

DRAFT

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday 30th November 2015 at Devauden Village Hall

Councillors present:

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

In attendance:

N Chamberlain

CC B Greenland
N James (Clerk)

1. Open Session

The police report is attached at the back of these minutes. In his absence AW had provided a short presentation on wild flower possibilities for Itton Common. Although the Clerk had received one letter from a local resident asking that the wildflower planting did not go ahead on the Common, there had been no others and Dr Chamberlain and Councillor Powell believed that all other residents were positive about the idea. There was concern about whether the area of grass that would still be cut would be sufficient and whether the cut grass and wildflowers would be taken away or simply left. After some discussion it was agreed to take it forward in principle and for AW to arrange a follow-up meeting which should involve also local expert Becky Beeby to confirm the detail. **Action: AW.** MP would advise the resident who had been against the idea. AC advised that the Trustees of the ex-parish field had agreed for a wildflower planting on Howells Green.

Dr Chamberlain also raised local concerns about traffic driving along the road between the Common and the houses when coming from Chepstow and going to Shirenewton or the Glyn. Cars simply did not stop at the end of the road and he asked if MCC could put dotted white lines at the end of that road. **Action: NJ.**

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from J Williams and A Williams.

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 26th October was proposed by NK and seconded by AC, and they were signed by the Chairman.

5. **Matters Arising**

a. Minute 5c –CC Greenland had responded regarding the expenditure at Shirenewton on traffic calming measures. This had been a long standing commitment of the road safety programme from funds provided by the WG only for such use.

d. Minute 12a – IC had noted the concern regarding the yellow signs in Itton. These had been given to the Community Speedwatch team by the police and were deliberately visible. The scheme was now well established and was working well.

e. Minute 12e- NJ had chased MCC about the footpaths obstruction but this was still outstanding.

6. **Role of CC Representative on Hall Committee**

There was a long discussion on the role of the Council representative on the Hall Committee. It was agreed that the representative was the formal liaison between the Council and the Committee, ensuring Council's views were heard at the Committee and that relevant Hall activities were made known to the Council. As the representative was, like other locally-nominated representatives on the Committee, a full member with voting rights, it was recognized that there might be occasions when there was a conflict of interest. On such occasions he/she had to declare that interest and remove themselves from the particular discussion and decision.

7. **Finance**

a. Balances at 30 November 2015 were: Current Account £4060.27, Notice £3276.54.

b. The assets on the Asset Register had been checked by the Chairman and Clerk; all were in a good condition except the posts for the notice board in Wolvesnewton (although subsequently one of the gateposts to the allotments had broken and needed repair). This notice board however was now inaccessible and the Clerk was asked to consider future options. **Action: NJ.**

c. The Clerk had drawn up a draft budget using the same precept request as last year. However, he pointed out that the Council was likely to have a healthy cash surplus at the end of this financial year and that a significant amount had also been transferred into the deposit account in-year. On the other hand it was likely that the Council would have to take on additional services next year and subsequent years. Given that, and after some discussion, it was agreed to retain the precept at last year's level for 2016/17. **Action: NJ.**

d. Cheques were signed as follows: Devauden seniors Christmas lunch for £50 – cheque number 101457; contribution to fireworks insurance for £200 – cheque number 101458; Merlin Waste for October for £20.34 – cheque number 101459; Clerk's expenses for November for £15 – cheque number 101460; flowers and a card for local resident's 100th birthday for £27.95 – cheque number 101461; MCC for 2015/16 grounds maintenance for £835.37 – cheque number 101462 (but the Clerk was asked to check for a possible rebate due to fewer cuts **Action: NJ.**); F Richards for repair work to the allotment gate for £142.53- cheque number 101463.

8. **Correspondence**

- a. Note from Ramblers Cymru advising of ways to protect and improve local walkways.
- b. The Ombudsman's Casebook - Issue 22.
- c. Pensions guidance from NALC.
- d. Options for investment support from Green Growth Wales.
- e. Note seeking volunteers for Community Health Councils.
- f. Advertisement for Chair and Members for the National Entity for Welsh for Adults Scrutiny Committee.
- g. Statutory Guidance for the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- h. Wales Audit Office Newsletter.
- i. Diary marker for meeting with the PCC on 11 January 2016.
- j. Consultation document from the PCC's office on equality and diversity.
- k. Advertisement for the appointment of a Chair to the Arts Council of Wales.
- l. Advertisement for the appointment of Wales Commissioner to the Equality and Human Rights Commission.
- m. Consultation document on allotments and community-led growing projects.
- n. Consultation on policing priorities.
- o. Letter from MCC Careline advertising its services for older community residents.
- p. Clerks and Councils Direct.
- q. Community and Town Council News 2015.
- r. Draft local Government Wales Bill.

8. **Planning**

- a. DC/2015/01340- erection of stand-alone garage block with associated ancillary accommodation to main house at Martlets, Llansoy – as no objections had been received, recommended for approval.
- b. DC/2015/01236- conversion of granary to ancillary domestic accommodation, including rear extension and bat store at Berth Crwyn, Llansoy – as no objections had been received, recommended for approval.
- c. New and completed enforcement cases for October 2015.

