

DRAFT

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday 28th January 2019 at Devauden Village Hall

Councillors present

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

In attendance:

N. James (Clerk)
J Langdon – for Item 6 plus local residents listed at the back for the Open Session.

1. Open Session

The police report for this period is at the back of these minutes. Mr H Williams raised his significant concerns, shared by other residents present, with the minutes of the December Council meeting regarding the planning application for the proposed development in Well Lane, and with the subsequent Council response to MCC. The concern centred around the statement “but if MCC could allay those concerns some councillors felt that should be sufficient” which it was felt was vague and partial without comment regarding other councillors’ views, and the similar comment in the response to MCC which stated that the Council would be content to approve if these concerns were allayed. The Chair apologised for any confusion regarding this issue and, following some discussion, the Council agreed to reconsider these comments in the closed session.

There was also concern from a resident about the very poor state of the road surface in Well Lane. Not only was there a massive pot hole across it but the surface was badly disintegrating, not helped by the significant amount of surface water that runs off along it. She was concerned also that, with no

passing places, and the additional traffic which would occur from the proposed development, there needed to be a “no sat nav” sign. The Council agreed to forward her justifiable concerns to MCC. **Action: NJ.**

A Wolvesnewton resident was concerned about the planning application - DM/2018/02002 – renovation and alterations to a holiday cottage at Cwrt-y-Gaer, Wolvesnewton. Cllr Williams had already reviewed this application and recommended refusal on the basis of the proposed access to the development. The application planned access from the south side which was a narrow track initially and then crossing the garden of an existing cottage, as well as crossing an existing public footpath. Recommendation for refusal was agreed.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr I Cavill and CC B Greenland.

3. Matters Arising from the Open Session

There was a long discussion regarding the concerns raised over the minutes and response to MCC. Following discussion, it was agreed that the minutes as drafted were a fair reflection of what was said at the December meeting. It was acknowledged however that the subsequent email correspondence on approving the DCC response might have led to some confusion and it was therefore agreed to resubmit the formal DCC response excluding the sentence “However, there was also general agreement that, if these concerns could be satisfactorily allayed, it would change its recommendation to approval”. **Action: NJ.**

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by the Chair. In signing these off the Chair reminded all councillors to ensure that any changes they wished to make to the draft minutes should be copied to all councillors.

5. Matters Arising

a. Minute 5a – quotes for appropriate sheds for the allotments had been obtained and an appropriate shed was agreed. However, no further action would be taken until the outcome of the proposed development had been decided, at which time the Council would seek a discussion with the developer.

b. Minute 5b – the additional dog bin had now been installed behind the Hall in Devauden.

c. Minute 7g– following the discussion in December regarding the complaint from a local resident regarding excessive speeding of vehicles going through Devauden, it was agreed that a draft plan on speed restrictions and traffic control through Devauden would be prepared for discussion at the next meeting. **Action: KM.** NK also raised concerns about the traffic speeding and road conditions on the B4295, part of which ran through the area of St Arvans CC. Following a discussion NK had prior to the meeting with a councillor from St Arvans CC, Devauden CC agreed that the two councillors from Itton would meet with councillors from St Arvans to jointly produce a draft plan on speed restrictions and improvements to road conditions on the B4293 from Devauden to Chepstow. This plan would be presented to each Community Council and a joint decision would be made for the next stages. **Action: MP/IC.**

d. Minute 11a – the Enforcement Officer had forwarded a copy of a letter received from the company carrying out the quarry work in Kilgwrrwg. The Council agreed to reply to the company acknowledging their letter and requesting their full compliance with the planning conditions. **Action: NJ.**

e. Minute 11b – MCC had advised that it had served notice regarding the trees on Star Pitch and the work had now been completed. MCC was awaiting details of the landowner of the hedge and would serve notice on receipt.

f. Minute 11d – MCC had finally repainted the white lines at the top of Well Lane.

g. Minute 12 – dates for 2019 meetings in March and May should read 25 Mar and 20 May.

6. Presentation by J Langdon from MCC

Mrs Langdon had requested the opportunity to come to the Council meeting to discuss a proposal regarding the possible further collaboration between councils. As she arrived after the Open Session the presentation was discussed in the closed session. The proposal centred around the possibility of the town and community councils in the Chepstow area collaborating on some form of shared community planning process, in recognition of some of the issues that were common across the cluster area. Such collaboration would not be restricted to planning but could involve other common issues. She wished to obtain DCC

support for this proposal. In discussion it was agreed that there could be merit in it and councillors would attend the Hub meeting at which there would be further exploratory discussions.

