

DRAFT

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday 21st March 2016 at Devauden Village Hall

Councillors present:

J. Rowlands (Chairman)
A Cooke
I Cavill
M Powell
J Williams

In attendance:

N. James (Clerk)

1. Open Session

There was nothing to report locally from the police in this period although the police had advised that there had been five house burglaries in the Chepstow Town area last weekend. CO Jones had asked for councils' views on crime priorities in a "Your Voice" survey. Councillors felt that the main issues in the area were traffic speeding and the importance of a police presence. **Action: NJ.**

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from N Knowland, K McElroy, A Williams and CC Greenland.

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 29th February were approved, and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising

a. Minute 1 – MCC had arranged for the culvert near Castle Farm to be checked and cleared if necessary during the week beginning 14th March. No update report had yet been received and the Clerk would chase.

b. Minute 5a – Meetings had been held in Itton and Devauden to enable Mr D James to meet local residents to discuss the local need for affordable housing and its development.

c. Minute 5b Although not present AW had forwarded an update (Secretary's note: this update arrived after the meeting but is included here for completeness). AW met with Dr Chamberlain at Itton Common on 2nd March to discuss how best to re-wild the Green and some adjoining grassy areas. Safety lines were revisited and it was agreed that the safety cutting should encompass the finger post. Dr Chamberlain would like to see replicated on the Green the semi-natural area rich in local meadow flowers and grasses on the bank bordering the B4293 with also a gradual introduction of native plants into the Green. AW planned to meet Becky Beeby, Dr Chamberlain and other interested parties in late March to discuss a management process. The first actions this year would likely be to sow hay rattle to weaken the coarse grasses on the Green.

d. Minute 5d– little progress had been made on outstanding highways issues. The Clerk had been unable to arrange a meeting to discuss the outstanding list and action from MCC at Wesley Way was still awaited. He had drafted a letter for the Chairman to send to the Chief Executive of MHA which he would discuss with KM before it was sent. **Action: NJ.**

e. Minute 11d – the Clerk had spoken with the NRW Area Engineer who had advised that the car parking area would be reinstated within a couple of weeks.

f. Minute 11e – JR had met on site with the local resident and had agreed a location for a dog waste bin. The rationale for a dog bin in the particular location was discussed. A request had been made to MCC for a bin but MCC had none currently available and the cost to the Council would be £100. This cost was queried as DCC did not have to pay for previous bins, and the Clerk was asked to question this with MCC, and to confirm that Merlin Waste would be able to empty a bin in this location on a regular basis. **Action: NJ.**

6. **Finance**

a. Balances at 29 February 2016 were: Current Account £4438.29, Notice £3277.11.

b. A revised quotation from MCC for grounds maintenance for 2016/17 was still awaited.

c. Cheques were signed as follows: Greenbarnes for noticeboard for £894.78– cheque number 101477; Clerk's expenses for March for £15 – cheque number 101478; Merlin Waste for March for £20.34 – cheque number 101479.

d. The Clerk advised that the monthly hire of Hood Hall would increase from £12.50 to £15.00 from 1 Apr 16.

7. **Correspondence**

- a. Information regarding the appointment of the Chair, Wales Advisory Committee of the British Council.
- b. Information regarding the 2018 review of Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales.
- c. Asset transfer announcements from AssetsCymru involving Neuadd Ogwen in Bethesda, NSA Afan, Pontypridd Muni Arts Centre and Gwesty Seren.
- d. Cynnal Cymru February Newsletter.
- e. Details of changes to the Local Government Code of Conduct. The Clerk summarised the main change and the Council formally agreed to accept the new Code.
- f. Clerks and Councils Direct for March.
- g. Information about the Great Fish and Chip Supper in aid of spinal cord injured people.
- h. Draft MCC Parking Places Order 2016.
- i. Information regarding the South Wales Alliance Health and Safety Conference.
- j. Information regarding the Give Dog Fouling a Red Card project.
- k. Details of a Walk for Life to be held on 24th April.

8. **Planning**

- a. DC/2016/00193– log store and greenhouse at Llainfadyn, Itton Common – recommended for approval.
- b. DC/2016/00160 – retention of lean-to and a storage container on land at Gaerllwyd Farm, Newchurch – recommended for approval.

9. **County Councillor's Report**

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

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

- a. April training schedule for the area.

11. **Ward Reports**

- a. IC advised that the salt bin on School Lane, the 57.5, opposite the entrance to the Forestry Commission offices, had been damaged, and needed replacement. **Action:**

NJ. He also mentioned that the Itton Speedwatch scheme continued to operate and was working well.

b. MP had been asked to raise the issue of the hedge level at the junction of the B4293 and 57.4, on the left hand side of the 57.4. Local residents had asked for it to be reduced to the level of the bank in that area. The Council was unsure whether this would be classified as a field hedge but the Clerk was asked to pass to MCC. **Action: NJ.**

c. JW asked for an update on planning for the Music Festival. JR stated that that the camping was planned for the field off the B4293 opposite Chepstow Park Woods although there was a public liability issue still to be resolved; car parking would be as last year and the headline act had been signed up.

d. AC expressed her concern that the verges along the Kilgwrrwg/Newchurch road had deteriorated due to the heavy volume of timber lorries recently. Although the lorry drivers had been careful, inevitably with cars and lorries passing the verges had been driven over. A meeting with MCC for the Spring 2016 had been discussed at an earlier meeting of DCC and the Clerk would now arrange that. **Action: NJ.** Another issue that had been raised earlier was the waste collection at Kilgwrrwg Crossroads. A meeting with the MCC representative had been cancelled but the issue seemed to have been sorted as there had been no problems since Christmas. However, waste bins left at the Crossroads had now reappeared and the Clerk would resurrect the meeting with the MCC representative. **Action: NJ.** In addition the gradient sign on the 58.2 at Kilgwrrwg Hill had been damaged. **Action: NJ.**

e. JR had been asked whether the NRW had a policy for replanting in areas where they had felled trees since there would appear to be no replanting in Chepstow Park Woods since the recent felling. The Clerk would check on both a policy and what action might be taken in the woods. **Action: NJ.**

12. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held in Devauden Village Hall on Monday 25th April 2016 at 7pm.