9. **County Councillor's Report**

CC Greenland advised of the discussions that were on-going regarding the budget cuts for 2016/17 and subsequent years. At the moment MCC was awaiting advice on what further cuts were to be made to next year's budget. The Welsh Government had been awaiting the Westminster Government Spending Review. With that announced last week MCC expected to hear shortly of the effects that would now have on the budget for next year but further cuts were anticipated. Despite significant savings and the cuts already made in services a funding gap was still anticipated. Moreover the budget pressures were likely to continue until 2020. Consultation had been on-going with the public who had generally expressed a preference for increased charges rather than further cuts in services but that was difficult with a cap on council tax increases. With the priority funding within MCC for education and social care it meant that further cuts in other services had to be considered, and ways were being discussed with town and community councils into how and whether some local services could be taken on by them or community groups in the medium term eg toilets, road sweeping, museums, leisure centres. Before that could happen the costs of providing those services had to be reduced, and so for instance facilities like the one stop shop in Monmouth had been incorporated into the local library. In the short term MCC was looking to town and community councils for some support to see what further services they might be able to take on to avoid closures, but it was recognized that town and community councils would have different views on where the costs of many services provided for local people might lie. A meeting was to be held this week with local councils and MP and NJ would attend.

CC Greenland was however pleased to report that the ground enabling works for the two new secondary schools at Monmouth and Caldicott had begun, and that the new primary school in Raglan had opened at the beginning of September.

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

- a. Local training sessions for December.

11. **Ward Reports**

- a. JW – in her absence JW had forwarded the following points:

- 1. JW had attended a meeting for the Governing Body of Shirenewton School. The School was one of 68 schools across Wales and one of only 2 in Monmouthshire selected to be a "pioneer school" – supporting the

development of the new curriculum which will underpin teaching and learning for all aged 3-16 in Wales from 2018.

2. JW had belatedly received the scoring sheet and comments for the best kept village competition for 2015 which Devauden had won in its category. Devauden scored 90/100 and the comments were: "The immediate impression is of a community working together to keep this beautiful village in good order. The hedges throughout the village are trimmed to perfection and everywhere is tidy – even the brown garden waste bags! Both the play areas, catering for different ages, provide a clean, tidy and safe environment for the youth of the village. The village is virtually litter free, and wooden re cycling bins blend well into the landscape. No Conservation area is identified on the entry form, however managed wild flower banks, solar panels and the recycling provision confirmed an environmentally friendly village. The use of the phone kiosk as the home for the Heart Safe defibrillator is innovative and demonstrates care in the community. The green is immaculate and the interactive panel along side the well preserved statue of John Wesley is in good working order. The small church yard is well mown and the surrounds weed free, including the gulleys. The area surrounding the shop and garage is tidy and the shop has an excellent display of informative posters. Community council information in the window. All areas of the village encompassing private dwelling, sheltered housing and public buildings show evidence of plenty of TLC –obviously a permanent feature of this delightful village." The Clerk was asked to include this report summary in the submission to the Parish Magazine and for the local shop and notice board. – **Action: NJ.**

3. There had been 3 power cuts last week affecting Well Lane and Wesley Way including pensioners' bungalows on consecutive days. The Council was concerned that it was the same sub-station affected on each occasion and no reason had been given.

4. The Itton sign coming from Shirenewton was still hanging in the hedge and partially obscured. **Action: NJ.**

b. AC advised that the Kilgwrrwg Community Charity had elected a new member, Mrs J Cann, after one had resigned. She expressed concern with the amount of debris that was left lying alongside the ridge road through Kilgwrrwg and to Newchurch and asked that MCC clear it. **Action: NJ.** Also there was waste rubbish being dumped at the cross at Kilgwrrwg. It was agreed to find out the collection route of the MCC waste disposal lorry to see whether it did collect along the lane to the old iron chapel. **Action: NJ.**

c. KM advised that he had forwarded a video of the drainage problem in Wesley Way to MHA and a maintenance officer was coming to do an inspection this week.

d. JR read out a letter he had received from a local resident regarding the state of the road at Well Lane with significant mud and debris on it, a point also raised by JW. The letter had also sought the correct procedure for making a complaint to MCC. The Clerk had already approached MCC on the issue of the highway as they had promised the local resident that it would be actioned; he would chase that. JR would respond to the resident and advise her to whom a complaint should be forwarded. **Action: NJ/JR.**

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in Devauden Village Hall on Monday 21st December at 7pm.
The dates for the meetings in 2016 were agreed as follows:

Monday 25th January

Monday 29th February

Monday 21st March

Monday 25th April

Monday 23rd May

Monday 27th June – Itton

Monday 22nd August – Itton

Monday 26th September

Monday 31st October

Monday 28th November

Monday 19th December

POLICE REPORT 27th OCTOBER – 29th NOVEMBER

Road traffic collision on the B4293 on the 18th November at about 6.30pm. Two cars were involved but no-one was injured. There was nothing on the log that indicated the reason for the collision.