

# **DRAFT**

## **MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at Devauden Village Hall**

**Councillors present:**

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

**In attendance:**

CO A Jones  
  
Mr M Wigley  
  
CC B Greenland  
N. James (Clerk)

### **1. Open Session**

The police report is attached at the back of these minutes. CO Jones advised that there had been reports recently in the Mathern and Chepstow areas of unlocked vehicles being entered and items taken. Whilst this had occurred outside the DCC area he warned that residents should be vigilant and ensure that their vehicles were locked when not in use, with no valuables left on show in them and parked in well-lit areas. KM noted that there had been an increase in examples of flytipping in the Devauden area. CO Jones advised that this was an environmental health issue but asked that if vehicles were spotted doing it then members of the public should advise the police.

Mr Wigley raised again his extreme concern with the safety issues along the lane near Castle Farm. Water was continuing to drain along and down the lane, icing up in cold weather and had caused some accidents already. He presented a petition of local residents seeking action to address this problem which he had raised on a number of occasions in the past. MCC was aware of the problem and there had been site meetings to discuss the way forward but no action had been forthcoming. CC Greenland agreed to take this up with the Area Engineer at

MCC and the Clerk would arrange another site meeting to try and get firm agreement on the way ahead and timing for action. **Action: BG/NJ.**

## 2. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from I Cavill and A Cooke.

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

There were no matters arising from the Open Session.

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

The minutes of the meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> January were approved, and signed by the Chairman.

## 5. **Matters Arising**

a. Minute 3 – Meetings had been arranged for 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Match in Itton and Devauden respectively to enable Mr D James to meet local residents to discuss the local need for affordable housing and its development. JR and IC would liaise with Mr James to ensure publicity for the events was done. **Action: JR/IC.**

b. Minute 6b AW had arranged a meeting for 2 March to discuss further details on the wildflower planting project at Itton Common.

c. Minute 6c – the Clerk had ordered a notice board for Wolvesnewton which was to be delivered this week. The Clerk would liaise with NK who had agreed to install the board. **Action: NJ/NK.**

d. Minute 6e/12b/12c/12d/12e/12f/12g – whilst MCC had jetted and cleared the blocked drain behind Pyotts Cottage, action was still awaited on the items raised at the last meeting. The catseyes issue was also still outstanding and the Clerk noted that the list of outstanding items was growing and would try to meet with the MCC engineers to see if and when action was likely. The Clerk had written to MHA on behalf of the Council regarding the time that was being taken to resolve the drainage issue at Wesley Way. MHA advised that the soakaway chambers had been cleared of leaves and silt but they were now waiting for MCC to provide a new drain to resolve the issue. It was felt however that the drainage issue was not on MCC land but on land belonging to MHA and therefore their responsibility to resolve. In the first instance the Clerk would pass this view back to MHA to seek their resolution but, if that failed, the issue would be raised higher. **Action: NJ.**

e. Minute 6e – it was agreed to leave the Clerk's email address as it was.

f. Minute 11a2– the Clerk had investigated the implications of new pension legislation and forwarded the information required.

## 6. **Finance**

a. Balances at 31 January 2016 were: Current Account £5340.74, Notice £3277.11.

b. A quotation of £713.54 + VAT (£856.24) had been received from MCC for grounds maintenance for 2016/17. However, in view of the imminent wildflower

planting at Itton Common, the requirement should be less next year and the Clerk was asked to negotiate a consequent reduction. **Action: NJ.**

c. Cheques were signed as follows: Hood Memorial Hall for hire from Sep 15- Jan 16 for £62.50 – cheque number 101473; OVW annual subscription for 2016/17 for £127 – cheque number 101474; Clerk's expenses for February for £15 – cheque number 101475. Merlin Waste for February for £30.51 – cheque number 101476.

## 7. **Correspondence**

a. Information regarding the appointment of members to the Social Security Advisory Committee.

b. Information regarding the appointment of the Chair to Sport Wales.

c. Proposals relating to the Statement of Public Participation for the National Development Framework.

d. Request from Nick Ramsay to add support to his cross-party campaign to save Monmouthshire from the WG proposal to merge it with Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Torfaen and Newport. JR took the support forms seeking signatures to put up in the village shop.

e. Requests for financial support from the Teenage Cancer Trust, Tenovus Cancer Care and the Urdd National Eisteddfod in 2016.

f. OVW responses to the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill consultation.

g. OVW response to the proposal on the provision of court and tribunal services in Wales.

