

DRAFT

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday 25th September 2017 at Devauden Village Hall

Councillors present

N Knowland (Chairman)

J Williams

I Cavill

A Cooke

In attendance:

CC B Greenland

N. James (Clerk)

1. Open Session

The police report is attached at the back of these minutes. Although not present CSO Jones had emailed to advise that, in addition, he had received a report of a farm burglary in the Tintern Cross area where a quad bike and a Yamaha motorbike were taken, together with 2 chainsaws and a strimmer.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from J Rowlands, K McElroy, A Williams and M Powell.

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 31st July were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising

a. Minute 1a –IC had produced a draft note to send to OVW; it was agreed that the Clerk would forward this and advise that JW as the Council representative would raise the issue at the forthcoming Area OVW Meeting. **Action: NJ/JW.**

b. Minute 1b – MCC had issued an enforcement notice to the landowner of the hedges along Church Lane as it was his responsibility to cut them.

c. Minute 1c – JW had circulated the correspondence she had received from Mrs Hancock. After some discussion regarding the points raised the Council endorsed the wish to press for a change in the planning rules on change of use to include farming land to forestry, initially through OVW. The Clerk would respond to Mrs Hancock. **Action: NJ.**

d. Minute 1d – the Clerk had contacted the managers of the plantation but had not yet received a reply.

e. Minute 5b –JW advised that she had looked into the possibility of obtaining a grant towards the cost of providing new bus shelters. However, before proceeding, evidence would be required that there was a local need. It was noted that the locations of the shelters were not particularly satisfactory because of the reduced visibility. Given that, and after some discussion, it was agreed that, in the first instance, NK would inspect the shelters to see if they could be adapted to provide better visibility in both directions. **Action: NK.**

f. Minute 5c – MCC had responded to the suggestions made to amend the planning process but there would be no changes to the processes requested. The MCC response was disappointing especially given that there was a planning application that had been forwarded for consideration this month in which the site location was very difficult to pin point. The use of MCCmymaps would help significantly and BG agreed to take up again with the planning officers. **Action: BG.**

g. Minute 5e – MCC had forwarded the rules regarding placing of banners/adverts alongside the highway. The ruling for adverts/banners was that, unless it was an event taking place at the Hall, a charity event, or a builder working at the site an advert/banner would require consent from MCC. JR had advised that the Hall Committee had decided to apply to MCC for consent to display the advertisements, and this application was supported by letters from the businesses involved and some residents. JW would advise the local residents. **Action: JW.** During discussion the permanent siting of notice boards on the Green was raised as well as the issue of ownership of the Green. It was agreed to raise the issue of the boards at a subsequent meeting when JR and KM would be present and for the Clerk to investigate ownership. **Action: NJ.**

h. Minute 5g – the Enforcement Officer had visited the site and confirmed that this was a breach of an original application as the scale of the site was greater than previously agreed. He had informed the owners of this breach and awaited their action.

i. Minute 11a – MCC had advised that as part of the consultation procedure on planning applications they needed to display a site notice or send out letters to local residents but there was not a requirement to do both. Letters were sent out in this instance to what they regarded as the closest properties, and 2 site notices displayed.

j. Minute 11b1 – It was confirmed that the defibrillator was now in place at Itton Common.

k. Minute 11c – MCC had promised to cut again the grass area opposite Wern-y-Cwm but the need for cutting this area had raised the issue of the effectiveness of the current grasscutting contract. For next year the Clerk would submit draft proposals for Council's agreement. **Action: NJ.**

6. **Finance**

a. Balances at 31 August 2017 were: Current Account £3426.00, Notice £5280.60.

b. The audit and the Annual Return had been completed. The Auditors had raised one issue noting that the Council did not operate a website with the requisite information.

