

**DRAFT**  
**MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at Itton Village Hall**

**Councillors present**

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

**In attendance:**

N. James (Clerk)

**1. Open Session**

There was no police report for this period.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from A Williams, K McElroy and CC Greenland.

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

There were no matters arising from the Open Session.

**4. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**5. Matters Arising**

a. Minute 5b – MP was still looking to procure suitable signs to put up in the phone box. **Action: MP.**

c. Minute 5c – the Clerk had yet to obtain a back-up for his hard drive.

d. Minute 6c – NK/NJ had spoken with the Bank and answered their queries. Councillors who were signatories on the account had to update their personal information.

e. Minute 11 – all the highways issues had been raised again with MCC who had confirmed that these were on their lists for action. There was concern that the white lines at the top of Well Lane had still not been done and were now scheduled for the

summer instead of April. In addition, MP advised that the holes in the road at the junction of the 57.4/R84 were now getting worse and were a significant hazard. The Clerk was asked to follow up both these with MCC to see if greater priority could be given. **Action: NJ.**

f. Minute 11e –MCC had erected a sign for the bridal path running parallel with the B4293. However, it was a relatively small sign and was having no effect on the use by motor cycles. Local residents were still concerned and the Clerk was asked to contact MCC again to see if there were any further practical solutions to this problem. **Action: NJ.**

## 6. **Finance**

a. Balances at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018 were: Current Account £4958.91, Notice £5282.58.

b. Cheques were signed as follows: Merlin Waste for June for £30.00– cheque number 101581; Beverley and Williams for pay/pension services for £54.00 – cheque number 101582; N James pay for June for £230.94 – cheque number 101583; HMRC for tax Apr-Jun for £166.40 – cheque number 101584; Clerk's expenses for June for £15 – cheque number 101585; Beverley and Williams for pay services Apr-Jun for £36.00 – cheque number 101586.

c. JW raised the recent IRPW report into community councillors' allowances which was discussed briefly at a previous meeting. The report stated that, if councillors did not wish to take up the available allowance, they had to formally advise the Clerk. The Clerk would produce a standard letter for those councillors to sign who did not wish to take up the allowance. **Action: NJ.**

## 7. **Correspondence**

a. Advance notification of the Wye Valle Warrior Event plan 2018.

b. Invitation to attend briefing on location of community hospital in the Forest of Dean.

c. Invitation to the Home Start Monmouthshire AGM.

d. Remembrance Sunday 2018 – the requirement for a Queens Representative.

e. Ageing Well in Wales – a progress report.

f. Details about RECS Workshop in June.

g. Update on MCC Review of communities and electoral arrangements.

h. Details on the Children, Young People and Democracy event.

i. Details of the Consolidation and amendment of the Use Classes Order and the Permitted Development Order.

j. WG inquiry into diversity in local government.

k. Sustainable drainage newsletter number 2.

- l. New 2018 Model Standing Orders.
- m. Information from MCC regarding displays on the public highway.
- n. Information about enforcement notices /Planning Aid Wales training.
- o. Details of Remembrance Day Silhouette Installation Grants.
- p. Information about the Moncare Cooperative.
- q. JW had been given a letter from the Historic Endurance Rallying Organisation about a forthcoming rally of vintage cars that would travel along Well Lane. No formal notification of this rally had been received and the Clerk was asked to contact them to strongly advise of the unsuitability of this route. **Action: NJ.**

## 8. **Planning**

An appeal against the decision rejecting the planning application at Oak Tree Farm, Devauden by MCC had been allowed by the Inspector, and planning permission had been granted for the siting of a temporary rural workers dwelling.

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

In CC Greenland's absence there was no report.

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

- a. Details of OVW Innovative Practice Conference on 4 July.
- b. OVW Bulletin for May.
- c. July training sessions for the South Wales region.

## 11. **Ward Reports**

- a. IC advised that our agreed welsh name for Howick had not been included in the recently published Language Commissioner's list of Welsh Place Names and that he would be writing to her to have Hywig included as such.

- b. AC raised the following:

- 1. the costs for maintaining the churchyard at Kilgwrrwg was ever increasing and the grant from the Council had not changed for some years. After some discussion it was agreed to increase the grant to all four churchyards to £100;
- 2. currently Kilgwrrwg church was also trying to raise £1500 towards repairs/maintenance to the church building and she asked if the Council would make a contribution. NK also advised that Newchurch church was also seeking funds to help with much-needed maintenance. There was some discussion about this and the precedent it caused. The Council also recognised that in some Wards without village halls the church was a centre for the community. It agreed to award a one-off grant to both churches of £200;

3. the grass verge area around the signpost opposite The Firs was in real need of cutting. **Action: NJ.**

c. JW raised the following:

1. verges at the top of Well Lane and at the junction of the St Arvans road and the lane to the Hall were overgrown. Local residents had attempted to cut back the Well Lane and St Arvans Road verges as it was noted that MCC was reducing the cuts on verges generally but, in both places, the lack of cutting was a safety hazard. **Action: NJ;**

2. she had been approached by someone in St Arvans regarding the borrowing of the gazebos given that they had been loaned out to Shirenewton School, not a ward within the Council area. However, the loan of them to the School had been based on the fact that Devauden was in the catchment area for that school;

3. the sewerage treatment plant in Well Lane was causing a significant bad smell and discharge plus there were two water leaks at the top of Star Pitch. The Clerk was asked to contact Welsh Water about these issues. **Action: NJ;**

4. she had been asked about the status of the new field at the back of the Hall for children's use, given that dogs were seemingly allowed in there. JR confirmed it was a community field for all to use;

5. she wished to record that the Devauden monthly teas in the Hall were continuing to flourish.

d. NK wished to remind residents in Devauden of the Kilgwrrwg cricket challenge against them.

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

The next meeting will be held in Itton Village Hall on Monday 30th July 2018 at 7pm.