

DRAFT
MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday 31st October 2016 at Devauden Village Hall

Councillors present

N Knowland (A/Chairman)

K McElroy

M. Powell

I. Cavill

J Williams

A Cooke

In attendance:

CC B Greenland

N. James (Clerk)

1. Open Session

The police report is attached at the back of these minutes.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from J Rowlands and 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 26th September were approved and signed by the A/Chairman.

5. Matters Arising

a. Minute 5d – MCC had advised that the footbridge earmarked for 357/69 had now been installed elsewhere. On further inspection of the site MCC intended to remove the old, rotten bridge this month and, as the brook remained low even in winter, they planned to build steps into the banks to accommodate walkers safely. As for the catseyes MCC had confirmed that this job would be completed before the end of November.

b. Minute 6 – KM confirmed that a 90-day look-ahead of bookings for the Hall had now been compiled and passed a copy to the Council; a copy had already been placed in the Village Shop.

6. Finance

- a. Balances at 31 October 2016 were: Current Account £4338.69, Notice £5278.91.
- b. The bank reconciliation and financial forecast as at the end of September had been circulated. These were approved by the Council and signed by the A/Chairman. There followed a long discussion regarding the financial situation and potential changes in county and town council funding which could impact on the budget for 2017 which was to be discussed at the next meeting. Although the WG settlement for MCC had not shown the expected reduction, the impact of inflation on its costs would mean again the need for savings next year. As a consequence town and community councils would have to look again at the way they provide services and the potential impact on the local precept. Town councils would be looking closely at the beneficiaries of the services they provided and community councils would be encouraged to form clusters to help fund some of these services. If this were to be the case the need for notice and coordination amongst councils was stressed. Moreover, the WG, whilst abandoning the original proposal to reduce the number of county councils, was looking for county councils to amalgamate services and also for a potential reduction in the number of community councils in some areas; another reason for community councils to consider working together to provide services.
- c. The updated asset register had been circulated prior to the meeting, with the asset register showing the additional dog bin and new notice board at Wolvesnewton; this was approved. An updated risk assessment was also approved.
- d.. Cheques were signed as follows: MCC for salaries from Jul-Sep for £831.09 – cheque number 101502; Merlin Waste for Oct for £30.51 – cheque number 101503; Clerk's expenses for Oct for £15 – cheque number 101504; Devauden firework insurance for £300.00 – cheque number 101505.

7. Correspondence

- a. Land Transaction Tax and Anti-avoidance of Devolved Taxes (Wales) Bill.
- b. IPRW Draft Annual Report Consultation.
- c. Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee – what should it focus on?
- d. An update on Local Government Reform.
- e. Information from MCC about a forthcoming letter drop regarding control of goods displayed on the public highway. The Council queried the position of Hood Hall with the signs that were placed on the Green and beside the road, and asked the Clerk to confirm whether the Hall would require a licence under this policy. **Action: NJ.**
- f. Welsh Treasury News.
- g. Community Land Events for October and November.
- h. Information regarding Monmouthshire Volunteer Achievements Awards for 2016.

- i. National Infrastructure Commission for Wales consultation.
- j. Community Energy Wales Update for October.
- k. Wales Audit Office Newsletter.
- l. Review of the National Standards for the Community Health Councils.
- m. Improvement Plan for the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service.
- n. Ageing Well Walking Survey.
- o. Information about recruitment of research officers for The Public Policy Institute for Wales.
- p. Information about the appointment of vice chair and independent members to NHS Wales.
- q. Information about the vacancy of Electoral Commissioner Wales.
- r. Clerks and Councils Direct for November.

8. **Planning**

- a. DC/2016/00706 – proposal for outdoor menage and change of use of land to keep horses at Homeleigh, Kilgwrrwg – recommended for approval.
- b. DC/2016/01095 –single storey extension and detached building at Fedw Cottage, Devauden – recommended for approval.
- c. DC/2016/00603 – alterations/extensions to existing dwelling at Glyn Farm, Itton – recommended for approval.
- d. DC/2016/01171 – conversion of outbuildings at The Masons Arms, Devauden – recommended for approval.
- e. DC/2016/01061 – conversion of a redundant barn to single dwelling plus erection of detached car port and garden store at Newchurch Barn, Newchurch – recommended for approval.
- f. New and completed enforcement cases for September.
- g. In discussion the position of councillors regarding agricultural notification cases was queried, given that there had been a case recently in which planning permission had been granted for a barn conversion on this basis, which was subsequently sold. CC Greenland explained that barns located a certain distance from the public highway did not require permission but a resident or community council could object to any application classified as “agricultural notification” if they felt that there was justified cause. In such a case MCC would then consider seeking a full planning application from the applicant.

9. **County Councillor’s Report**

- a. CC Greenland advised that MCC had introduced an App which allowed the public

to communicate directly with the appropriate department at MCC via their phone. This could be particularly beneficial for highways issues.

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

- a. Details of training sessions locally in November.
- b. OVW Annual Report Apr 2015 – Mar 2016.
- c. Information regarding consultancy services provided by OVW.
- d. JW reported on the recent Area Meeting at which a letter from Paul Matthews, the MCC Chief Executive, had been discussed. In his letter he had advised that the Council was aware that there had been justifiable criticism of the time for issues to be actioned or even acknowledged by MCC, and it was intending to improve its communication with everyone. There would be reaction points at MCC for immediate responses and meetings would be set up with community councils.

11. **Ward Reports**

- a. JW advised that there was a build-up of leaves now in Well Lane and that, when the MCC highways carried out road sweeping, not to forget Well Lane. **Action: NJ.**
- b. In his absence AW had forwarded an email after the meeting with the following points:
 - 1. Following a request from Penhow CC who had heard that DCC was doing “something positive” regarding verge cutting, he had responded offering to share ideas with them.
 - 2. He had received a query regarding broadband provision and network upgrades from a local resident and AW was pursuing with the WG and would report back at a future meeting.

12. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held in Devauden Village Hall on Monday 28th November at 7pm, at which Marie Bartlett from MCC will attend to share with DCC potential options they were exploring for local councils to reduce costs without reducing services.

POLICE REPORT - OCTOBER 2016

Crimes

None reported.

ASB

None reported.

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Other matters of note

“Nothing of any note, other than at approximately 12.30pm on the 28th September, there was a sighting of the van stolen from the burglary in Itton on the 24th September, in Trellech on the B4293, heading towards Monmouth. Unfortunately, the van is still outstanding.”