

## **DRAFT**

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

**Held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at Devauden Village Hall**

#### **Councillors present**

N Knowland (Chair)

J Rowlands

M Powell

A Williams

J Williams

A Cooke

#### **In attendance:**

Mrs G Hancock

N. James (Clerk)

#### **1. Open Session**

The police report is attached at the back of these minutes. Mrs Hancock had recently written to the Council with her significant concerns about the planning application, DC/2017/01156 – the positioning of a static caravan in Tredean Woods linked to a bushcraft and survival pursuits business. She wished to highlight these concerns at the meeting and prior to the Council's consideration of the planning application.(See below at paragraph 3).

#### **2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from I Cavill, K McElroy and CC B Greenland.

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

The Council discussed the issues raised by Mrs Hancock about the planning application in Tredean Woods. In the discussion the Council also noted the comprehensive objection posted on-line by another local resident and endorsed the views of that objection. It was agreed to recommend refusal of the planning application on the following grounds: concern that the applicant would appear not to have complied with the conditions of a previous application because there was evidence that this location was being used as a permanent residence; concern for the potential escalation of activity from the original application; the absence of any obvious plan to show the proposed business was viable and a concern for the likely damage to the natural surroundings. The Council also noted that it would appear that no recent notice had been published locally by MCC. **Action: NJ.**

#### **4. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

A local resident had written to question para 7z of the minutes advising that the statement

was incorrect as the Order was subject to a public consultation. A response from MCC was still awaited but the correspondence from MCC had confirmed that an Order had been made. The Council had invited representations/objections but, at this stage, MCC had sealed a definitive order. It was agreed therefore to await comment from MCC before considering further to amend the minutes. The minutes of the meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January were approved and signed by the Chair.

5. **Matters Arising**

- a. Minute 5c – JR confirmed that the new light fittings had been installed.
- b. Minute 5e – NK advised that he had received a response from the Minister at the WO although unfortunately it did not provide a way forward in trying to bring more control into the planting process.
- c. Minute 6c – the Clerk confirmed that payroll services would be taken over on 1 April by Beverley and Williams, a Newport-based firm of accountants.
- d. Minute 6d – the Clerk had contacted two other grounds maintenance companies; one had considered that he was unable to provide a quotation to match what he believed the rates charged by MCC. The other had failed to provide a quotation despite being chased to do so. In view of this it was decided to renew the grounds maintenance contract for 2018/19 with MCC but seeking 3 cuts per year for Howells Green in May, June and July. **Action: NJ.**
- e. Minutes 11a/b – MCC had checked out the ponding/flooding at the entrance to Parc-y-Ffynnon and had agreed with IC to meet there when flooding next occurred; the satnav sign off the B4293 had been added to the list by MCC; MCC had recognized that the white lines were still required in Devauden but a lack of funds meant that it would now be done in April; a response was still awaited on the signs for Chepstow Park Woods and it was agreed that the Clerk should escalate the concerns over this last issue to try to expedite. **Action : NJ.**

6. **Finance**

- a. Balances at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018 were: Current Account £5195.42, Notice £5281.66.
- b. Cheques were signed as follows: D. Ostler for light fittings for £300- this had been signed prior to the meeting to meet the required deadline - cheque number 101562; Merlin Waste for Feb for £27.12 – cheque number 101563; MCC for payroll services for Oct-Dec for £839.16 – cheque number 101564; Clerk’s expenses for Feb for £15 – cheque number 101565; One Voice Wales for 18/19 annual subscription for £139 – cheque number 101566.

7. **Correspondence**

- a. Information about the resurrection of the MCC Review of community boundaries and electoral arrangements. The Council noted that there would be a reduction in the number of councillors for the Kilgwrrwg Ward and felt that, as there would be no reduction in the numbers of residents in that Ward and given that there were no cost benefits from a reduction, that this proposal should be challenged. **Action: NJ.**

