

DRAFT

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday 30th October 2017 at Devauden Village Hall

Councillors present

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

In attendance:

CC B Greenland
N. James (Clerk)

1. Open Session

The police reported no incidents over the period.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from A Cooke.

3. Matters Arising from the Open Session

There were no matters arising from the Open Session.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

JW advised that in paragraph 7 ii the date should have been “the third Thursday in October”. With this amendment the minutes of the meeting on 25th September were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising

a. Minutes 1a/c –this issue was raised at the recent OVW Area Committee meeting but unfortunately the meeting voted not to forward it for discussion at the AGM. The Council noted that a local resident had written to the WG Cabinet Secretary over the issue and the Council agreed to support that submission; the Clerk was asked to draft a suitable letter to the WG Cabinet Secretary. **Action: NJ.** In addition, the Clerk would reply to another local resident on the issue.

b. Minute 5e – NK had inspected the bus shelters in Devauden and, whilst further blocks could be removed, he felt that the current window did offer sufficient

visibility. After some discussion it was agreed to await the outcome of the County Council meeting on 9th November when the issue of extending 30mph limits was to be discussed.

c. Minute 5f – BG had discussed the use of MCCmymaps with the planning officers but not every property was on it. However, the planners would investigate the feasibility of adding properties if they were the subject of applications.

d. Minute 5g – The Clerk had produced a House of Commons document dated 30 November 1973 which had instructed MCC to register Devauden Parish Council as the owner of the Green. He was still awaiting confirmation from MCC that this registration formally took place.

e. Minute 11e – AW had discussed the planning application at Ty Mawr Farm with BG who had spoken at the planning meeting. The planning application had been refused.

6. Finance

a. Balances at 30 September 2017 were: Current Account £6096.00, Notice £5281.13.

b. The reconciliation and financial statement for the end of September had been circulated; these were approved and signed by the Chairman.

c. Cheques were signed as follows: Merlin Waste for Oct for £27.12 – cheque number 101547; Clerk's expenses for Oct for £15 – cheque number 101548; MCC for salaries Jul-Sep for £839.16 – cheque number 101549.

d. JR requested grants for £50 towards the Devauden Seniors lunch; this was agreed. He advised that the insurance for the fireworks display had increased this year; accordingly the Council increased its contribution to £350. He also suggested that DCC might consider the purchase of 3 gazebos which could be used for community events. He had obtained one quote for £392 plus VAT per gazebo. Whilst noting that Hood Hall might be the main beneficiary of any such purchase, given the number of community events they put on, they recognized also that there were many other community events across the Wards for which these could be very beneficial. It was agreed that the Council would purchase two gazebos and that these would be controlled and under the supervision of Councillor KM. Once purchased, information should be circulated across the Wards to ensure everyone was aware of the opportunity to borrow them. Before that, NK would obtain two further quotes and it was agreed that he would then go ahead and purchase on the most competitive quote. The Clerk would obtain insurance cover and add them to the Council Asset Register.
Action: NK/NJ.

7. Correspondence

a. IRPW Draft Annual Report.

b. Information and invitation to Planning Aid Wales Conference on 8 Nov 17.

c. Cynnal Cymru Events Newsletter.

- d. SE Wales RET Autumn Newsletter.
- e. WG Tax policy report on rates and bands.
- f. Information about the WG review of the Community and Town Councils future role.
- g. Boundary Commission for Wales: revised proposals Report 2018.
- h. Survey into councils operating cemeteries/crematoria.
- i. Information regarding a Planning Aid Wales seminar on Maximising your community influence on 1 November.
- j. Information about a consultation on proposed changes to procedures relating to the registration of town and village greens.
- k. Information regarding the appointment of a member for the Welsh Language Audit and Risk Committee.
- l. Copy of a letter from a local resident to Lesley Griffiths, WG Cabinet Secretary for Environmental and Rural Affairs, regarding the planting of a tree plantation at Croes Bleddyn Farm, Itton.
- m. Invitation to a WG Tax Forum meeting.
- n. Details about a consultation on proposed amendments to the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations 2003.
- o. Details of a Competition to picture Wales.
- p. Information about a Review of Mental Health Services.
- q. Information about the WG consultation on Local Approaches to Poverty reduction: The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and public service boards.
- r. Introductory email from the new local police inspector, Inspector Neil Jones.
- s. Details of a WG Scheme to promote closer working with local government.
- t. Clerks and Councils Direct for October.

