

DRAFT

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday 26th September 2016 at Devauden Village Hall

Councillors present

J. Rowlands (Chairman)

N Knowland

K McElroy

AWilliams

M. Powell

I.Cavill

J Williams

A Cooke

In attendance:

CSO A Jones

N. James (Clerk)

1. Open Session

The police report is attached at the back of these minutes. CSO Jones advised that, following the Rave mentioned in the Report, 5 arrests were made and they had NRW to look at the entrances to the Wood and consider ways of improving security of access. MP had received concerns regarding the potential dangers in the morning from the heavy traffic passing through Devauden. Apparently there had been several “near – misses” with children being dropped off near the Green by parents across the road from where their school bus was parked or due, running straight across the road which, at that time in the morning – about 7.30am – was particularly busy. CSO Jones said that he would check out the situation.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from CC B Greenland.

3. Matters Arising from the Open Session

There were no further matters arising from the Open Session.

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting on 25th July were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. **Matters Arising**

a. Minute 5a – MHA completed the drainage work at Wesley Way in July.

b. Minute 5c –NRW had completed the work required on the storm drain in the woods behind Hood Hall. The culvert was now working correctly but NRW had pointed out that some water would still run off non-NRW land and down the lane from the woods.

c. Minute 5d–JR confirmed that the general refurbishment of the 3 phone boxes had been completed. It was agreed that we should budget for this to be done on a biennial basis.

d. Minute 5e – the Clerk had met with the Highways Engineer at MCC to discuss the major outstanding highways issues. Unfortunately, no guarantees were made for early resolution of the specific requests that DCC had made, given the budget cuts they had experienced and the large volume of maintenance requests they received on a daily basis. In discussion, and whilst acknowledging the implications of budget cuts on MCC staff, councillors were concerned that some major work was still outstanding after more than 12 months. In particular, they felt that catseyes replacement on the B4293 was a particular safety issue and should be done as a matter of priority. The Clerk was asked to refer this particular issue back to MCC and seek their urgent resolution, seeking the support of CC Greenland. In addition, he should chase again the Countryside Department to get the footbridge at 357/69 installed. **Action: NJ.**

e. Minute 11a – the provision of an additional bin was still outstanding.

f. Minute 11b – AW had confirmed the agreed action for Itton Common both with MCC and the local residents. MCC had in turn advised that the first of the 2 cuts had taken place, with the second one in October. At the same time they would be sowing locally-harvested rattle seed.

g. Minute 11c – the additional dog waste bin to the north of Devauden just off the B4293 had now been installed.

6. **Communication between Hall Committee and DCC**

JW had received complaints from some local residents about a recent Country and Western Festival at the Hall which involved a number of campervans being pitched on the field behind the Hall for a few days. While she acknowledged that there had not been an issue about noise she was concerned that neither the Community Council nor the local residents had been made aware of this event and its implications. The Chair acknowledged that proper communication had not taken place and in future the Hall Committee would issue a 90 day look-ahead of bookings which would be issued to DCC each month to allow discussion as required ahead of the event. It was agreed also to put a copy of this in the Village Shop. **Action: Hall Committee Representative.**

7. Finance

- a. Balances at 31 August 2016 were: Current Account £1551.22, Notice £5278.25.
- b. DCC agreed to donate £50 towards the Devauden Seniors' Christmas Lunch.
- c. There was a long discussion over a request to consider sponsoring the Devauden Fireworks display. The neighbouring Chepstow display received significant sponsorship which enabled them to offer considerably more. Devauden was now looking for sponsors also and had already approached various local businesses and wondered, whilst acknowledging that DCC contributed £200 annually to the insurance costs, whether DCC would also wish to be a sponsor. After discussion, it was agreed that the Council would not become a sponsor but would be happy to be named as a "Supporter of the Devauden Fireworks Display" and would increase its contribution to the insurance costs to £300 a year.
- d. A VAT refund of £522.50 had been received from HMRC.
- e. The Annual Return had been received from the auditors and was available now for public scrutiny if requested, and councillors were asked to put up specific notices to that effect. The Council noted for action the four points made by the auditors: a more detailed engagement letter to the internal auditor, page numbering of the minutes, notification in the minutes of the consideration of the reserves in the budget setting process and the use of the correct legal powers when authorising certain expenditure. The Annual Report was approved and accepted by the Council.
- f. A cheque had been signed between Council meetings to purchase paint for the refurbishment of the phone boxes – cheque number 101498 to X2 Connect for £60.10. Cheques were signed as follows: Merlin Waste for Aug/Sep for £20.34x 2 – cheque number 101499; Clerk's expenses for Aug/Sep for £30 – cheque number 101500; Fred Richards for phone box refurbishment for £281.35 – cheque number 101501.