- b. Review of the Brecon Beacons National Park Development Plan.
- c. FCFCG Wales Newsletter Jan 2018.
- d. Future Generations Framework from the Commissioner.
- e. NRW – Area Statements Survey.
- f. Details about a Planning4Communities consultation seminar.
- g. A Welsh Language Promotion Newsletter.
- h. Advisory Note on budget preparation for 2018/19 following the IPRW Report.
- i. Information about a Gwent Music event for the Chair MCC’S charity.
- j. The Ombudsman’s Casebook Issue 31.
- k. A list of Welsh Government public appointment vacancies.
- l. Information about the Armed Forces Day Grant Scheme.
- m. Memorandum of Understanding from WO on child burial fees.
- n. Reminder about the Welsh Language Commissioner’s business survey.
- o. Information about Women’s Suffrage Centenary Celebrations.
- p. The Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council Newsletter.
- q. The Independent Review Panel Newsletter on its review of the community and town council sector.
- r. Letter of thanks from Hood Memorial Hall for the DCC grant.
- s. Letter received from a local resident regarding the incidents of dog mess on the pavements in Devauden, in particular Churchfields.
- t. Information about the new model scheme for use of the welsh language.
- u. Clerks and Councils Direct for March.
- v. Letter from Kidney Wales regarding its Walk for Life.
- w. Guidance for Principal Councils on the review of communities.
- x. Information about consultation on the draft Autism(Wales) Bill.
- y. Notice of temporary traffic prohibition order for various footpaths in the Devauden area.
- z. Information about a vacancy for a Lead Drupal Developer.

## 8. **Planning**

- a. DC/2016/01219 –appeal against a refusal for full planning permission for the siting of a temporary rural workers dwelling for a period of three years at Oak Tree Farm, Devauden.
- b. DC/2017/01156 – demolition of existing log cabin due to woodland clearance, replaced with static caravan for use linked to Down 2 Earth Bush-Craft and Survival pursuits plus overnight accommodation for disabled/partially sighted and vulnerable people for security and privacy at Tredean Estate, Devauden. See above at paragraph 3.
- c. DC/2018/00094 – listed building consent to create a doorway from east cottage to hallway, raise ceiling height of hall and provide glazed screen from hall to boot room at Fedw Cottage, Devauden – recommended for approval.
- d. DC/2018/00149 – excavation of material and construction of a retaining wall to form a parking space for a motorhome at Oakland, Devauden – recommended for approval.
- e. DC/2018/00124 – installation of a south-facing ground-based photo voltaic array at Crooked Billets, Devauden – recommend for approval.
- f. New and completed enforcement cases for Jan 2018.

## 9. **County Councillor's Report**

In the absence of CC Greenland there was no CC's report.

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

- a. Information about the OVW Innovative Practice Awards Annual Ceremony.
- b. Details of a local Code of Conduct training session run by Goetre Fawr CC.
- c. OVW Bulletin for February.
- d. Training courses in the area for the month of March.

## 11. **Ward Reports**

- a. JW queried the MCC policy on turning off street lights. She had noted that, without street lights on, there was a significant safety hazard at the second set of traffic lights on the road between the A48 and the Chepstow racecourse roundabout with the very bright “go” sign obscuring visibility. **Action: NJ.**
- b. JR was concerned about the state of the edges to the Green outside the Hall where traffic regularly seemed to drive up the bank. The Clerk would seek advice from MCC Highways about the best form of deterrence there. **Action: NJ.** He also mentioned that there had as yet been no interest in taking up the offer of the 2 gazebos and suggested that adverts be placed in the Devauden shop and in Fiveways. **Action: NJ.**

c. JR advised that he had received an email, subsequently also sent to the Clerk, from a local resident complaining about the terrible state of the pavements in the village especially in Churchfields due to dog waste. Whilst the Council noted that dog bins had been placed on the main road in two different locations on either side of Churchfields they acknowledged the significant health hazard from dog waste as well as the unsocial and disrespectful aspect. The Council agreed to raise this in the Fiveways magazine and also asked the clerk to obtain signs to put up advising of the heavy fines for dog owners who do not pick up their dog's waste and to seek further advice from MCC on how best to deter this unsociable behaviour. **Action: NJ.**

d. MP advised that the road on the left hand side of the 57.4 just up from the R84 and going towards Itton Common had badly crumbled and was in need of repair. **Action: NJ.**

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

The next meeting will be held in Devauden Village Hall on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7pm.

### **POLICE REPORT – 28/1/18 – 26/2/18**

3/2/18 – Report of a rider less horse running around the wooded area at the back of Devauden village hall. The tacked up horse was later reunited with its owner who had fallen off.

6/2/18 – Report of a 2 vehicle rtc on Quarry road coming out of Llanishen. The one vehicle had pulled out of a junction and hit the other. Thankfully there were only minor injuries but the one driver was reported for a driving offence.