

DRAFT

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday 22nd September 2014 at Devauden Village Hall

Councillors present:

J. Rowlands (Chairman)
K. McElroy
A. Cooke
A. Williams
M. Powell
J. Williams
I. Cavill

In attendance:

Insp G Roland
CO S Parker
N. James (Clerk)

Mr G Miles Mr D Maddocks

Mr and Mrs G Duffield

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Nigel Knowland and CC Bob Greenland.

2. Open Session

a. The Chairman welcomed Inspector Giles Roland, the new Inspector of Police at Chepstow, to the meeting. The police report is attached at the back of these minutes. Inspector Roland told the meeting that he was keen to ensure a regular attendance of his officers at all meetings although hoped that we would pass any issues to the police at the time and not wait for the next meeting. He was pleased to note that the Ward of Devauden had a below average crime rate for the area but noted the significant concerns expressed at the meeting of speeding in both Devauden and Itton, and there was some discussion over possible measures that might be taken. The Inspector would discuss the traffic data for the villages with the Community Speed Watch Team and come back with some recommendations for further action, hopefully at the next meeting. **Action: Insp Roland.**

Mr Maddocks wished to express his frustration at trying to get through to Chepstow police by phone, a point the Inspector would look into, and also with getting information out from the police although others at the meeting wished to express their appreciation for the communication from the police.

He also addressed the Inspector of his concerns regarding the alleged arson attack at his farm which was noted by Insp. Roland

b. The Chairman wished to report on the previous year before seeking views from the members of the public for their objectives for the Council for the following year. The Clerk circulated a copy of the financial report and went through the detail. The Council had updated or introduced policies and procedures on complaints, relationships with the press and media, record keeping and accounting matters; the defibrillator had been installed; dog waste bins put in place; telephone boxes refurbished and some longstanding issues eg the drainage and signs in Wesley Way and the footpath opposite The Firs, completed and the garden at I Wesley Way to be done in the next couple of weeks.

Objectives '14 / '15.

c.1. In discussion it was noted that there were still some issues with the drainage in Wesley Way – **Action: KM.**

2. Audry Duffield expressed concern over the speed of traffic especially delivery vans in Wesley Way, of particular seriousness given that there were a number of children living in the road and the proximity of the playground to the road. Various measures like sleeping policemen, 20mph signs, parcel drops were discussed and it was agreed that the Council would put this on its list of objectives to resolve for the next year.

3. JW suggested that Nigel Leaworthy be invited to address the Council so as to discuss the pros and cons of the grass verge cutting policy 2014. This was agreed by all.

4. It was agreed to remind MCC of their duty to keep culverts and gullies open during the winter months.

5. The chief fire officer to be invited to attend a DCC meeting.

6. To continue the work needed to complete the refurbishment of the 'phone boxes at Itton and Cobblers Plain.

d. Before closing the Open Session the Clerk reported on results from the Best Kept Village Awards: Newchurch won the best kept churchyard in the up to 200 population category; Kilgwrrwg was second in the overall best village in the same category and Devauden won the best kept village hall in the 201-400 category.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 18th August were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising

a. Minutes 2b and 4a – the Clerk had chased the respective MCC officers on both issues but had still had no response. Further chasing would be done to resolve these issues. **Action: NJ.**

b. Minute 4c – There had been further discussion in Itton about the most suitable site for the dog waste bin. Some wanted it to be on Itton Common and some at other sites. IC and MP would consider further before deciding on a final site. **Action: IC/MP.**

c. Minute 4e – The footpath opposite The Firs had been completely cleared by MCC and the Council wished to thank them for a job well done. The Clerk was still awaiting a response to set up a meeting to resolve the erosion issue in Church Lane at Itton and the drainage issue at Castle Farm; the garden at Wesley Way was due for clearance by the end of October; responses were still awaited about timescales for cutting the overhanging trees in Kilgwrrwg; MCC had confirmed that all other outstanding items were on their list to do.

d. Minute 8i – JW had attended the seminar on the Devolution of Services. A powerpoint presentation of the seminar would be distributed and she would chase OVW for a copy – **Action: JW.** No timetable or agenda had yet been set for any devolving of services which would probably be necessary in view of the further cuts that MCC had to make. At the seminar possible sharing of services and contracts between local community councils had been one of the thoughts discussed. She expressed concern that councils would have to be extremely careful regarding liability for taking on further services if these were to be delegated and the Precept would require close scrutiny prior to setting the rate for the forthcoming year.

