

## **DRAFT**

### **MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Held on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 Remotely via zoom**

#### **Councillors present**

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

#### **In attendance:**

CC R Greenland  
N. James (Clerk)

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Rowlands.

#### **2. Police Report**

The police report is at the end of these minutes.

#### **3. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting dated 24<sup>th</sup> August 2020 were approved.

#### **4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising which were not to be discussed later in the agenda.

#### **5. Finance**

- a. Draft Budget 21/22 – the Clerk had circulated a draft budget for consideration before the meeting. It was recognised that due to the pandemic expenditure this year had been less so far than previous years and the Council was likely to have reserves at the end of the year of over £10000. As a consequence it was felt that, for next year only, the Council should seek a reduced precept and utilise some of its reserves if necessary. After some discussion it was agreed to seek a precept of £7160, £1000 less than last year. **Action: NJ.**

b. Cheques for approval were: Merlin Waste for Dec for £59.15 – cheque number 101740; Clerk's expenses for Nov for £13.10 – cheque number 101741; Clerk's pay for Nov for £234.32 – cheque number 101742.

c. Audit 19/20 – the Audit for 2019/20 had recently been completed with no qualification from BDO. The Council noted this and approved the final Annual Return.

## 6. Correspondence

a. The CAB had written to the Council earlier in the year seeking financial support. IC had raised this at the last meeting and felt that the Council should agree to this request and proposed that DCC contributed £250 which was agreed. **Action: NJ.**

b. NK had circulated information regarding the commissioning of a report into various issues within the Wye Valley area. Councils were being asked to contribute to the cost of this report. In discussion there was concern about the value to the Devauden area from this report and it was agreed not to make a contribution at this time.

c. CC Greenland had circulated a request from MCC to all community councils seeking a financial contribution to this year's MCC Christmas Appeal for presents for the most needy children and young people. They hoped to be able to give each child a gift token of £20. In addition, MCC was hoping to provide hampers for the most needy families over Christmas. However, it was just not possible to be able to do this within MCC this year and so they were seeking financial help outside from other councils and individuals. The Council unanimously agreed that this was a very worthwhile project and agreed to contribute £400. **Action: NJ.**

d. WG Electoral Newsletter for October.

e. WG Waste(Wales) Regulations 2020.

f. Information from Sight Cymru on sight loss awareness training.

g. Monmouthshire LDP Revised delivery agreement.

h. Information leaflet from Mind Monmouthshire celebrating 40 years anniversary.

i. WG Repair and Reuse Fund details.

j. WG Flooding and Tan 15 update.

- k. WCVA Guidance for community centres reopening.
- l. Survey regarding strengthening and advancing Equality and Human Rights in Wales.
- m. Consultation document on draft statutory guidance on performance and governance of principal councils.
- n. New domestic abuse policy for Commissioner for Future Generations Staff.
- o. Temporary road closure in St Arvans for Feb 21.
- p. Invitation to contribute to discussion on policing in Gwent.

## 7. Planning

- a. JR had advised at the last meeting that the state of the old public house in Devauden was really poor and the Enforcement Officer had written to the owner to resolve the situation. Unfortunately, no action had yet taken place and there was a concern locally that no action was likely. The Council therefore asked the Clerk to contact the Enforcement officer again and appraise him of the situation and concerns **Action: NJ.**
- b. A local resident had questioned the planning permission granted to a solar panel site at The Glyn. DCC had commented on the application out of committee. On checking with MCC, they confirmed that the landowners next to the site had been consulted and a standard site notice posted. The resident had also been concerned about water run off from the site but this would be covered by the conditions imposed by the permission. MP had advised the resident of MCC's response and put him in contact with the planning officer. DCC felt that MCC had acted in accordance with planning policy and procedures and there was no further action.
- c. AW reported that the planning application for Church Farm, Wolvesnewton was heard today. He would circulate his comments. **Action: AW.**
- d. New and closed enforcement cases for October.

## 8. One Voice Wales

- a. Details about new free training places on core modules.
- b. Details of a vacancy for a Civil Participation Officer at OVW.
- c. OVW News Bulletin for November.

## 9. County Councillor's Report

CCllr Greenland reported on the history of this pandemic from MCC's point of view. The pandemic had brought huge changes to the way the Council had to operate and a massive amount of work had been, and was being, carried out. EHOs were especially busy and that department had been supplemented in order to keep up with the requirements. Lots of staff had been redeployed to deal with business grants from the WG, and £25million had been distributed among local businesses. The Council continued to lobby the WG over those who were missing out on grants because they didn't pay business rates. The test and trace system within Monmouthshire had managed a 90% success rate but unfortunately cases had now risen. Earlier Monmouthshire had been well below the national average with only 50 cases per 100,000 for many weeks; it was now 185 cases per 100,000 although many recently had been due to outbreaks among inmates in the two local prisons. Also currently the whole of Year 11 at King Henry School was away because of one positive case although it was noteworthy that very few teaching staff in the county had been absent through the virus. In the future it was likely that there would be one or two mass vaccination centres in the county run by the Aneurin Bevan trust.

## 10. Ward Reports

a. JW advised that the Road Safety Audit for the Well Lane development had been completed. A copy had been sought from MCC but not received despite a couple of emails to them. BG agreed to discuss with the MCC officer to expedite a copy for DCC. **Action: BG.** She also mentioned the concern of local residents about the apparent storage on non-agricultural items in outbuildings at a local farm and the increased traffic that was causing. The items appeared to have come from a local garden centre and were a permanent store. It was not certain what action could be taken but the Clerk was asked to advise the Enforcement Officer. **Action: NJ.**

b. AC advised that Jo Cann continued to be the DCC-nominated person on the Kilgwrrwg charity. In addition she advised that Footpath Number 14 from Valley View through Wern-y-Cwm wood in Kilgwrrwg was in a poor state, and asked that MCC Countryside be requested to make good. **Action: NJ.**

## 11. Dates of next meetings

NK advised that community councils had to hold their 2020 AGM before the end of December although elections could be deferred until May 21. However, he wished to stand down from the Chair position now and asked councillors to

consider replacement nominations. He proposed that the AGM was held on 14<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm by Zoom; this was agreed, **Action: NJ.**

**POLICE REPORT 16/10/20 -21/11/20**

“19/10/20 - Report of two separate farms in the Llansoy area having outbuildings broken into overnight. Items including a green Kawasaki quad, a generator and red diesel were amongst items taken. Enquiries are ongoing in a bid to identify the offenders.

8/11/20 – Report of off road bikes in NRW forestry land near Crumbland Plantation.

We have been doing some speed monitoring/enforcement in Devauden village recently with the following results.

5/11/20 – outside Churchfields. 60 vehicles checked with an average coming back as 26 mph with a highest speed of 37mph recorded.

23/11/20 – Devauden Green. Checking vehicles as they came into the village from the Itton direction. 64 vehicles checked with an average coming back as 26.5 mph. 1 vehicle was advised regarding speed and 2 vehicles received tickets for speeding offences.”