

# **DRAFT**

## **MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Held on Monday 27<sup>TH</sup> July 2015 at Itton Village Hall**

**Councillors present:**

J. Rowlands (Chairman)  
N. Knowland  
A Cooke  
A Williams  
M. Powell  
J. Williams

**In attendance:**

N. James (Clerk)  
Mr and Mrs R Brooke

### **1. Open Session**

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

The Carr Report into various routes within Monmouthshire including Devauden had been received by MCC who would be forwarding it to the Licensing Committee for its decision in due course. After that time MCC had advised that it would be made available to the public. Mr and Mrs Brooke were concerned that this would not enable any comments to be made on the Report prior to the decision and requested that CC Greenland be asked to make the Report available for public scrutiny before any decision is made as he had stated he would in January. The Clerk was asked to contact MCC and CC Greenland to this end. **Action: NJ.** If the Report was made available and the Council felt it necessary the August Council meeting could be resurrected.

### **2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from: K. McElroy, I. Cavill and CC B. Greenland.

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

There were no further matters arising from the Open Session.

### **4. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June were approved and signed by the Chairman.

## 5. Matters Arising

a. Minute 1 – A meeting had been arranged with Sgt Parsons to be held at Itton Village Hall on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August at 7pm. A notice had been placed on the website and individual letters had been sent to those members of the public who had expressed an interest in volunteering at the last meeting.

b. Minute 5c – MCC had reinstated the signs in Newchurch but the restricted access sign in Itton was still awaited. MCC had started their top priorities for road lining; Wesley Way was on the next list of priorities and should be done within the next two months. The new catseyes on the B4293 were still awaited and the Clerk was asked to remind MCC of their intention to renew the catseyes during the summer and to ask for a definitive date for commencement. **Action:NJ.** MCC had confirmed that the bridleway sign could be installed locally provided a number of rules were adhered to, and it was agreed that we should go ahead with this. **Action: NJ.**

c. Minute 5g – the cheque, number 101444, to Greenbarnes for £95.42 had been sent but payment from USL was still awaited.

d. Minute 11a – OVW had confirmed that individuals for all Council positions had to be elected/re-elected each year at the Annual Meeting. It was not possible for individuals to hold a position for longer than a year without re-election and therefore the Council rescinded the agreement at the 2014 Annual Meeting that the chair and vice chair posts would be for a three year tenure. As a consequence JR and NK were nominated, seconded and unanimously re-elected to the Chair and Vice Chair positions respectively for 2015/16.

## 6. Finance

a. Balances at 30 June 2015 were: Current Account £4467.38, Notice £3275.97.

b. Cheques were signed as follows: Merlin Waste for July for £20.34 – cheque number 101445; Clerk's expenses for July for £15 – cheque number 101446; MCC for Clerk's salary Apr-Jun 15 for £823.11 – cheque number 101447; F Richards for the remainder of the costs for phone box renovation for £6 - cheque number 101448.

c. The Clerk presented the bank reconciliation and financial forecast as at the end of June 2015 which were agreed, and signed by the Chairman.

## 7. Correspondence

a. Note on the Wales Efficiency Strategy Consultation.

b. Note from OVW on a webinar into how service user experience can improve strategic direction and services.

c. A note inviting recommendations of candidates for appointment to the Adjudication Panel for Wales.

d. A written statement from the Minister at the Welsh Office on the Collection and Management of Devolved Taxes.

- e. Invitation to forward comments on how climate change affects organisations.
- f. The Tax Collection and Management (Wales) Bill.
- g. Briefing note from NALC on the Local Government (Democracy) Wales Act 2013.
- h. An email requesting nominations for the Birthday Honours List 2016.
- i. Information regarding the recruitment of a new Chair of Natural Resources Wales.
- j. Information regarding the Natural Resources Wales Competitive Grant.

