

DRAFT

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday 18th November 2019 at Devauden Village Hall

Councillors present

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

In attendance:

CC R Greenland
N. James (Clerk)
D Maddocks

1. Open Session

The police report for this period is at the back of these minutes. In discussing these points it was noted that there had also been a spate of break-ins at farms and outbuildings in areas adjacent to DCC wards.

Mr Maddocks wanted to express gratitude for the support of the Council for Bonfire Night which had been a great success and, in many ways, was regarded as the best ever. He appreciated however that there had been some traffic/parking issues which had been noted for future events. He also wished to highlight the current problems with gulleys overflowing due to the large rainfall and filling up with leaves.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs A Cooke and A Williams.

3. Matters Arising from the Open Session

The Council noted the situation regarding the gulleys and appreciated that this would be a significant problem for Highways at the moment throughout the County. It was agreed that the Clerk should forward the Council's concern to MCC and to include the area roads/gulleys for sweeping and clearance on their list. **Action: NJ.**

As far as the Bonfire Night was concerned there had been some complaints regarding both traffic and parking. It was recognized that officials could not be stationed on the highway to direct traffic and the Committee had to rely on signage, cones etc, and that more bollards would have been useful this year. KM advised that the organizing committee would be looking into how best to resolve this year's issues for next year's event.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes were approved, and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising

- a. Minute 7 – KM had yet to speak with the company providing the monitoring service.
- b. Minute 8m – JW would discuss the 75th anniversary of VE day with those attending Devauden Teas at the forthcoming monthly meeting. BG reminded that the bank holiday in early May would now be on the Friday immediately before VE Day and not on the usual Monday.
- c. Minute 11b – the Enforcement Officer had agreed to liaise with AC to investigate further.
- d. Minute 11c- the Highways Officer responsible for the area in Itton Court Road had visited the site with IC, acknowledged that the run-off was unacceptable and would talk to the individuals concerned.
- e. Minute 11d – NK had paid for the 2 defibrillator cabinets for Newchurch and Kilgwrrwg and produced the invoice; it was agreed to refund him.
- f. Minute 11d - JW had investigated the issues raised for mobility scooters and had noted that, whilst access to the village shop was possible, there was an issue for individuals coming along the B4293 to get to the village hall as there were only so many drop down pavements, and in some places no pavements at all. BG noted that this was an issue in other villages in the county but there might be grants available for such projects. After some discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should write to MCC seeking its advice on how best to tackle this problem. **Action: NJ.**

6. Speeding

- a. KM had circulated a final redraft of his paper Traffic Calming for the Devauden area and it had been put on the Devauden website asking for

comments. There had been significant feedback which, in the main, related to Devauden village. All the comments had been logged and it was agreed that: firstly, NK would continue to attend Devauden Teas this week to elicit any further feedback; secondly, he and the three Devauden Ward councillors would meet to consider all the responses and an amended draft; and thirdly, a final draft would be approved at the December Council meeting and forwarded to MCC.

7. Finance

a. Balances for 31st October 2019 were: £4206.01 and £6796.05.

b. A draft budget for 2020/1 had been circulated. The draft retained the precept at its current level and, despite the level of reserves that was now held, councillors were concerned that increasing financial pressures on the County budget would inevitably lead to reduced services. Given this, greater responsibility could devolve to community councils to ensure certain services were upheld/maintained. Moreover, improvements or even replacements of the two bus shelters would need to be determined in the next year or so with some substantial cost. As a consequence it was agreed to accept the draft budget retaining the precept at its current level.

Action: NJ.

c. A draft risk assessment had been circulated and was approved.

d. The items on the asset register had been inspected in the last four weeks as part of biannual checks of all.

e. JR sought approval for a grant again this year towards the Seniors lunch in Devauden. It was agreed to grant £150, the same sum as last year.

f. Cheques were signed as follows: Merlin Waste for October for £52.50 – cheque number 101671; Clerk's pay for November for £227.92 - cheque number 101672; Clerk's expenses for November for £10.40- cheque number 101673; Hood Hall for Seniors Lunch for £150 – cheque number 101674; Merlin Waste for November for £52.50 – cheque number 101675; WAO for annual audit for £195.05 - cheque number 101676; N Knowland for defibrillator cabinets for £873.30 – cheque number 101677.

8. Correspondence

a. Welsh Hearts monthly newsletter for October.

b. Special bulletin from the Older People's Commissioner for Wales.

