

DRAFT

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday 19th May at Devauden Village Hall

Councillors present:

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

In attendance:

Cc Bob Greenland
D.Maddocks (Open session)

T.Newington-Bridges(Opensession)
N. James

1. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from J Williams.

2. **Open Session**

a. There were no police officers present but the report attached at the back of these minutes was forwarded for inclusion.

b.

(i) Mr Maddocks had obtained details from the internet regarding best practice for parish councils. It was recognized that councils had standing orders issued to them but the Clerk would look through the details to see whether there were additional items that could be considered by the Council. **Action: NJ.**

(ii) Mr Maddocks wished to record his thanks to the Hall Committee for a great Devauden Music Festival weekend this year. There was a marvellous atmosphere in the village and it was so well attended.

(iii) Mr Maddocks highlighted the need for the verge cutting to start as the hedges and verges were growing quickly and, with the apparent increase in cyclists especially on weekends, this was becoming a safety matter. AW advised that safety cutting had already started but if we believed there was a pinch point which required cutting we could advise MCC accordingly. MCC had promised to forward the 2014 grass cutting plan but as yet this had not been received. The Clerk was asked to chase MCC for a copy. **Action: NJ.**

c. Mrs Newington-Bridges had submitted a planning application to renovate the former Fox and Hounds inn in Wolvesnewton to form a holiday cottage. AW and BG both supported this application and advised that the former owner of The Rectory had started to renovate the building without permission. When this work was subsequently stopped the repairs that had been made to make the building safe remained but the building had continued to fall into disrepair and was now a considerable eyesore. Internally the building had several features which were worth preserving. This application would restore the building and was supported. The Committee recommended it for approval. **Action: NJ.**

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting of 22 April were accepted as a true record and signed by JR. However it was noted that the minutes in future should be produced with the word “DRAFT” on them before being issued and until approval at the following month’s meeting.

4. Matters Arising

a. Minute 4c – KM confirmed that the defibrillator had been delivered and the second instalment of £1332.00 had been made on delivery (cheque 101394 signed by JW and NK on 25 April). He hoped that it would be installed and registered by the end of this month, and that a training session could be held in June. He would act as Guardian for the defibrillator which involved regularly monitoring to confirm it was still operative, and he would arrange for someone to be his deputy in case he was away. It was also agreed that he would arrange for publicity once the defibrillator was installed. The Committee also agreed that he could purchase a piece of perspex or similar for approximately £70 for the box to be securely fixed in the phone box. **Action: KM.**

b. Minute 4d – the West Glos and Forest motor cycle club had provided a copy of their route through Devauden and it showed that, although the trial was not routed along Well Lane, it did go along Coale Lane and into Pergus Wood. MCC had confirmed that Coale Lane was regarded as public highway and therefore motor cycles would be eligible to use it. The Club had offered to discuss its route with the Council and it was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with the Club prior to next year’s event so that suitable notice can be given of the route. **Action: NJ.**

5. Finance

a. Balances at 30 April 2014 were: Current Account £2474.20, Notice £275.64.

b. The Internal Audit had been completed by Christine Always and a cheque 101395 for £59.66 was agreed for her payment. In addition, cheques for £50 each - numbers 101396 and 101398 - were agreed for payment to Itton and Kilgwrrwg churches respectively for grasscutting for 2013/14 – see minutes of meeting of 22 April. A cheque for £15 – number 101397 – was signed for the Clerk’s expenses for May.

c. KM handed over a cheque for £800 from the Hood Memorial Hall Committee as the second payment towards the costs of the defibrillator.

d. Notices of the forthcoming external audit had to be put on the notice boards around the area by 9 June and MP, AC and JR agreed to do this.

e. The insurance policy was due for renewal on 1 June. The Clerk had received a quotation from Zurich, the current insurer, for the same cover for an additional £3 annual premium. The Clerk had obtained a further quote from Came and Company who confirmed that their quote would be as last year's including the continuing requirement for a £250 excess. In view of the completely uncompetitive price last year and the very competitively-priced quote from Zurich, the Clerk had not sought any further quotes. It was noted that the defibrillator would need to be added to the list of Council's assets in the policy. After discussion it was agreed to continue with Zurich for 2014/15. **Action: NJ.**

6. **Correspondence**

a. A list of training courses run by OVW.

b. An invitation from OVW for volunteers to attend a community camp on behalf of the scheme entitled Big Lunch.

c. Eco Opendoors 2014.

d. Invitation to an evening celebrating the 200th anniversary of the signing of the contract to build Chepstow Bridge.

e. Notification of an application to divert a public footpath in Kilgwrrwg; this was recommended for approval with a request to ensure that there would be adequate footpath signs. **Action: NJ.**

f. Request for volunteers to help with a national bike event in Monmouthshire.

g. Invitation to attend a local government finance course on the 2 Jun 2014.

