

DRAFT

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday 27TH April 2015 at Devauden Village Hall

Councillors present:

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

In attendance:

CC B Greenland
CSO A Jones
N. James (Clerk)

1. Open Session

The police report is attached at the back of these minutes. CSO Jones advised that there had been a recent burglary in Pwllmeyric where burglars had smashed a double glazed door and window while the occupants were away, and he urged vigilance for all those in the community. The police had received 68 completed questionnaires from the Devauden area and the two most important points from these was the concern of speeding through the village and visibility patrols to help to combat crime. The police had now set up the Community Speedwatch scheme in some neighbouring villages; this is a scheme which trains local volunteers to monitor passing vehicles with a speed gun and requires 6-8 local volunteers, with 3 volunteers working together. The Council agreed to invite Sergeant Parsons, who was leading this initiative, to a future meeting so that he could brief the Council and any members of the public who might be interested. The Clerk would contact him and then draft a note to all local members of the public inviting them to the meeting. **Action: NJ.** Meanwhile the Chairman would contact Tintern Community Council to see how the scheme was working there.

2. Apologies

There were no apologies.

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 30th March were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising

a. Minute 5b – KM still awaited feedback from MHA regarding the drainage issue in Wesley Way. **Action: KM.**

b. Minute 5c – JR would arrange for Fred Richards to laminate and fix the new maps in the telephone boxes in Itton and Cobblers Plain, and would obtain “information centre” notices for each box. **Action: JR.**

d. Minute 5d – MCC had advised that the road surface opposite Devauden Court had been repaired although councillors had not noticed any work in that area and the Clerk would check **Action: NJ**; the no through road sign in Kilgwrrwg had been put back in place; and the mud problem on the road at Kilgwrrwg Hill had been resolved.

e. Minute 5h – Fred Richards had completed the channel around the phone box in Itton to divert water.

f. Minute 5i – JR still awaited a quote for the wooden bollards.

g. Minute 11a –the Clerk advised that the company USL had accepted the liability for the damage to the noticeboard at Kilgwrrwg but, rather than paying the cost of a new board, were obtaining a quote from Greenbarns Limited, the original supplier of the board, for repairing the board. NK advised that, provided USL provided the new parts, he would repair the board. **Action: NJ.**

h. Minute 11b – Natural Resources Wales had repaired the damage on the bank opposite Beaufort House but the “finger post” in Coale Lane had not been reinstated; they had refused to repair the damage on the bank immediately opposite the entrance to the Hall as they claimed it had been damaged there before they had started work. **Action: NJ.**

i. Minute 11c- a note had been put up on the walkway between Wesley Way and the fields at the back.

6. Finance

a. Balances at 31 March 2015 were: Current Account £6177.85, Notice £275.84.

b. Cheques were signed as follows: MCC for Clerk’s salary Jan-Mar 15 for £692.01 – cheque number 101428; Clerk’s expenses for April for £15 – cheque number 101429; work on Itton phone box for £83.49 – cheque number 101430.

c. The Chairman confirmed that the Council had agreed at the end of the last meeting to move the Clerk’s pay to Scale 27 on the SLCC scale with effect from 1 April 2015.

d. The Clerk presented the bank reconciliation and final cash book entries as at the end of the financial year which were approved and signed. The Council noted that there was a significant balance on the current account although there were items of expenditure and invoices still awaited from last year; it agreed that £3000 should be transferred from the current account to the deposit account for the time being and that

it would be useful to discuss in a future meeting potential capital investments in the area. **Action: NJ.** JW asked that the valuations of property on the Asset Register were shown at up to date value on the insurance policy. **Action: NJ.**

e. As last year's internal auditor had advised that she no longer wished to do it, the Clerk proposed Mr Stuart Chapman, a retired accountant living in the area, to carry out this task. The Council confirmed this appointment at the same hourly rate as paid to the Clerk. **Action: NJ.**

7. **Correspondence**

- a. OVW response to the white paper on reforming Local Government.
- b. Keep Wales Tidy note on Clean coast week.
- c. 2015 Programme for Cymru Wales remembers 1914-18.
- d. Code of practice on workforce matters and the completion of the annual monitoring.
- e. Invitation to guidance events on the Future Generations Act.
- f. Statement from the Welsh Government on assets of community value.
- g. Changes to implement from the Local Democracy Act 2013.
- h. Invitation to a seminar on shared learning on 24 June in Cardiff.
- k. Devolution, Democracy and Delivery white paper.
- l. Questionnaire on a land transaction tax.

8. **Planning**

- a. DC/2015/00377 – agricultural notification of storage of hay and straw at Church Farm, Newchurch – for information only.
- b. New and completed enforcement cases for March 2015.

9. **County Councillor's Report**

CC Greenland was asked by JW for the MCC view of a recent article in the local press which had stated that MCC had recruited 5/6 people at an annual cost of £420,000. He advised that he hadn't seen the article but he did not recognize those figures. Any salary costs would probably also include all on-costs. MCC had reduced their staff to the lowest percentage of officers of any council in Wales but, as a consequence, there would be occasions when they therefore did not have the capacity or skills required for certain money-saving initiatives. No one however would be recruited without significant scrutiny and a proven economic case. He would forward the details of how many people had recently been recruited, for what jobs and at what cost. **Action: BG.**

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

- a. Issue 26 of The Voice.

11. Ward Reports

a. MP advised that a local Itton resident had asked if wildflowers could be planted alongside the row of houses just off Itton Common. AW would contact the resident to discuss the request. **Action: AW.**

b. JW requested confirmation of her responses to a few questions on the application form for the Best Kept Village competition.

c. AW advised that there was a particularly deep pot hole on the road at the Wolvesnewton end of Well Lane. **Action: NJ.**

d. KM advised that he had received a complaint from local residents following the Scout event on 11/12 April held in Hood Hall. The complaint had been because of the excessive noise after 11pm coming from the play area in the Hall grounds. He had addressed the complaint to the Chair of the Hall Committee who in turn had discussed it at a Hall Committee meeting, following which he had written to the Scouts. The Assistant Commissioner had responded by advising that they had held an internal investigation; the individuals concerned were being dealt with and apologized for the noise and inconvenience caused. KM advised the complainants of this response; they accepted the apology but felt the Hall should do more to ensure this did not re-occur. The complainants were approaching the Environmental Health Organization on this issue. The Hall committee were checking their rules to ensure they were sufficiently robust. KM also advised that there were 2 forthcoming events to be held in the village: the 10k run on the 4th May and the Festival on the 15th/16th May.

e. NK reminded the Council that the road signs between Yew Tree Cottage and Howells Green and the restricted access sign at 57.2/8 were still awaited. The Clerk would chase MCC. **Action: NJ.**

f. AC advised that her four-year tenure as the local community representative on the governing body of Shirenewton School had finished, and the next four years would be undertaken by a member of Caerwent CC. The Council recorded its thanks to AC for attending the governors' meetings over the last four years and acting as the DCC representative.

g. JR noted that, although the 20 mph signs had been installed, MCC had still not painted road markings at the entrance to Wesley Way as they had promised. **Action: NJ.**

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Monday 18th May 2015 in Devauden Village Hall following the Annual Meeting at 7pm.

POLICE REPORT 29th March – 26 April 2015

4/4/15 – Report of mud on the main road near a farm near Itton. There was an event going on at the farm. The council was informed and they attended to clean it up.

11/4/15 – A owner was issued with a community protection order after an incident with his dog in Devauden village. This means the dog will have to be kept on a lead in public.