8. **Planning**

- a. DC/2017/01084 –demolition of single storey outbuilding and shed and erection of two storey annexe at Ty Bach Cottage. As there had been support for this application from the local councillor and no objections in the 21 day timescale this had been recommended for approval prior to the meeting.
- b. DC/2017/01015– alterations to existing cottage, conversion of workshop to ancillary residential accommodation, construction of detached garage block and home office at Brynglas Cottage, Devauden. There had been a number of questions raised by AW on the lack of information provided in the application and he had therefore recommended for refusal. As there had been no further

comments this refusal was forwarded to MCC prior to the meeting to meet the 21 day timescale.

- c. DC/2017/01154 – advertisement consent for 3 banners on the outer fence of Hood Memorial Hall, Devauden –JR and KM declared an interest in this application and therefore did not take part in the discussion on it. JW felt that these banners were an eyesore, a view she advised was shared by a few other residents. However, it was noted that there was significant support on the MCC website for this application with no formal objections raised and they did provide benefit to the local community. The planning application was only for the existing banners and would not grant permission for future banners which would have to be themselves the subject of further applications. The Council recommended approval of the application by a majority decision.
- d. DC/2017/01150 – conversion of barn into holiday let at New Star Farm, Llansoy – AW had not had a chance to examine this application and, although there were no objections from other councillors, it was agreed to defer a decision until AW had commented.
- e. DC/2017/01231 – agricultural notification of an agricultural machinery building at Cartref, Wolvesnewton. AW had formally written to MCC since he was concerned that there was an incremental development taking place on this site without the formal scrutiny of a planning application as each development had been approved under an agricultural notification. Whilst accepting that any breach of approval conditions would lead to enforcement action, the Council agreed that they should support the views already forwarded by AW to MCC, and recommend that further scrutiny of the development at this site was undertaken, preferably by requesting this application went through the formal planning process. **Action: NJ.**
- f. New and completed enforcement cases for Sep 2017.

9. County Councillor's Report

CC Greenland advised that MCC had received a provisional budget settlement for next year from the WG. The settlement would see a 1% reduction and, despite last year's settlement, the impact of budget reductions in previous years and this further reduction would make it an extremely difficult budget process and there would be a significant impact on services.

10. One Voice Wales (OVW)

- a. OVW Bulletins for September and October 2017.
- b. Details of OVW seminar on 6 November on the dangers of cyber attacks.

11. Ward Reports

- a. JW advised that the white lines on the B4293 from the top of Well Lane, previously advised by JR in June, had still not been repainted. She felt that it was now a significant safety hazard; the Clerk would chase MCC. **Action: NJ.** She also advised

that the first coffee morning organised by the Devauden WI in October had been very successful with over 30 attending. These would continue to be run each month at Hood Hall on the third Thursday. KM advised that he had come across the possibility of funding for which the coffee mornings might be eligible; he would pass the details to JW.

b. JR advised that he had received correspondence from MCC which notified him of a complaint about the legality of 2 board signs on the Green. MCC agreed that the Hall could seek permission from the owners of the Green, DCC, to display one notice board incorporating 2 signs. The Council agreed to this provided MCC confirmed in writing that there was no road safety objection to the proposal. KM was asked to action this with MCC. **Action: KM.**

c. IC requested an additional dog waste bin for School Lane, Itton; this was agreed. **Action: NJ.**

d. KM stated that there were handrails provided in the car park and bench area in Wesley Way but that extra handrails were required from the path to the seating area and from the car park to the path. With a number of elderly residents who used these areas the Clerk was asked to approach MHA for further handrails. **Action: NJ.**

e. NK advised that there was some concern from local residents about speeding vehicles on the R82 and noted that BG would include this road with others in his consideration of action to be taken. (Clerk's note: Subsequent to the meeting NK advised that Kilgwrrwg had won the best kept churchyard in the Best Kept Village Competition 0-200 category and Itton had won the best kept war memorial and bee friendly location in the same competition. He wished to pass on congratulations to all involved.)

12. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held in Devauden Village Hall on Monday 27th November 2017 at 7pm.