7. **Planning**

a. DC/2014/00402 renovation of former Inn to form a holiday cottage adjacent to The Old Rectory at Wolvesnewton (see above).

e. New and completed enforcement cases for April 2014. The Clerk was asked to investigate if there was still an enforcement outstanding for the entrance area at Parc Maes Ffynon. **Action: NJ.**

8. **County Councillor's Report**

BG advised that the First Minister had decided to set up a Commission to determine a road map on delivery of the recommendations of the Williams Commission; it was unlikely that this Commission would be completed before at least 2016.

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

There was no further information received from OVW.

10. Ward Reports

a. JW had expressed concern at a recent rally of cars which came along Well Lane. This caused some hold ups for others coming the other way and given the 20 plus number of rally cars was a potential accident spot. Residents in Itton had been given prior notice of the annual event but those in Well Lane had not. The Clerk had forwarded the concerns to MCC to see whether Well Lane was in fact on the designated route, and MCC had confirmed that they were unable to stop cars using any road for an event if it were a public highway unless the police had recommended a road not to be used. In this case no recommendation had been made. The Clerk was asked to discuss the suitability of Well Lane for such events with the local police. **Action: NJ.**

b. JR advised that the pavement between the corner of Wesley Way up to The Rectory was falling away and was in need of repair. **Action: NJ.** It was noted that there was still some refurbishment to be carried out in the telephone boxes in Itton and Cobblers Plain for which the second instalment of £586 from Herefordshire CC was still awaited.

c. AW updated the Committee on the verge safety cutting programme that had started as part of the MCC's Pollination policy. It was possible that as this was a new timetable there might be verges which required more safety cuts than planned and he asked that Councillors highlighted these so that they could be passed to MCC. He had already surveyed various places in the area with the Monmouthshire Meadow Group aiming to identify places for accelerated planting of some of the verges, and he asked for Councillors to advise him of places they felt would be suitable for such treatment. In this respect the triangle of land at Itton mentioned at the last meeting could be one such area although, as MCC had pointed out, there could be traffic safety issues with allowing the area to grow too high. Included in those areas already identified was an area behind Hood Hall and it was agreed that AW should peg out this area so that the results of the policy could be readily seen. **Action: AW.**

d. KM wished to thank:

(i) Stacey Harris at MCC for the new signs at Wesley Way.

(ii) the Village Hall Committee for their cheque for £800 towards the defibrillator fund(see above).

(iii) the organisers of the Devauden Music Festival for putting on a family-friendly event in the community which was so well attended.

e. KM/JR both raised outstanding highways issues and it was agreed that, rather than raise them separately under "Matters Arising" each month, the Clerk would issue the log he maintains of outstanding issues with each monthly agenda. **Action: NJ.**

f. AC reported that four walkers from Kilgwrrwg had again walked along all the "unrecorded" routes around Kilgwrrwg. The details of these routes had been forwarded for recording to MCC some while ago.

11. Any other business

The Committee unanimously wished to record their great thanks and appreciation to Jacqui Williams for her long and successful period as Chair to Devauden CC.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in Itton Village Hall on Monday 23rd June at 7pm.

POLICE REPORT 28 APR- 19 MAY 2014

Devauden, Itton and Kilgwrrwg incidents between 28th April and 19th May:

17/05- Camping around the Devauden Village Hal, in preparation for the Festival. Persons moved on.

17/05 - Complaints re: Festival noise and lights at 0115hrs. Very unhappy that it continued after the 2230 hours expected finish.

15/05 – Reports of a suspicious vehicle parked in Itton. No offences.

12/05 – Two vehicle RTC on B4293.

12/05 – Reports of 10-12 cows in a lane – area search negative.

09/05 – Scouts holding an overnight event at Fedw Woods.

08/05 – Reports of people walking their dogs off their leads in wooded area, which then wander off on to caller's private land.

03/05 – Vehicle broken down in Itton. Vehicle recovered.

02/05 – Two vehicles acting suspiciously in a layby on the Devauden Road. Police attended and no offences were being committed.

02/05 – Found wallet on B4293 – officers collected and booked into property stores in Devauden.

28/04 – Male fallen off horse in Devauden. Conveyed to hospital.