

## **DRAFT**

### **MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Held on Monday 28th November 2016 at Devauden Village Hall**

**Councillors present:**

J. Rowlands (Chairman)

N Knowland

M. Powell

J. Williams

I. Cavill

A Williams

**In attendance:**

CC B Greenland

N. James (Clerk)

#### **1. Open Session**

There was no Police Report for this period. The Chairman welcomed Mr Ian Saunders from MCC to the meeting. Mr Saunders wished to brief the Council on work being done to identify potential options available to reduce costs without service cuts or charges. With continuing pressure on the MCC budget the Council was looking at ways of maintaining services and activities by working with other bodies in order to deliver them. These bodies would include town and community councils, charitable trusts, trading companies and other third party organisations. With funding priorities for education, health and social services Mr Saunders and his team were looking particularly at leisure, youth services, tourism and countryside services. They were considering four options for delivery of future services: doing nothing; transforming the services in house; moving the services into an alternative delivery and outsourcing the services to a third party. In this respect the Council was looking for community councils and others to consider ways to take on services and activities and thereby attracting grants and other funding not currently available. At this stage he and others were consulting organisations with the aim of producing a new model of services provision by September 2017.

#### **2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from A Cooke and K McElroy.

3. **Matters Arising from the Open Session**

All matters arising from the Open Session were fully discussed in the Session.

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting on 31st October were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. **Matters Arising**

- a. Minute 5a – MCC had now installed the replacement catseyes on the B4293.
- b. Minute 7e – MCC had confirmed that Hood Hall would require a free fly-poster licence under the revised Obstruction in Highways Policy. The Chairman of the Hall Committee was aware of this requirement.

6. **Finance**

- a. Balances at 31 October 2016 were: Current Account £4338.69, Notice £5278.91.
- b. Cheques were signed as follows: donation to the seniors' lunch in Devauden for £50 – cheque number 101506; Clerk's expenses for November for £15 – cheque number 101507; Merlin Waste for November for £20.34 – cheque number 101508.
- c. The Clerk advised that there would be a cash surplus at the end of the financial year and tabled a draft budget for 2017/18 on the basis of an unchanged precept. An increased cost for next year's election had been included on the advice of MCC although the Clerk would be attending a briefing on the 2017 election in January at which time a better idea of costs would be ascertained. The level of precept was discussed at length, given the balance in the Council's deposit account but also taking into account the potential additional costs that may accrue from devolved services. Whilst acknowledging the balance in the account many councillors felt, however, that it would be preferable to increase the precept slightly next year rather than the possibility of being forced to hit residents with a significant hike in future years if more services had to be taken over and paid for locally. On that basis, and given that the budget, as drawn, showed only a very small surplus, JW proposed, seconded by IC, a 2% increase in next year's precept. This was passed with a majority vote with MP wishing to record his objection. The Clerk would amend the draft budget and contact MCC for the appropriate precept form. **Action: NJ.**

7. **Correspondence**

- a. The Ombudsman's Casebook Issue 26.
- b. Information regarding Swansea Community Energy and Enterprise Scheme Launch.
- c. Information about a 24 hour Culture Survey.

- d. Wales Remembers 1914-1918 Programme for 2017.
- e. Consultation on the WG's new Welsh Language Strategy.
- f. Talking Future Generations Report from the Commissioner for Wales.
- g. Information regarding Peer Networking and Lead with Confidence Workshop as part of the Diversity in Democracy Project.
- h. Consultation on Monmouthshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan Review.
- i. National Resources Wales Report IT Number.
- j. LDBCW Electoral Review Policy and Practice.
- k. Invitation to observe the decision-making forum of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent.
- l. Letter from MCC informing of the date for the decision on the DMMO for Great Pant and subsequent procedures.
- m. Letter from a local resident complaining about the drunken behaviour of certain individuals at the recent Devauden bonfire night. The letter had been addressed to the Chairman of the Hall Committee who had replied apologizing on behalf of the Hall, explaining the policy towards the issuing of alcohol at the occasion and advising that the Committee would be introducing a Marshal next year to try and prevent such behaviour as far as was possible.
- n. Letter from Nick Ramsay, the local AM, forwarding a new poster advertising his contact details.
- o. The Draft Account and Audit(Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016.

## 8. **Planning**

- a. DC/2016/01070- first floor extension to Woodwynd Cottage, Devauden and conversion of double garage to annex – AW had earlier recommended for approval as the deadline was prior to the meeting.
- b. DC/2016/01130- lean-to on to existing barn at Cledd-y-Tan Farm, Newchurch – recommended for approval.
- c. DC/2016/01219 – planning application for the siting of a temporary rural workers dwelling for a period of 3 years at Oak Tree Farm, Devauden. There was concern about this application given the small size of the farm and councillors could not see the case for a further dwelling to house temporary workers. They recommended refusal as they did not believe it was a viable agricultural proposition. They noted also that there had been an objection from a local resident on the grounds of the high visibility of the proposed mobile house form of dwelling over a large area – recommended for refusal.

h. New and completed enforcement cases for October 2016.

9. **County Councillor's Report**

CC Greenland had nothing further to report.

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

a. Information regarding the OVW Innovative Practice National Awards for 2017.

b. OVW Information Bulletin.

11. **Ward Reports**

a. JW wished to report a serious collision which had occurred on 2 Nov on the B4293 by Chepstow Park Woods in which two cars were written off. The incident had occurred when one car exiting from a parking area in the Woods was hit by a car travelling from Devauden. In addition, on the same day and at the same location, NK witnessed a near miss which almost resulted in a head-on collision involving three vehicles. There was real concern that such an incident could happen again. It would not be possible to put a mirror in place there because of the possibility of blinding oncoming traffic at night. However, the area was used by many people especially walking in the woods and there was no sign to say that there was an entrance there. The Clerk was asked to advise MCC of this serious incident and ask for a "concealed entrance" sign to be erected there. **Action: NJ.** JW also confirmed that she would source a new litter bin for the Common at Devauden. **Action: JW/NJ.**

b. NK advised that a new salt bin was required on Kilgwrrwg Hill going down to the Church. **Action: NJ.** He also asked the Clerk to pass on thanks to NRW for the excellent job they had done in reinstating Wern-y-Cwm car parking area and the new hedge that they had laid but to enquire when they would finish off the remaining 5 metres of hedge. **Action: NJ.**

c. MP advised that a local resident at Itton Common was concerned with the location of the new "No through road" sign there. He would discuss the issue with the local residents.

d. AW mentioned that he had travelled up Well Lane recently only for it to be blocked at the Devauden end by a water tanker clearing drains. Although it would have been possible for the tanker to move in slightly so that he could pass it had not done so and the Clerk was asked to write to Welsh Water to seek their cooperation in ensuring that their drivers and contractors gave more consideration to local residents and road users where the roads were often narrow. **Action: NJ.**

12. **Date of Next Meeting.** The next meeting will be held in Devauden Village Hall on Monday 19th December at 7pm. In addition meetings for 2017 would be held on:

23 JAN

27 FEB

27 MAR	30 OCT
24 APR	27 NOV
22 MAY	18 DEC
26 JUN	
31 JUL	
25 SEP	