

DRAFT

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday 24th November 2014 at Devauden Village Hall

Councillors present:

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

In attendance:

Insp D Morgan
CO S Parker
N. James (Clerk)

Mr D Maddocks

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Andy Williams and CC Bob Greenland.

2. Open Session

a. Mr Maddocks asked for the minutes of the previous meeting he attended in September to be amended to include the specific locations where he believed the current MCC grass and verge cutting policy was failing. The Chairman advised that the Council had already approved those minutes and it would be more appropriate to discuss specific problem areas with Nigel Leaworthy of MCC when he attended the December meeting. As Mr Maddocks might not be able to attend that meeting the Council agreed to report his specific concerns: these were along the B roads since they were now cut only once a year and on the Raglan Road at Star Hill to the top of Cross Hands. These would be passed to Nigel Leaworthy before the next meeting. **Action: NJ.** Mr Maddocks also wished to know when a representative from NALC would be attending a DCC meeting to discuss best practice as he had requested in March. The Council had agreed that in view of the research into, and consequent issue of, new standing orders and the attendance on seminars by councillors, such a visit was not necessary. Mr Maddocks was also disappointed that the Council had not taken up the offer of Mr Nick Ramsey, the local AM, to speak at a meeting but the Council confirmed its original decision. It should be noted that Mr.Maddocks questioned the integrity of the Clerk on his ability to fully and completely record the

Minutes, something that the Councillors totally refute. He was requested to withdraw the accusation but flatly refused.

Mr Maddocks left the meeting at this point.

b. The Chairman welcomed Inspector David Morgan, the new Inspector of Police in Chepstow to the meeting. As his predecessor, the Inspector advised that part of his role was to meet and establish regular communication channels with the local councils. In addition to attending local council meetings he had arranged a meeting in Chepstow shortly for the chairs and clerks. Over the coming months there would be significant structural changes in the police force which, while bringing a reduction in the numbers within the Neighbourhood Policing Teams, would see a move out of the Headquarters to local police stations of a number of officers to help in response teams. It was hoped that the reduction in the Neighbourhood teams would be offset by the help of local volunteers in certain tasks including Speedwatch whereby local volunteers could be trained to help the police deter speeding in local communities, an issue he realized was of particular concern in the Devauden/Itton area. He advised that the speeding data for the area discussed at the September meeting had now been collected and would be passed to the Council. He advised that, given the nature of the particular roads, no speed barriers were practical and a policy of enforcement and education would be necessary in trying to deter speeding in the area.

3. **Matters Arising from the Open Session**

All matters arising from the Open Session were fully discussed in the Session.

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting on 27th October were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. **Matters Arising**

a. Minute 1a – the Chairman had erected a sign at the allotments advising people that dumping of garden waste in the allotments was not allowed.

b. Minute 1b - a public meeting had been held with agents of the Company involved with the planned installation of the mobile communications mast. At that meeting the agents agreed to consider two other sites for the mast – one in Chepstow Park Woods and one further down the same field as currently planned. Local residents had been invited to email the agents direct with their thoughts and further comments. Of the 2 alternative sites the agent had advised that the one – in Chepstow Park Woods – did not meet the essential criteria. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact him to ascertain when a decision would be made on the other site and to obtain a copy of the presentation. **Action: NJ.** NK would also seek the views of local residents to the agent's response to Mike Fleetwood's email. In discussion concern was raised about the possible conflict of interest of a number of councillors given the location of their houses. The Clerk would seek advice on this issue from MCC before the Council had to consider a planning application. **Action: NJ.**

c. Minute 1c – the bonfire night had been a great success and JW and JR were unaware of any difficulties for local residents from the car parking operation. The

Hall had carried out a review into the night with the local police and other groups who had reported how successful they thought the arrangements had been. On the basis of the review there would be some further slight changes next year in the car parking arrangements. In total a profit of £2500 had been made, some of which had been used to purchase assets which would be of benefit to future Hall users, and just over 2000 people had been registered as attending.

d. Minute 5a – KM had investigated the ongoing drainage issue in Wesley Way and had noted that the water appeared to be coming from a grass mound alongside a path by numbers 34 and 38 Wesley Way. JW would provide KM with the land registry map signifying whose land it was and he would then take it up again with MCC.
Action: KM/JW.

e. Minute 5b – the Chairman and Clerk had met the MCC Traffic Manager at Wesley Way to discuss the speed issue that had been raised. He agreed to erect a “children playing” warning sign in the road and to repaint the “slow” sign and the junction markings. In addition he would install speed monitoring loops and advise us of the data received from them. Any further action would be dependent on this information. The Chairman advised that the speed loops were now in place.

f. Minute 5d– JR was awaiting a contact within OS so that a quote could be obtained.

g. Minute 5f – MP had obtained agreement from local residents for the siting of the bin and had requested MCC to install it. Installation was still awaited.

h. Minute 5g – this would be actioned shortly.

i. Minute 6c – On closer examination it was a part of the upright post to the Wolvesnewton notice board that was rotten. The board itself was in good condition. Although the Devauden board was too small it was agreed that, given the cost of a new board, a decision should be deferred until the next financial year when it would be likely that the Wolvesnewton post would need to be replaced.

j. Minute 5g – the footpath bridge at 357/69 had been purchased along with many others but, due to lack of further funding for installation and likely winter weather constraints, the installation would probably now be in the Spring 2015; restricted signs had been installed in Kilgwrrwg but not yet Itton. In discussion it was felt that the specific location for the sign should be just as you come off the B4293 on to 57.2.
Action: NJ. The bridleway sign in Kilgwrrwg was a long way down on the MCC list and they had – along with other such small jobs – sought help to renew from local voluntary groups in this case Chepstow Walkers. All other outstanding highways issues were on the MCC action lists.

