

# **DRAFT**

## **MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Held on Monday 28th September 2015 at Devauden Village Hall**

### **Councillors present:**

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

### **In attendance:**

N. James (Clerk)

### **1. Open Session**

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

Devauden had won the Gwent best kept village award for 2015 in the 401-1000 population category and also, for the second year in succession, the best kept village hall award. Framed certificates would be put up in the Village Shop and Hall respectively, and the trophy for the best kept village would also be placed on show in the Shop when it reopens.

### **2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from M. Powell and CC R. Greenland.

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

There were no matters arising from the Open Session.

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

Approval of the minutes of the meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> July was proposed by NK and seconded by AW, and they were signed by the Chairman.

### **5. Matters Arising**

a. Minute 1 – CC Greenland had circulated the report by Mr Carr which would be considered by the Licensing Committee shortly.

b. Minute 5a – a meeting was held at Itton Hall with Sgt Parsons of Community Speedwatch. Whilst there were a few people from Itton there was only one representative from Devauden. Since the meeting the Clerk wrote again to those individuals in Devauden who had attended the original Council meeting in June and 2 individuals had written to volunteer; their names had been passed to Sgt Parsons. A scheme has been successfully set up at Itton.

c. Minute 5b - The restricted access sign in Itton had now been erected. MCC had advised that, despite aiming to install replacement catseyes by the summer, other issues had taken priority but they hoped to be able to install some “quick fix” catseyes before winter. The garden at 1 Wesley Way had been cleared but it was agreed to postpone the erection of the bridleway sign until felling in the area had been completed.

d. Minute 5c – payment had now been received from USL for the repairs to the notice board at Kilgwrrwg.

e. Minute 11a- AW still awaited a response from the Leisure Centre at Chepstow regarding a contribution towards the costs of the playscheme there in the summer holidays.

f. Minute 11c- AW had met with Nigel Leaworthy of MCC to discuss planting wildflowers on Itton Common and had agreed that this could be done. NL and his team from MCC would ensure sightlines were acceptable and councillors would make sure that all local residents were aware of the plans, and there would need to be some consultation over appropriate seed mix and leaving the grass under the trees uncut. MCC would cut and maintain as appropriate. The cost of preparing the ground would be £50 which DCC agreed to pay, and a cheque was signed for that amount (Cheque number 101451). In discussion it was agreed that Howells Green in Newchurch and The Trout green in Itton might also benefit from the planting of wildflowers. Initially AW would contact Nigel Leaworthy to set up a meeting at Howells Green with NK and AC also. **Action: AW.**

## 6. **Finance**

a. Balances at 31 August 2015 were: Current Account £2299.82, Notice £3275.97.

b. Cheques were signed as follows: Clerk’s expenses for August/September for £30 – cheque number 101449; Merlin Waste for September for £20.34 – cheque number 101450.

c. An email thanking the Council for its donation to the grasscutting in the churchyard had been received from the Wolvesnewton Church representative.

d. The Annual Return had been completed by the auditors and copies were to be placed on the local notice boards.

## 7. **Correspondence**

- a. Monmouthshire Local Development Plan draft guidance on Primary Shopping frontages.
- b. Information regarding a half day course on VAT in October.
- c. Care Home review statement.
- d. Information about a seminar on the future of parks and their positive impact on wellbeing.
- e. Legal topic notes from NALC regarding standing order changes.
- f. Advertisement for Commissioner for the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.
- g. The Finance Committee consultation on Tax Collection and Management(Wales) Bill.
- h. Information regarding consultation on the BBC Charter Review.
- i. Letter from the Minister for Public Services.
- j. Information on the consultation for Protecting Community Assets.
- k. Clerks and Councils Direct.
- l. Wales Audit Office Newsletter.
- m. Details of a planning training workshop for Community and TTown councillors organised by Planning Aid Wales on 12<sup>th</sup> October.
- n. Information about the Arts Council for Wales Night Out Scheme.
- o. Information about community grants available from Western Power.
- p. Information about proposed changes to Planning policy Wales Chapter 10 and Technical Advice Note 4.
- q. Advertisement for board members for the Regulatory Board Wales.
- r. Invitation to a consultation event for the draft public sector Waste and Resource Efficiency Plan.
- s. Conference invitation for Preparing for Public Services Boards.
- t. Details of two temporary path closures.

