

DRAFT

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday 26th June 2017 at Itton Village Hall

Councillors present

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

In attendance:

CC B Greenland
N. James (Clerk)
Mrs G Hancock

Ms S Parry

1. Open Session

The police report is attached at the back of these minutes. Mrs Hancock had written to the Council with her concerns over tree planting and the state of hedges in Well Lane. Following her letter she had obtained several signatures of support for her views from other local residents, a copy of which she tabled at the meeting. However, she recognized that, despite the potential significant adverse impact on views for the local residents, planning permission was not required for such a plantation on agricultural land as tree planting was also classed as agricultural. The Chairman remarked that this was the second such example of planting in the area with little consultation to the future detriment of those who lived close by. The Council agreed to raise this as an issue at the forthcoming OVW Area Committee Meeting in the hope that, if other councils had experienced similar issues, OVW could raise the issue on a larger stage to see if the planning laws could be amended. In view of the planning laws Mrs Hancock accepted the position regarding the trees and stated that her major concern was the state of the hedge along the Lane. Over the years it had been allowed to grow and not been maintained. As a consequence many vehicles struggled to get down the Lane. After some discussion the Council decided to write to the owners of the land adjoining the Lane to seek their cooperation to cut and then maintain the hedge. **Action: NJ.**

2. Apologies

There were no apologies.

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 22nd May were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. **Matters Arising**

a. Minute 1 – CC Greenland had discussed the provision of a car parking space at Itton Common with MCC officers who were looking into the rights of action that MCC had over that piece of land.

b. Minute 5c – the Council's insurers had provided advice regarding liability of a sign erected in the fields adjacent to the B4293 entrance to Chepstow Park Woods. However, it was felt that this should not be a community council responsibility but rather that MCC should still be expected to provide a suitable warning sign on the public highway for what was regarded as a potentially serious hazard. Accordingly, the Chair had asked the Clerk to return this issue to MCC for further consideration. MCC had agreed to install a warning sign before the junction and the Council wished for the message from this sign to be reinforced with a "slow" or "caution" sign.
Action: NJ.

c. Minute 5e – Details regarding bus shelters had been received from MCC and JW would bring to the next meeting for further discussion. **Action: JW.**

d. Minute 11a4 – the holes in the fence area around the play area were being fixed.

e. Minute 11d– the Clerk had circulated the outstanding highways list and councillors updated the list with completed actions. The Clerk would forward a current outstanding list to MCC. **Action: NJ.**

f. Minute 11f – JR advised that the local resident was still gathering signatories to a petition which would then be forwarded to MCC.

g. Minute 11g – NRW had explained that the large boulders had been placed in position as considerable damage was being done from vehicles parking inappropriately but that their positioning did not prevent cars from parking in this area.

h. Minute 11h – the green had now been cut.

6. **Finance**

a. Balances at 31 May 2017 were: Current Account £4603.97, Notice £5280.07.

b. Cheques were signed as follows: Zurich Municipal Insurance for £329.26 – cheque number 101532; Merlin Waste for June for £27.12 – cheque number 101533; Clerk's expenses for June for £15 – cheque number 101534; Churches at Newchurch, Kilgwrrwg, Itton and Wolvesnewton for grasscutting for £50 each – cheque numbers 101535/6/7/8.

7. **Correspondence**

a. Request from Itton resident regarding the dissemination of information about the best kept village competitions. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact GAVO and

arrange for the forms in future to be forwarded to MP, and advise the resident accordingly. **Action: NJ.**

- b. Request from Seafarers UK to fly the red ensign on Merchant Navy Day.
- c. Details about a vacancy for a professional practitioner with the Research Ethics Committee.
- d. Information regarding a number of funding pots available for various schemes.
- e. Monmouthshire Local Development Plan Consultation on Draft Supplementary Guidance.
- f. Historic Environment Update 4 from CADW.
- g. MCC programme of energy days in June.
- h. FCFCG Wales events.
- i. Funding opportunities in East Wales for small scale renewable energy projects.
- j. Clerks and Councils Direct for May.
- k. Correspondence from a Wolvesnewton resident regarding planning issues. It was agreed that the Clerk would forward these issues to MCC: a request for a warning sign at the top of Well Lane stating unsuitable for HGV vehicles accepting CC Greenland's observation that MCC were receiving many such requests covering many of the lanes in the region, and the status of the road surface and edges along Well Lane. **Action: NJ.**
- l. Information about the WG Sustainable Management Scheme.
- m. National Development Framework for Wales Newsletter for June 2017.
- n. Application details for the Great Place Scheme in Wales.
- o. WG workshops for local government representatives on higher activity radioactive waste management and disposal.
- p. Request for funding from Cruse Bereavement Care, Gwent.

