

# **DRAFT**

## **MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Held on Monday 28th July 2014 at Itton Village Hall**

**Councillors present:**

J. Rowlands (Chairman)  
A. Williams  
J. Williams  
I. Cavill

**In attendance:**

Cc Bob Greenland  
CO S Parker  
  
CO E Studley  
  
Mr D Maddocks  
  
Mr and Mrs R Brooke  
  
N. James (Clerk)

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from M Powell, N Knowland, A Cooke and K McElroy.

**2. Open Session**

a. The police report is attached at the back of these minutes. JW was concerned to learn of the alleged arson attack and the inference drawn from it in the report. CO Parker would arrange for PC Thorpe who was investigating it to contact her. Mr Maddocks, whose tractor was the subject of the attack, advised that the fire officer had confirmed to him that he thought it was a case of arson. He advised that it was fortunate that the fire was put out quickly by his wife and himself because there were gas cylinders stored close by. He offered views as to why he himself felt it was arson and the Chairman advised him that these should be passed to the police.

b. Mr Maddocks expressed his concern that on occasions the minutes of the DCC meetings did not accurately reflect some of the points that he had raised, and noted that, although he had asked for a representative from the NALC to come to a meeting, no person has yet done so.

c. Mr and Mrs Brooke summarised the history of the Coal Lane status issue. MCC had responded to the correspondence regarding the status of Coal Lane by putting in place a review of the case including the Counsel's advice on the NERA Act 2006 and the non-use of that part of the Lane by motor cycles. Following that review the aim would be to obtain a formal legal classification in the court at which stage they would invite local residents to attend to give their views. In the meantime they had been asked to permit only cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders to use the particular part of

the Lane; a reply to this request was still awaited. CC Greenland also advised that he would look into obtaining a copy of the definitive map. **Action: NJ/ BG.**

### 3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June were approved and signed by the Chairman.

### 4. **Matters Arising**

a. Minute 2a – the Clerk had contacted the organisers of the rally who stated that the police and council – presumably MCC – were advised of the entire route of the rally which was held under the auspices of the Motor Sports Association, and they had tried to contact as many residents on the route as they could. The route varies each year. The email correspondence was unclear however and the Clerk had sought further clarification on the use of Well Lane. **Action: NJ.**

b. Minute 2A b – JR advised that the Fete had been a great success. They had monitored noise levels throughout the day and evening, and there had been no complaints.

c. Minute 4a – the defibrillator was now fully operational and a training session for the local community had been arranged for Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July. It was felt that residents of Itton might also wish to attend a future training session and KM would be asked to arrange that. **Action: KM.**

d. Minute 5e – the Clerk had distributed a copy of draft accounting regulations; these were approved.

e. Minute 10a – the Clerk had distributed a draft policy for DCC in dealing with the press; this was approved and the Clerk was asked to put a copy of the policy on the DCC part of the Devauden village website, and to ensure this information was included in his monthly report for the Fiveways magazine. **Action: NJ.**

f. Minute 10c – the Clerk had distributed a financial report up until the end of June which showed that the installation of dog poo bins in Devauden and elsewhere would be affordable this year. In discussion it was agreed to go ahead with the installation of 3 dog poo bins in Devauden and one in Itton. There was some discussion over the frequency with which the bins should be emptied; it was agreed to start off on a fortnightly basis – as Shirenewton were doing – and increase to weekly if that was felt necessary. JR and IC would consider suitable locations. **Action: JR/IC.**

h. Minute 4e – the Clerk went through the Outstanding Log of Highways issues: maps of the grass cutting plan had been obtained and passed to the councillors although the maps had not been those that were originally promised by MCC; restricted access signs in Itton were to be put up shortly; the badgers' hole in Itton was to be filled in next week; no further work however would be done on the hedges at 15 Wesley Way and opposite the School House in Devauden. Action on other requests was still outstanding.

### 5. **Standing Orders**

The Chairman had spoken to OVW about Standing Orders and in particular the open sessions, the minutes, and agenda items. It was noted by JW that in fact a comprehensive discussion had taken place about similar matters in the July 2012 meeting. After some discussion it was agreed to postpone this topic until the next meeting when a larger number of Councillors would be present. In the meantime the Clerk would circulate a note of the discussion points. **Action: NJ.**

6. **Post of Monitor**

OVW had confirmed that there was no official post of “monitor” for a community council. The Council felt however that the opportunity was available for all local community members to monitor its performance.

7. **Finance**

- a. Balances at 30 June 2014 were: Current Account £3835.57, Notice £275.64.
- b. Cheques were signed as follows: the Clerk’s attendance at a training seminar - £15.00 (cheque number 101403); grasscutting at Itton with Howick Church for 14/15 - £50.00(cheque number 101404); Clerk’s expenses for July - £15.00(cheque number 101405); hire of Hood Memorial Hall - £175.00(cheque number 101406).
- c. A note of thanks had been received from Wolvesnewton Church for the donation for grasscutting for 13/14.
- d. The financial report up to the end of June 2014 had been distributed and the bank reconciliation was produced at the meeting; these were noted by the Council.

