

DRAFT

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday 18th December 2017 at Devauden Village Hall

Councillors present

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

In attendance:

N. James (Clerk)

1. Open Session

The following attended the Open Session and Item 3: Sue Baldwin, Chrystal Mogg, Peter Mogg, Huw Davies, Helen Davies, Len Mason, Christophe Madler, Frauke Pelz, Natalie Potter plus one other. The local residents attended to express their significant concern at the ongoing construction of a telecommunications mast near the Equine Centre in Devauden. Their concern was due to the position of the mast and the apparent lack of planning permission. They wished to know what they needed to do to get it moved and how DCC could help in this. During a long discussion it was noted that the 24 hour operation was causing considerable disturbance; a long stretch of hedge had been ripped out during the construction; the lane had become virtually impassable; the mast was not located where the original planning application, which still seemingly had not been approved, had submitted but in a nearby field. Moreover, there was concern that the workmen on the site had advised that it was a temporary structure and therefore did not require planning permission.

There was no police report.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr B Greenland.

3. Matters Arising from the Open Session

The Council noted that the erection of the mast would appear to be an unauthorised activity and clearly outside planning law. They noted the considerable disturbance for local residents which was significantly beyond what could normally be expected for an approved activity of this kind. They agreed to arrange as a matter of urgency a meeting on site with the

Enforcement Officer and would advise the local residents so that they could attend. (Clerk's note: CC Greenland subsequently advised the Chairman after the meeting that the Enforcement Officer had already arranged to visit the site on 20th December. Cllr Rowlands was informed and he advised the local residents.)

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting on 27th November were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. **Matters Arising**

a. Minute 5c – The gazebos had been purchased and were now retained by KM on behalf of the Council. The Clerk had produced a form of words to use for anyone wishing to borrow the gazebos and these were approved.

b. Minute 5d – the white lines had still not been reinstated.

c. Minute 5e – KM confirmed that MCC had responded regarding the signs and there were no road safety implications from what was planned.

d. Minute 11a – Chepstow Police had advised that the post box in Itton had not been stolen but taken down by Royal Mail as it was unsafe. The Clerk had written to Royal Mail to have the post box re-installed in the same location, and a reply was still awaited.

e. Minute 11b – MCC had advised that DCC would be consulted on a planning application on the Tredean Estate once they had received more information from the applicant.

f. Minute 11e – JR was still awaiting a quote for new light fittings in the phone boxes

6. **Finance**

a. Balances at 30th November 2017 were: Current Account £4589.49, Notice £5281.13.

b. Cheques were signed as follows: Hood Memorial Hall for 2017 hire for £135 – cheque number 101555; Merlin Waste for Dec for £27.12 – cheque number 101552; MCC for 2017 Grounds Maintenance for £710.90 – cheque number 101557 – the Clerk was asked to confirm the number of cuts this included – **Action: NJ**; Clerk's expenses for Dec for £15 – cheque number 101558.

7. **Correspondence**

a. Information about Welsh Government public appointment vacancies.

b. Planning Law in Wales – Consultation paper.

c. NRW Funding and Support for 2017/18.

d. Details about Monmouthshire Cluster meetings in January.

e. Latest news from NRW.

- f. Request from Wales Ambulance Service for a donation.
- g. Information regarding appointments in Community Health Councils.
- h. Monmouthshire Local Development Plan Consultation on draft review report.
- i. HSCS Committee Report on Loneliness Roundtable Report. JW advised that she had contacted Jayne Bryant AM to advise her of the local community initiative on this.
- j. Request for financial assistance from Urdd National Eisteddfod 2018.
- k. Report publication from the expert panel on Assembly Electoral Reform.
- l. Planning Aid Wales document on Community-led Housing.
- m. Request from Ysgol Gymraeg Y Ffin Governing body for a decision on KM's reappointment to this body. KM was happy to continue and the Council confirmed the reappointment. **Action: NJ.**
- n. Information regarding a new Twitter account for Gwent Police called Gwent Now.
- o. NK circulated copies of the Gwent Best Kept Village competition 2017 committee reports.

8. **Planning**

- a. DC/2017/01293 –demolition of existing garage and replacement garage at Sunnybank Farm, Trellech. This had been dealt with prior to the Council meeting in view of the 21 day rule – recommended for approval.
- b. DC/2017/01323 – change of use from ancillary accommodation to main dwelling to full residential use of converted barn at The Keepers House, Devauden – the Council could find no details of this application on line and therefore were unable to make a decision. The Clerk would contact MCC on this. **Action: NJ.**
- c. DC/2017/01422 – double garage and access drive to Fernlea, Devauden – recommended for approval.
- d. JR confirmed that planning permission had been granted to Hood Memorial Hall for siting 3 banners on the boundary fence.
- e. New and completed enforcement cases for Nov 2017.

9. **County Councillor's Report**

In CC Greenland's absence there was no report.

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

- a. OVW Bulletin for November.

b. Details from recent OVW Consultation Events.

11. **Ward Reports**

a. IC asked when Itton could expect the second dog bin that had been requested. The Clerk confirmed that MCC had submitted a community-wide order on 30 November. IC also advised of the concern of one local resident about the condition of one of the oak trees on Itton Common, especially as another one close by had fallen recently. MCC had been made aware, had carried out an assessment and were aiming to work on the tree in the Spring. MP noted that other trees in that area needed work and asked the Clerk to contact MCC to do an inspection of them all. **Action: NJ.**

b. MP asked for the junction of 57.3/57.4 to be cleaned up because it was covered in mud, and for the road at 57.4 to be swept. **Action: NJ.**

c. JR asked for the minutes to record that KM was now the contact for the 2 gazebos which were available for borrowing. He also advised of continuing concern of local residents that the public right of way opposite the entrance to The Firs had still not been cut back. **Action: NJ.**

d. JW advised that in a recent survey she had been asked how often did MCC tell her of how they used the data they had on her. She wondered what the obligation was on MCC to do this and what they in fact did with the data. The Clerk was asked to contact MCC for answers. **Action: NJ.** She also advised that she was considering an application for a grant to help the community-run coffee morning. The application required a bank account for payment of a successful application, and it was agreed that the coffee group could use the Council's account for this one purpose. She asked for the minutes to record that this was not a WI activity but a locally-run community initiative. The Clerk would also state that in the forthcoming notes for the Fiveways magazine.

e. KM advised that the slow signage and white lining at the top of Wesley Way was wearing away. **Action: NJ.**

f. NK noted that MCC had trimmed fallen trees alongside the B4293 between Devauden and Itton but that parts were still coming out into the road, and were dangerous for traffic. He asked for MCC to clear them all from the main carriageway. **Action: NJ.** He advised that he had received a response from Lesley Griffiths, the Cabinet Secretary for Environmental and Rural Affairs, to his letter regarding the tree planting on two local sites. The letter advised that the WG had introduced tighter controls on planting proposals from Glastir which answered the concerns of one of the plantations but did not address the other regarding land acquired by an energy company. The Council agreed that he should reply to the Minister regarding the latter. **Action: NK.**

12. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held in Devauden Village Hall on Monday 29th January 2018 at 7pm.