- c. Press release regarding ABCHC maternity survey.
- d. Details about the proposed amendment to the Sustainable Drainage (Enforcement) Order 2018.
- e. Supplement WAO report on an Examination of Reducing child poverty and social isolation and improving economic inclusion.
- f. Information from MCC with its restrictions being applied during the pre-election period.
- g. November edition of Local Health News from ABCHC.
- h. WG guidance on securing biodiversity enhancements in development proposals.
- i. Information about a temporary road closure on the R84 in the Itton area.
- j. Information about forthcoming community events from GAVO.
- k. WG guidance on managing green spaces for bio diversity. It was noted that the WG had instructed that all public authorities should produce a biodiversity plan. The Clerk had written to the WG to determine whether this was required for DCC, given its very few parcels of land under ownership.
- l. Details of a job vacancy with OVW for a development officer in mid Wales.
- m. Information from MCC about a forthcoming reusable recycle bag trial.
- n. Welsh Hearts plans to install 500 defibrillators across Wales.
- o. Details of an everyday ageism campaign by the Older People's Commissioner.
- q. A reminder of the AB Community network event on 21 Nov to recruit champions who are well connected with their community.
- r. Public consultation paper on the draft Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2020-25.
- s. Clerks and Councils Direct for November.
- t. Minutes of the OVW meeting with larger councils in October.
- u. Notice of road closure at Camp Road, Gaer Fawr.
- v. MCC advisory consultation note about archaeology in planning.

- w. Details of Morgannwg CHC's plans and priorities for 2020/21.
- x. Invitation to the Monmouthshire County Citizens Advice AGM in December.
- y. Invitation to comment on the Monmouthshire Countryside Access Improvement Plan.

8. Planning

- a. DM/2019/01713 – renovation of rear annexe, including change of roof covering at Cwrt-y-Gaer, Wolvesnewton – recommended for approval.
- b. DM/2019/01584 – construction of new open fronted garaging with integral secure store room at Foxes Barn, Itton – recommended for approval.
- c. New and completed enforcement cases for October.

9. County Councillor's Report

CC Greenland reminded councillors that MCC was now in purdah until after the election. This meant that there should be no controversial decisions made nor any which could favour one party or another. The position was compounded this year because it prevented MCC from making budget decisions for next year as budgets from Westminster to Cardiff and to county councils would not be known until after the election. Nevertheless, it was certain that the 20/21 budget would be even more challenging than this year. In particular, pressures from the statutory requirements involving child protection services were having a huge impact on the budget. Unlike some other county councils, MCC did not hold a very high level of reserves and therefore the pressures would come on services again next year.

10. One Voice Wales (OVW)

- a. OVW Bulletin for Oct 2019.

11. Ward Reports

- a. KM advised that the local scouts had sought the help of the Hall to look at tree and hedge planting on Cae Ni to make a community facility. He asked whether DCC would also be willing to support this initiative; this was agreed and KM would bring back further details to the Council. In

addition, he noted that there were a number of properties in Wesley Way and along the B4293 whose hedges were growing over the pavements. He would identify them and forward to the Clerk so that appropriate letters could be sent. **Action: KM.**

b. JW had noticed that the surface of the playpark in Wesley Way was covered in moss and needed clearing. **Action: NJ.** She also advised that she had now formally stood down as the minor authorities' representative on the Shirenewton School Governing Body. As DCC had provided the representative for many years it had been acknowledged that the next representative should come from one of the other authorities. Finally, she noted that Well Lane was also suffering from the recent weather and the fall of leaves at this time of year and the Clerk would include the Lane in his note to MCC. **Action: NJ.**

c. JR noted that the seats on the Village Green needed painting. This was noted and would be included for action in the Spring.

d. MP had been approached again by a local resident regarding the safety of a tree opposite No 2 Itton Common. This had been cut back but there was now concern that it had some form of fungus. The Clerk would ask MCC to look again at the tree. **Action: NJ.**

12. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held in Devauden Village Hall on Monday 16th December.

POLICE REPORT 21/10/19-11/11/19

1/11/19 – Report of a 1 vehicle non injury RTC on the Gethley to Devauden road in Kilgwrrwg.

5/11/19 – We had one complaint of traffic disruption through the village to our call centre during the Bonfire event. The caller believed that vehicles were parked causing obstructions if emergency vehicles would have had to attend or drive through the village. An email was also sent to us concerned regarding the same thing.

“From what conversations I have had it seems that the traffic attending the event was not as organised as it had been done in previous years. If anyone would like to respond to these observations please email me.”