

## **DRAFT**

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

**Held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 at Devauden Village Hall**

**Councillors present**

N Knowland (Chairman)  
J Rowlands  
K McElroy  
A Williams  
M Powell  
J Williams  
I Cavill

**In attendance:**

A Cooke  
CC B Greenland  
N. James (Clerk)  
Mr & Mrs Alexander  
  
Dr Chamberlain

The Chairman opened the formal meeting by thanking his predecessor, Cllr Rowlands, for his very significant commitment and contribution in his role as Chair.

**1. Open Session**

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

Mr and Mrs Alexander wished to raise 2 issues; firstly the tree planting at Croes Bleddyn Farm. She had seen the response to the Council from NRW which stated that the tree planting proposal at Croes Bleddyn Farm had received support from the statutory consultees and explained that the UK Forest Standard advised landowners to proportionately consult with local groups. Although this was not a legal requirement NRW considered it good practice. In this case NRW had understood that such consultation had taken place and advised local discussions between relevant groups would now be appropriate. Mrs Alexander wished to thank the Council for their assistance in this matter; she acknowledged that there were few options left to them but would keep the Council informed of any further actions that they might decide to initiate. Secondly, she wished to object to planning application DC/2017/00474 – the temporary permission for a single rural enterprise dwelling at Croes Bleddyn Farm. She had forwarded to the councillors a comprehensive list of her objections based on planning regulations, and summarised these at the meeting. CC Greenland advised that for a request for a temporary building, an applicant had to show a temporary need for the requirement. Mrs Alexander advised that, in her opinion, no need could be justifiably made. Mr Alexander was concerned at the way that such tree planting could be carried out nationally seemingly without check although councillors noted that there was a general move nationally to encourage tree planting on a large scale. Following a long discussion it was agreed to determine on this application in the closed session of the meeting.

Dr Chamberlain wished to raise 2 points: firstly, he was concerned that MCC had advised that they would not provide an off street parking bay at Itton Common. Following his explanation of the requirement, CC Greenland stated that he would take this issue up with the MCC officer concerned to see if a pragmatic solution could be found. **Action:BG.** Secondly, he wished to confirm that the local residents did not wish for the reinstatement of the “No through road” sign at Itton Common that had been mentioned at the March meeting.

2. **Apologies**

There were no apologies.

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

Matters arising from the Open Session were dealt with later in the meeting.

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> April were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. **Matters Arising**

a. Minute 1 – the Enforcement Officer had contacted the owner of Sunset View, Itton but advised that the motorbike sales were not a regular occurrence and was not classified a business as such. Moreover, the owner had discussed the kennels’ operation with the appropriate officers at MCC as she had been keeping a small number of dogs for a long time; neither this nor the sale of motorbikes required formal permission. The owner would be happy to discuss the issues with any complainant.

b. Minute 5a – NK advised that the hedge had now been trimmed back and NRW had advised that the planned works for the car park reinstatement had now been completed.

c. Minute 5b – JR had discussed with the owner of the adjacent fields the possibility of installing signs; the owner was content for this to happen in principle but wished to know what liability there would be and the size of the signs and their location. **Action: NJ/NK.**

d. Minute 5c – the lights in 2 of the telephone boxes had been changed and the final one would be completed shortly.

e. Minute 5e – JR and JW had met on site with an officer from MCC to discuss the possible replacement of the bus shelters in Devauden. He had promised to forward information to the councillors and advised that there were grants available for such projects. No information had yet been received and the Clerk would chase this. **Action: NJ.**

f. Minute 7h – IC had signed up on behalf of DCC to become a local tree charter branch.

g. Minute 11a – NRW had confirmed that the enclosure in Cefn Garw Woods belonged to them and was used to collect fly-tipped material on NRW land from where it was removed on a regular basis by licensed waste carriers.

## **6. Co-option of Kilgwrrwg Councillor**

A Cooke had not put her name forward for re-election as the Councillor for the Kilgwrrwg ward for family reasons. However, there had been no nominations for this role at the recent elections and MCC had confirmed that the Council could therefore co-opt a local councillor. Given that Ann Cooke now felt able to take on these duties again it was unanimously agreed that she should be co-opted on to the Council. She was present at the meeting and signed the acceptance of office and agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct.

## **7. Finance**

a. Balances at 30 April 2017 were: Current Account £3188.74, Notice £5280.07.

b. The Clerk advised that he had received a quotation for insurance cover for 2017/18 from our current insurers Zurich. The initial quote had been £393, an increase in premium of £12. He had obtained two further quotes: AON had quoted £473 and Ageas was £317. Further to this Zurich had requoted for £329 given that they were particularly keen to retain the business. It was agreed to remain with Zurich. **Action: NJ.**

c. The Clerk submitted the paperwork for the annual audit and the Annual Return which were approved and signed.

d. Cheques were signed as follows: Merlin Waste for May for £40.68 – cheque number 101530; Clerk's expenses for May for £15 – cheque number 101531.

## **7. Correspondence**

a. Information regarding the appointment of non-executive members to the Wales Audit Office.

b. National Development Framework for Wales Newsletter April 2017.

c. National Assembly for Wales' Expert Panel on Assembly.

d. Information regarding the appointment of the Chair to Meat Promotion Wales.

e. Guide to taking part in Battle's Over – A Nation's Tribute and WW1 Beacons of Light 11<sup>th</sup> November.

f. Code of Practice on Workforce matters – annual monitoring form.

g. Call for sustainable employment proposals.

h. CEW Newsletter May 2017.

i. Cynnal Cymru May Newsletter.

j. Model local resolution protocol for community and town councils.