5. **Standing Orders** The Chairman had put this on the agenda to discuss how the Council should conduct open sessions in future. Standing Orders produced by the NALC stated that meetings should only include items listed on the agenda and OVW had stated therefore that subjects raised in an open session should then have to be discussed at a future meeting. There followed a lengthy discussion over how best to follow the rules and guidance although it was recognized that currently DCC followed the statutory procedures and provided a transparent and fair opportunity for all members of the public. It was agreed that there might need to be flexibility in determining issues raised at an open session at the time whilst for others these could be discussed as an agenda item at a subsequent meeting. Moreover the length of time for an Open Session should be flexible although it was felt that as a principle it should be kept to 30 minutes. Finally it was agreed that there should be an additional agenda item under the Open Session which was “Matters arising from the Open Session” and the Clerk would produce draft standing orders specifically for DCC so that all members of the public were aware of how the system worked. **Action: NJ.**

6. **Finance**

a. Balances at 31 August 2014 were: Current Account £3078.39, Notice £275.64.

b. Letters of thanks were received from Kilgwrrwg and Wolvesnewton Churches for the grants made towards grasscutting of their churchyards.

c. The Welsh Audit Office had decided to redistribute some reserves to all local councils; DCC would receive a cheque for £30 from these reserves.

d. Cheques were signed as follows: Clerk’s expenses for September for £15 – cheque number 101411; fees from Mazars for the external audit of £210 – cheque number 101412. Notification of the completed audit had been put on the notice boards in Devauden and Itton on the 15th September, and would remain there until the end of this month.

7. **Correspondence**

- a. Invitations for nominations for St David Awards 2015.
- b. Non-material amendments to existing planning permissions.
- c. Newsletter article from MCC on domestic violence.
- d. Have your say flyer.
- e. Training in sustainable water management note.
- f. Invitation regarding opportunities to join Heritage Lottery for Wales Committee.
- g. Information regarding repair grants for places of worship in Wales.
- h. Advertisement for the appointment of Chair of the National Advice Network in Wales.
- i. Guidance notes on the Law of Consultation.
- j. Note on the Welsh Commissioner's draft enforcement policy.
- k. Update information on the MCC scheme of delegation in planning matters.
- l. Invitation to apply for a grant from Grow Wild Wales. AW would look into this and consider possible sites for which a grant could be applied **Action: AW.**
- m. Invitation to apply for advocate post on Consumer for Water Wales Committee.

8. **Planning**

- a. DC/2014/00662 retention of stables with solar panels and stone side steps to garage at The Barley House, Well Lane, Devauden – recommended for approval.
- b. DC/2014/01021 agricultural notification of the construction of a forest road in the Pantawarren plantation - information only.
- c. New and completed enforcement cases for August 2014.

9. **County Councillor's Report**

In his absence there was no County Councillor's report.

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

- a. Flyer for the AGM on 4th October together with a list of motions to be heard.
- b. Training programme for 2014 with specific courses available in the next month.

11. **Ward Reports**

a. MP - representation had been made for camera signs at each end of Itton as well as the flashing 30mph signs in place at the moment, a view which he supported. **Action: NJ.**

b. IC – there was a concern at the junction of the B4293 and Church Lane at Croes Bleddyn as it was difficult to see traffic coming from the right because the road bends away; a junction sign might help or preferably a mirror. **Action: NJ.**

c. JW – whilst she was aware that it had been raised before there was still a view that the 30mph sign going out of Devauden should be extended. JW also asked KM if he would keep her informed if there was to be further work on the drainage in Wesley Way as there was an impact in Well Lane.

d. AC – the head of Shirenewton School had been appointed as executive head of Shirenewton, Pembroke Road and Thornwell schools with deputy head being promoted. This had enabled Shirenewton School to appoint a new teacher. The Bishop of Monmouth would be attending Kilgwrrwg Church on 28th September to officiate at the Harvest Festival.

12. Review of Clerk's performance/salary

The Clerk left the meeting for this agenda item.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in Devauden Village Hall on Monday 27th October at 7pm.

POLICE REPORT 28 JUL – 22 SEP 2014

16/08 – Alarm activation on property in Devauden. All in order when key holder attended.

23/08 – Back window on Mercedes car parked outside victim's home, was smashed. Hedge trimmer stolen.

30/08 – A man was reported acting suspiciously in Fedw Wood(car park) by a member of public. Possibly fly tipping. Observations passed but no one seen on attendance. No index number supplied, so unable to trace vehicle or owner.

02/09 – Single vehicle veered off road into forestry along the B4235. No serious injuries.

07/09 – Collision between two vehicles on the lane in between the B4293 and the B4235. Minor injuries only.

18/09 – Car hit a tree on the B4293 – the car was empty. Emergency services attended.

21/09 – Off road bikes at Chepstow Park Wood. Police and dog handlers attended and four males were arrested.