

DRAFT

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday 23rd September 2019 at Devauden Village Hall

Councillors present

N Knowland (Chairman)
A Cooke
I Cavill
J Williams
A Williams
J Rowlands
K McElroy

In attendance:

N. James (Clerk)
R.Lye, N Potter and J Wasdell

1. Open Session

There was no police report for this period. Given the Council's planned discussion on speeding issues some local residents wished to raise their very significant concerns about the speed of cars travelling in and out of Devauden on the Monmouth road. Several local children caught the designated school bus in the area by Tredean Lodge and cars regularly passed that area at well over 30 mph. Whilst MCC had sent an officer to check the area he had only reported that visibility there was good and had felt it would be counterproductive to extend the 30mph limit. Yet, there had been accidents in that area and parents walked with their children daily along that stretch of road or had to cross it in order to catch the schoolbus. The residents wished to see the limit reduced and other traffic calming measures introduced. Whilst the Council noted these points and would incorporate them into its consultation paper it also suggested that the residents continued to obtain publicity for their campaign against the speed limits

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from CC Greenland and Cllr Powell.

3. Matters Arising from the Open Session

There were no matters arising from the Open Session, not covered later in the Agenda.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes were approved, and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising

a. Minute 5a – the local residents had decided not to take forward their concerns over the planning application DM/2018/01573 at this stage but would reconsider their position after three months.

b. Minute 5e – AW had received responses to his comprehensive letter to the Chair of the Wye Valley Forest Protection Group and the local community regarding the deer, and next steps were now being considered.

c. Minute 7d – the Council's insurance broker had replied that there was no cover for the Clerk's absence nor was an extension to cover available under the policy.

d. Minute 11a – the grass at Howells Green had now been cut for the second time this year but it was agreed that the Council should consider alternatives to MCC for cutting next year.

f. Minute 11c – the Clerk had been in contact with PC Thorpe and she would be available to attend prior to DCC's next meetings on 21 October and 18 November. Unfortunately, the Halls were unavailable on those dates. The Clerk was asked to check again with Itton Hall to see when it might be available before one of the Council's meetings. **Action: NJ.**

6. Speeding

a. IC, KM and AW had considered the speeding issues in the areas of Itton, Devauden and Star Pitch and KM had drafted one paper to cover all three areas. The paper brought forward a number of proposals including imposition of lower speed limits, extension of speed limits, pinch points, double white lines to prevent overtaking, new signage, flashing signs. All these points were discussed in a long discussion on the issue. It was felt that an area-wide speed limit ranging from 40mph, dropping to 30 and then to 20 mph in the village areas would be appropriate, and even to 10mph at village pinch points. In addition the Council accepted the points made in the Open Session and agreed to include these in the final draft paper, together with the suggestion to install a pedestrian crossing near Tredean Lodge. It was also noted that MCC had still not cut back the

hedgerows/overhanging trees on Star Pitch as requested; this was a significant issue when wider vehicles drove along that section. The Clerk was asked to chase this action. **Action: NJ.**

b. KM was asked to produce a redraft of his paper incorporating all the agreed points for the next meeting in October. A final draft would be agreed at that meeting and attached to the minutes seeking comments from all local residents. If necessary a special meeting would be called if there was appropriate demand for discussion. In addition, copies would be made available for the Devauden Teas meeting in November, and a suitable flyer would be produced to hand out at the October Teas meeting to that effect. **Action: KM/NJ.**

c. Finally, NK advised that he had been asked by St Arvans CC if DCC wished to produce a joint approach to speeding for MCC. Whilst it was acknowledged that this might give more leverage with MCC it was also noted that there might be more chance of local success if DCC produced its own proposals.

7. Finance

a. Balances for 31st August June 2019 were: £2630.69 and £6792.66.

b. Cheques were signed as follows: Merlin Waste for July and August for £52.50 – cheque numbers 101658/9; hire of Itton village hall for 2017/8/9 for £40, £48 and £40 respectively – cheque number 101660- Clerk's pay for August for £227.92 - cheque number 101661; Clerk's expenses for August/September for £15.40-cheque number 101662; Clerk's pay for September for £227.92 – cheque number 101663; HMRC for Jul-Sep for £171 – cheque number 101664; Beverley and Williams for payroll services for £39.36 – cheque number 101665. A new cheque for £100 – cheque number 101666 - was also signed for Itton Parish Church as a contribution to grasscutting as the cheque signed at the last meeting for St Deiniol's Church had not been accepted by the bank.

