

DRAFT

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday 23rd May 2016 at Devauden Village Hall

Councillors present:

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

A Cooke

In attendance:

Mrs A Blackaby

Mrs J Goodwin

N. James (Clerk)

1. Open Session

The police report is attached at the back of these minutes. Mrs Blackaby advised that residents of Wesley Way wished to hold a “street party” in Wesley Way but not on the road on June 11th to celebrate HM The Queen’s 90th birthday. They intended to invite all the residents in Wesley Way and to put a notice in the Village Shop as other village residents would be welcome. They wanted to know whether there would be any objections from the Council. The Council was happy for this to go ahead.

A request had been received from a visitor to the village for a map with the names of all the houses in Devauden to be placed in the phone box to help delivery people find addresses. After some discussion it was agreed that this should not be funded for 2 main reasons: firstly this had not been a request from a local resident and would not be for the benefit of the local community and secondly there was some concern over the security implications which in itself might not be welcome by everyone. JR had received one other request for funding which would be discussed at next month’s meeting. **Action: JR.**

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from J Rowlands, 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**

The minutes of the meeting on 25th April were approved, and signed by the A/Chairman.

5. **Matters Arising**

a. Minute 5a – the 2 gullies had been installed on the road near Castle Farm but a local resident had advised that, in the recent heavy storms, water was seen coming up through a hole in the road between the gullies. The Clerk was asked to contact MCC to ascertain whether they had cleared the pipe under the road when they installed the gullies as it could be still blocked. **Action: NJ.**

b. Minute 5d – the drainage situation at Wesley Way had not progressed; the person dealing with it at MHA had been away for 5 weeks and no one else had taken it on. Moreover, the Council was annoyed that no response had been received to its letter of complaint to the MHA Chief Executive, and the Clerk was asked to draft another letter for the Chairman to send. Meanwhile, CC Greenland would contact the MHA senior management again if he had heard nothing by next week. **Action: NJ/BG.**

c. Minute 5d – there had been email correspondence with different levels of management at NRW and the Area Manager had advised that some reinstatement works had been done but it had not yet been completed. She would see that the reinstatement was completed soon. It was agreed that the Clerk should keep the pressure on and push for a speedy response and also contact MCC to get them to open up the bridlepath as there was still a MCC closure sign which had been put there before NRW started on site. **Action: NJ.**

d. Minute 5e – the Clerk had placed an order for another dog waste bin with MCC. This would cost the Council £100 as a contribution to the overall MCC costs. As soon as it was available he would meet with the MCC representative on site and arrange for it to be installed. **Action: NJ.**

f. Minute 5f – AC advised that there was not a major issue at the moment with waste disposal in Kilgwrrwg.

g. Minute 5g- Subsequent to the discussion last month regarding the NRW planting policy AC had suggested that it would be beneficial to invite the local forestry representative to a meeting, and Mr Joe Atkinson would be attending the Open Session on the 27th June. AW would not now follow up with Mr Atkinson's request for Council thoughts on replanting as this could be discussed next month.

6. **Finance**

a. Balances at 30 April 2016 were: Current Account £3369.56, Notice £3277.68.

b. The internal audit had been completed and a cheque for £86.10 was signed for Mr S Chapman – cheque number 101484.

c. The paperwork for the annual external audit was approved and the Annual Return was signed by the Chairman.

d. Cheques were signed as follows: Merlin Waste for May for £20.34 – cheque number 101485; Itton Village Hall for hire on 14th March for £16 – cheque number 101486; Clerk's expenses for May for £15 – cheque number 101487.

e. New hourly rates of pay for clerks with effect from 1 April 2016 had been published, and the Council formally approved this new rate for the Clerk.

f. Payments to the 3 churchyards for grasscutting would be raised next month as had been agreed. Following a request from NK, it was also agreed to extend these payments to Newchurch churchyard.

7. Correspondence

a. Older peoples' Commissioner for Wales Newsletter Spring 2016.

b. Report on Smarter Energy Future for Wales.

c. The Ombudsman's Casebook – Issue 24.

d. Details of a Local Consumer Advocate post at the Consumer Council for Water in Wales.

e. Details of the new police Inspector at Chepstow and Caldicot.

f. Invitation to Gwent Neighbourhood Watch coordinator session.

g. Request from Caerphilly Council for a contribution to CHAD, an organisation set up to help disabled and disadvantaged people in the Caerphilly area.

h. GoSafe News Bulletin for May 2016.

i. Invitation to the Future Generations Growers Conference in July.

j. Invitation from the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales to attend a discussion conference on 4 July.

k. Clerks and Councils Direct for May.

l. Invitation to Gwent Now regarding firearms licensing meeting on 26th May.

m. Press release on 2015 being an exceptional year for tourism in Monmouthshire.

n. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Published Allowances proforma.

8. Planning

a. DC/2016/00348 – removal of garden shed and polytunnel and retention of 3 stables, tack room and store room at Brynglas Cottage, Devauden – recommended for approval.

b. New and completed enforcement cases for April 2016.

9. County Councillor's Report

In CC Greenland's absence there was no County Councillor's report.

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

- a. Information regarding Local Government Finance training On 2 June.
- b. Invitation to attend the OVW Larger Councils Conference on 6 July.

11. **Ward Reports**

a. MP advised that lights had been installed along the drive and on the gate pillars entering Glyn Farm; an enquiry had been made as to whether planning permission was required and the Clerk was asked to check with the planners. **Action: NJ.** In addition, he advised that a large broken branch was hanging down over the road at the northern end of the R122. It was dangerous and needed to be cut down. **Action: NJ.**

b. AW had noted that, with the heavy rain recently, gravel had been washed over the road on the sharp bend coming up the hill from Wolvesnewton to Cobblers Plain since the gulleys were full and needed to be cleared out. **Action: NJ.** In addition he advised that MCC still appeared not to have carried out the groundwork agreed at Itton Common prior to seeding and he would check with Nigel Leaworthy when this would be done and what areas of grass they would be cutting there if any. **Action: AW.**

c. AC advised that the Kilgwrrwg road had been swept by MCC but not very well and there was still considerable debris along the sides of the road. The Clerk was asked to get them to do it again. **Action: NJ.**

d. KM advised that a storm drain that had been installed in the woods by NRW about 100 yards or so beyond Hood Hall had become blocked again. As a consequence water streams down the lane past the Hall. He had unblocked it but it would soon block again with leaves and debris. The Clerk was asked to request NRW cover the pipe with a gully or grill. **Action: NJ.** In addition he reported on the very successful 10k Run that was held in the village at the beginning of May in which many took part including lots of children. Also, the Music Festival was held last weekend and the organisers were very grateful for over 100 local residents who helped over the weekend. Although the adverse weather affected numbers on the Saturday evening, there was a good attendance on the Friday night.

e. JW advised that she had been told that the phone box at Wesley Way was in need of refurbishment. The Clerk would check out what might be required and report at the next meeting. **Action: NJ.** She also noted that deer had been seen at night on the Shirenewton/Chepstow road.

f. NK asked that the grass at Howells Green, not yet cut, was cut before 1 June when the Best Kept Village competition was to be judged. **Action: NJ.**

12. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held in Itton Village Hall on Monday 27th June 2016 at 7pm.

16/5/16 – Report of a deer being hit on the Devauden Road, no other details given. Road was checked but no deer was found.

16/5/16 – Report of a helicopter flying extremely low near properties in Itton. It was found to be a electricity company doing an aerial survey.

Itton community speed watch is up and running, helping to slow vehicles down through the village.