

DRAFT

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday 25th February 2019 at Devauden Village Hall

Councillors present

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

In attendance:

CC B Greenland
N. James (Clerk)

Others in attendance for the Open Session: H Williams, J Thomas, G Hancock, Y Tucker.

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 revised planning application – DM/2018/01741. In particular, he expressed concern that, although there was apparent disagreement between MCC and the Road Audit on what constituted a safe width for pedestrians, there was insufficient width in the proposal for a parent with a buggy or a toddler; the revised application did not address the ecological concerns expressed at the earlier Council meeting; there appeared no solution to the storm water issues raised and finally, the proposal for a 6 foot boarded fence around the whole site would have serious adverse impact on the rural scene. JW declared her interest in this subject and, after giving her views during the Open Session, left the meeting whilst it was discussed in closed session. She expressed concern over the traffic calming measures proposed, the surface water issue not being addressed and that none of DCC's other concerns that had been forwarded to MCC, had been addressed.

In Cllr McElroy's absence the issue of speeding in Devauden was postponed until the next meeting.

A local resident expressed their concern over the Council's decision on a recent planning application, DM/2018/02004, and explained some of the complexities surrounding access to the property described in the application. The Council however maintained its position that the access route as shown was not appropriate to the proposed development. She also wished to point out the terrible state of another neighbour's yard with all sorts of scrap vehicles; AW agreed to investigate this. **Action: AW.**

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr McElroy.

3. Matters Arising from the Open Session

JW left the meeting at this point having declared her interest in the proposed development at Well Lane, and the Clerk would ensure that requisite form was signed. In discussing the Well Lane development proposal the Council was very concerned that none of its original objections had been addressed in the revised application. Moreover, they agreed that the proposed footpath was too narrow for two people to pass or a mother with a buggy/toddler. However, the width of the road was barely 5.3metres wide now and therefore the Council felt it would simply not be possible to provide a sufficiently wide road as well as footpath. They also noted that any weight restriction which might be imposed on the road through the new development would cause significant problems for local traffic. Finally they acknowledged that the proposed fencing would have an adverse effect on the landscape. The Clerk was asked to draft a suitable response recommending refusal of the application, circulating it in the first instance to councillors for their approval. **Action: NJ.**

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Following on from an earlier discussion about planning application, DM/2018/02004, the Council reviewed its decision on application DM/2018/02002 and now recommended for approval. AW would advise the planners of this. With that change the minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by the Chair.

5. Matters Arising

a. Minute 5b – MP/IC had yet to meet formally with councillors from St Arvans CC. **Action: MP/IC.**

b. A proforma had been drawn up for biannual inspections of many of the Council's assets. Councillors volunteered to act as the responsible person to inspect these, and it was agreed that they would be inspected in May

and november each year. Amended versions of the risk assessment and asset register were signed by the Chair.

c. Minute 7d – AW/NJ still had to meet to amend the settings on the Clerk's computer. **Action: AW/NJ.**

d. Minute 8m – the Clerk confirmed that the Council was complying with the regulations produced in the WAO report for 2017/18.

6. **Finance**

a. Balances for 31st January 2019 were: £4902.18 and £5287.26.

b. Cheques were signed as follows: Merlin Waste for January for £30 – cheque number 101623; Hood Hall for hire for 2018 for £135-cheque number 101624; Clerk's expenses for Jan/Feb for £20.80-cheque number 101625; N James pay for February for £222.06 – cheque number 101626; One Voice Wales annual sub for £145 – cheque number 101627.

c. The Council had received a quote from MCC for grasscutting for 2019/20 for £622.41 plus VAT. This was for a maximum of 14 cuts in Devauden and Itton with two cuts at Howell Green. The Clerk was asked to seek a new quote with four cuts for Howells Green. **Action: NJ.**

7. **Correspondence**

a. Wales Audit Office fee scheme for 2019/20.

b. Public Path Order HA80 at Percus Barns.

c. Information of vacancy at the WG for a Team Support Officer.

d. Request for financial support for the Llangollen 2019 music festival.

e. Information about Monmouthshire's GovTech Zipabout project.

f. Information about an Armed Forces Day grant.

g. MCC review of community arrangements – the LDBC report to WG.

h. Details of a flag raising event to mark Commonwealth Day on 11 March.

i. Derails of the WG climate change, environment and rural affairs committee's inquiry into allotments.

j. Details of the closure of the A466.

k. Invitations from the Chair MCC to a charity music showcase and a charity fashion show.

