

DRAFT

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday 23rd February 2015 at Devauden Village Hall

Councillors present:

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

In attendance:

CC B Greenland

N. James (Clerk)

1. Open Session

The police report is attached at the back of these minutes.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Andy Williams.

3. Matters Arising from the Open Session

There were no matters arising from the Open Session.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 26th January were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising

a. Minute 5a – a suitable site for the dog bin in Itton had been agreed, just off the Common on the 57.3. The Clerk would arrange for fortnightly emptying. **Action: NJ.**

.

b. Minute 5b – KM met with a representative from MHA to discuss again the drainage issue in Wesley Way and was now awaiting feedback. **Action: KM.**

c. Minute 5c – still outstanding.

d. Minute 5d – MP confirmed that the obscured road sign in Itton was now clear and the Clerk went through the list of outstanding highways items. IC advised that a site had been identified for locating a mirror at the junction of the B4293 and Church Lane but it was agreed that, given the liability responsibility for the Council of erecting a mirror, this should not go ahead. BG confirmed that there was no one suitable from his sources to clear the garden at 1 Wesley Way as hoped. In discussion it was agreed to ask AW to see if it were possible for the local scouts to take it on. **Action: AW.** It was noted that the road sign on the B4293 going out of Devauden just past Well Lane had been knocked down. **Action: NJ.**

e. Minute 5e – the Clerk had met the organisers of the Vintage Rally with JW and MP to discuss the possibility of diverting the rally route from Well Lane. The organisers explained that it was not feasible to reroute the rally to get from Tredean Woods to Cobblers Plain as there was a sharp bend on the alternative which would cause significant hold ups. However, it was likely that if the weather was bad they would not use Tredean Woods. They agreed to provide suitable notices at either end of Well Lane and letters to give to all residents but did not plan to use marshals in that area. JW was not satisfied with the response from the organisers and advised that several residents of Well Lane were concerned about the rally going down that road. Given their need for a contingency location in bad weather she wondered why such an alternative site could not be used instead of Tredean Woods and consequently Well Lane. The Clerk was asked to discuss this alternative with the organisers. **Action: NJ.** In discussion BG advised that there had been problems recently with articulated lorries finding their way down Well Lane and then not being able to turn, with consequent damage to the hedges. As a consequence MCC Highways had confirmed that they would be erecting signs stating the road was unsuitable for HGVs. The Wyegate Trial would not be coming through Devauden this year.

f. Minute 11a – CC Greenland advised that staff at leisure centres had general training to be able to manage people with disabilities but they were looking into the need for further training for more specific circumstances as helping people out of vehicles, since such circumstances were likely to increase in the future.

g. Minute 11e – the Clerk had written to Harlequin supporting the local residents' request for further explanation regarding the unsuitability of the alternative sites proposed. Harlequin's response was less than satisfactory but had confirmed its view that the alternative site did not offer sufficient mitigation in relation to the existing proposed location. BG had been advised that moving the mast further down the field would necessitate a much larger mast which would require a different design, and hence was likely to be more expensive. The Council felt that there was probably nothing further that could be done at this stage except to await the planning application and then put forward its views, but NK would discuss with the local residents to see if they would wish for any further representation from the Council. **Action: NK.**

6. Finance

a. Balances at 31 January 2015 were: Current Account £7072.86, Notice £275.74.

b. Cheques were signed as follows: MCC for Clerk's salary Oct-Dec 14 for £692.01 – cheque number 101423; Clerk's expenses for February for £15 – cheque number 101424; OVW membership for 15/16 for £123 – cheque number 101425.

c. MCC had provided a quote for £835 for grounds maintenance for 2015/16 which was within the budget figure for 15/16. JW wondered whether we could get a cheaper quote by combining our grounds maintenance with other local councils, and the Clerk was asked to discuss this with MCC before agreeing to this quote. **Action: NJ.**