- k. Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council's latest newsletter.
- l. Correspondence from a Devauden resident regarding local allotments. The Council noted that there were only four residents on the current waiting list for an allotment but also recognized that the current allotment sizes were below the normal size for council allotments.
- m. Opportunities bulletin – brand new master class, international placements and quick tips.
- n. Details about a Monmouthshire Planning Workshop.
- o. Adverts for 4 roles: NHS Boards and Trust; Advisory Panel on substance abuse; Life Sciences Hub Chair; Life Sciences Hub member.
- p. Press statement on dementia on behalf of the Board of CHCs in Wales.
- q. A letter from Clarke Telecom giving early advice of their plan to submit a planning application for a higher mast at The Billets, Devauden. The Council decided to await the planning application before responding.

## 8. **Planning**

- a. DC/2017/00474 – temporary permission for a single rural enterprise dwelling at Croes Bleddyn Farm, Itton. The Council had noted the very comprehensive list of objections made by Mr and Mrs Alexander in the Open Session, in the main based on their considerations of specific planning regulations. The Council did not feel they were in a position to comment on the technical aspects of the planning regulations referred to within the objections raised. It was noted though that within the application the applicant had stated as “unknown” the disposal of sewage which the Council found unacceptable. Overall, the Council felt that they should recommend the application for refusal on the grounds of strong concerns from local residents and that the technical planning issues should be better considered by professional planners. Although one councillor felt that it would not be appropriate to recommend refusal on such grounds the majority of councillors felt that would be the correct response. Recommended for refusal.
- b. DC/2017/00408 – knock down existing garage and build a two storey extension in its place with the garage built into it at 1 Wesley Gardens, Devauden – recommended for approval.
- c. DC/2017/00472 – single storey extension to the existing house with roof terrace over at Box House, Devauden – recommended for approval.
- d. New and completed enforcement cases for April 2017.

9. **County Councillor's Report**

CC Greenland advised that, as the new Council had only just formed after the election, there was nothing to report for this meeting.

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

a. OVW Bulletin for April 2017.

b. Details of OVW Larger councils and Innovative Practice Awards Conference on 5 Jul 2017.

11. **Ward Reports**

a. JW raised the following:

1. She had signed up for a forthcoming training seminar on the planning process and advised that future audits would look for councillors taking advantage of training opportunities for their professional development. With one other designated place on this particular seminar, AC would also put her name forward.

2. She had received the forms for the Best Kept Village awards and would be applying on behalf of Devauden. The judging will take place between 1<sup>st</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> June. She asked if, before the judging took place, the "Fete" sign still up at the end of Well Lane could be removed.

3. She wished to record her thanks and those of local residents to KM and those on the Hall Committee for the very well organized Music Festival this year.

4. She asked the Hall Committee if they could arrange to have the holes in the fence around the play area filled in. **Action: KM.**

b. AC raised the question about the Council contribution to the upkeep of the local churchyards and the Council agreed to consider these at the next meeting subject to receiving applications from each churchyard.

c. AW wished to record that the work at Tredean Wood was still going on but that the Council should ensure that the surrounding roads were cleared of mud after the contractor left the site.

d. KM wished to pass on his thanks to the local community for helping to make the 2 recent events – the races and the Festival - successful. He also asked when we could expect MCC to reinstate the 30mph sign coming into Devauden. The Clerk confirmed this was still on the outstanding highways list, a list he would update with councillors at the next meeting before chasing MCC on this one outstanding item as well as others. **Action: NJ.**

e. IC explained that recently several large lorries had travelled along School Lane and got into difficulties as there was no place for them to turn. Some were due to "satnav" issues whilst other lorries were delivering. He asked for MCC to install some form of restricted sign at the entrance to School Lane. **Action: NJ.** In addition, he asked that

MCC move the speed restriction sign currently on the entrance to the 57.2, on the left hand side of the B4293 going out of Itton Common towards Devauden, further along the lane as it was confusing where it was currently positioned, implying that the speed derestriction applied to the B4293 at that point. **Action: NJ.**

f. JW asked JR what further action was being taken regarding the request for MCC to move the 30mph area further along the B4293 out of Devauden. He would check with the local resident who had originally raised the issue as MCC had declined to take any action. **Action: JR.**

g. MP requested that we ask NRW to remove some of the large rocks placed by the area 200 yards along School Lane where hitherto walkers had parked their cars to walk in the woods. The rocks now prevented car parking. **Action: NJ.**

h. NK advised that the Green opposite Wern-y-Cwm car park had not yet been cut. **Action: NJ.**

## 12. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held in Itton Village Hall on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 7pm.

## POLICE REPORT 24 April – 22<sup>nd</sup> May

### Crimes

There has been an increase in rural crime in the Chepstow area since the last meeting so please be vigilant and call 101 or 999 if any suspicious activity/crime is seen, with sheds and outbuildings being the main target.

4/5/17 – Report of a quantity of timber and a wildlife camera belonging to NRW taken from an area around the forestry offices in Itton overnight.