8. **Planning**

- a. DC/2017/00664 – proposed installation for the co-location of a 17.5m telecommunications pole together with ground based cabinets and ancillary development co-located with the EE mast at The Billets, Devauden – recommended for approval.
- b. DC/2017/00633 – adding one storey to the existing property at The Bothy, Devauden - recommended for approval.
- c. New and completed enforcement cases for May 2017.

- d. JW and AC had attended a MCC training seminar on planning issues where representation was made by some councils about: the difficulty in responding in some case to applications within the required 21 days due to frequency of meetings; poor resolution of many of the applications on-line; and the inability at times to download applications. It was agreed that, as each of these issues were experienced by DCC on occasion, that representation by DCC to the MCC officers should also be made. **Action: NJ.**

9. County Councillor's Report

CC Greenland wanted to ascertain what broadband speeds were now available locally since all houses using BT should have improved significantly. Whilst speeds were high in Devauden there were still pockets outside where speeds were still slow. In addition, following his survey in Devauden which identified speeding as local residents' major concern, he had been in discussions at MCC as the same issue was prevalent throughout the county. He was seeking, despite the costs, to obtain a county-wide resolution with a number of proposals including for instance extending the 30mph sign in Devauden.

10. One Voice Wales (OVW)

- a. OVW Bulletin for May 2017.
- b. Details of Code of Conduct Training at Pontypool on 13th July.
- c. Details of the OVW Conference and AGM on 30 September 2017.

11. Ward Reports

- a. AW advised that there was a significant build-up now of gravel on the road at the entrance to Tredean Wood where felling had taken place. The Clerk was asked to contact Woodlands the contractor to arrange for this to be cleared as it was a significant safety hazard. **Action: NJ.** In addition he advised that the yellow rattle planted to kill off the grass at Itton Common had not worked with the result that the grass was now overgrown and needed cutting. Cutting would be required until replanting of the rattle could be done in the autumn. If necessary, as this was an additional task, DCC would have to pay MCC for the cutting. **Action: NJ.**

- b. JW raised the following:

1. Further to concerns expressed by local residents about the signs placed along the fences and on the Green by the Hall, the Hall Committee had advised that MCC had approved these. However, a local resident on discussing another issue with the planning department, had been told that no such discussion had taken place. JR would write to MCC to confirm the outcome of the original discussion that the Hall had had with MCC, and forward their response to the Council. **Action: JR.**
2. She asked if the cones and other debris outside the Hall could be removed. **Action: KM.**

3. She advised that the hedge on the 57.4 at Itton between The Oaks and the stone bridge needed cutting back. **Action: NJ.**

c. MP had obtained a defibrillator for Itton Common and requested permission to locate it in the phone box there. In giving permission councillors stressed the requirement to ensure that the installation had to be carried out by a currently qualified and certificated electrician.

d. KM advised that the hedge at 12 Wesley Way was overhanging the path, and needed to be cut back; the Clerk would ask the MCC Enforcement Officer to action. **Action: NJ.**

e. JR advised that the access to the public footpath opposite the Firs required cutting back again. In addition, the white lines on the B4293 at the top of Well Lane until the SLOW sign at the end of the Green needed to be reinstated. **Action: NJ.**

f. NK read out a request from a local resident for DCC to investigate the caravan located in Tredean Woods as she did not believe planning permission had been obtained for its placement. **Action: NJ.**

12. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held in Itton Village Hall on Monday 31st July 2017 at 7pm.

POLICE REPORT 22nd May -26 June

29/5/17 – Report of a damaged vehicle blocking a gate near a property in Itton. This vehicle had been involved in a RTC and was later removed by the owner.

1/6/17 – Report of a field mapping computer taken from outbuildings at a farm just off Ravensnest Wood Road. The computer was last seen in that location in September 2016. The buildings were not secure.

We have conducted three x 90 minute high visibility speed monitoring sessions in Devauden village on the following dates, locations and times:

14/6/17 – 07.30-0900hrs – Churchfields entrance

20/6/17- 1600-1730hrs – Near the old phone box which houses the defibrillator

21/6/17- 05.45- 07.15hrs – Churchfields entrance

“The results have been forwarded to Go-Safe to analyse and I will let you know the outcome when I hear back from them.”