

## **DRAFT**

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

**Held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 Remotely via zoom**

#### **Councillors present**

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

#### **In attendance:**

CC R Greenland  
A Kitson-Smith  
N. James (Clerk)

The Chairman welcomed Dr Anthony Kitson-Smith to the Council meeting prior to taking up his appointment as Councillor for the Kilgwrrwg Ward vice Cllr Cooke.

#### **1. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

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

There was no police report for this period.

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

The minutes of the meeting dated 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 were approved.

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

a. Para 6w – JW had attended the Wye Valley Villages Project meeting which had included a long, detailed presentation by Ove Arup which covered six main pillars: tourism, placemaking, landscape, transport and movement, governance and delivery, and local economy. Following that it was acknowledged that there were still issues to be resolved and it was agreed by local community councils to hold a specific meeting on the road safety and transport issues on 30<sup>th</sup> March. As she was

unavailable to attend she had forwarded a copy of the DCC paper on road safety. MP would attend and AW hoped might be able to.

b. Para 7b – JW advised that the correspondence received by the local resident from MCC was mostly about the processes regarding their decisions and did not include the information that was required; hence she had not circulated it. NK read out a report in the local press which claimed that acceptable measures for road safety at Well Lane had been confirmed although no one on the Council had seen them. The Council had also asked for a copy of the Road Safety Audit; this was received which showed a footpath between Well Lane and the B4293. However, MCC agreed this would not be feasible because of road width but no alternative Audit had since been received. The Clerk was asked to request the details of these measures and its risk assessment from MCC.  
**Action: NJ.**

c. Masons Arms – it was noted that some work had been done there but there had yet to be any dramatic changes in the overall state of the premises. The Clerk was asked to speak again with the Enforcement Officer to seek a timescale for work to be completed. **Action: NJ.**

## **5. Finance**

a. Balances as at 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021 were: current account £3881.34 and deposit account £6806.35.

b. Cheques for approval were: Merlin Waste for Mar for £59.15 – cheque number 101756; Clerk's expenses for Mar for £13.10 – cheque number 101757; Clerk's pay for Mar for £234.12 – cheque number 101758; HMRC for Jan-Mar for £175.60 – cheque number 101759; Beverley and Williams payroll services for Jan -Mar for £39.36 – cheque number 101760; Beverley and Williams for end of year administration for £34.19 – cheque number 101761; OVW Annual membership for £158.00 – cheque number 101762.

## **6. Correspondence**

a. Information about a public engagement debate on Transforming Adult Mental Health in Gwent.

b. Good Councillors' guide to cyber security.

c. Presentation given to the Wye Valley Villages Meeting on 11 March.

d. Details about Census 2021.

- e. Guidance on the Local Government Elections Act and summary of its key provisions.
- f. Information about support in sharing information about the WG Keep Wales Safe campaign.
- g. WG Electoral Newsletter for February 2021.
- h. Forthcoming road closures affecting the Wye Valley.
- i. Information about the County-wide 20mph proposals.
- j. Request from M Leach regarding grasscutting at Howells Green for 21/22. It was agreed that the Council would again ask Mr Leach to carry out this cutting for this year. **Action: NJ.**
- k. JW had received the changes in the timetable for the No 65 bus, and would forward them to JR for inserting on the website and on the local notice board.

## 7. Planning

- a. DM/2021/00345 – erection of two storey bay window with first floor doors and external balustrade at Cherry Tree Cottage, Coal Road, Devauden – recommended for approval.
- b. New and closed enforcement cases for February.

## 8. County Councillor's Report

CC Greenland raised the following points:

- a. The annual budget meeting was held last week following an injection of further funds from the WG which enabled MCC to reduce the forthcoming council tax increase from 4.95% to 3.78%.
- b. Confirmation that the levels of pollution in the Wye and Usk rivers meant that planning applications were on hold.
- c. There had been no Covid outbreaks at any of the schools in Monmouthshire since certain year groups had returned. A lot of lateral testing had been, and was being, carried out.
- d. Another round of grants for businesses was being made available and some of the gaps in the previous rules had now been resolved which meant that some businesses, previously ineligible, could now apply for such grants. MCC was currently reviewing businesses to identify these.

- e. Elections would take place on 6<sup>th</sup> May and MCC had from today
- f. moved into its formal pre-election period during which times restrictions would apply to decisions that could be made, publicity and the use of resources.

## **9. One Voice Wales**

There was no further correspondence from OVW.

## **10. Ward Reports**

a. AW advised that the road surface near Newhouse Farm at Wolvesnewton had deteriorated. **Action: NJ.**

b. JR advised that he had received comment from a Devauden resident complaining that a local organisation was failing to comply with Covid rules. NK agreed to have an informal word with the organisation.

c. PK advised that the road surface between Percus Barn and the turn off for The Veddww on the R83 had subsided. Whilst this was known to MCC who had coned off the area the Clerk was asked to enquire as to when repairs would be carried out as the road had been in this state for some time. **Action: NJ.**

d. AC advised that there was a large pothole on the R82 between the Notice Board and Glendale. **Action: NJ.**

e. In acknowledging that this was Cllr Cooke's final meeting as a councillor NK wished to record his and the Council's appreciation of the huge contribution made by her over so many years. It had been a real pleasure working with her and her vast knowledge of the area and concern for its wellbeing had been of huge value. He wished her the very best wishes for the future.

## **11. Date of next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held remotely at 7pm on the 26<sup>th</sup> April.