7. **Correspondence**

- a. January newsletter of FCFCG Wales.
- b. Notification of public path closures from MCC; one in Chepstow Park Wood on 14th Feb and the other from 16th Feb – 30 June or until forestry work are completed, in Percus Wood, New Wood and Pantawarren Plantation.
- c. Advertisement for the appointment of members to Community Health Councils.
- d. Invitation to attend a community meeting advising of ways to help and be part of the 2016 National Eisteddfod.
- e. Invitation to a Welsh stakeholder event on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive Programme of Measures consultation.
- f. Notification of the advert for an independent member to Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board.
- g. Press release from the First Minister.
- h. Invitation to attend a bespoke course on Information Management in Undy.
- i. Welsh Government consultation document on tax devolution in Wales.
- j. MCC consultation on Community Infrastructure Levy –preliminary draft charging schedule.
- k. Devolution, Democracy and Delivery white paper.
- l. Draft revised National Training Strategy 2015-19.
- m. Monmouthshire LDP consultation – draft planning advice note.

8. **Planning**

- a. DC/2015/00098 – discharge of conditions 9,10 and 13 from planning permission DC/2014/00402 at the former Fox and Hounds Inn in Wolvesnewton – recommended for approval.
- b. DC/2014/01240 – extension to first floor at rear and alterations to ground floor at Kennel Cottage, Itton – recommended for approval.
- c. New and completed enforcement cases for January 2015.
- e.. Draft supplementary guidance on certain policies within the MCC Adopted Local Development Plan February 2014.

9. **County Councillor's Report**

CC Greenland had nothing further to report.

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

a. Reminders of training seminars in Barry and Usk on 24 and 25 February respectively.

11. **Ward Reports**

a. JW had asked the Clerk to check on the requirement for planning permission for laying tarmac on a private drive. MCC had confirmed that permission was not required in the particular circumstances. She also advised that she had been asked why the Council made a financial contribution to the Devauden pensioners' lunch when the lunch was only available for pensioners within Devauden and not other wards. The Council had discussed this issue some time ago and asked the organisers whether they could broaden the invitation list. The organisers had confirmed that it was a non-profit making occasion, attendees were not required to pay and they wished to keep it to Devauden residents. In the circumstances DCC had agreed to support the event and, in discussion, agreed that they should continue to do so. In addition, the Council agreed that they would also continue to support, when asked, events in all wards which were non-profit making and did not require individuals to pay.

b. MP had investigated the ingress of rain into the phone box at Itton which was causing some concern. It was agreed that he and JR would discuss possible maintenance work with Fred Richards to rectify the problem. **Action: MP/JR.**

c. JR advised that parking in the lane outside The Dorretts and leading to the Hall had caused larger vehicles to drive up over the bank, causing significant damage. It was agreed that the best of the options to resolve this problem was to put wooden bollards along the bank, and he would arrange a quote. **Action: JR.** He noted that there were significant amounts of rubbish deposited on the left hand side of the B4293 coming from Chepstow towards Devauden. BG explained that fly-tipping was illegal but MCC Highways did pick up waste deposited by the side of roads if they were passing and did organise certain waste collections from roads each year, although this was likely to be reduced given the reduction in one Highways team. It was recognised that deposited bags often got ripped open by foxes and that to sponsor litter pick-ups could give a significant potential liability. The Clerk was asked to make MCC aware of the problem on the B4293. **Action: NJ.**

12. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting would be held on Monday 30th March 2015 in Devauden Village Hall at 7pm.

POLICE REPORT 29th January – 21 February 2015

29/1/15 – Report of a dark blue Astra estate with two males inside driving the lanes near Star hill, the caller seemed to think that the occupants were marking things off on a map as they drove. An area search was made by officers.

5/2/15 – Report of a white transit van parked up in a lane off Star Hill for two days. Officers attended. All in order.

17/2/15 – Report of a number of vehicles (hunt followers) parked in a dangerous manner on the hill between St Arvans and Devauden. Officers attended but the vehicles had moved as the hunt had moved on. We will continue to monitor this and deal with any vehicles parked in such a manner.

20/2/15 – Report of a shed broken into at a property in Howick. The padlock was damaged while gaining entry but nothing taken from inside. We had another report of another shed possibly entered in the same vicinity but no damage caused.

21/2/15 – Report of a quantity of forest stone taken from land between Devauden and Llanishen.