

DRAFT

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday 18TH May 2015 at Devauden Village Hall

Councillors present:

N.Knowland(A/Chairman)
A Cooke
K McElroy
J. Williams

In attendance:

Mr J Horton
Mr D Maddocks

N. James (Clerk)

1. Open Session

- a. The police report is attached at the back of these minutes.
- b. Mr Maddocks wanted to record the great success of the weekend Music Festival and asked that the Council write a letter of appreciation to the Hall Committee. Mr Horton echoed these sentiments and advised that the Event was the main fundraising event of the year for the Hall. However, he had been concerned that there had been unjustified complaints prior to the event from some residents concerning the camping arrangements for this year. JW advised that, although the organization of the camping site was excellent, the Hall Committee had failed to keep the community aware of its decisions. Residents in Well Lane had not been made aware until the last minute of the location for the camping site. KM accepted that communication on the location had not been made until near the actual date but advised that the Hall Committee had spent considerable time since its discussions with the Environmental Health Department in April considering how best to accommodate the campers and ensure all the environmental health criteria were met. Everyone agreed that the organization and location for camping this year was excellent and the Hall Committee had certainly taken on board the comments regarding noise from the camping site that occurred last year. Representatives of the Hall Committee agreed to try to ensure communication of the location of the camping site with the community well in advance of next year's event.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from J Rowlands (but he attended for Items 6 onwards), I Cavill, M Powell, A. Williams and CC B Greenland.

3. Matters Arising from the Open Session

The Council agreed to write a letter to the Hall Committee expressing its great appreciation for the success of this year's Music Festival but to ask them to take note of the need for earlier communication with the community next year. It was also noted that there were significant amounts of advertising boards and other items on the Green well in advance of the Event and, as custodians of the Green, the Council asked that in future years the Hall Committee forwarded its proposals for advance advertising and boarding on the Green to the Council as a courtesy. The Clerk was asked to draft a suitable letter. **Action: NJ.**

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 27th April were approved and signed by the A/Chairman.

5. Matters Arising

a. Minute 5a – KM met again with a representative from MHA to discuss the drainage issue in Wesley Way; he was now awaiting a formal response on what MHA propose to do about the issue.

b. Minute 5b – the maps had been laminated and fixed in place; the information centre notices had also been fixed in the phone boxes and were ready for leaflets which JW would obtain.

c. Minute 5d – the Clerk advised that the road surface opposite Devauden Court appeared to be relatively sound. AC would confirm that the original area had now been repaired. **Action: AC.**

d. Minute 5g– NK had offered to repair the Kilgwrrwg notice board and parts costing £95 were being sent; the Clerk was still awaiting confirmation from USL regarding means of payment.

e Minute 5h – the finger post along Coale Lane had not yet been put back. NRW had advised that they were still working in the area and had intended to put it back once they had finished. **Action: NJ.**

f. Minute 6d – the property valuations on the insurance policy had been uprated in line with RPI and the Council confirmed the current valuations were appropriate.

g. Minutes 11c,e and g – the pot hole at the Wolvesnewton end of Well Lane had been repaired but the signs between Yew Tree Cottage and Howells Green had not yet been re-erected, nor had the restricted access sign at 57.2/8 been installed. MCC had advised that road lining would start in another month and Wesley Way was on their list. **Action: NJ.**

6. Finance

a. Balances at 30 April 2015 were: Current Account £6115.35, Notice £275.84.

b. Cheques were signed as follows: information signs for phone boxes for £98.40– cheque number 101431; Clerk's expenses for May for £15 – cheque number 101433.

- c. The quotation of £356.27 from Zurich for insurance cover for 15/16 was accepted and a cheque was signed for this amount – cheque number 101432.
- d. The internal audit had been completed and a cheque for £73.80 was signed for Mr S Chapman – cheque number 101434.
- e. The paperwork for the annual external audit was approved and the Annual return was signed by the A/Chairman.
- f. The Council agreed to donate funds to the 3 churchyards again this year and agreed that the amount should remain at £50. **Action: NJ.**

7. Correspondence

- a. Invitation from WG to apply for a war memorial grant.
- b. Note about the rolling out of superfast broadband to all communities in Wales.
- c. Note on the access to information on community and town councils on websites.
- d. Letter inviting any further documentation for consideration by Robin Carr Associates who is looking into the status of certain roads in Monmouthshire.
- e. Note on Community Asset transfer.
- f. Clerks and Councils Direct for May 2015.
- g. Invitation to a workshop to develop an Adaptation Plan for the Communities Sector.
- h. Notice about the abolition of the paper counterpart of the photocard driving licence.

8. Planning

- a. New and completed enforcement cases for April 2015.

9. County Councillor's Report

In CC Greenland's absence there was no county councillor's report.

10. One Voice Wales (OVW)

- a. Notification of training seminars for May and June 2015.
- b. Reminders about training seminars in Usk and Caldicot on IT and Community Engagement.

11. Ward Reports

- a. KM reported on the success of 2 events organized by the Hall Committee since the last meeting: the Festival and the 10k Run. He wished to record his thanks and appreciation to all the volunteers who had helped to ensure the success of both events. He was particularly pleased to see the large numbers of local children running in the

shorter events and the continuing numbers of individuals running the longer event in under 60 minutes.

b. JW advised that the cow parsley growing in the bank alongside the Usk/Chepstow road at the crossroads coming down from Shirenewton School was overgrown and considerably restricted visibility. **Action: NJ.**

c. NK advised that the grass on Howells Green had not yet been cut this year. The Clerk would chase MCC and note the need for a rebate at the end of the year. **Action: NJ.**

d. AW had been in communication with an officer from the Welsh Office regarding the proposed mast in Kilgwrrwg. It would appear that the area for siting of a mast was potentially larger than the agents had described, and he therefore felt it was worthwhile to re-engage with the agents and potential landowners to see whether a more acceptable site could be found. The Council were content for AW to take this on and suggested in the first instance he should discuss the latest information with the local residents. **Action: AW.**

12. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting would be held on Monday 29th June 2015 in Itton Village Hall at 7pm.

Signed:

Chairman

Clerk

Date:

POLICE REPORT 27th April – 15th May

28/4/15 – Report of a passenger door window on a green Peugeot 106 smashed whilst parked outside a property in Wesley Gardens, Devauden.

15/5/15 – Report of horse tack and a generator stolen from a caravan in a field in Kilgwrrwg near Devauden. Items taken included a harness, bridle and lunging equipment.