h. Information regarding the job vacancy of Clerk to Abergavenny Town Council.

i. IRPW Annual Report.

j. Information regarding a proposal to set up digital skills clubs in local communities. This was being considered by MCC and The Digital Volunteers CIC. John Davis had already been approached and a note of this had already been placed on the Devauden website. The Clerk had requested 25 copies of the survey that the organisers were carrying out to gauge local support, and these would be placed in the Devauden village shop.

k. An application to purchase HM Queen Elizabeth II 90<sup>th</sup> birthday commemorative medals and one free sample. JW suggested, and the meeting agreed, that the free sample could be given to Shirenewton School at which DCC provided a governor.

## 8. **Planning**

a. DC/2016/00116 – listed building consent replacement of existing aluminium/timber framed double glazed window units with timber framed units at 2 Croes Bleddyn Cottages, Itton – recommended for approval.

b. DC/2016/00178 – the relocation of double garage and store, subject of previous DC/2009/01108; the extension and alteration of the existing vehicular access; the erection of a new fence; the introduction of a new solid main entrance door at New Inn Barn, Trellech Grange. As no details of this application had been received councillors would check on-line and advise the Clerk if there were any objections.

c. DC/2016/00149 – modification of condition 2(a revised siting of the proposed dwelling) from previous application DC/2014/01395 at Laurel Cottage, Newchurch – recommended for approval.

d. APP/E6840/A16/3143186 – appeal against a refusal of planning permission for a replacement dwelling (DC/2015/00600) at Old Shop Cottage, Llanishen

f. New and completed enforcement cases for January 2016.

## 9. County Councillor's Report

There had been a large number of internet scams in UK with over 170 Monmouthshire residents identified as at risk or having been victims of a scam. In addition Monmouthshire was identified as the county with the highest number of scams per 10k residents for various types of scam. Trading Standards had visited all these residents during 2015 in order to raise awareness and warn residents as well as investigate. CC Greenland distributed leaflets on the issue and it was agreed to put a copy on the website. **Action: JR.**

The Vale of Usk Rural Development Programme (RDP) - a partnership between Monmouthshire and Newport councils to promote rural communities and businesses – had been granted European money. A sum of £1.2 million was available up until 2020. The RDP administered funding to cover business development, exploiting digital technology, developing renewable energy schemes, using natural and cultural assets for economic growth in tourism and delivering local services within rural communities. There would be 3 meetings in the area to advertise this opportunity: at Llanarth Village Hall on 14<sup>th</sup> March; Bridges Community Centre Monmouth on the 16<sup>th</sup> March and Redwick Village Hall on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. All councillors were asked to make these events known to their residents as the funding provided an excellent opportunity.

Funds for the proposal to install a mast in the Newchurch area to resolve the notspot for mobile telecommunications had now been withdrawn and passed on for other sites within UK.

## 10. One Voice Wales (OVW)

a. Information regarding a job vacancy with OVW for the post of South Wales Development Officer.

## 11. Ward Reports

a. MP advised that he had heard of an unauthorised development at Glyn Farm; he had passed this on to the MCC Enforcement Officer to investigate.

b. JW noted that there was a significant amount of litter on various roads, in particular on the A4042 coming out of Newport. Although the A4042 was not a county council responsibility CC Greenland accepted that, due to the economic cuts, the frequency of litter collection had reduced.

c. AW had noted that on occasions in Wolvesnewton black waste bags, which had been put out for collection but been blown away from the collection point, had not been picked up. BG agreed to raise this with the relevant department.

d. NK advised that the tree felling in Wern-y-cwm had finished but the car parking area there had been left in a mess. The Clerk was asked to contact NRW to get this area reinstated. **Action: NJ.**

e. A Devauden resident had raised the issue of dog waste on a path to the north of the village running parallel with the B4293 past Sunny Bank Farm. JR would meet the resident on site to see whether, and where, it might be feasible to install dog waste bins. **Action: JR.**

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

The next meeting will be held in Devauden Village Hall on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016 at 7pm.

## POLICE REPORT 26<sup>th</sup> Jan-28<sup>th</sup> Feb

15/2/16 – Report of a number plate stolen off a works van sometime between 3 and 5pm whilst parked at a property in The Smithy. The screws had been left on the floor.

16/2/16 – Report of the manner of driving of a vehicle in the Devauden area, evidence was captured on a dash cam. Enquiries are on-going but the driver will probably be charged with due care offences.