## 8. **Planning**

a. DC/2015/00736 – change of use from holiday let to residential property with the incorporation of a modest extension at Tor-y Mynydd Farm, Crosshands, Devauden – this was a particularly complicated application involving previous applications and it was noted that it did not comply with the original plans and in line with previous decisions on change of use - recommended for refusal.

b. DC/2015/00662 – new triple garage/storage building at Sunset View on the B4293 at Itton – recommended for approval.

c. DC/2015/00754 –play area to the Village Hall at Devauden – councillors had noted an objection to the proposed location for this play area and sought the rationale for it from the one Hall Committee member present. In the Hall Committee's view the location was the best possible site and was able to make use of a large tree. The Council noted that this application had caused some concern among certain local residents since, not only had there been no prior communication with those living near to the proposed site – as there always had been in the past – but also that the Music Festival Committee Facebook page had stated, incorrectly, that one couple had objected to the play area, and encouraged others in the village therefore to write to MCC in support of the case. That couple had not in fact objected to the play area, simply its location. The Council was equally concerned with the safety aspects for 2-7 year old children of the proposed location as it was immediately next to the Hall car park. The Council fully supported the project nevertheless and recommended for approval subject to a review of the location, and hoped that the Hall Committee would feel it helpful to consult their near neighbours before any future applications were made. In addition, councillors were concerned that KM, the DCC representative on the Hall Committee, had submitted the application as it could imply that it was therefore made by the Council. It was agreed that, at a future meeting when KM was present, it would be useful to debate the role of the DCC representative on the Hall Committee.

d. There followed a long discussion regarding the comments made on the Music Festival Committee's Facebook page about one local couple. Although most of the councillors including the Chairman had been unaware of these comments the Clerk had had an informal meeting with the couple concerned and advised on some of the comments that had been made. The Council was unanimously opposed to such comments being made and was concerned that, with 2 councillors on the Hall Committee, the Council could be seen to have given its implied consent to such comments. The Chairman agreed these comments could not be sanctioned; comments which also appeared to misrepresent the views of the couple. He stressed that neither

he nor the Hall had Facebook pages; the page concerned was privately-owned and not part of the Hall Committee. The Chairman agreed to bring up this issue at the next Hall Committee meeting at which he would recommend that all references to the couple were immediately removed. In addition he took it upon himself, as Chairman of the Hall Committee, to contact the couple to try to defuse the situation.

e. New and completed enforcement cases for June 2015. It was noted that the garden at 1 Wesley Way was now included on the Enforcement List.

## 9. **County Councillor's Report**

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

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

a. A flyer advertising the OVW Conference on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2015 at the Bont Pavilion, Pontrhydfendigaid, Ceridigion.

## 11. **Ward Reports**

a. **JW** – the cowparsley on the Usk/Chepstow road near the junction with Ditch Hill Lane was again overgrown and proving a safety hazard even though it had only recently been cut back. **Action: NJ.** JW also noted that the Council had not been asked for any contribution from Chepstow Council for the holiday playscheme at which children from the Devauden area benefited in the past. AW was visiting the Leisure Centre shortly and would enquire. **Action: AW.**

b. **AW**- there had been no progress on the mobile telecommunications mast installation although virtually everyone he had discussed it with was keen to have a mast and it was simply the location which was objected to. His contact at the Welsh Office continued to try and get a dialogue with Harlequin, the agents, regarding potential alternative sites.

c. **MP** – a local resident had asked if, next year, wildflowers could be planted on Itton Common. The Clerk was asked to arrange for Nigel Leaworthy at MCC to contact AW about this. **Action: NJ.**

d. **JR** –David Maddocks had asked JR to pass on his concern at the safety implications for the lack of hedge cutting on the B4293 although he had noted that the hedges had been cut on the minor road to St Arvans. AW advised that this would be in line with the new policy whereby R roads were cut twice a year. A and B roads would be cut if there was a safety issue and line of sight was compromised. The Council agreed that if areas could be identified it would pass them on to MCC for cutting.

## 12. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting would be held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015 in Devauden Village Hall.

POLICE REPORT 28<sup>th</sup> June – 26<sup>th</sup> July 2015

6/7/15 – Report of the theft of a triple axle Ifor Williams trailer from a field at a property in Kilgwrrwg after the fence was pushed down.

18/7/15 – Report of a male coming off his motorcycle in Itton. No other vehicles were involved. The male was taken to hospital with a suspected broken collar bone.