

DRAFT

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday 21st October 2019 at Devauden Village Hall

Councillors present

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

In attendance:

CC R Greenland
N. James (Clerk)
CSO A Jones

1. Open Session

The police report for this period is at the back of these minutes. CSO Jones advised that, although relatively quiet, there had been a few other incidents on the borders with the CC area – a vehicle in a ditch and a motorcyclist coming off her bike, both seemingly because of slippery roads, and a burglary in Mynyddbach.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from A Williams.

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 5f – Itton Village Hall was booked for 16th December at 6.30pm for a presentation from PC Thorpe of the Rural Crimes Division.

This would precede the Council meeting. The Clerk would forward notices for the website and the notice boards and would cancel the booking of Hood Hall for that night. **Action: NJ.**

b. Minute 7gg – OVW had advised that the WG would like councils to consider how they managed the lands within their areas and whether they could be managed differently to support biodiversity. The WG planned to issue guidance notes.

c. Minute 11a – NK had inspected the bus shelter on the B4293 and removed the ivy.

d. Minute 11c – the Clerk had been in contact with Shirenewton School who advised that there was no rota anymore for a governor from the minor authorities. The School confirmed however that there was no further obligation on DCC to provide a governor since JW had finished in the summer. The Head however would be writing to all minor authorities to seek a volunteer.

6. **Speeding**

a. KM had circulated a redraft of his paper Traffic Calming for the Devauden area which was approved. NK had given a short talk on what the CC was doing on this issue at the Devauden Teas session in October. The paper would now be put on the website and views sought. In addition, NK and JW would attend the November Devauden Teas session and seek views. All feedback would then be discussed at the next meeting and a final paper drawn up to be sent to MCC.

b. Speeding had also been an agenda item at the recent Wye Valley AONB Committee meeting which was attended by NK and JW. Most of the meeting had been to discuss how best to enhance the area for visitors although it was recognized that reducing speed limits was one of the issues to be addressed in achieving this along with highways, signage, tourism and others. A consultant was to be employed to take this forward and a councillor from DCC would be invited to join a working group set up to produce appropriate TORs.

c. Included in the meeting was a discussion on MCC's Road Safety Strategy. Although this had been produced a while ago a number of CCs, including Devauden, had not received a copy. MCC would forward one and the Clerk was asked to chase this if not received shortly. **Action: NJ.** BG advised that the Strategy Paper was about to be submitted to Cabinet

for final ratification, He explained that part of the overall Council strategy was to try to make local areas more attractive environments and reducing speed in whatever form would help in this. He advised that the WG was attracted to local schemes where a few councils might join together with similar plans, and MCC was making funds available for such plans to be drawn up.

7. **Defibrillator Policy**

Following a short discussion at the last meeting this subject was put on the agenda for the Council to consider some form of ongoing maintenance for defibrillators in the area as there were to be four very shortly. Whilst accepting that the Council should have no responsibility for the defibrillators it was agreed that it would provide funds for replacement batteries and pads as required. KM would also investigate whether the current monitoring charge levied on the Devauden defibrillator was necessary. **Action: KM.**

8. **Finance**

- a. Balances for 30th September 2019 were: £5250.69 and £6796.05.
- b. The bank reconciliation and financial report for the end of September had been circulated, and were approved.
- c. The Annual Return was presented to the Council who noted the two observations on the Audit. The Return was approved and accepted by the Council and the Clerk was asked to ensure a copy was placed on the website. **Action: NJ.**
- d. JR sought approval for a grant again this year towards the insurance for the Devauden fireworks. It was agreed to grant £450, the same sum as last year.
- d. Cheques were signed as follows: Merlin Waste for September for £52.50 – cheque number 101667; Clerk's pay for October for £227.92 - cheque number 101668; Clerk's expenses for October for £10.40-cheque number 101669; Hood Hall for fireworks insurance for £450 – cheque number 101670.

8. **Correspondence**

- a. Welsh Hearts monthly newsletter for September.
- b. Information about the MCC draft Countryside Access Improvement Plan.

- c. Information about a MCC draft report on reducing carbon emissions.
- d. Details about the charity Fields in Trust.
- e. Paper about Introduction to Planning from MCC.
- f. Information from MCC with its plans for attacking speeding in various areas in the county.
- g. An update on the closure of Mounton House Special School.
- h. Survey from MCC regarding events in the county.
- i. Request for feedback from AB Community Health Council on its Annual Plan for 20/21.
- j. State of the Nation report on the International Day of Older Persons.
- k. A draft of the Wye Valley AONB Highway Design Guide.
- l. Details of conference in Cardiff called Beyond zero waste.
- m. A SSAFA pamphlet on the 75th anniversary of VE day. JW would ask those attending the Devauden Teas for suggestions in how best to celebrate the occasion next May. **Action: JW.**
- n. Information about a website understanding welsh places.
- o. Draft report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales for 2020.
- p. Details of various planning consultations from the Welsh Office.
- q. Information about forthcoming WG workshops on diversity.
- r. Details of additional information discussed at the OVW area committee.
- s. Welsh Hearts Save a Heart Appeal details.
- t. Information about a Newport mediation survey.

8. **Planning**

- a. DM/2019/01587 – removal of conditions 5,6,7 and 10 and variation of condition 9 related to application DC/2008/00545 at Keepers House, Devauden – recommended for approval.

- b. New and completed enforcement cases for September.

9. County Councillor's Report

Cc Greenland advised that with just about half the budget year gone there was considerable pressure on expenditure especially on the children's care budget in which the commitments had increased significantly. Whilst rural councils across Wales would continue to push for a greater share of the overall national budget, financial pressures were set to continue. In addition, he advised that the LDP's latest revision to include decisions on the site searches should be finalized before very long. Whilst Monmouthshire was in real need of more affordable houses there were additional constraints now made which would make it even more difficult to meet its targets.

10. One Voice Wales (OVW)

- a. OVW Bulletins for Aug and Sep 2019.
- b. Training sessions in South Wales for November.

11. Ward Reports

- a. MP advised that the drains outside No 2 Itton Common and Pond Cottage were both blocked. **Action: NJ.** JW also noted that the water coming down from the woods into Well Lane was again high.
- b. AC was concerned with what might be happening at Wern-y-Cwm quarry. Work appeared to be continual there and she questioned whether the owners were complying with the conditions of the planning permission. The Clerk would ask the Enforcement Officer to investigate. **Action: NJ.**
- c. IC advised that water was again spilling on to Itton Court Road from the pond at Parc-y-Ffynon. MCC had investigated before but when there had been little rain and he wished them to review in the wet weather. **Action: NJ.**
- d. At the recent Devauden Teas NK had been advised that those with mobility scooters in Devauden had to use the roads because of a lack of drop-down pavements. After some discussion JW would investigate with the users exactly where the problems were, and report back so that specific areas could be identified for MCC. **Action: JW.** In addition he had checked with the defibrillator cabinet

suppliers to see whether they would provide invoices direct to DCC. Whilst this could be done they also required payment in advance. In discussion it was agreed that NK on behalf of the two villages would pay for the cabinets and DCC would reimburse him.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in Devauden Village Hall on Monday 18th November.

POLICE REPORT 29/9/19-21/10/19

3/10/19 – Report of a young person hit by a vehicle whilst out walking a dog on the lane between Itton Green and The Huntsman. The vehicle connected with the young person but thankfully no medical attention was needed. No other details of the vehicle involved is known.