

DRAFT

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday 18th August 2014 at Itton Village Hall

Councillors present:

J. Rowlands (Chair)
A. Cooke
J. Williams
I. Cavill

In attendance:

Cc Bob Greenland
CO A Jones CO S Parker

Malcolm Wigley
N. James (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Malcolm Powell, Nigel Knowland, Kevin McElroy and Andy Williams.

2. Open Session

a. The police report is attached at the back of these minutes. CO Jones advised that, in addition to those incidents on the list, there had been two burglaries in houses in Shirenewton recently, on both occasions the occupants had been away on holiday. He warned of the need for extra vigilance.

b. Mr Wigley advised that, although a Council engineer had come out in April to view the drainage problem in the lane above Castle Farm(see minutes for October 2013 and February 2014) no further action had been taken; he felt it was a significant health and safety issue especially in the cold weather when the water freezes. At the April meeting the engineer had advised that they would return and put a camera into the drainage pipe to check for a blockage. The Clerk would contact MCC to expedite.
Action: NJ.

c. Mr Maddocks had forwarded a note regarding the fire at his farm which the Council agreed was a matter for the police and not for discussion by the DCC.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

A written complaint had been attached to the draft minutes of the meeting of the 28th July on display in the village shop. The complaint centred on the exclusion of certain points in the minutes of that meeting. The complaint was discussed by the Council who were satisfied with the content and detail of the particular minutes and felt they were a fair record of the meeting. They accordingly approved the minutes which were signed by the Chair. In addition the Council reiterated their significant concern that minutes on display had been interfered with, and felt that if any further such incidents occurred they might have to consider displaying the draft minutes only on the Devauden notice board and not in the shop.

4. **Matters Arising**

a. Minute 2c – MCC had been chased for a response regarding restricted-use permission of Coal Lane but the officer dealing with the case had been away. The Clerk would continue to press this issue. **Action: NJ.**

b. Minute 4a – the Rally organisers had advised that the rally used public roads to link areas on private land where special tests were planned; one of these tests was in Tredean Wood, the exit from which was on to Well Lane. All participants had been briefed regarding the potential hazards using single track roads and had been warned to allow precedence to other users. The organisers had been advised by their helpers that the residents of Well Lane had been informed but appreciated that had not been the case. They would advise us should they be using Devauden next year for the rally.

c. Minute 4f - Locations for 3 dog poo bins in Devauden and one in Itton had been identified, and the bins were now installed in Devauden. It had not been possible to ascertain the owner of the land on which one bin was located. MCC had provided legal advice to put up a notice on the Board outside Hood Hall advising of this situation and requesting that anyone who knew the owner should contact the Clerk so that formal permission could be obtained. IC would obtain a written approval from the owner of the agreed site in Itton, and advise JR so that the bin could be installed there also. **Action: IC.** As the owner of the waste firm was now on holiday collections would start on the 15th September.

d. Minute 8i – The owner of School House had advised that she would arrange for her hedge along the footpath to be cut back further. Although this still had not been done JR would continue to press as it did cause a difficulty for pedestrians. Nigel Leaworthy of MCC had replied to the letter from Mr Maddocks (see minutes for 28th July) which the Council acknowledged although expressed their disappointment that they had never received from Mr Leaworthy details of the areas that were to be left uncut.

d. Minute 8p – the Clerk had met a representative of MCC Archives Department at Hood Hall to go through the archives and he had taken away some correspondence although felt it was unlikely that any of it would be retained. The rest of the archives had been sorted and where necessary retained in Hood Hall.

e. Minute 4h – the Clerk went through the Outstanding Log of Highways issues: MCC had responded to most of the outstanding issues which had either been actioned or included on its action list. The overgrown hedge and area on the footpath opposite The Firs was still outstanding but the Clerk was trying to arrange an on-site meeting with Martyn Evans of MCC to discuss. IC advised the Clerk to contact the Countryside department of MCC as there was a footpath reporting system set up to clear blocked footpaths. **Action: NJ.** BG had obtained approval for the garden at 1 Wesley Way to be cleared but he was still awaiting the appointment of the appropriate officer to discuss a long term solution to the safety issue along the B4293, an issue which the Council was keen to resolve.