7. **Finance**

a. Balances for 31st December 2018 were: £5345.40 and £5287.26.

b. The Risk assessment had been changed in accordance with the agreement at the last meeting, but it was noted that the gazebos were not included. **Action: NJ.** the Clerk was asked to produce a proforma which would be used to record the biannual inspections of the benches, notice boards, allotment gates and Gazebos. **Action: NJ.**

c. Cheques were signed as follows: N James pay for January for £222.06 – cheque number 101620; Merlin Waste for December for £30 – cheque number 101622.

d. At the recent Area Committee of OVW a guidance note from HMRC on expenses for clerks was discussed. At Devauden the Clerk was paid a set amount per month based on historical claims; this was instead of a detailed claim for mileage, heating/lighting and administrative items. However, the guidance suggested this approach, whilst much easier to administer, was not appropriate. The Council acknowledged that the Clerk was entitled to an allowance towards the cost of heating, lighting etc, a mileage payment as well as the cost of postage, paper and other administrative costs. The Council had taken advice from their accountants and it was agreed, after some discussion, that in future the Clerk would be paid a mileage allowance of 45p per mile based on the necessary claims, and he would be paid a monthly figure of £5 for normal “home” expenses. In addition, he would be reimbursed for other expenses on the production of the appropriate receipts. Whilst it was acknowledged that he used his own computer although was entitled to a laptop computer it was recognised that this arrangement worked satisfactorily. However, certain changes were agreed would be made to the home computer to satisfy councillors on security and access issues. **Action: NJ/AW.**

8. **Correspondence**

a. South East Wales Regional Engagement Team Newsletter for Winter 2018.

b. Latest guidance from WG on sustainable drainage.

c. Information from MCC about forthcoming changes to recycling and waste services.

- d. Information from MCC advising of forthcoming charity events being held by the Chairman of MCC.
- e. Information about Living Memory Workshops at the National Library of Wales.
- f. Old peoples' commissioner newsletter.
- g. Invitation to the Alzheimers Society Cymru 2019 conference.
- h. Information about Western Power's Annual Stakeholder workshops.
- i. Clerks and Councils Direct – January 2019.
- j. HMRC guidance on Clerks pay and expenses.
- k. Consultation on the Review of ALN and Inclusion Services by MCC.
- l. Information guide to helping water customers struggling to pay.
- m. Financial management and guidance reports for 2017/18 from the Welsh Audit office. The Clerk would consider and confirm that we were following all the appropriate regulations. **Action: NJ.**
- n. An email had been received from a local resident complaining about Cllr J Williams. The Council discussed these complaints and noted that no further action was required.

9. **Planning**

- a. DM/2018/02002 – see para 1 above.
- b. DM/2019/00008 – demolition of existing dwelling house and the construction of a replacement with detached garage and associated car parking area at Middle Lodge, Itton – recommended for approval.
- c. New and completed enforcement cases for November.

10. **County Councillor's Report**

In CC Greenland's absence there was no report.

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

- a. OVW Bulletin for January.
- b. Information about OVW's Innovative Practice and National Awards Conference for 2019.
- c. Local training sessions for February.

12. **Ward Reports**

- a. AC advised that the finger post on the junction of the B4293/R82 had been rectified but in the strong winds the directional sign had moved around; it needed to be firmly fixed in place. **Action: NJ.**
- b. JW had noted that the gate to the allotments was not hanging properly; KM agreed to inspect. **Action: KM.**
- c. MP advised that the drain outside The Woodlands, Itton Common on the 57.4 was still blocked; this was first reported 18 months ago. **Action: NJ.**

13. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held in Devauden Village Hall on Monday 25th February 2019 at 7pm.

POLICE REPORT 15/12/18-25/1/19

22/12/18 – Report of hunt protestors in the Llansoy area. Officers attended and it ended with no incident.

17/1/19 – Report of 2 metal gates being taken from a field entrance on Coed Illfos road, Newchurch.

13/1/19 – Report of a 1 vehicle non injury rtc at Howick. A van had hit ice, then the hedge and blocked the road. This was at 11am.

13/1/19 – Report of a 1 vehicle rtc at Howick. The vehicle had lost control and ended up on its side. The driver and young passengers were taken to hospital to be checked out. This was around 2pm.

22/1/19 – Report of a 1 vehicle rtc at Howick. The elderly male driver became unwell at the wheel and lost control of the vehicle. Both the male and his passenger were taken to hospital to be checked out.

In attendance: Mr and Mrs Modget, Mr and Mrs Shalliday, Mr H Williams, Ms S Parry, Ms C Phillips, Ms K Evans