

DRAFT

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday 24th May 2021 Remotely via zoom

Councillors present

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

In attendance:

CC R Greenland
N. James (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr 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 26th April 2021 were approved.

4. Matters Arising

a. Para 4a – The Clerk had received no response from MCC regarding the 20mph speed limit. AW had yet to organize a meeting regarding speeding issues in the local villages. **Action: AW.**

b. Para 4b – The Clerk had received no response from MCC, despite chasing them, regarding a meeting about the Well Lane Development with local residents. CC Greenland advised that there had been an official complaint regarding this development. In such cases officers were not to hold meetings on the issue and were to correspond by email only. He agreed though to ask Mark Hand to respond via email to the Council's request. **Action: BG.** In discussion JW mentioned that she had recently spoken with the developer about the current grass area for parking by the

allotments. MCC had designated this area as car parking for the allotments whereas the Council had advised that the local requirement was for another allotment in that area. It remained to be seen what it might become in due course. CC Greenland advised that residents would not be eligible for a reduction in their council tax because of the disruption.

c. Para 4c Masons Arms – the Clerk had received an acknowledgement from the Enforcement Officer and, since he was absent with ill health, with a request for up to date photographs of the condition at the location. JR had been asked to provide them. **Action: JR.**

5. Finance

a. Balances as at 31st Apr 2021 were: current account £2614.03 and deposit account £6806.52.

b. The Clerk had circulated the premium and cover for the next year's insurance. As the premium was only marginally higher than last year, the Council agreed to continue with Zurich Insurance for the coming year. **Action: NJ.**

c. Cheques for approval were: Clerk's expenses for May for £13.10 – cheque number 101769; Clerk's pay for May for £234.12 – cheque number 101770; Martin Leach for grasscutting for £25.00 – cheque number 101771; Zurich Insurance for £348.82 – cheque number 101772.

6. Correspondence

a. Survey regarding learning lessons from the pandemic.

b. Details about the Planning Aid Wales event on regenerating welsh towns and communities.

c. Information regarding Windrush Day and grants.

d. Details about a conference on transforming public sector contact centres.

e. Information about a campaign briefing on World refill Day.

f. Information from the WG on Strategic Asset Management Leadership.

g. Request from MCC for information about available land for development.

h. GAVO's Funding Bulletin for 2021.

i. Information about job vacancies with Mind Monmouthshire.

j. Information about a funding opportunity from Community Foundation Wales.

k. Temporary road closure in Gaer Fawr on 3 June.

7. Planning

a. DM/2021/00755 – retention of flue for wood burning stove upgrade at Pentwyn Farm, Newchurch– recommended for approval.

b. DM/2021/00683 – new barn at Creigiau, Coal Road, Devauden . The Council was surprised that this had not been forwarded under an agricultural notification. In addition it was thought that the location was not strictly Coal Road. It was decided to wait to see whether there were any comments/objections from local residents before responding to MCC.

c. New and closed enforcement cases for April.

8. County Councillor's Report

CC Greenland reported on the election of CC Richard John as the new leader of MCC.

Covid rates in the county had been very low up until a week ago. However, there was currently an outbreak in North Abergavenny, centred on Belle Vue School with 11 cases in the last seven days. Test and trace teams have been deployed to the area. So far there had been no increase however in hospitalisations from the outbreak.

Extra funds of £200k had been given to Highways for this financial year for drainage works. In particular, for clearance of gullies and repair of blockages.

9. One Voice Wales

There were no items from OVW.

10. Ward Reports

a. JW had received a letter from a local resident who was very concerned about the behaviour of her neighbours towards her family. The concern appeared to be centred recently around a dispute over the status of a local road, although it would appear there have been disputes between the neighbours for some time. It was agreed that DCC had no power to intervene in such disputes which should be resolved elsewhere. The Clerk was asked to advise the local resident

accordingly. **Action: NJ.** She also noted that the local maps provided for DCC were some years old and the Clerk was asked to obtain updated maps for all the councillors. **Action: NJ.**

b. AKS and NK both acknowledged the benefits of the Mon App which they had used to check on outstanding highways issues. NK also asked what had happened to DCC's request for action on drop down pavements in Devauden. This had been the subject of an approach to MCC in Feb 20 before the first lockdown. The Clerk would resurrect the request for MCC's action on this subject. **Action: NJ.** Thirdly, he asked about the current situation regarding boundary changes as he intended to resign from the Council at the end of August. If DCC was to reduce its number of wards as originally drafted the Council would not have to recruit a replacement councillor. CC Greenland explained that the overall council boundaries would be finalised within the next month but there was no confirmed date for the ward boundaries within community councils to be determined as yet.

c. MP advised that a local resident had again complained about the drainage situation on the 57.8. **Action: NJ.**

11. **Date of next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held at 7pm on the 28th June. The Clerk would check out the hall availability at Devauden and Itton, and a decision would then be made whether to continue with a remote meeting, a hybrid meeting or an actual meeting at one of the halls. **Action: NJ.**

POLICE REPORT– 22/4/2021-23/5/2021

“27/4/2021 – Report of a 2 vehicle rtc in the area of Old Quarry road to the Cross hands. 1 person was taken to hospital with minor injuries.

4/3/2021 – Report of BT cables hanging low onto the road near The Star Pub. BT informed to deal.

19/5/2021 – Report of suspicious activity in the area of Quarry road off Star Hill. On 2 occasions recently during the evening/early morning vehicles have driven to this location and persons have used torches to check the area out. No other details known but these people may well have been poaching or maybe scoping the area out. Obviously advice has been given to the caller to call us at the time if any further incidents occur.

Reports of rural outbuildings/shed breaks have dropped off recently but that doesn't mean that we can be complacent as these thieves strike when we least expect it.”