

DRAFT

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday 26th November 2018 at Devauden Village Hall

Councillors present

J Williams (A/Chair)
I Cavill
M Powell
A Williams
K McElroy
A Cooke

In attendance:

N. James (Clerk)
CSO A Jones

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, Cllr J Williams was elected to act as Chair for the meeting.

1. Open Session

The police report for this period is at the back of these minutes. The police apologised for not having attended a council meeting for a while. Speeding levels and rural theft were discussed. They were aware of speeding issues on the B4293 but explained that speeding restrictions were the remit of the Council and not the police. It was recognized that the shining 30 mph signs had been effective. They advised that a rural crime team looking at rural theft had been established for Monmouthshire rural areas.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from N Knowland, J Rowlands and CC B 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 29th October were approved and signed by the A/Chair.

5. Matters Arising

a. Minute 5a – quotes for appropriate sheds for the allotments were still outstanding.
Action: KM. JW had looked at a cross section of allotment rents locally. Annual rents in Chepstow and Caldicott were in line with those charged in Devauden and accordingly it was agreed to leave the rents at their current level.

b. Minute 5b – JW advised that Welsh Water had tested the area around the treatment plant but there was no ammonia present. Whilst the level of the pond had reduced there was still a slight smell present. Welsh Water had promised to inspect again in six months.

c. Minute 5c – the rights of way officer had still not forwarded a works plan and the Clerk would chase. **Action: NJ.**

d. Minute 5d – the additional dog waste bin was still awaited.

6. **Finance**

a. Balances for 30th November 2018 were: £3798.18 and £5284.62.

b. A draft budget for 2019/20 with no increase in precept had been circulated. It was recognized that, even though the Council had donated larger sums to the local churches and village halls it had managed to do that within its annual income and expenditure account without having to take funds from the reserves. It noted however that some of its assets would need to be replaced in the short term and there was concern still about the visibility and therefore safety of the bus shelters. Councillors felt that this issue should be further explored over the next year. Given the level of its reserves however the Council agreed to the draft budget, thereby retaining the precept at last year's level.

c. KM asked if the donation for the Seniors Lunch could be increased given the numbers who attend and the costs per person which he went through. It was agreed to increase the donation this year to £150.

d. Cheques were signed as follows: Hood Hall for Seniors Lunch for £150 - cheque number 101611; N James pay for November for £222.06 – cheque number 101612; Clerk's expenses for November for £15 – cheque number 101613; MCC for grounds maintenance for £728.68 – cheque number 101614. For this latter payment the Clerk was asked to confirm that MCC had completed the contractual number of cuts. **Action: NJ.**

e. The Clerk advised that the Council had received a VAT return of £290.98.

7. **Correspondence**

a. Invitation to Next steps for neighbourhood planning briefing.

b. Temporary road closures for Greenwood Road and Ravensnest Wood Road.

c. Arts Council for Wales lottery consultation.

d. Invitation to an evening with the Lord Lieutenant of Gwent.

e. Offer of a speaker on current developments in the health service.

f. Information about the Tree charter day.

g. Press release on sustaining services in rural Wales.

- h. Information about the AGM for Monmouthshire citizens advice.
- i. Information about a conference building cooperation between Wales and the Basque country.
- j. Details of a collaborative project on understanding welsh places.
- k. MCC draft plan on loneliness and social isolation.
- l. Information about a WG scoping exercise on veterans in Wales.
- m. Update on Ageing well in Wales – newsletter Autumn 2018.

8. **Planning**

- a. DM/2018/01811 – proposed residential extension to existing lodge adjoining Parc Maes Ffynon, Itton - councillors were concerned about the size of such an extension to a dwelling in this AONB -recommended for refusal.
- b. DM/2018/01895 –excavation of 1500 cubic metres of stone for building purposes at Cledd-y-Tan wood, Devauden – as there was no location plan for the site where the stone was to be taken the Council recommended for refusal.
- c. New and completed enforcement cases for October.

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 and National Awards Conference 2019.

11. **Ward Reports**

- a. JW reminded the Council that the condition of the road surface along Well Lane just before the treatment plant and the white lines at the top of the road were still outstanding. **Action: NJ.**
- b. IC advised that in the original planning permission for Parc Maes Ffynon lighting had been allowed around the building only when vehicles were driving to and from it. The lighting was on now all night. IC had approached the Enforcement Officer AND THE Council agreed to follow that up. **Action: NJ.**
- c. MP advised that Dr Chamberlain, the resident of 2 Itton Common, was concerned about the safety of a large oak tree outside his house as branches were falling off. **Action: NJ.**

12. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held in DevaudenVillage Hall on Monday 17th December 2018 at 7pm.

POLICE REPORT 24/9/18 TO 26/10/18

12/10/18 – Report of a vehicle colliding with a falling tree on the Itton road. There were no injuries thankfully but the road was closed for a short time while the incident was dealt with by officers.

25/10/18 – Report of a metal lock up container broken into at land just off the Devauden/Llanishen road. The locks were cut off with a disc cutter and a fork lift was used to remove approx. £4500 worth of welsh roofing slates and a generator was removed from inside.

Also a farm outbuilding at a property on Penterry lane near Tintern/St Arvans recently also with chainsaws, hedge trimmer and brush cutter amongst items taken so there is theft activity going on in the rural areas as a whole.