

DRAFT

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday 26th October 2015 at Devauden Village Hall

Councillors present:

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

In attendance:

CO G Reynolds
CO C Vaughan
N. James (Clerk)

1. Open Session

The police report is attached at the back of these minutes. CO Reynolds explained that dispersal notices had been given to those present at the rave in Chepstow Park Woods in September but more individuals then turned up later. The Council was concerned that, as the rave managed to last successfully for a large part of the weekend, it would become known as a good place for such an event. He was asked whether it was feasible to set up an operation to prevent people from coming to a rave locally as they do in other areas when the police hear of a proposed rave of this kind. He would discuss and get back to the Council with a response.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from K McElroy, I Cavill 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

Minutes of the meeting on 28th September were approved, and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising

a. Minute 5e – AW had received a response from MCC regarding contributions to the playscheme at Chepstow Leisure Centre. Devauden for some reason had not been on the list inherited last year by the new MCC officer but he advised that there would be a different operating model next year and he would add Devauden CC to the list for contact for future support. Forty local children attended this year and AW agreed to find out whether any contribution for last summer would now be ring fenced for next year. **Action: AW.** DCC would be happy to make a contribution next year.

b. Minute 5f – AW was still awaiting a response from Nigel Leaworthy on a meeting to consider planting at Howells Green and The Trout. It was agreed that he would produce a note inviting local Itton people to the next Council meeting on 30 November to consider seed mixes for the Common at Itton; these notices would be delivered to local residents there. JR would also invite local expert Becky Beeby. **Action: AW/MP.**

c. Minute 11b – a reply was still awaited from CC Greenland on the expenditure issue at Shirenewton. As there was still significant local concern about the amount of money spent on traffic calming measures there in the current economic climate, and the need for it, the Clerk was asked to write to MCC requesting the rationale and querying from whose budget the funds had come. **Action: NJ.**

d. Minute 11c – MCC had confirmed that the review of conservation areas would not affect any areas within the Devauden area.

6. Standing Orders

JR had attended an OVW seminar on council meetings from which there were a number of recommendations for our meetings. After some discussion it was agreed that for a trial period of 6 months: meetings would last a maximum of 2 hours but could be extended in exceptional circumstances; Ward Reports should not include items which required a financial decision or for which there would be particular local interest, rather such issues should come up as a separate agenda item either under the Finance heading or as a separate heading; the heading (excluding Finance issues) should be included on each agenda after Ward Reports; additional items for the agenda should be passed to the Clerk at least 7 clear days before the next meeting. It was also agreed that there should be an annual consideration of all requests for funds in April each year; this would include the requests from the churches for grasscutting as well as any other requests from the local population. It was agreed that these measures would provide an even more open system for local people. **Action: NJ.**

7. Finance

a. Balances at 30 September 2015 were: Current Account £4916.82, Notice £3276.54.

b. Seniors' Christmas Lunch – it was agreed to donate £50 to the Devauden seniors' Christmas lunch. Although one councillor felt that this lunch should be open for seniors from all wards that was not the majority view but it was agreed that the Council would always consider requests for grants for similar occasions in other wards.

c. Contribution to the insurance for fireworks – a contribution of £200 was agreed.

d. Cheques were signed as follows: OVW for councillor's attendance at a seminar for £35 – cheque number 101452; MCC for salary Jul-Sep for £823.11 – cheque number 101453; Mazars for the audit fee of £210.00 – cheque number 101454; Clerk's expenses for October for £15 – cheque number 101455; Merlin Waste for October for £20.34 – cheque number 101456.

e. A cheque had been received from HMRC for £297.24 for last year's VAT claim.

f. The bank reconciliation for 30 September and financial forecast had been circulated prior to the meeting and the Chairman signed as approving both these documents.

g. The updated risk assessment for 2015 had been circulated. The risk regarding the proximity of the bus shelter's location to the main road would be noted. With no further amendments it was approved.

h. The Clerk had received documentation from HSBC requiring confirmation of the Council tax status in line with the national requirement to meet the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act. The Council noted that this was largely irrelevant for its account and it was duly completed and signed.

8. Correspondence

a. Notification of a planning training workshop run by Planning Aid Wales.

b. The BBC Charter Review.

c. NRM Bulletin for October 2015.

d. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Draft Annual Report.

e. Details of the appointment of a trustee to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

f. Information regarding a groundwork funding opportunity through a Tesco Carrier Bag Levy.

g. Information regarding grants from Grow Wild to create inspiring spaces.

i. Invitation to apply for the Grow Wild seed kits. The Chairman had applied for these as they could possibly be used at Itton or Howells Green.

j. OVW representation at the Preparing for Public Services Boards Conference on 26 November.

k. A letter from the local AM offering to attend a meeting to discuss the WG proposal regarding local council mergers. It was agreed that this invitation would not be accepted.

l. Consultation paper on the draft Public Services Ombudsman Bill.

m. Green paper seeking views on healthcare services in Wales.

9. **Planning**

a. DC/2015/01084 – conversion of redundant barn to dwelling at Newchurch Barn, Newchurch– recommended for approval.

b. DC/2015/01125 – orangery style conservatory to rear of dwelling at Prospect House, Newchurch; NK admitted a conflict of interest and took no part in the discussion which recommended for approval.

c. New and completed enforcement cases for September 2015.

10. **County Councillor's Report**

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

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

a. Local training sessions for November.

b. JW - reported on the discussions at the recent Area Committee meeting which included: 1) the Community Governance Review which rationalized the groups being run in Monmouthshire. Some groups would be scrapped and it was hoped that others would become more effective. In an attempt to fill the budget gap a Local Fund was being considered into which community councils would be expected to contribute to help protect local services eg leisure centres, public toilets to relieve the burden on town councils for services provided and enjoyed also by visitors and residents from the rural areas. It was suggested that community councils review the way the precept was currently spent and consider if it was being spent well; 2) the increased annual membership contribution to OVW; 3) confirmation that MCC had adopted the living wage for its employees.

12. **Ward Reports**

a. **JW** had noted that new yellow signs regarding neighbourhood speedwatch had been put up in Itton; the new signs were unsightly and she and other councillors wondered whether they were necessary. In his absence IC was asked for his comments. **Action: IC.** At an earlier meeting it had been agreed to discuss the role of the DCC representative post on the Hall Committee. As the current incumbent was away it was agreed to put this as an agenda item for the next meeting. **Action: NJ.**

e. **JR** advised that a Devauden resident would be 100 in the next month; it was agreed that on behalf of the DCC, JR would purchase a card and some flowers. **Action: JR.** In addition the Clerk was asked to chase the Countryside section at MCC about the cutting of the overgrown public footpaths in Devauden. **Action: NJ.**

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in Devauden Village Hall on Monday 30th November at 7pm.

POLICE REPORT 25th SEPTEMBER - 25th OCTOBER

27/09 – Police received six calls in the early hours of the morning in relation to a rave in Chepstow Park Woods. Thirteen Police Officers were allocated to the incident including two Sergeants and the covering Inspector. Approximately five hundred people were in attendance and they were issued with dispersal notices and made their way from the location during the day.

12/10 – two suspicious males had knocked on a residents door in Churchfields, Devauden trying to sell Solar Panels following a phone call to the house the day before trying to sell the same.■