8. Correspondence

- a. Advice to community and town councils on Working with Young People.
- b. The Ombudsman's Casebook Issue 25.
- c. Correspondence from the Future Generations Commissioner.
- d. An update from the Older People's Commissioner for Wales.
- e. Invitation from the Heritage Lottery Fund to a Heritage Together occasion.
- f. Information about, and invitation to, MCC Cluster meetings.
- g. Consultation on fee rates and scales for 2017/18 from the Welsh Audit Office.
- h. Flood and Coastal Erosion Committee consultation.
- i. Planning Policy Wales questionnaire.

- j. Details of key dates for the First World War commemorations in Wales.
- k. Information about a workshop for potential councillors hosted by the Welsh Government.
- l. Natural Resources Bulletin – Issue 8 August 2016.
- m. Information about public appointments of vice president and trustees in Cymal.
- n. Responses to OVW to the proposal on mergers of local justice areas in Wales.
- o. Information about a funding opportunity for churches that had been the victims of crime.
- p. Details of an appointment with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.
- q. Notice that the Boundary Commission for Wales had published its initial proposals for changes to parliamentary constituencies in Wales.
- r. Clerks and Councils Direct for September.

9. **Planning**

- a. DC/2016/00861 – removal of existing mast and replacement mast on land at MM Equine Clinic, Devauden – this had been reviewed previously and recommended for approval.
- b. DC/2016/00990 – agricultural notification of extension to barn for hay/straw at Cledd-y-Tan Farm, Newchurch – for information only.
- c. DC/2016/00982 – to make the existing breeze block walls into 3 stables and feed/store room with hard standing outside at Cledd-y-Tan Farm, Newchurch – recommended for approval.
- d. New and completed enforcement cases for July and August 2016.

10. **County Councillor's Report**

In his absence CC Greenland had forwarded a note advising that the licensing committee hearing into the route at Panta Farm, Devauden had recommended to the Cabinet Member, MCC that the route is confirmed as a highway. A decision was awaited.

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

- a. Details of training sessions locally from September – December.
- b. Details of OVW AGM motions.

12. **Ward Reports**

- a. AW advised that there was a dangerous sump in the road between Cobblers Plain and Wolvesnewton, the R80, approximately 30 metres down from the driveway to Cwrt-y Gaer. **Action: NJ.**
- b. NK forwarded a letter of thanks from Newchurch Church for the donation from DCC towards its grasscutting costs.
- c. MP advised that there were some large potholes on the old track in Newchurch, the 58.4. **Action: NJ.**
- d. IC observed that some farmers were failing to sweep the roads following hedge cutting.
- e. KM advised that a sign coming into Devauden from Itton had been hit by hedge cutters and needed to be put back into place. **Action: NJ.**
- f. JR noted that the hedge at School House had still not been cut back and asked the Clerk to chase MCC. **Action: NJ.** but the garden at 1 Wesley Way was work in progress ref grasscutting and no further action was required.

13. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held in Devauden Village Hall on Monday 31st October at 7pm.

POLICE REPORT 25th July-25th September

Crimes

4/9/16 – Report of 8 Confederate Flags stolen overnight from an event at Devauden village hall.

4/9/16 – Report of approx. £200 worth of tractor fuel stolen from a farm in Kilgwrrwg. Tank had been syphoned . This had happened sometime in the last previous week.

24/9/16- Report of a house burglary in Itton village. Entry was gained via the front door. An untidy search was made of the property and items including tools were taken. A white transit tipper truck was also stolen off the driveway as the keys were in the house. The occupant was not at home at the time.

ASB

4/9/16 – Several reports of a Rave going on in Chepstow Park wood over night. Entry was gained by cutting the lock off the forestry barrier by Windy Corner. Approx 60-70 people with vehicles had gained access. We attended and eventually got all youths to leave. Several youths were arrested as they left for drugs offences.

Other matters of note

28/8/16 – Report of a 1 vehicle RTC Near Cobblers Plain. A young child in the vehicle was taken to hospital to be checked out.

31/8/16 – Report of 2 males acting suspiciously at a property in School Lane, Itton. The two males had knocked on a door making out they were from a guttering company and had attended to give a quote on some work. The vehicle was a white transit type vehicle but no index was taken.

9/9/16 – Report of a 1 vehicle non-injury RTC near to the Star Inn at Llansoy. The vehicle had slid off the road and hit the banking on a wet road.