- l. Information about a briefing into assessing housing need.
- m. Details of a WG bill to introduce votes at 16.
- n. Presentation from the WAO on larger councils.
- o. Details of the next Monmouthshire Talk Health public meeting.
- p. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report.
- q. An offer to provide solar panels on community buildings from Egni Coop.
- r. Wales Ambulance Appeal trustees report and financial statements for 2017.
- s. Details of WG funding support for setting up schemes involving community engagement, increasing citizen participation and engagement in local democracy, and working together on a shared service.
- t. Request for financial support for the 2019 Urdd National Eisteddfod to be held in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.
- u. Clerks and Councils Direct for Mar 2019.

8. **Planning**

- a. DM/2018/00732 – improvement and reconfiguration of Foxes Barn, Itton – Cllr IC had recommended this for approval between meetings, given the 21 day timescale.
- b. DM/2019/00191 – a new bespoke vehicle personalisation facility on the Percus Barns site at Devauden – recommended for approval.
- c. DM/2019/00043 – modification of condition 6 of planning consent for DC/2015/00750 at Yew Tree Cottage, Devauden – there was concern that there were important trees on this site which would need to be removed for this condition to be approved which the Council felt inappropriate – recommended for refusal.
- d. DM/2018/01741 – amended plans for the proposed development at Well Lane, Devauden – see above at para 3.
- e. New and completed enforcement cases for January.

9. **County Councillor's Report**

CC Greenland advised that the setting of this year's budget would again be very difficult, given that Monmouthshire was at the bottom of the pile in allocations from the WG with a reduction in allocation this year even though they faced significant cost increases. In particular there would be a very large increase in MCC's contributions to teachers pensions and so far the WG had not agreed to fund that. Also, with an above average ageing population the call on social services would continue to increase. Overall therefore he felt that there would be an upward impact on the level of council tax that would need to be levied. Secondly, he advised that a new LDP was being drawn up and normally only proposed developments within the LDP would be allowed to go forward for approval. However, given the significant social housing shortage in Monmouthshire, MCC would now consider applications from landowners with land outside the current LDP area before the new process was completed. Finally, CC Greenwood wanted to record the opening of the new swimming pool and ancillary leisure facilities in Monmouth which had been widely welcomed.

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

- a. OVW Bulletin for February.

11. **Ward Reports**

- a. JW acknowledged that white lines had been repainted along the B4293 but questioned why these had not been extended beyond the junction of Well Lane, and also why they had not been done at the junction itself. **Action: NJ.** She had been approached by someone carrying out a survey into transport requirements and shortfalls in the area and the impact on local residents. She agreed to forward the email link to all councillors for them to feed information into the survey. Finally, she wished to record that the Devauden teas were still going strong with all attendees receiving a small Christmas gift and a £100 donation being made to Parkinsons charity.

- b. MP advised that there had still been no action from MCC regarding the drain outside The Woodlands, Itton Common on the 57.4 and it was still blocked. **Action: NJ.**

- c. JR advised that the dog bins did not appear to have been emptied for some time. **Action: NJ.**

- d. IC was concerned with the lack of a police presence in Chepstow centre and especially that no action seemed to be taken with unauthorised parking. It was agreed that the Clerk would forward the Council's

concerns to the Police Commissioner, copying in the Town Clerk of Chepstow. **Action: NJ.**

e. AW had attended a local community group at which two concerns were raised: firstly, the speed and scale of traffic on Star Hill and secondly the damage caused by deers and the now attendant trophy hunters. Given the discussion on speeding at the next meeting AW would forward proposals for the Star Hill area for consideration. **Action: AW.**

12. **Date of Next Meeting**

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

POLICE REPORT 25/1/19-24/2/19

4/2/19 – Report of a works van broken into in the early evening whilst parked outside a property in Wesley Way. The owner saw someone run from his van and when he looked he found the lock had been damaged and entry gained. A BAUER circular plunge saw had been taken from inside.

7/2/19 – Report of a 1 vehicle RTC in the area of Kilgwrrwg. The vehicle had ended up on its side blocking a lane. The fire brigade attended and had to free the male driver from the vehicle. Only minor injuries were sustained.

13/2/19 – Report of off road bikes in the Veddsw area.