

# **DRAFT**

## **MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Held on Monday 21st December 2015 at Devauden Village Hall**

**Councillors present:**

J. Rowlands (Chairman)  
K. McElroy  
A. Cooke  
A. Williams  
M Powell  
J Williams

**In attendance:**

Mr M Wigley  
Mr and Mrs R Brooke  
  
CSO A Jones  
  
N. James (Clerk)

### **1. Open Session**

The police report is attached at the back of these minutes. CSO Jones advised that there had been little to report from the area over the last month. In addition to the 2 incidents on the police report, he advised that there had been 2 burglaries recently in Mathern.

Mr Wigley raised a number of highways issues which he wanted MCC to action:

- a. Japanese Knotweed was growing on 57.4 at Foxes Barn next to the stone bridge outside Itton.
- b. The drainage along the lane by Castle Farm was still very poor and no gully had yet been installed. With the build-up of leaves and other debris the water flow down this lane remained a significant health and safety hazard. A new gulley was a high priority.
- c. There was a significant amount of debris and leaves along Gelli Lane with the drains already clogged and the water having nowhere to go.

- d. Large lorries were bringing cut timber on to the main B4293 at Kelvin Wood creating a dangerous situation with mud on the road but there were no danger signs. **Action: NJ.**

Mr Brooke wished to highlight the current situation regarding the Carr Report. There was no date fixed yet for the Licensing Committee to consider it; that meeting awaited the MCC officer's report. However, he summarised the findings of the Report for the routes 53.16 and 53.11/53.18. The Report had found that public highway rights would appear to exist for Coale Lane (53.11/53.18) but that there was not enough evidence to support similar rights along the northern part of 53.16. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to MCC confirming its full support for these findings of the Carr Report. **Action: NJ.**

## 2. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from I Cavill, N Knowland 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**

Approval of the minutes of the meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> November was proposed by AC and seconded by KM, and they were signed by the Chairman.

## 5. **Matters Arising**

a. Minute 1 – AW was yet to arrange the follow up meeting on wildflower planting at Itton Common. **Action: AW.** NJ had met with a MCC representative at Itton Common and agreed that MCC would repaint the give way signs at the end of the slip road in front of the houses where it meets the Shirenewton road, and also erect a No Through Road sign at the B4293 entrance to the cul de sac immediately in front of the houses.

b. Minute 7b – It was confirmed that a Council notice board had been erected at the Star Inn some years ago. The board at the pub was now being used specifically for pub business and it was not clear whether it was the original Council board. It was agreed that the Council board in Wolvesnewton itself should be replaced. **Action: NJ.**

c. Minute 9 - The Clerk summarised the meeting that he and MP had attended with MCC and other community council representatives regarding budget cuts, potential service cuts and possible actions for all councils to consider. The meeting had been a little vague in specific requests of community councils and DCC was concerned that no mention had been made of the "local fund" to which all would be required to commit funds that MCC officers had mentioned at a previous meeting. Although it was recognized that it was unlikely that DCC could take on further services given its very small budget, and that the same level of precept for next year had already been agreed, the Clerk was asked to communicate with the clerks of the neighbouring community councils at Shirenewton, Llangwm and St Arvans to see whether there was any possibility of more efficiencies, and hence savings, in for example the grasscutting requirements across the area. **Action: NJ.**

d. Minute 11a4/11b/11d - MCC had acknowledged the need to clear the route along the ridge road through Kilgwrrwg and had repaired the Itton sign; the debris along Well Lane had been cleared. MCC had advised that they were still awaiting delivery of the materials to carry out the catseyes replacements on the B4293 and whilst the R81 road surface was on their list of actions it was likely to take some time before it was done, and therefore they would endeavour to carry out some temporary repairs in the meantime. In discussion it was noted that new catseyes had been installed in Shirenewton and the Clerk was asked to find out why there was still a delay on those on the B4293. **Action: NJ.** It was noted that MCC had not considered that there was a problem on the road surface near the entrance to Devauden Court. At the moment with all the leaves and other debris on the road the evidence was not clear. It was therefore agreed to wait until the Spring when the road debris should be cleared and then to arrange a site meeting with MCC to discuss the problem. **Action: NJ.**

d. Minute 11b – AC would discuss with the MCC representative the issue of waste collections in Kilgwrrwg. **Action: AC.**

## 6. **Finance**

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

b. Cheques were signed as follows: Merlin Waste for December for £20.34 – cheque number 101464; Clerk's expenses for December for £15 – cheque number 101465. MCC had not yet cashed the cheque for £50 (cheque number 101451) for the cost of preparing the ground at Itton Common for wildflower planting; the cost had not included the VAT element and they had therefore requested another cheque for £50 + VAT. A new cheque for that amount was agreed and signed – cheque number 101466. The original cheque would be stopped.

c. A letter of thanks had been received from The Hood Memorial Hall for the Council contribution to the Seniors' Christmas lunch and to the cost of the insurance for the firework display.

## 7. **Correspondence**

a. The launch of the Public Health Outcomes Framework Consultation.

b. National Resources Bulletin Issue No 2.

c. WG written statement on Transparency of Senior Remuneration.

d. Publication of the Positive Planning Implementation Plan.

e. Temporary traffic prohibition order for various paths in Chepstow Park Wood.

f. Practical advice for before, during and after a flood.

g. Invitation for submissions for the New Year's Honours List 2017.

h. Information regarding the appointment of an independent member to the Board of Community Health Councils in Wales.

i. Copies of Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Newsletter for Winter 2015.

j. A follow on document to the Strategic Framework Public Consultation.

k. Recruitment information regarding the appointment of a vice-chair and independent members to NHS Wales.

l. Deputy Minister's speech on Supporting Joint Commissioning for Public Services Integrated Health and Social Care.

## 8. **Planning**

a. DC/2015/01435- single storey gable extension to lounge at Robins Lane, Devauden- recommended for approval.

b. New and completed enforcement cases for November 2015.

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

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

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

There was no further information from OVW.

## 11. **Ward Reports**

a. KM advised that the MHA engineer had visited the drainage issue in Wesley Way. He reported that the 2 big soakaway chambers were not operating properly as the bottoms of the chambers were full of leaves and road silt. MHA would arrange for the chambers to be cleared and cleaned out.

b. NK advised that the finger post sign at Pentwyn Bach between Newchurch and Garellwyd was in a dangerous condition and needed urgent attention. **Action: NJ.**

c. JR asked that his email address be changed on the website and that the [clerk@devaudencc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@devaudencc.org.uk) email address, as shown on the website, either be installed or, if not possible, the website email address for the clerk be changed. **Action: NJ.**

d. JW advised that the wife of Mr Ken Rees, a former longstanding member of DCC, had recently died. It was agreed that she would write a letter of condolence on behalf of the Council. **Action: JW.** It was also agreed that a donation should be made to the appropriate charity when known. In addition she noted that, although the gatepost into the allotments had been renewed, further work was needed to put it back to its previous position. JR would talk to Fred Richards to get this further work done. **Action: JR.**

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

The next meeting will be held in Devauden Village Hall on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm.

POLICE REPORT 30th NOVEMBER - 20th DECEMBER

02/12 – report of criminal damage to a car in Itton.

14/12 – report of a one vehicle traffic accident on the road between Devauden and Llansoy (exact location unknown) – minor injury.