

DRAFT

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday 24th April 2017 at Devauden Village Hall

Councillors present:

J. Rowlands (Chairman)
N Knowland
M. Powell
J. Williams
I. Cavill

A Cooke

In attendance:

CC B Greenland
N James (clerk)

Mrs J Alexander, Mrs E Hall

1. Open Session

There was no Police Report for this period. Mrs Alexander and Cllr Powell raised the issue of a significant tree plantation that had recently been planted by Croes Bleddyn Farm in the field below School Lane at Itton. Whilst it was understood that landscaping had been part of a relatively recent planning application involving the egg producing plant there this planting was not part of that application. This plantation followed an application to NRW for a grant which was agreed in late 2016 but the planting was so extensive and adjacent to neighbours' boundaries that it will have a significant adverse effect on visibility when the trees grow. Local residents had been in contact with NRW who claimed that, before approval for such planting was given, the applicant would have to provide a list of the neighbours who had been consulted beforehand; no such consultation though would appear to have occurred. Local residents were extremely concerned that such a development could occur without consultation. Following some discussion the Council decided to write to NRW to see if those trees adjacent to the boundaries of the neighbours could be removed or replanted further away and to seek their advice as to why consultation was not a statutory requirement in such cases. **Action: NJ.** In addition, the Council wished to determine whether such a planting was classified as change of use of agricultural land. (CC Greenland arrived at the meeting after this discussion and confirmed that a plantation like this would not be classified as change of use as tree planting was considered acceptable use of agricultural land.)

Mrs Hall wished to bring to the Council's attention local concerns regarding the apparent business activities at Sunset View, Itton: the selling of motor cycles, openly advertised with a sign along the main road, and the existence of an apparent dog kennels at the property. In addition, there were local concerns with the boundary fence that had been erected and a

dummy speed camera that had been installed at the property. It was noted that a licence would be needed for a kennels and, while accepting that there was little that could be done regarding the fence, the Council agreed to contact MCC to ascertain whether approval had been given for these activities and the sign/camera. **Action: NJ.**

2. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from A Williams and K McElroy.

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 27th March were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. **Matters Arising**

a. Minute 5a – NK advised that the hedge had still not been fully reinstated at Wern-y-Cwm although appreciated that it was now not the right time to complete the laying of the hedge. Nevertheless, the Clerk would continue to remind NRW of this outstanding item. **Action: NJ.**

b. Minute 5b – JR still awaited a response from the owner of the adjacent field to the vehicular entrance to Chepstow Park Woods regarding the possibility of installing a sign.

c. Minute 5c – In KM's absence it was not possible to confirm that replacement bulbs had been installed in the telephone boxes.

d. Minute 5d – MCC had advised that, following a visit to the area, they had reviewed the 30mph cover in line with current guidance and regulations and that they could not support a change in the speed limit cover. Their argument was disputed by the local resident who had raised the issue and she had responded. In addition a petition was being raised and the Council agreed to formally support this petition.

e. Minute 5e – a meeting had been arranged to meet this week with the MCC officer on site to consider alternative bus shelters in Devauden.

f. Minute 5f – work was still proceeding at Tredean Woods although felling had now stopped. The contractor would inspect the road after all activity had finished and ensure that it was left in a good state.

g. Minute 11a – MCC had advised that they did not provide off street parking bays for residents on the public highway.

h. Minute 11e1 – JW had discussed the concerns of the local resident regarding the camera beside Hood Hall who was now content.

i. Minute 11e2 - KM brought up the issue of signs around the Green at a recent Hall Committee meeting and JR was able to confirm that MCC had advised that they were content with them for the time being.

6. **Finance**

- a. Balances at 31 March 2017 were: Current Account £3420.96, Notice £5280.07.
- b. The Clerk presented the bank reconciliation and financial report as at the end of March which were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- c. The Chairman had investigated the feasibility and cost of locally repairing the telephone box door at Cobblers Plain, given that he had received a quote of £1000 plus VAT for a new door, plus an additional amount for rehanging. Mr Richards had quoted £400 for the complete job and, given the urgent need of repair as the door was hanging off, it had been agreed to have the work carried out without seeking a third quotation.
- d. Cheques were signed as follows: MCC for salaries from Jan-Mar for £831.09 – cheque number 101525; Clerk's expenses for April for £15 – cheque number 101526; Merlin Waste for April for £27.12 – cheque number 101527; S Chapman for internal audit for £86.10 – cheque number 101528; Mr F Richards for telephone box new parts and repairs for £400 – cheque number 101529.

7. **Correspondence**

- a. Letter from David Davies MP regarding broadband speeds in Devauden. The Clerk had responded with evidence provided by councillors in Devauden and Newchurch.
- b. Information regarding an administrative support vacancy in the Welsh Government.
- c. Welsh Government news advising of a £250million boost for Wales' rural communities.
- d. Website enquiry form regarding a petition against cuts to funding for maintenance and provision of children's play areas.
- e. Good Councillor Guide 2017.
- f. Details about a vacancy as member of the victims and survivors consultative panel.
- g. Workshop on 2 May to discuss Welsh Water 2050.
- h. Invitation to become a local council tree charter branch. IC advised on the work of this organisation and recommended that we should sign up and encourage other community councils to do the same. **Action: NJ.**
- i. Call for small scale community energy proposals.
- j. Notification from MCC that for all except the ward of Kilgwrwng, in which Ann Cooke was unsure whether she would continue as a councillor, current councillors would be returned uncontested.
- k. Letter from Assistant Auditor General for Wales.

8. **Planning**

- a. DC/2017/00440 – single storey double garage/carport plus secure store and wood storage area at New House, Devauden – recommended for approval.
- b. DC/2017/00452 – partial discharge of Condition 3 for DC/2015/00192 (a licence from NRW or a statement from the scheme ecologist) at Lanes End, Devauden – recommended for approval.
- c. New and completed enforcement cases for March 2017.

9. **County Councillor's Report**

CC Greenland confirmed a telephone call from Cllr Cooke advising that there had been activity at the quarry nearby even though she understood that there were conditions to the planning application (DC/2017/00339) that had still not been discharged. He had taken this up with MCC.

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

- a. JW had attended the recent Area Committee meeting and summarised the main points.
- b. OVW response to the White Paper on Reforming Local Government.
- c. OVW Information Bulletin.
- d. Request for motions for 2017 AGM.

11. **Ward Reports**

- a. IC had noted that a large metal enclosure run by NRW had been erected in Cefn Garw Wood for mixed waste deposits. He wondered what it was used for and it was confirmed that no planning application had been received. The Clerk was asked to contact NRW to ascertain what this was used for. **Action: NJ.**
- b. JW wished to request formally that the Hall Committee ensured that the clear-up after the Music Festival was carried out as quietly as possible with as little inconvenience to local residents as possible. JR would pass this on to the Festival Committee.

12. **Date of Next Meeting.** The next meeting will be held in Devauden Village Hall on Monday 22nd May immediately following the Annual Meeting which starts at 7pm.