8. **Correspondence**

- a. Letter from the Police and Crime Commissioner about the Community Remedy Consultation.
- b. An update from the Fly Tipping Action team Wales.
- c. Information about a Community Engagement Training Seminar in Barry on 15 July.
- c. Information about a training seminar on Devolution of Services in Barry on 30 July.
- d. Information about an exhibition for armed services’ veterans in Cardiff on 10 July.
- e. A welcome letter of introduction from the new police Chief Inspector for the area.
- f. The trawl letter for nominations for the Birthday Honours List for 2015. The Council remarked that there had been insufficient notice of the deadline for nominations and it was agreed that this subject should be highlighted earlier for future lists. **Action: NJ.**
- g. An e-learning package from the Welsh Government on public service complaints.
- h. A revised Code of Practice on Workforce matters from the Welsh Government.
- i. A letter of complaint from a local resident regarding the lack of response from MCC regarding the overhanging hedge at School House plus other pavement obstructions

and overgrown hedges in Devauden. These obstructions were discussed by the Council and the Clerk was asked to respond formally to the local resident. **Action: NJ.**

j. A letter of concern from Mr Maddocks regarding the policy introduced by MCC for grass cutting of the verges. Whilst the Council acknowledged there had been some difficulties with the new grass cutting policy it had been introduced in line with the Select Committee compromise, and it would be appropriate to await a full season's cutting before reviewing a formal response to MCC. It was agreed that the Clerk would forward Mr Maddocks' letter to MCC and respond to Mr Maddocks. **Action: NJ.**

k. Funding update from Natural Resources Wales.

l. BBC Wales Annual Review.

m. Welsh Government Consultation document on land for allotment and community use.

n. Bulletin updating the Well- being of future generations bill.

o. Re-circulation of the Welsh Government White paper on Reorganization of Local Government.

p. The Clerk had circulated a draft policy for the keeping of records in view of the large amount of archived material that was held by DCC. The draft was approved but councillors wondered whether the archives should in fact be sent to MCC. The Clerk would review the material that DCC needed to retain and contact MCC to see whether they would wish to receive the rest. **Action: NJ.**

## 9. **Planning**

a. New and completed enforcement cases for Jun 2014.

b. Advice from MCC that the occupant at Parc Maes Ffynnon in Itton had advised that he would not be moving or reducing the height of his wall. No further action would be taken by MCC, a decision that had disappointed the Council. The Clerk was asked to write to MCC expressing the concern of the DCC that failure of procedure on MCC's part had contributed to the fact that nothing could now be done as no completion date had been given, and seeking reassurance that this would not reoccur. **Action: NJ.**

c. DC/2014/00858- construction of an agricultural barn on land at Llanvihangel Court, Devauden – recommended for approval.

d. DC/2014/00805 – demolition of an existing bungalow and garage and rebuilding a bungalow with dormers and extension and also detached double garage at Woodbank, Itton – recommended for approval.

## 10. **County Councillor's Report**

a. CC Greenland advised that, whilst MCC had put in place a series of cuts in its budget over the next medium term, the Council had now been told by the Welsh

Government to expect even further cuts to this budget. Although the Council did not know yet how deep the cuts would have to be they would inevitably be unpalatable and would have serious consequences on some of the services and standards that were provided by MCC. The intention was to arrange engagement meetings with the public.

b. The First Minister had responded to the Williams Report on Local Government. The WG would put an order before the Welsh Assembly next year but there would be no moves towards any amalgamations before the elections in 2016 and it was unlikely there would be any amalgamations – if the order went through – before at least 2019/20.

c. MCC had agreement to a rebuilding programme for all four of its secondary schools. It was hoped that building work for the first two – Caldicot and Monmouth – would begin by the end of this year. In Monmouth the new build would necessitate the demolition of the current swimming pool and it was likely that, with the need for planning permission and identifying the budget, it would be closed for a year. In view of the state of its plant and equipment such a closure would be essential in a few years time in any event if it were to stay open. As far as the schools in Chepstow and Abergavenny were concerned there was no firm date yet as MCC was still waiting to hear from the Welsh Government when the funds would be forwarded.

#### 11. **One Voice Wales (OVW)**

There was no further correspondence received from OVW.

#### 12. **Ward Reports**

a. JW advised that the grey waste bags of Well Lane residents had not been collected for a four week period and asked if anyone had a contact point so that she could try to resolve any future problem quickly. IC would forward to her a telephone contact. **Action: IC.** In addition, she noted that the grass edging at the junction of Ditch Hill Lane and the Usk Road, B4235, was seriously overgrown and the reduced visibility at that point was dangerous. **Action: NJ.** JW attended the OVW Monmouth/Newport Area Committee on 10 July 2014. Inspector Mike Richards (CID Blackwood) outlined the work being undertaken to ensure safety at the NATO conference in September and summarised the likely disruption in the Newport/Cardiff area..

b. AW remarked that the waste collection in Wolvesnewton seemed to happen at variable times. IC agreed to forward the contact number to him so that he could discuss with MCC. **Action: IC.**

#### 13. **Review of Clerk's performance/salary**

This item was postponed until the next meeting when a larger number of Councillors would be present.

#### 14. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting would be held in Itton Village Hall on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm.

## POLICE REPORT 23<sup>RD</sup> JUNE-28<sup>TH</sup> JULY

28/06 – report of a large boulder on the B4293 - caused damage to a car wheel of a passing motorists

30/06 – a call was received to say that two different religious groups had been calling at houses in the “Cold Calling Control Zone” of Wesley Way Devauden. The caller was informed by the people that they are exempt from the zone, we can clarify that is the case.

04/07 – report of a vehicle having gone off the road at Itton on the B4293 – the driver suffered a minor injury and no-one else was involved.

25/07 – a report has been received of arson (confirmed by the Fire Brigade) – a tractor was deliberately set on fire in a barn last week - believe this is linked with a local dispute, in Devauden.