

DRAFT

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday 27th January at Devauden Village Hall

Councillors present

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

In attendance:

N. James (Clerk)

1. Open Session

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

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from CC Greenland.

3. Matters Arising from the Open Session

There were no matters arising.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes were approved, and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising

a. Minute 5a – KM had spoken with the company providing the monitoring service. It would appear that in the future all defibrillators should be registered with the The Circuit, a database developed by the British Heart Foundation. This will be introduced in Wales by the Welsh

Ambulance Service over the next few months and will replace the previous monitoring service. Devauden's defibrillator has been registered with The Circuit.

b. Minute 5b – JW had discussed the 75th anniversary of VE day with those attending Devauden Teas. They will be organising some event based on a 1940s theme with a date yet to be agreed.

c. Minute 5d - the Clerk still awaited advice from MCC regarding access for mobility scooters.

d. Minute 5e – MCC had contacted the resident at Itton Common and would now investigate the trees in front of Nos 3 and 4 Itton Common for honey fungus.

e. Minute 8a – MCC had advised that the owners were entitled to move the position of the wall without further consent within certain restrictions. This repositioning meant the track had to be moved which required permission; MCC had requested a new application for this permission. The case had been included on the latest Enforcement List.

f. Minute 11a – The Clerk had chased MCC for a response on this issue but had still not heard anything. In discussion it was noted that there was still occasions when several bags were dumped at the crossroads on non-delivery days. AC would contact the Flytipping department at MCC to see what could be done and the Clerk would continue to chase MCC to issue a notice to all local residents. **Action: AC/NJ.**

g. Minute 11a – GAVO had advised NK that correspondence regarding the competition would be distributed in March.

h. Minute 11c –No potential community projects suitable for a grant from Viridor were submitted.

6. **Speeding**

a. The community at Llanfihangel Tor-y- Mynydd had met and discussed the DCC proposals, announced their support of them and had offered to help with any future discussions. KM would circulate the final draft to all councillors. If no comments he would forward it to MCC Highways department, seeking a meeting with them to discuss the proposals and how to take them forward. **Action: KM.**

7. Finance

- a. Balances for 31st December 2019 were: £2737.46 and £6799.44.
- b. The bank reconciliation and financial report as at the end of December had been circulated, were agreed and signed by the Chairman. It was noted that a £100 cheque granted to Wolvesnewton Church last summer was still to be cashed. AW would check with BG what had happened to it. **Action: AW.**
- c. A quote for grounds maintenance for 20/21 had been received from MCC. Given the unreliability of the cutting of some areas during 19/20 it was agreed that further quotes should be obtained. **Action: AC/NJ.**
- d. Cheques were signed as follows: Clerk's pay for January for £227.92 - cheque number 101684; Clerk's expenses for January for £10.40-cheque number 101685; Merlin Waste for November and December for 2 x £52.50– cheque number 101686.

8. Correspondence

- a. Welsh Hearts monthly newsletter.
- b. ABCHC Patients Voice Bulletin Autumn 2019.
- c. SE Wales regional Engagement Team Newsletter Winter 2019.
- d. Guidance notes for candidate sites for the revised LDP.
- e. Letter to local authorities regarding The Playing Fields Regulations.
- f. Notice of closure of the road from the Cross Hands to Old Quarry Road(R71).
- g. Letter from the Pageant Master for VE Day to all councils.
- h. Details of a training session regarding planning a community-led project.
- i. Invitation to events to educate community councils on the work of the planning inspectorate.
- j. Clerks and Councils Direct for January 2020.
- k. MCC letter confirming the closure of Mounton House Special School.

- l. Notice of planning meeting of ABCHC on 11 February.
- m. Details of the Monmouthshire Community Review.
- n. Copy of the presentation from the Green Valleys Community Interest Company at the Monmouthshire OVW Area Committee meeting.
- o. GAVO Regional Partnership Board ICF Small Grants Guidance notes.

9. **Planning**

- a. DM/2019/02044 – proposed single storey to the rear of the existing village hall at Hood Hall, Devauden. Cllrs Rowlands and McElroy declared a n interest in this application which, given the 21day rule, had been considered out of committee. Recommended for approval.
- b. DM/2020/00101 – two storey porch extension to existing barn at Grange Park House, Trellech Grange – recommended for approval.
- b. New and completed enforcement cases for December.

10. **County Councillor's Report**

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

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

- a. South Wales Training Diary for Jan-Jul 2020.
- b. OVW's response to the consultation on the Local Government and Elections Bill.

12. **Ward Reports**

- a. JW was concerned that over the last couple of winters many of the catseyes installed a few years ago had been pulled up and there was now a requirement for more to be installed on the B4293 between Devauden and Itton. **Action: NJ.** In addition she reported the following from the recent OVW Area Meeting:

- 1. apparently councils now required a certificate to confirm they knew how all dog waste was disposed of. DCC, like most councils, used Merlin Waste and, as no official advice had been received, the Clerk was asked to contact MCC to confirm what action was required. **Action: NJ.** 4

2. There had been some difference in interpretation by HMRC local offices on the requirement for taxing councillor allowances. OVW were investigating.

3. There had been a very informative presentation on creating energy locally by the Green Valleys Community Interest Company, giving examples of community vehicles, public charging points for electric cars, solar panels etc.

b. AC had been disappointed in comparing two recent visits to Abergavenny and Chepstow. In particular, she was concerned that there was only very limited free parking available in Chepstow, unlike Abergavenny and indeed Monmouth. After some discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should write to MCC expressing DCC's concern. **Action: NJ.**

c. JR produced a written quote for £145 from Fred Richards for the refurbishment of the benches on the Green. It was agreed to accept the quote. **Action: JR.** He also expressed his and others' concerns over the state of the former Masons Arms which was regarded as an eyesore in the middle of the village. The Clerk was asked to forward the Council's concerns to the owner and ask for urgent work to be carried out there. **Action: NJ.**

d. AW advised that the drain on the R80 just west of the lane to Model Farm needed clearing; this had been raised in September. In addition, drains along the whole of the R80 from Cobblers Plain to the intersection with Church lane were blocked and, in particular, near Tredean Farm and Clydach Corner. **Action: NJ.**

13. Councillor Resignation

KM had forwarded his resignation to the Chair as he would be leaving the Devauden Ward. The Clerk would contact MCC to start the election process for a new councillor. **Action: NJ.** In accepting his resignation the Chair wished to record his gratitude and appreciation, on behalf of the Council, for KM's significant contribution over many years. In response KM also wished to record his thanks to all the councillors for their support and wished the Council all best wishes for the future.

14. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held in Devauden Village Hall on Monday 24th February.

POLICE REPORT 11/12/19-27/1/20

25/12/19 – Report of a male found deceased in Tredean Woods. No other persons involved. Enquiries are ongoing.

11/1/20 – Report of a garage broken into at a property on the outskirts of Devauden overnight. The locks were cut off the garage to gain entry but nothing seems to have been taken. Also the resident's car was searched but no damage to gain entry and nothing seems to have been taken.

26/1/20 – Report of an outbuilding broken into overnight at a property on the Usk Road near Gaerllwyd cross roads/Newchurch. A quantity of tools were taken from inside. Also a blue ford C – max car was also taken from the property but no access gained to the main house.