payroll, cheque number 101392; Clerk's expenses of £15 for April, cheque number 101393.

c. The Clerk had received £40.00, the annual 2014 payments for two of the three allotments.

d. The Clerk produced the completed annual accounts – bank reconciliation and cash book – for JW's signature. In discussion it was noted that the second part of the grant from Herefordshire CC for £586 for phone box renovation and the Hood Memorial Hall contribution of £800 towards the defibrillator had yet to be paid. **Action: MP/KM.** In addition, no contribution had been made by DCC to the grass cutting in the three church graveyards of Itton, Wolvesnewton and Kilgwrrwg. Given that allowance had been made in the 13/14 budget for this it was agreed that £50 would be paid to each church on receipt of an invoice for 13/14 and 14/15, paying for both years out of the 14/15 budget. MP, AC and AW were asked to arrange for appropriate invoices to be submitted. **Action: MP/AC/AW.**

6. **Correspondence**

The Clerk had asked whether Committee members wished for all correspondence that he received to be automatically forwarded to them. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would continue to forward all correspondence and particularly relevant correspondence would then be discussed at a subsequent meeting. Correspondence received:

a. Environment Wales Newsletter – distributed.

b. Local Government Wales Measure 2011 – Guidance to Principal Councils and community and Town Councils in Wales – distributed.

c. Request from BBC One seeking people with interesting homes across Wales for a new TV series.

d. Summary of the Welsh Audit Office Land Seminar – distributed.

e. Consultation document from the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee of the Welsh Government on Making Laws in the Fourth Assembly – distributed.

f. Invitation to the Wales Audit Office's Shared Learning Seminar on Facilities Management.

g. Request from the Electoral Commission to encourage all to register to vote in the European Parliamentary Elections on the 22nd May.

7. **Planning**

a. DC/2014/00180 MCC had approved the discharge of Condition 2 (bat enhancement measures) of their decision DC/2013/01040 at The Ewings, Kilgwrrwg. No refusals listed on their website.

b. DC/2014/00282 change of use of existing holiday let to permanent dwelling and extension at Tor-y-Mynydd Farm - DCC recommended refusal on the grounds that previous similar change of use applications had been refused.

c. DC/2014/00413 erection of a double garage at The Dorretts – DCC recommended for approval.

d. DC/2014/00119 renovation and extension of disused farmhouse at Berth Crwyn, Llanvihangel Tor-y-Mynydd – the Committee members present had no adverse comments but the Clerk was asked to consult with AW for his comments. **Action: NJ.**

e. DC/2013/00052 notification from MCC that of an amendment to this application – the proposed stable block and tack room on land south west of Cwrt-y-Gaer – to reflect ownership boundaries. At the last meeting CC Greenland had agreed to discuss with MCC with the aim of delaying the application in view of the land ownership dispute. The Clerk was asked to advise MCC of the Council's objection to the continuation of this application whilst this dispute was still ongoing. In view of the time limit of 21 days having expired an email response explaining the reasons for the delay would be made.

f. New enforcement cases for March 2013.

8. **County Councillor's Report**

In CC Greenland's absence there was no county councillor's report.

9. **One Voice Wales (OVW)**

There was no information received from OVW but JW reported back on last week's Area Meeting.

10. **Ward Reports**

a. KM advised that the Hood Memorial Hall had hired a marquee to erect on the village green for the music festival.

b. IC reported a deep hole in the road surface just before the junction 59.2/58.8 Coed Llifos. The hole extended some way beneath the surface and was dangerous; it was in urgent need of repair. **Action: NJ.** In addition he felt that, although part of the regular grass cutting timetable, the triangular area of grass on Itton Common was an ideal patch for wild flower planting, and we should suggest such to MCC. **Action: NJ.**

c. AC raised her real concern about the dangerous section of the B4293 coming out of Itton towards Devauden, a concern which was shared by all and had been endorsed by Phillips Coaches which operated school buses along that stretch of road on a daily basis. In discussion the issues of repairing the verges which had fallen away and the installation of crash barriers were debated. It was felt however that to alleviate the danger altogether might require an even more radical solution but some urgent action was needed if serious injury or death was to be avoided. The Clerk was asked to try to arrange an on-site meeting with specialists in MCC Highways Department to see if some practical solutions could be agreed, copying the Chief Executive into the correspondence. **Action: NJ.** In addition AC asked if we could find out when the bridge on footpath 357/69 between 50.2 and 60.3 would be reopened as it had been closed for at least 18 months. **Action: NJ.**

d. JW advised that the verges had begun to fall away along the left hand side of Well Lane beyond the sewage works.

11. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held in Devauden Village Hall on Monday 19th May at 7pm.