Having checked the regulations the Clerk had now published the annual accounts for the last 3 years on the website. The Annual Return was approved and accepted by the Council and the Clerk asked that notices making this year's accounts available for inspection be displayed on all the notice boards.

c. The Clerk advised that the Council had received a payment of £215.37 for last year's VAT reclaim.

d. Cheques were signed as follows: Merlin Waste for Aug/Sep for £54.24 – cheque number 101542; Clerk's expenses for Aug/Sep for £30 – cheque number 101543; the Clerk for payment of the defibrillator cupboard for Itton for £138.60 – cheque number 101544; Wales Audit office for audit fee for £211.05- cheque number 101545; F Richards for work in Itton phone box for £141.34 – cheque number 101546.

7. Correspondence

a. Information regarding the vacancy of Lead Application Developer at the WG.

b. Consumer Council for Wales Annual Review for 2016/17.

c. The Ombudsman's Casebook Issue 29.

d. Invitation to Renewable Energy Community Schemes with flood protection workshop.

e. FCFCG Wales Newsletter August 2017.

f. Invitation to Building a new local economy in Wales from the Building Communities Trust.

g. Survey into digital potential being carried out by Rural England.

h. Environment Cymru Newsletter for August 2017.

i. Information regarding the Cymraeg 2050 Grant Scheme.

j. Environment Cymru's new resources for guidance.

k. Information regarding the appointment of a National Adviser for violence against women.

l. Reminder of the need for Heritage Impact statements in certain listed building applications.

m. Letter from the Tree Charter of the opportunity to plant a tree charter legacy tree.

n. Details about the reform of data protection legislation.

o. Consultation on the proposed Autism (Wales) Bill.

p. National Development Framework for Wales Newsletter for August 2017.

- q. Information about a vacancy on the Adjudication Panel for Wales and Special Educational Needs Tribunal for Wales.
- r. Information about vacancies for non-executive directors for the Constitution Group.
- s. Information regarding FCFCG forthcoming events.
- t. Aneurin Bevan CHC Annual Report 2016/17.
- u. Details of a seminar on Using alternative delivery methods for public services.
- v. Information regarding WG support for clustering for 2017/18
- x. Application form for the Sustain Wales Awards for 2017.
- y. NRW's latest news and stories.
- z. Research by the Remuneration Board for Wales into Assembly candidates.
- aa. Advert for the Chair of the flood and coastal erosion committee.
- bb. Information about the appointment of President of the National Museum for Wales.
- cc. Invitation to another training session on Planning for community councils.
- dd. Information about a vacancy of senior research officer at the WG.
- ee. Aneurin Bevan CHC Newsletter for May-June 2017.
- ff. Clerks and Councils Direct for September 2017.
- gg. Request to publish information about a heating oil club for the local community.
- hh. Information about the appointment of members for the Health Education and Improvement Wales Committee.
- ii. Letter from Jane Bryant AM on the Loneliness Roundtable Report. In discussing this issue JW pointed out that Devauden WI was starting to organise monthly occasions for anyone to pop in for a coffee. The first of these would be on Oct at .
- jj. Consultation document on Taking Forward Wales' Sustainable Management of Natural Resources. IC had noted that, included in changes proposed, was that all footpaths in Wales should also be classified as cycleways and bridleways. It was agreed that this was not feasible and the Clerk was asked to note their objection to this proposal. **Action: NJ.**
- kk. Wales Rural Network – new schemes opened today.
- ll. Planning Aid Wales Conference invitation.

8. **Planning**

- a. DC/2017/00680 –change of use and minor extension to outbuilding to provide annexe accommodation ancillary to the main dwelling together with car port at St Deiniols Cottage, Itton. As there had been no objections in the 21 day timescale this had been recommended for approval prior to the meeting.
- b. DC/2017/00930 – renovation of cottage with two storey rear extension, single storey extension and double garage at The Billits, Devauden – recommended for approval.
- c. DC/2017/01034 – revised location for previously approved garage and workshop at Fedw Cottage, The Veddw, Devauden – recommended for approval.
- d. DC/2017/01020 – single storey agricultural store at Old Oaks, Devauden; it was noted that there was an objection to this application from a local resident but the Council felt unable to make a decision because it was unable to ascertain whether an agricultural building was required on a non-agricultural holding.
- e. DC/2017/00987 – repairs to section of roof and first floor extension at Glyn Farm Itton – recommended for approval.
- f. DC/2017/01064/5 – permission and listed building consent for two storey extension to side of Fedw Cottage, Devauden – recommended for approval.
- g. New and completed enforcement cases for Jul and Aug 2017.

