

DRAFT

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday 29TH June 2015 at Itton Village Hall

Councillors present:

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

In attendance:

Sgt. Parsons
N. James (Clerk)

1. Open Session

In attendance for the Open Session were: Melissa and Charles Hiney, Gail Parker, Peter Kirby, Norman Chamberlain, Margaret Jenkins, Daniel Smart and Leighton Hazell.

The police report is attached at the back of these minutes. The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Parsons of the Police Community Speedwatch Scheme. 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. Sergeant Parsons briefed the meeting on the details of the Scheme. After the presentation a number of those present wished to volunteer to participate in this Scheme and the Clerk was asked to invite Sgt Parsons to the next meeting on 27th July to go through the necessary paperwork with the volunteers and agree the way forward.

Action: NJ.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from N. Knowland, K. McElroy, A. Williams and CC B. Greenland.

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 18th May were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising

- a. Minute 6 Annual Meeting – MP agreed to stand as Crime Prevention representative, and was elected.

b. Minute 3 – the acting Chairman had written to the Hall Committee as agreed.

c. Minute 5d/11b and 11c – AC had advised that there were still areas alongside the road near Devauden Court which required repair. **Action: NJ;** the overgrown cowparsley alongside the Usk/Chepstow road had been cut; MCC had also now cut the grass at Howells Green and the sign on the B4293 outside Devauden had been reinstated. However, the signs in Newchurch had still not been installed nor had the restricted access sign in Itton. **Action: NJ.** MCC had advised that they still had not arranged for a volunteer group to install a bridleway sign on BR8. AC had offered to arrange for a sign to be put up and the Clerk was asked to liaise with MCC to arrange this. **Action: NJ.**

e. Minute 5e – the finger post had been reinstated.

g. Minute 11a –the Council wished to record its thanks to NK for repairing the damage to the noticeboard at Kilgwrrwg. The invoice had been passed to USL for payment but payment was still awaited. They had advised that they would action it asap but, given that the invoice was 5 weeks old, it was agreed to sign a cheque for the repairs (cheque number 101444) and, if payment had not been made to the suppliers by 1 July, to forward it and retrieve the payment direct from USL. **Action: NJ.**

h. Minute 11d – AW had reported that he had visited the proposed site for the mast and spoken to local residents. The current proposed site was right at the edge of the sweet spot for the transmitter and he felt there was significant scope for a different – and more acceptable to local residents – solution. He would discuss further with the Welsh Office.

6. **Finance**

a. Balances at 31 May 2015 were: Current Account £4995.85, Notice £275.84.

b. Cheques were signed as follows: Merlin Waste for Sep-May in Devauden £193.23– cheque number 101435; donation to Wolvesnewton, Itton and Kilgwrrwg churches for grasscutting for 15/16 for £50 each – cheques 101436, 437 and 438; MCC for grasscutting 14/15 for £814.99 – cheque number 101439; Merlin Waste for Jun in Devauden for £30.51 – cheque number 101440; Hood Memorial Hall for hire Apr/May 2015 for £25.00 – cheque number 101441; Clerk's expenses for June for £15 – cheque number 101442; Fred Richards for work on 2 phone boxes for £124.96– cheque number 101443.

7. **Correspondence**

a. Protecting Community Assets consultation from Welsh Government.

b. Information on a seminar on Continued Independence of older people.

c. Information on integrated catchment management training courses.

d. Information leaflet on asset transfer.

e. Invitation to a workshop to develop an adaptation plan for the Communities sector.

f. Information on help for local communities through Resource Efficient Wales.

- g. Review of in-patient falls in the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board area.
- h. Information on the Welsh Training Strategy of the National Strategy Group.
- i. A briefing note on shale gas and hydraulic fracturing.
- j. Invitation to submit entries for the Wales Green Energy awards.
- k. Wales Audit News for June 2015.
- l. Information about the campaign to support your High Street in September.
- m. Clerk and Councils Direct for July 2015.
- n. Annual Report from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

8. **Planning**

- a. DC/2015/00504 – proposed new workshop and garage building at Fedw Cottage, Devauden – recommended for approval.
- b. DC/2015/00206 – planning to keep pillars and gates to drive where old gate and pillars were rotten at New Shire Farm, Shirenewton – recommended for approval.
- c. DC/2015/00600 – replacement dwelling of size commensurate with approved reinstated dwelling under planning approval DC/2012/00760 at Old Shop Cottage, Llanishen – the Council felt that there were possibly technical planning issues to be addressed in this application but had no objections to it and recommended for approval.
- d. DC/2015/00750 – proposed revision to previous approval DC/2013/00429 for replacement dwelling at Yew Tree Cottage, Llanishen – recommended for approval.
- e. New and completed enforcement cases for May 2015.

9. **County Councillor's Report**

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

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

- a. Information about OVW Larger Councils Conference on 8 July 2015.
- b. Details of OVW training courses for June and July 2015.

11. **Ward Reports**

- a. JW had been asked to enquire about the planning application for new play equipment to be installed at the Hall. JR confirmed that the application was about to be submitted showing the new equipment located to the left of the existing playground. Once submitted plans would be made available for members of the public to see. Secondly, she noted MCC's failure to collect brown bags on the day after the

bank holiday recently, at least in Well Lane It was noted that the new scheduling arrangements had experienced some teething troubles and therefore to await the next bank holiday Monday in August before approaching MCC. JW also queried procedural points regarding the AGM in May 2015; NJ would seek clarification. **Action: NJ.**

b. JR asked when the replacement catseyes were to be installed as MCC had stated last summer that they would be this April. The Clerk confirmed that he had recently chased MCC on this but a response was still awaited. He was also asked to seek a higher priority for the street lining in Wesley Way. **Action: NJ.** JR advised that David Maddocks had asked that we approach MCC to arrange for an urgent cutting of the cowparsley in the verges on the B4293 into and out of Devauden. **Action: NJ.**

12. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting would be held on Monday 27th July 2015 at 7pm in Itton Village Hall. In confirming this date discussion took place on the need for monthly meetings especially during the summer months. MP proposed, seconded by IC, that the meeting planned for 24th August be cancelled; this was agreed by the meeting. **Action: NJ.**

POLICE REPORT 18th May – 29 June 2015

“Apart from the below incident there is very little to report crime wise thankfully this period in the Devauden and Itton area. But we have had several reports from the Tintern area regarding males (some with Irish accents) in several different vehicles, green Land Rover discovery, a silver car and a white van asking residents to buy power tools, chainsaws and generators out of the back of their vehicles. There is circumstantial evidence that in two cases they were also responsible for the theft of a back pack sprayer and a garage break in the Tintern area recently. Please be vigilant and keep an eye on your vulnerable neighbours if possible. If anyone attends your address with this in mind please try and get an index number and as much information as you can and call us at the time on 101. We have had reports in the past regarding similar incidents and vehicles have been stopped and they have had all the proper documents for the tools they are trying to sell (bankrupt stock etc) but it is always best to air on the side of caution obviously.”

23/5/15 – Report of a vehicle broken into while parked on a driveway in Churchfields, Devauden. A side window was broken and a mobile phone and set of keys were taken from inside. This is a stark reminder not to leave any items on show in your vehicles when they are left unattended whether it is on your driveway or parked at other locations.