

DRAFT

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday 22nd February 2021 Remotely via zoom

Councillors present

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

In attendance:

CC R Greenland
N. James (Clerk)

The Chairman welcomed Dr Peter Kenington to his first Council meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from J Rowlands.

2. Police Report

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

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting dated 30th November 2020 were approved.

4. Matters Arising

- a. Para 7a – no work had yet started at the Masons Arms but, with DCC prompting, the Enforcement Officer continued to correspond with the owner with the aim of resolving this as soon as possible.

5. Finance

- a. Balances as at 31st Jan 2021 were: current account £4145.19 and deposit account £6806.35.
- b. Cheques for approval were: Merlin Waste for Feb for £59.15 – cheque

number 101753; Clerk's expenses for Feb for £13.10 – cheque number 101754; Clerk's pay for Feb for £234.32 – cheque number 101755.

6. Correspondence

- a. NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers Day on the 5th July 21 – it was agreed to discuss this at a meeting nearer the date. **Action: NJ.**
- b. Invitation to a consultation over the MCC draft budget for 2021/2.
- c. Details of scams regarding covid vaccines and Facebook phishing.
- d. WLGA coronavirus updates.
- e. Temporary road closures in Llansoy and Crosshands Devauden.
- f. Information about support in sharing information about the WG Keep Wales Safe campaign.
- g. Social Farms and Gardens Winter Newsletter.
- h. Electoral Register for 2020/21.
- i. Information about the work of the charity Reengage.
- j. WG Fixed term and Secondment opportunities.
- k. Details from MCC about the issue of phosphates in the Rivers Wye and Usk.
- l. GAVO request to highlight a survey into volunteering and its strategic impact.
- m. Information regarding the new initiative in Gwent to help combat acquisitive crime – “We don't buy crime”.
- n. Details about the Nevill Hall Radiotherapy Satellite Centre patient survey.
- o. Elections Newsletter 2021.
- p. Invitation to attend remotely the Wye Valley AONB 50th Anniversary talk on 24th Feb.
- q. Details about the all Wales Second Covid wellbeing survey.
- r. New draft Code of Conduct.

- s. Details about the review of the remuneration framework for community and town councils.
- t. Publicity material from the Keep Wales Safe campaign. NK asked that this be placed on the website. **Action: NJ.**
- u. WG consultation on the litter and fly tipping prevention plan for Wales. NK asked for this to be placed on the website. **Action: NJ.**
- v. Invitation to the Children in Need funding workshop in March 2021. NK asked for this to be placed on the website. **Action: NJ.**
- w. Invitation from St Arvans CC to attend a meeting regarding the Wye Valley Villages project. BG summarised the current position with the Arup report which had been commissioned by MCC. There appeared to be some concern among local community councils that road safety and traffic control were not being given sufficient importance in this study; MCC was aware of these concerns and BG suggested that he talk with St Arvans council and Roger Hoggins at MCC to arrange for Roger to attend the meeting to explain the present thinking within MCC regarding the position so far of the study which recognises local concerns. JW would attend the meeting on behalf of DCC. **Action: JW.**

7. Planning

- a. DM/2021/00059 – redesign of existing annex/dairy to include extension to incorporate guest accommodation ancillary to main dwelling at The Granary, Devauden – recommended for approval.
- b. DM/2021/00160 – non-material amendment to planning consent DM/2018/01741 – to reduce the ridge height to plots 14 and 15; location of air source heat pumps; allowing occupation of homes in line with the approved phasing/footpath construction plan at land off Well Lane, Devauden. JW expressed concerns about whether some conditions had been met. In particular she was concerned with certain road safety aspects. It was agreed she would seek approval from a local resident to forward details of conversations with MCC so that DCC would be better informed to make a decision on the way forward. **Action: JW.**
- c. DM/2021/00187 – proposed new machinery store at Church Farm, Newchurch – for information only.
- d. New and closed enforcement cases for January.

8. Cooption

AC had tendered her resignation as councillor for the Kilgwrrwg Ward. Having gone through the formal election process notices for cooption had been published. There had been one applicant for the position – Dr A Kitson-Smith. After some discussion the Council unanimously agreed to appoint Dr Kitson Smith as the councillor for the Kilgwrrwg Ward. AC advised that she would stand down after the next meeting and it was agreed that Dr Kitson-Smith would be invited to attend the next meeting. **Action: NJ.**

9. One Voice Wales

- a. OVW News Bulletin for December.

10. County Councillor's Report

CC Greenland summarised the current situation in Monmouthshire regarding the pandemic: over £30m had been allocated for business grants although there were still firms not eligible for these grants and consequently failing - MCC continued to lobby the WG over these; test and trace had been done locally and was very successful with over a 90% success rate; schools had started to go back at infant level. Throughout MCC staff had been working remotely. The pandemic had affected the timetable for the new LDP which had now slipped. Currently, MCC was determining the level of housing required and where these houses should be built before further consultation.

CC Greenland also raised the particularly difficult issue of phosphates in the Rivers Wye and Usk. Whilst 75% of these phosphates were generated by agriculture, 25% were through housing/homes. As a consequence NRW had stated that it would not approve any planning applications unless they were phosphate-neutral. This action had put many applications on hold and MCC was awaiting WG/NRW instructions as to how this was to be resolved.

MCC's budget was again extremely difficult this year, in particular because of the impact of the pandemic and other issues like flooding. Inevitably there would be an impact on the council tax increase for 2021/22.

11. Ward Reports

- a. AW was pleased to report that work had been done to repair the surface of the Wolvesnewton/Cobblers Plain road. Also he advised that there

were large potholes along the first 200m of Well Lane coming from the Wolvesnewton end. **Action: NJ.**

b. JW advised that signs were being erected unofficially on the B4293 regarding the storage of items at a local farm. She would advise the local residents that this development had been approved by the Enforcement Officer. In addition, she reported that the surface of the B4293 just as the road turns by the Green needed repair. **Action: NJ.** Finally, a couple of residents had passed rumours to her of independent businesses operating in Devauden. It was agreed that this was not a matter for the Council and she would refer the residents to MCC Trading Standards.

12. **Date of next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held remotely at 7pm on the 22nd March.

POLICE REPORT 25/1/2021 -21/2/2021

“We have had overnight shed/outbuilding breaks in the Tintern and Llangwm areas recently with locks cut off to gain entry and items taken. A scrambler bike, outboard motor, chainsaws, mountain bike and gardening equipment amongst items taken from Tintern and a Quad bike and chainsaws amongst items taken in Llangwm. Please don’t be complacent at this time and check your property and security on a regular basis and report anything suspicious to us at the time.

14/2/2021 – Report of a 1 vehicle non injury rtc in a side lane between Newchurch and Itton. The vehicle ended up on its side so the road was closed while recovery took place.”