

DRAFT

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday 25th March 2019 at Devauden Village Hall

Councillors present

J Rowlands(A/Chairman)
J Williams
M Powell
A Williams
I Cavill

In attendance:

N. James (Clerk)

And C Jackson, D Maddocks and J Lucas.

1. Open Session

The police report for this period is at the back of these minutes.

In Cllr McElroy's absence the issue of speeding in Devauden was postponed until the next meeting. However, Mr Maddocks introduced case studies completed in other towns/villages by consultants, Hamilton Baillie. These showed interesting and innovative options and it was agreed that, when this subject was debated fully at the next Council meeting, consideration should be given to inviting the opinion of these consultants.

Mr Jackson raised his concerns from reading the Highways' response to some of the objections made against the planning application at Well Lane. He was especially concerned that the response over the width of any footpath which was confusing and contradictory. These concerns were supported by JW who advised of the planning officers' comments on the website. She noted that, although MCC seemed to accept that the footpath would not meet the necessary standards and the water issues were not adequately resolved, the Council was still minded to approve.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Knowland, McElroy, Cooke and CC Greenland.

3. Matters Arising from the Open Session

JW declared her interest in the planning application, completed the requisite form and left the meeting for this agenda item. After some discussion in which it was noted that the Council had received no response to any of its objections nor did the MCC officers' advice on the website reassure councillors that these concerns had been addressed, it was agreed that the Clerk should formally advise MCC that a member of DCC would attend the planning committee meeting on 2 April which will discuss the Well Lane application, and would wish to speak to list the Council's formal objections. NK would be asked to attend if available; if not AW agreed to attend. **Action: NJ.**

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

JW noted that her amendments to the draft minutes had not been incorporated and repeated that paragraph 11 should read: With these amendments/additions the minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by the Chair.

5. Matters Arising

a. Minute 1 – AW had not yet investigated the complaint about scrapped vehicles at a property in Wolvesnewton. **Action: AW.**

b. Minute 5b – MP/IC were awaiting a revised date from St Arvans Council for their meeting. **Action: MP/IC.**

c. Minute 5c – a new email address for the clerk had been installed – clerk@devaudencc.org.uk and his folder with all paperwork on the Council had been installed on a password-protected personal Google Drive, and now available to councillors. It was agreed that the cost of £40 to resolve certain issues to install these would be borne by the Council. AW explained that with an annual fee of about £40 the Google Drive could be utilised further by councillors. He agreed to put together a short case for this for the next meeting. **Action :AW.**

d. Minute 6c – MCC had advised that four cuts of Howells Green would increase its quote by £118 plus VAT. The Council agreed to this new quote for grasscutting for the year.

e. Minute 11d – the Police Commissioner's office had responded by advising that, due to the lack of police resources, MCC would from April employ a team to monitor parking within Gwent.

6. Finance

- a. Balances for 28th February 2019 were: £4650.12 and £5287.26.
- b. Cheques were signed as follows: Merlin Waste for February for £30 – cheque number 101628; Clerk’s expenses for Mar for £24.35-cheque number 101629; N James pay for March for £222.26 – cheque number 101630; Beverley and Williams for payroll services for £39.36 – cheque number 101631; HMRC for Jan- Mar for £166.60 – cheque number 101632; MCC for grasscutting for 19/20 for £888.00 -cheque number 101633; N James for computer services for £40 – cheque number 101634.
- c. The Clerk reminded the Council that NALC had published the new payscales for clerks in December. These would take effect from next month.
- d. The IRPW had issued confirmation that, from 1 April 2019, councillors would be entitled to an annual allowance of £150 and formal written notification was required if they wished to opt out of this payment. The Clerk had issued a draft note for councillors to sign if they wished to do so.

7. Correspondence

- a. Information about a Planning Aid Wales training session organised by Chepstow Town Council.
- b. Invitation to the Chair MCC’s charity afternoon tea.
- c. Information from MCC updating on the new waste collections.
- d. Information leaflet regarding the future of public sector outsourcing and insourcing.
- e. Leaflet proposing no regarding underground nuclear waste in Wales.
- f. An email from a local resident requesting an “unsuitable for large vehicles” sign to be erected at Llanpill Lane, Llanfihangel Tor-y-Mynydd. Mrs Lucas attended the meeting to explain the difficulties that were experienced at this location. She asked also that, in addition to this sign, a “No through road” sign is also erected. The Council agreed to this and the Clerk was asked to pursue with MCC. **Action : NJ.**
- g. Details of a MCC vacancy for a welsh language youth worker.

h. Letter from the Wye Valley Forest Protection Group/Deerlands Wildlife Reserve expressing its concern that the issue of perceived damage from deers and associated trophy hunters had been raised at the February Council meeting.

i. March 2019 Patients Voice News Bulletin from the Aneurin Bevan Health Council.

j. Letter about spring cleaning week in Chepstow seeking volunteers to help.

k. Clerks and Councils Direct for Mar 2019.

8. Planning

a. DM/2019/00213 – erect a new agricultural building to store hay and straw – for information only.

b. DM/2019/00325 – construction of a timber framed studio and stable building at Pentwyn Barn, Newchurch - recommended for approval.

c. DM/2019/00343 –various changes to the balcony and windows at Trelawen, Devauden – recommended for approval.

d. New and completed enforcement cases for February.

9. County Councillor's Report

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

10. One Voice Wales (OVW)

a. OVW Bulletin for March.

b. Information about OVW Innovative Practice Annual Awards Ceremony on 28 March.

c. Details of local training sessions in the next quarter.

11. Ward Reports

a. JW advised that she had recently attended the termly meeting of the Governors of Shirenewton School. The School had received a good inspection report and were working hard to maintain the level of excellence there.

b. IC and AW both complained about the effect of the new waste collection arrangements. On Itton Court Road a basket of nappies had been left at the roadside for some time, whilst in Wolvesnewton red and purple bags had not been collected on the due dates. Whilst individuals had approached MCC it was agreed that the Clerk would make a formal approach on behalf of DCC. **Action: NJ.**

c. MP was concerned that along the B4293 at a sharp bend about 100 yards east from Howick Farm the surface of the road had broken away causing vehicles to pull to the side of the road. **Action: NJ.**

d. JR wondered whether it might be possible to change the monthly Monday that the Council met as it regularly coincided with another committee meeting he had to attend. After some discussion, and noting that dates had been set for the year ahead, the Clerk was asked to look at alternatives from July onwards. **Action: NJ.**

e. In her absence AC had forwarded a request for the Council's endorsement of the appointment as trustee to the Kilgwrrwg Community Charity of Mr Paul Collis Smith; this was agreed by the Council.

f. NK had forwarded a request from the resident at Yew Tree Cottage, The Glyn to have cleared the blocked outside his house. **Action: NJ.**

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in Devauden Village Hall on Monday 29th April 2019 at 7pm.

POLICE REPORT 24/2/19-24/3/19

7/3/19 – Report of a shed broken into sometime overnight at a property on Itton Common road. The lock was cut off the shed and a stihl hedge trimmer taken from inside.

There have been several farm outbuildings/sheds broken into recently in the Chepstow rural area so please be on your guard.