5. **Standing Orders**

It was agreed to postpone discussion on this topic until the next meeting when a larger number of councillors would be present.

6. **Agenda for Annual Community Meeting**

It was noted that there had not been a great response last year to the open invitation to the members of the public to a discussion on local issues and wishes. However, it did provide an opportunity for all and it was agreed to arrange another such meeting immediately before the September Committee meeting with the same agenda as last year namely:

Introductions, Budget, Speakers in the last 12 months (Clerk to forward a list) and Objectives for the next year. JR would put a copy of the agenda on the notice boards **Action: JR/NJ.**

7. **Finance**

- a. Balances at 31 July 2014 were: Current Account £3423.39, Notice £275.64.
- b. An invoice was presented for £90 from X2Connect for work carried out since the last meeting to make urgent repairs to a phone box in Devauden. This work had been completed. Cheque number 101409 had been signed by two councillors between the meetings and this expense was formally approved.
- c. Cheques were approved and signed for: grasscutting at Wolvesnewton Churchyard and at Kilgwrrwg Churchyard for 2014/15 for £50 – cheque numbers 101407 and 101410; Clerk's expenses for August for £15 – cheque number 101408.
- d. Mazars had completed the audit and advised that the Annual Return could be approved. The Council approved the Return and the Chair signed Section 3 for the Clerk to send to Mazars. **Action: NJ.**

8. **Correspondence**

- a. Information sheet from the Gwent Police on the forthcoming NATO Summit in Newport.
- b. AVOW e-bulletin.
- c. Request from BBC Wales for a discussion on the defibrillator on a BBC Radio Wales programme. KM had been interviewed by Jason Mohammed. The Council wished to take the opportunity to express its great thanks and appreciation to KM for all the work he had put in to have a defibrillator installed in Devauden.
- d. Notification from OVW about the availability of small grants for councils across Wales for a number of projects.
- e. Natural Resources Bulletin for July 2014.
- f. Notification from OVW of the availability of the Ombudsman's Casebook for April-June 2014.
- g. Invitation to an exhibition on "A Sense of Energy" from 30 September-2 October.
- h. JW had received an invitation to a meeting for the Best Kept Village competition which would be held at Chepstow Garden Centre. She would pass the details to all the councillors.

i. An invitation for councillors to attend a course on the Devolution of Services in Monmouth on the 16th September. In view of its potential importance in the future the Clerk would apply for JW to attend. **Action: NJ.**

9. **Planning**

a. DC/2014/00795 formation of a new gateway off road at Lower House Farm; a field adjacent to The Bungalow at Wolvesnewton - AW had recommended that this application should be recommended for refusal and the Council agreed that there could be no evident need for a third entrance to that field. After some discussion it was agreed to recommend for refusal and to add that, if MCC were however minded to approve the application, it should place a condition to close and restore the hedgerow of the existing gateways. **Action: NJ.**

b. DC/2014/00768 amendments to a previous planning permission DC/2011/01162 at Little Owl Barn, Kilgwrrwg House – recommended for approval.

c. New and completed enforcement cases for July 2014.

10. **County Councillor's Report**

Further to the comments he made at last month's meeting CC Greenland advised that the consultation process regarding potential MCC cutbacks would start at the end of September/beginning of October. In each of the main towns MCC would be setting up a drop-in facility for members of the public during the day, and be holding evening meetings to give an opportunity for members of the public to have their say.

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

There was no further information from OVW.

12. **Ward Reports**

NK had forward a note to ask that MCC inspect the overhanging trees along the road through Kilgwrrwg as high vehicles were hitting many of the trees. **Action: NJ.**

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 will be held in Devauden Village Hall on Monday 22nd September at 7pm.

POLICE REPORT – 17/08/14

-08/08/14 – A report of sheep on the B4235 Llangwm. Area search negative upon Police arrival.

-11/08/14 – Shed break in Devauden. Sometime between 10/08/14-11/08/14. Nothing taken, garden equipment thrown around premises. Entry was gained by hacking off hasp on shed.- Log 428 of 11/08/14.

-Investigations on-going ref Arson attack on Pen Y Bryn Farm. Still appealing for information, if anyone has any information regarding the crime, please call us on 101 or anonymously via crime stoppers on 08000 555 111, quoting log number – 463 of 25/07/2014.