9. **County Councillor's Report**

CC Greenland advised that he had confirmed that the area at Itton Common where parking spaces were requested was owned by MCC, although not Highways. He thought it likely that permission would be granted for such provision provided funding could be found but stressed that unfortunately such funding would not be available through MCC. He also confirmed that he was still pursuing the possibility of extending the 30mph sign both in Devauden and in other areas in the county.

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

- a. OVW Bulletin for August 2017.
- b. Details of good practice exchange from OVW Seminars and Webinars.
- c. South Wales Training Schedule for Sep-Dec 2017.
- d. Final Motions for OVW AGM.

11. **Ward Reports**

- a. NK advised that he had attended the recent Cluster meeting involving MCC and local community councils. The meetings would be held at least biannually if not quarterly and aimed at taking forward ideas and actions from the Wellbeing of Future

Generations Act. As a consequence 22 Public Service Boards had been set up across Wales in order to deliver the aspirations of local town and communities and the Cluster meetings would be looking at ways in which local community councils could assist in achieving these objectives. The Clerk would distribute the minutes when received and it was agreed that this subject should be considered at future meetings.

b. IC and JW noted respectively that action was still awaited for moving the 30mph sign at Itton and erecting a suitable sign on the B4293 by the entrance to Chepstow Park Woods. Both these had been raised previously and the Clerk was asked to chase MCC. **Action: NJ.**

c. In his absence JR had forwarded the following points:

1. A complaint had been made about the hedge at 14 Churchfields which had recently been trimmed but still encroached on to the pavement by approximately half a metre, reducing the width of the passage by 50%. **Action: NJ.**

2. A complaint had been received from a local resident regarding the overgrown public right of way from the B4293 at the Devauden sign to where it joins opposite The Firs. DCC had forwarded this issue to MCC for their action on 2 August and MCC had confirmed that it had been placed on its action plan. The Clerk was asked to chase. **Action: NJ.**

d. AC requested an update on the situation regarding the planning application for a quarry in Kilgwrrwg. BG advised that the licence had still not been issued because the applicant had not met all the conditions and it was still with the Enforcement Officer.

e. In his absence AW had advised that he had been in correspondence with a local resident regarding their very strong objection to the establishment of a small-scale “rose veal” farm at Ty Mawr Farm, Llanfihangel Tor-y- Mynydd. Councillors had recommended the planning application for refusal and it was to be determined shortly by MCC. There was significant local concern regarding this proposed business and the implications from approving a temporary dwelling on this site. The Council entirely endorsed the feelings of the local residents and AW would be liaising with BG to determine how best to action. **Action: AW.**

12. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held in Devauden Village Hall on Monday 30th October 2017 at 7pm.

POLICE REPORT 24 JUL 17- 22 SEP 17

Crimes

1/8/17 – Report of the theft of a spare wheel stolen off a VW Transporter overnight whilst parked at a property in Devauden village.

18/8/17 – Report of damage caused to a garden fence by unknown persons at a property in Wesley Way.

21/8/17 – Report of the theft of an old red metal post box from outside a property on the outskirts of Devauden village.

ASB

8/9/17 – Report of a gate to a paddock taken off its hinges twice in recent weeks by unknown persons at a property in Gaer Fawr. Nothing taken or damage caused.

Other Matters of Note

If you are not aware we have had 3 recent shed breaks in the Mathern village area. Bikes and tools were the main items taken. At 2 of the properties vehicle windows were smashed also to gain entry to retrieve items on show inside. Please make sure your outbuildings and sheds are well secured with alarms and lighting.