

# **DRAFT**

## **MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at Itton Village Hall**

### **Councillors present**

J. Rowlands (Chairman)

N Knowland

K McElroy

M. Powell

J. Williams

I.Cavill

A Cooke

### **In attendance:**

CC B Greenland

N. James (Clerk)

### **1. Open Session**

The police reported that there had been no crimes in the area over the period.

### **2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from A Williams.

### **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 27<sup>th</sup> June were approved and signed by the Chairman.

### **5. Matters Arising**

a. Minute 5b –MHA had advised that work would commence in early July but, as yet, nothing had started, and the Clerk was asked to chase them to find out why it had been delayed. **Action: NJ.**

- b. Minute 5c – NK confirmed that the car park at Wern-y-Cwm had been reinstated.
- c. Minute 5g – MCC had confirmed that there was no requirement for planning permission for the lights at Glyn Farm. The Clerk would chase to find out when the storm drain work would start in the woods behind Hood Hall. **Action: NJ.**
- d. Minute 5h – JR had obtained a quote for repainting of the 3 phone boxes and general cleaning of them for £370(which excludes the cost of any additional telephone box red paint that might be required) and it was agreed that he would confirm with Fred Richards for this to be carried out. **Action: JR.**
- e. Minute 12a – the Clerk had arranged a meeting with MCC for next week to discuss the outstanding highways issues especially, the replacement catseyes on the B4293, the footbridge on path 357/69, the road surfaces on the Kilgwrrwg/Newchurch road and on the R81 and on 66.4 and 58.5 to Gaer Llwyd, the white lining at Itton Common and overgrown footpaths off the B4293.
- f. Minute 12b – JW advised that the exhibition in the Church was to be moved shortly to the Hall; she had spoken to the organiser and the wording on the plinth of the bell would get changed on the move to the Hall.

## 6. **Finance**

- a. Balances at 30 Jun 2016 were: Current Account £4698.41, Notice £3278.25.
- b. Cheques were signed as follows: Merlin Waste for July for £20.34 – cheque number 101495; MCC for salaries Apr-Jun for £836.41 – cheque number 101496; Clerk's expenses for Jul for £15 – cheque number 101497.
- c. The reconciliation and financial forecast as at 30 Jun 2016 had been forwarded to all councillors. These were approved and signed by the Chairman. In view of the balance in the current account it was agreed to transfer £2000 to the Council's deposit account.

## 7. **Correspondence**

- a. Invitation to a Reception on 1 Aug hosted by the National Eisteddfod and MCC.
- b. Invitation from the new Police Commissioner to attend a meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September. JW/MP and NK would attend.
- c. The PCCs Vision for Policing and Community Safety.
- d. Mark Drakeford's plans for Welsh tax powers.
- e. Planning Law in Wales scoping summary.
- f. A statement from the Welsh Government on Collection and Management of Taxes.
- g. A letter from the MCC Chief Executive on Council Relationships.
- h. Information regarding Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth in March 2017.

- i. Consultation on additional audited routes under the Active Travel (Wales) Act.
- j. Information regarding the appointment of vice-chairs and independent members to NHS Wales.
- k. Information about a seminar on Sustaining Welsh Communities on the 26<sup>th</sup> September.
- l. Consultation notice on Technical Advice Note 24 from the Welsh Government.
- m. Invitation to comment on higher rates of tax on purchases of second homes.
- n. Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill.
- o. Clerks and Councils Direct for July 2016.

## 8. **Planning**

- a. Correspondence had been received from Clarke Telecom for the proposed installation of a replacement telecommunications mast at MM Equine Clinic – Deva, Devauden. This correspondence was prior to a formal planning application but, as the requested date for comments had passed, the Council would await the planning application before commenting.
- b. New and completed enforcement cases for June 2016.

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

CC Greenland advised that arrangements were going well for the National Eisteddfod which started on 29<sup>th</sup> July in Abergavenny and which, it was hoped, would bring £6-7million into the local economy. Around 130,000 people were expected to attend and, although park and rides had been set up and warning signs put in place, there would be some traffic delays especially with road works in the area.

In addition, new planning procedures would start from 1 August which would require a pre-planning process which included a public consultation before an application could be made, for significant applications. Unfortunately, at the moment, no one had defined “significant”.

The new Minister for Local Government in the Welsh Government, Mark Drakeford, had confirmed that the original plans for local government reform had been abandoned and had advised that he wished to work with all parties to find out ways that effective local government could be provided in a less costly way. As a result of the change in plans council elections would now take place next year for the full five year period.

When asked what involvement MCC had in the planning and possible future of the proposed Circuit for Wales in Ebbw Vale, CC Greenland advised that MCC supported the venture which could bring funds and a significant number of jobs, both directly and indirectly, into a relatively deprived area. The Welsh Government was willing to underwrite 50% of the costs. The company was trying to put together an amended finance package on that basis. MCC had not committed to underwrite any of the costs.

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

- a. Information regarding the OVW Conference on 1 October 2016.

11. **Ward Reports**

a. Whilst it was acknowledged that crime figures for the area were low JW and other councillors expressed concern that the police now only attended Council meetings very occasionally. JW/MP/NK would take up the invitation to meet with the new Police Commissioner for Gwent. JW also suggested that the Council should purchase a new wood-enclosed waste bin for the Green at Devauden, given the amount of litter that was dumped there on occasions. She would identify a suitable bin and advise the Clerk. **Action: JW.** Finally she advised that the hedge along the Usk/Chepstow road opposite the Huntsman was very overgrown and significantly restricted drivers' visibility. **Action: NJ.**

b. MP questioned whether, and how often, MCC should cut around the telephone box area at Itton Common. The Clerk would discuss with AW before approaching MCC. **Action: NJ.**

c. JR asked when MCC would be providing the new dog bin requested some months ago. The Clerk responded that the Council had waited to put together a large enough order before submitting but they had advised that an order had gone off at the beginning of July. As soon as the bin was received it would be installed. He also advised that, although recently sold, the garden at 1 Wesley Way continued to be an eyesore and the hedge at School House was again hindering pedestrians on the pavement along the road. **Action: NJ.**

12. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held in Devauden Village Hall on Monday 26th September at 7pm.