

DRAFT

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday 28th June 2021 Remotely via zoom

Councillors present

J Williams (A/Chair)
N Knowland
I Cavill
M Powell
P Kenington

In attendance:

N. James (Clerk)

Cllr A Williams set up the meeting from Oxford but immediately had to leave and the vice chair took over. NK advised that the system unfortunately was not allowing Cllr Kitson-Smith to log in which would need to be addressed for any future Zoom meeting. **Action: AW.**

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Rowlands and CC Greenland.

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 24th May 2021 were approved.

4. Matters Arising

a. Para 4a – MCC had confirmed that there would be a 20mph limit through Devauden. AW had yet to organize a meeting regarding speeding issues in the local villages. **Action: AW.**

b. Para 4b –the complaint from a local resident regarding the Well Lane Development had been forwarded to the Ombudsman but with no success.

c. Para 4c Masons Arms – the up to date photographs of the condition at the location were still awaited. **Action: JR.**

d. Para 7b – comments had been passed to MCC about the planning application at Creigiau based on concerns from local residents as this was in an area of AONB.

e. Para 10a – following his response to the local resident regarding the behaviour of certain neighbours the Clerk had received another letter from the complainant. As this letter made specific complaints about councillors it was agreed that the complainant should be advised that the complaint would need to be forwarded to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales. **Action: NJ.**

f. Para 10a – the Clerk had not received a response from MCC regarding their most recent maps but had copied the latest version dated 2010 for councillors' use, and would circulate them. **Action: NJ.**

g. Para 10b – the Clerk still awaited a response from MCC to his request for a meeting in Devauden to consider positioning of drop pavements.

5. Finance

a. Balances as at 31st May 2021 were: current account £4477.94 and deposit account £6806.52.

b. Cheques for approval were: Clerk's expenses for June for £13.10 – cheque number 101773; Clerk's pay for June for £234.12 – cheque number 101774; Martin Leach for grasscutting for £25.00 – cheque number 101775; Beverley and Williams for payroll services for £39.48 – cheque number 101776; HMRC for £175.60 – cheque number 101777; Merlin Waste for June for £60.67 – cheque number 101778. The Clerk reminded councillors of the recent significant price increase by Merlin Waste. In discussion it was agreed that there was no option but to accept this increase.

6. Correspondence

a. Latest position about the MCC Review of community boundaries.

b. Details about a summer of fun from the Children's Commissioner.

c. ABCHC Patients Voice News Bulletin.

d. Survey for views on NHS care during the pandemic from ABCHC.

e. Update Review of county electoral arrangements for Monmouthshire.

f. Information about a Whatsapp and mobile upgrade scams.

g. Details about a new all-through school in Abergavenny.

- h. Details about an awareness day for elder abuse.
- i. Information about a job vacancy at Chepstow Town Council.
- j. Information about dog waste bin issues from MCC.
- k. Temporary road closure in Llangwm on 7 June.
- l. Information about the WG Programme for Government.
- m. Details of a digital conference in October on Equality in Education.
- n. Request for volunteers to work with RNID.
- o. Wye Villages Report. JW felt that this was a very poor report which had seemingly strayed from the road safety and speeding issues requested by the local community councils, concentrating on other issues. As a consequence it did not cover any of Devauden's concerns.

7. Planning

- a. DM/2021/00834 – rear extension to Cuckoo Cottage, Devauden – no comments received.
- b. DM/2021/00903 – partial demolition, alterations and extension to existing dwelling house and erection of a detached garage at Middle Lodge, Itton – no comments received.
- c. DM/2021/00933 – proposed balcony to side elevation at Old Shop Farm, Kilgwrrwg – recommended for approval.
- d. DM/2021/00655 – extension and alterations at Whitemill, Itton – recommended for approval.
- e. DM/2021/01051 – change of use of outbuilding to holiday let at The Birches, Kilgwrrwg – recommended for approval.
- f. New and closed enforcement cases for May. JW raised the new case regarding the Well Lane Development- 21/189 - which questions the close proximity of the tree/hedge protection fencing from the southern hedge. The Clerk was asked to seek assurance from MCC that the Enforcement Officer would visit the site to check on this complaint.
Action: NJ.

8. County Councillor's Report

In CC Greenland's absence there was no county councillor's report.

9. One Voice Wales

- a. Details about the OVW and Cymru Webinar.
- b. OVW News Bulletin for June 2021.
- c. The Area Meeting was to be held on 1 July and MP would endeavour to attend.

10. Ward Reports

a. MP advised that a local resident had questioned the safety of a large oak tree outside their house on the common at Itton Common. This had been inspected in the past by MCC but the Clerk was asked to seek a new inspection by them. **Action: NJ.**

b. JW advised that off road bikers were causing problems in Coale Road and have ignored local residents and signs put up by MCC. Residents could be invited to make a mental note of registration numbers and pass these to the police. Alternatively, it was suggested that a motion camera could be fitted there and details of offenders could then be passed to the police. The Clerk however would first check the legality of installing a camera in that location. **Action: NJ.**

c. IC advised that the formal unveiling of the purple plaque in memory of Martha Gelhorn would take place later this week. It was unfortunate that Covid regulations had restricted the number of people who could be invited.

d. AW had forwarded a potential planning regulations breach at Cartref Yard, Wolvesnewton where a static caravan had been installed and connected to the local septic tank, the ownership of which was in dispute, but without planning permission. The Clerk was asked to bring this to the attention of the planning authorities. **Action: NJ.**

11. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held at 7pm on the 26th July. 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.**

12. Clerk's Resignation

Although this was not on the formal agenda JW advised the Council that the Clerk had resigned due to family and other commitments with effect from the end of September. It was agreed that adverts would be placed in the local press, on the website and on the OVW website. In addition emails would be sent to

other local clerks advertising the vacancy. The Clerk would provide a draft advert. **Action: AW/JW/NJ.**

POLICE REPORT– 23/5/2021-23/6/2021

“28/5/2021 – Report of damage to a boundary fence by unknown persons at a property on Chepstow Park wood lane, Itton.

20/6/2021 – Report of a cannabis growth found at a property on the outskirts of Devauden.”