6. Finance

a. Balances at 31 October 2014 were: Current Account £5385.39, Notice £275.74.

b. Cheques were signed as follows: donation to the insurance cover for Devauden fireworks for £200 – cheque number 101416; donation to the seniors’ lunch in Devauden for £50 – cheque number 101417; Clerk’s expenses for October for £15 – cheque number 101418; hire of Itton Hall for 14/15 for £64 – cheque number 101419.

c. The Clerk advised that there would be a cash surplus at the end of the financial year and tabled a draft budget for 2015/16 on the basis of an unchanged precept which was discussed and agreed. The Clerk would contact MCC for the appropriate precept form. **Action: NJ.**

7. Correspondence

a. Advertisement for the appointment of lay and legal members to the Welsh Language Tribunal.

b. Invitation to a Consumer Council for Water Wales committee meeting in public.

c. An advice note regarding the development and management of playspaces.

d. MCC Report of the Management of Commercial Obstructions in the Highway.

e. Welsh Government consultations on gypsy and traveller accommodation guidance.

f. Invitation to attend the British Council's Active Citizen's Programme.

g. Invitation to donate to the Urdd National Eisteddfod to be held in Caerphilly in 2015 and the National Eisteddfod to be held in Monmouthshire in 2016. It was agreed to donate £50 towards the National Eisteddfod from the 14/15 budget. Rather than confirm now an annual amount the Council would consider again any further request in the next 2 years. **Action: NJ.**

h. Advert for members for the Higher Education Council for Wales.

i. Information about the setting up of the local police OnLine Watch Link.

8. Planning

a. DC/2014/01299- to increase the size and change the roof orientation of the new garage at Breagha House, Devauden – recommended for approval.

b. DC/2014/01032- a proposed eco house as a replacement building at Tyn-y-Coed, Devauden – recommended for approval.

c. DC/2014/01316 – agricultural notification of a new building for storage of hay and machinery at Cartref, Devauden. Although this was for information only the Council agreed to pass on to MCC AW's concern that there were already a number of potential buildings on site for this purpose but, even if these were not suitable, he questioned why the new building had to be sited so far from the old ones. **Action: NJ.**

d. DC/2014/01282 minor alterations to fenestration and stonework at The Granary, Devauden – recommended for approval.

e. DC/2014/01313 – discharge of conditions of DC/2014/00624 – timber cladding, garage doors and garage roof materials – recommended for approval.

f. DC/2014/01335 – change of field to garden curtilage and enclose with a stone wall at Rest a Wyle, Devauden – recommended for approval.

g. DC/2014/01311 – amendment to DC/2014/00624 – additional windows to garage and window at 1 Croes Bleddyn Cottages, Itton – recommended for approval.

h. New and completed enforcement cases for October 2014.

9. **County Councillor's Report**

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

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

a. Local training sessions for November.

11. **Ward Reports**

a. JW requested that MCC be reminded that the grit boxes needed to be full with the onset of the colder weather. **Action: NJ.** Some cats eyes along the B4293 from Itton to Devauden were missing; **Action: NJ.** There was a significant amount of water which flowed into Well Lane from Chepstow Park Woods but also from the top of Wesley Way. JR would check the drains along that stretch and advise the Clerk before a report was made to MCC. **Action: JR/NJ.**

b. KM advised that residents in Wesley Way had received a letter from MCC advising that 3 garages would be knocked down to make way for car parking. He would forward a copy of the letter to the Clerk so that the reasons could be investigated. **Action: KM/NJ.** He also advised that a suggestion had been made to plant two trees in the Wesley Way play park. It was recognized that the play park was owned by MCC and DCC would await any plans.

c. JR advised that a local resident had proposed to the Hall Committee planting a wild flower area at the front of Hood Hall and in the grounds at the back, as well as planting a tree for every child in Devauden under a certain age on the Green. The Committee were awaiting more detailed plans and no firm proposals from the Hall Committee had yet been made. The Hall however would like to erect a temporary maypole on the Green for a May Day celebration next year at which local schools would be invited to dance around the pole. DCC would be quite content with this latter proposal.

12. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held in Devauden Village Hall on Monday 22nd December at 7pm.

POLICE REPORT 27th OCTOBER – 24TH NOVEMBER

15/11 – Vehicles parked dangerously on B4293 possibly watching the hunt. Observations passed. We have since spoken to the Master Huntsman, who will be speaking to all parties concerned.

20/11 – Drugs warrant conducted on a property in Devauden, with an arrest being made for possession.

20/11 – Report of a male with a rucksack and wearing a hoodie, was seen looking through a window of a property in Devauden. Police attended but area search negative.

21/11 – Caller's mother was burgled two weeks ago, and today a vehicle came into her drive at her property in Devauden. The driver saw the caller's mother in the window, then sped off. Caller declined police attendance but asked for observations to be paid.