## 8. **Planning**

In view of the deadlines for reporting, the following applications had been dealt with by email between the councillors:

- a. DC/2015/00899- erection of an access track at Nantgelli Farm to Great House, Wolvesnewton - this was recommended for approval but there was concern that this

was the latest in a line of applications which increased development at this location, and there were several issues which MCC was asked to monitor in its implementation.

b. DC/2014/01489- demolition of existing dwelling and replacement with new residential dwelling at Pwll-y-Cath, Newchurch - the application referred to the plans as a replacement which it wasn't since it was felt that a replacement would require that the existing building was demolished before a new house was built in the exact same place; this was not planned to occur in this case. Also the proposed alignment was at odds with the local style – ie aligned with the natural slope. This would maximise its intrusion in the landscape. It was recommended for refusal.

c. DC/2015/00192 – remodelling and extension of existing dwelling at Lanes End, Devauden – recommended for approval.

The following applications were dealt with in Council:

d. DC/2015/01023 – replacement of dilapidated concrete garage/store with timber garden room at Yewberry House, Itton House, Itton – recommended for approval.

e. DC/2015/01088 – change of use of adjacent land to extend the residential curtilage; erection of a carport and double garage; minor alterations to existing house to install a stainless steel chimney, fit sliding doors and a canopy over entrance door; minor development to erect a greenhouse, balustrade, two sheds and lay a patio at Ridgeway House, Devauden – recommended for approval.

f. New and completed enforcement cases for July and August 2015.

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

In his absence CC Greenland had forwarded a report covering 3 issues, two of which were covered under other headings in these minutes. The third related to the impact of budget cuts on waste collection from village halls like Devauden. MCC was no longer able to cover its costs for collection which necessitated charging commercial businesses for it but had listened to various views and made some concessions for village halls when putting on events.

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

a. Local training sessions for September.

b. List of the motions for the OVW AGM on 3 October 2015.

c. Community Planning Training at Usk on 8<sup>th</sup> October.

## **11. Ward Reports**

a. **AW** had been asked by a resident to keep an eye on the mess being created by the removal of wood in the area of Well lane. It was noted that this was being done by a Devauden man who had advised all local residents and, although there was quite a mess from the operation, it would be completed shortly.

b. **NK** had noted that the lanes from Newchurch along the R81 to Gaer Fawr and then the 66.4 and 58.5 to Gaerllwyd had not been resurfaced for well over 20 years and

were now in a poor state of repair. **Action: NJ.** NK had also been approached by several residents questioning the amount of work being carried out by MCC on traffic calming measures in Shirenewton, given the stringent cutbacks in its budget, and wondered how such expenditure could be justified at such a time. The Clerk was asked to forward these local concerns to CC B Greenland for his comments. **Action: NJ.** After some discussion it was also agreed that it might be helpful if DCC were to prioritise for MCC its main outstanding highways issues. It was agreed that these should be: replacement catseyes on the B4293; resurfacing along the R81 and 66.4/58.5 lanes and along the Kilgwrrwg road near the entrance to Devauden Court; white lining at Wesley Way. **Action: NJ.**

c. **IC** advised that 2x 30mph signs on 57.4 coming into the village from Shirenewton were obscured by hedge growth and had been hit by passing vehicles. **Action: NJ.** In addition he had noted that MCC was carrying out a review of conservation areas which included one in Itton near the church. In discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would contact MCC to determine whether the review would cover any area in Devauden. **Action: NJ.**

d. **JW** read out an email received from a local couple raising issues regarding the Music Festival Committee and the DCC minutes for the July meeting. After some discussion the Council agreed that the minutes were correct as written. It was noted that the Chairman had asked the Chair of the Music Festival Committee to have offending and unacceptable remarks removed from its Facebook page which he had agreed to do. Given that removal had still not happened the Chairman would chase this matter. The Clerk was asked to respond to the email from the local residents. **Action: NJ.** JW advised that she had agreed to become a Governor of Shirenewton School even though it was not Devauden's turn, given that the other 2 Councils who provided a governor in rotation had been unable to do so. However, at the first meeting it was apparent that there was still some confusion as to whether another Council would be providing a governor. She waited to hear of developments. Finally, she wished to record her concern about a recent rave in Devauden which caused significant concern amongst local residents, a point confirmed by other councillors. No one appeared to be aware of the event or who organised it. Yet, despite calls to the police complaining about the noise throughout the night, no action seemed to have been taken. The Clerk was asked to contact the police to find out relevant details of what happened that night. **Action: NJ.**

e. **JR** advised that the public footpath opposite The Firs was overgrown again and access to the public footpath off the B4293 past the Newchurch road and near the layby approaching Devauden from Chepstow was also overgrown. **Action: NJ.** JR also read out communication he had received from the Public Services Ombudsman which the Council noted.

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

The next meeting will be held in Devauden Village Hall on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm.

POLICE REPORT 27th JULY - 24th SEPTEMBER

13/08 – road traffic collision on the B4293 just outside Itton, two cars, minor injury.

02/09 – theft of a bicycle from a garden in Devauden.

06/09 – report of a large, loud party in Chepstow Park Woods at about 8.30am – no other calls received and they had left prior to Police arrival.