

## **DRAFT**

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

**Held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021 Remotely via zoom**

#### **Councillors present**

N Knowland (Chairman)  
I Cavill  
J Williams  
M Powell  
A Williams  
A Kitson-Smith  
P Kenington  
J Rowlands

#### **In attendance:**

CC R Greenland  
N. James (Clerk)

#### **1. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

#### **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 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 were approved.

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

a. Para 4a – JW had been unable to attend the Wye Valley Villages Project meeting due to an injury and MP attended. Unfortunately, although the DCC Speeding paper had been forwarded to all attendees before the meeting, the meeting itself was inconclusive and didn't move things forward. There was some concern that the speeding decision for a 20mph zone through Devauden had not seemingly been taken on board by the project. BG explained that the project was being run as a separate, stand-alone project but that the decision for a 20mph zone had been agreed, especially in view of the Well Lane development, and would

go ahead in 21/22. The Clerk would ask MCC to confirm this in writing. **Action: NJ.** In addition, AW volunteered to arrange a meeting with MCC – Roger Hoggins and Mark Hand – and others to try and get some action on the overall speeding issue. **Action: AW.**

b. Para 4b – MCC had forwarded the S278 Highways agreement for the Well Lane development but JW believed it was in need of some clarification although BG confirmed that the reference to a 30mph zone had been overtaken by the decision made by MCC – noted above. JW stated that she had emailed the developer but had yet to receive a response. In particular she and other residents were concerned that the agreement suggested that there would be a two lane road where the new road from the development met Well Lane which was not felt feasible. In addition she was concerned that the original road safety audit was based on an erroneous premise namely that there would be a footpath along Well Lane which, in the subsequent audit, stated was not provided as MCC had acknowledged it was not feasible. Yet the audit had been agreed. It was agreed that a meeting should be sought – in the first place remotely - between JW and one other local resident with Mark Hand and Christian Lowe of MCC to discuss these concerns. **Action: NJ.** Finally, JW noted that there was an email on the website for the development which implied that there could be a responsibility for the Community Council for hedges and a couple of gates around the back of the allotments. It was agreed that no such suggestion had ever been discussed.

c. Para 4c Masons Arms – the Clerk had received an acknowledgement from the Enforcement Officer but, to date, no follow up email confirming what action had been taken. The Clerk was asked to chase MCC again. **Action: NJ.**

## 5. Finance

a. Balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> Mar 2021 were: current account £3080.33 and deposit account £6806.52.

b. The Clerk had circulated the bank reconciliation and financial report as at the end of March and in addition, the completed Annual Return following the Internal Audit which, this year, had been completed by Lynne Pollitt, a retired accountant. There had been no observations raised and, following a short, discussion the Annual Return was approved for onward transmission to the external auditors. **Action: NJ.** PK asked about the large differences in costs for grounds maintenance and salaries. NJ explained that both figures included costs from 19/20 because invoices had not been received or cheques signed in 19/20 due to the lockdown at

that time. NJ was asked to circulate the explanation of variances report which explained this in detail. **Action: NJ.**

c. Cheques for approval were: Merlin Waste for Apr for £60.67 – cheque number 101763; Clerk’s expenses for Apr for £13.10 – cheque number 101764; Clerk’s pay for Apr for £234.32 – cheque number 101765; Beverley and Williams pension return for £120.00 – cheque number 101766; L Pollitt for internal audit for £104.00 – cheque number 101767; F Richards for £30 for repairing a dog bin – cheque number 101768.

## **6. Correspondence**

- a. Information about a draft woodland creation in Cwm Fagor for comments.
- b. Details about the WG Democratic renewal toolkit.
- c. Updates on the A466 Wyndcliffe rock face.
- d. Consultation document from the WG on local authority to trade.
- e. Update on the leaders iaw with the Local Government Elections Act.
- f. Information about a Tesco scam from the Dyfed Police.
- g. WG Electoral Newsletter for March 2021.
- h. External briefing paper on the Countryside Code.
- i. Information from RBLI regarding VE Day in May.
- j. Consultation document from the WG on its Race Equality action plan.
- k. Notice of Dog Awareness Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> April.
- l. Invitation to attend the unveiling of the Martha Gellhorn plaque in Kilgwrrwg. It was agreed that AC would be offered the chance to accept the invitation on the Council’s behalf. **Action: NJ.**

## **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 March.

## **8. County Councillor’s Report**

CC Greenland advised that BT would be installing fibre optic cable in Newchurch within the next few months.

## **9. One Voice Wales**

- a. OVW Bulletin for April.

## **10. Ward Reports**

a. MP advised that a local resident had approached him to find out if there was a Footpaths Officer at MCC as he had an issue with a footpath over his land. BG advised that there was and MP should contact the Countryside Department.

b. JR sought feedback from NK regarding his meeting with the local organisation regarding alleged covid failings. NK reported a constructive meeting but any follow up felt necessary should be done direct with Trading Standards and not through the Council.

c. PK and AW confirmed that, although it was acknowledged that a report had been submitted to MCC, there had been no action on the highways issues they had raised at the last meeting. BG suggested that forwarding photographs of the areas in questions to the Mon App might help to expedite action.

d. AKS advised that there was a large pothole on the road off the 58.2 off the R82 leading down to Kilgwrrwg House and Kilgwrrwg Farm. **Action: NJ.** In addition he mentioned that in discussions with walkers along the footpath through his land they had stated that whilst they really appreciated the signs he had put up, there were very few directional signs for walkers in the area. The Council agreed that owners of land through which there was a public footpath, should be encouraged to put up local directional signs.

e. JW had been advised of someone living in a caravan in Newchurch since lockdown. BG advised though in discussion that there were restrictions on what action could be taken during the pandemic in such circumstances. JW would monitor the situation. In addition, she asked the Clerk to chase Welsh Water about the leakage in the water plant in Well Lane. **Action: NJ.**

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

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held remotely and follow the AGM at 7pm on the 24<sup>th</sup> May.

### **POLICE REPORT 29/3/2021 – 22/4/2021**

“There is nothing to report crime wise for the area since the last report thankfully. But we have had 3 reports of sheds/outbuildings broken into overnight in the main road, Undy near Caldicot area so that there are still thieves operating in the area so please be vigilant.”