8. Correspondence

a. Welsh Hearts monthly newsletters for July and August.

b. Information about the new Facebook page for the Older People's Commissioner for Wales.

- c. Information about a 100 mile walk in Monmouthshire.
- d. Details about an LGBTQ Engagement event in September.
- e. Age Friendly Wales Newsletter for Summer 2019.
- f. Details about a planning survey by Cardiff University.
- g. Aneurin Bevan Health News Bulletin.
- h. Stakeholder newsletter from Monmouthshire County Citizens Advice.
- j. National Development Framework Newsletter for August 2019.
- k. News of two Talk Health Monmouthshire public meeting in August and September.
- l. Clerks and Councils Direct for September.
- m. Request for financial support from Homemakers Community Recycling in Abergavenny towards a local project.
- n. Invitation for the annual Wye Valley AONB Partnership Tour in September.
- o. Information about the WAO'S Good Practice Exchange Programme 2019/20.
- p. Details about MCC's consultation upon Amendment 1 of its Consolidation Order 2019.
- q. Details of a charity event being hosted by the Chair of MCC.
- r. Update on the works status on the A466.
- s. Details of the legal position regarding financial assistance to churches. This advice, which stated that councils were not able to make grants for any properties owned by a church, was noted.
- t. Older People's Commissioner for Wales Impact and Reach Report 2018/19.
- u. Car clubs survey.
- v. Email from a local resident complaining about speeding in Devauden. The points raised were discussed in paragraph 6 above.
- x. Information regarding MCC's GovTech Phase 2 selection process.

- y. MCC Briefing document on changes to bus passes.
- z. Information regarding the closure of Mounton House Special School.
- aa. Note about Making an equal Wales a reality.
- bb. News from Carnegie UK Trust.
- cc. Note from Aneurin Bevan UHB about Building a Healthier Gwent.
- dd. Request from a local resident and councillor for support for a charitable cycling event in September.
- ee. MCC's Christmas Lights code of practice.
- ff. Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council's annual report 2018/19.
- gg. Advance notice of the WG's plan to seek biodiversity plans from all councils. The Clerk had asked for further guidance from OVW on this issue. **Action: NJ.**
- hh. Invitation to a Community Network event held by AB University Health Board on 21 November.

8. **Planning**

- a. DM/2019/01202 – demolition of a metal existing agricultural shed and erection of a timber shed on land north of Castle Farm, The Glyn, Devauden – there had been no objections to this during the 21 day period and it was therefore recommended for approval prior to the meeting.
- b. DM/2019/00008 – demolition of existing house and construction of a replacement at Middle Lodge, Itton – there had been no objections during the 21 day period and it was therefore recommended for approval prior to the meeting.
- b. New and completed enforcement cases for July and August.

9. **County Councillor's Report**

In CC Greenland's absence there was no report.

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

- a. OVW Bulletins for Aug and Sep 2019.

- b. South Wales training sessions for September/October.

11. Ward Reports

- a. JR noted that a bus shelter on the B4293 was covered in ivy. NK agreed to inspect. **Action: NK.**
- b. AW advised that there was a lot of water on the R80 just west of the lane to Model Farm. He believed that there might be a leak in an underground culvert there. **Action: NJ.**
- c. JW advised that her tenure as a governor for the Minor Authorities at Shirenewton School had now ended. She asked if the Clerk could ascertain which Minor Authority would now take up this position. **Action: NJ.**
- d. AC wished for clarification of the Council's position regarding the purchase of defibrillator cabinets for Kilgwrrwg and Newchurch. While accepting that approval had been given by the Council she noted that there had been no figure included in the last minutes. It was agreed that a figure of £400 per cabinet had been discussed and accepted by the Council. In discussion it was agreed that NK would seek to obtain an invoice addressed to DCC when ready to order. There was further discussion about the Council's policy towards defibrillators in the villages and it was agreed to discuss this subject as a separate agenda item at the next meeting. **Action: NJ.** AC also mentioned that action still needed to be taken to repair roadside kerb damage along the whole road between Newchurch and Gaerllwyd crossroads. **Action: NJ.**

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in Devauden Village Hall on Monday 21st October.