

**MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**Held on Monday 25 October 2021 at Hood Memorial Hall, Devauden**

Councillors present: A Williams (Chair)  
J Williams (Acting Clerk)  
M Powell  
I Cavill  
P Kenington  
A Kitson-Smith

**1 Apologies**

R Greenland

**2 Police report**

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

**3 Minutes of the previous meeting**

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 September 2021 were approved and signed by the chair.

**4 Matters arising including ARUP report**

4a AW/PK/AKS put together a response related to the main streams of the ARUP report. Presented at a virtual meeting 14 Oct. It was felt that the meeting went well and those involved in the ARUP report knew the area. Ideas put forward inline with expectations. Traffic calming was the main focus for many villages followed by better transport links, better access to economic opportunity for residents, and active travel. A separate meeting between DCC and the authors of the ARUP report was proposed. To be set up by AW. **Action AW**

4b Allotment holders do not want an additional gate into the allotments. Letter to go to the developer of the Well Lane site. DCC, as land owners of the allotments and hedge, expressly do not give permission for the installation of a gate at the rear of the allotments. **Action AW/Clerk**

4e Feasibility of re-siting bus stops in Devauden. Defer to next meeting as RG not present. **Action RG**

6b Despite visits to the HSBC branch in Chepstow and attempts online and through Help Chats no progress has been made in adding an additional signature to the Bank Mandate. Further efforts will be made. **Action JW**

10a Response received from NRW regarding overnight parking at Wern Y Cwm. It is not allowed in any of their sites and they will erect a sign. AKS will check if the sign is in place yet. **Action AKS**

10b A quote for a plastic laminated sign was £42 which was considered expensive. AKS offered to produce an appropriate sign. Concern over new kerbing issues in Well Lane acknowledged by Highways MCC but no detailed response received from them. Report of blocked drains at junction of School Lane/B4293 acknowledged by Drains and Flooding at MCC.

## **5 Councillor/Clerk Vacancy**

### **a) Devauden Councillor**

Three candidates have been contacted asking them to identify convenient times/dates when they are available to attend a zoom meeting. So far one applicant has replied.

### **b) Kilgwrrwg Councillor**

The closing date for potential Community Councillors to apply to the returning officer was 21 October 2021. Assuming that there are no applicants we will be in a position to co-op a new member. The term of this appointment will be one year as the number of councillors permitted in the Kilgwrrwg Ward drops to 1 under boundary reforms. To be discussed further at the next meeting.

### **c) Clerk vacancy**

The advertisement has been reinstated on the Devauden website. The cost of advertising in the press for two weeks has been £297.60. OVW offers a consultancy service for recruitment. Further details to be obtained from them. **Action JW.** AW suggested that LinkedIn may be a suitable service to use. JW to speak to John Davies.

## **6 Finance**

- a) Balances as at 25 September 2021: current account £4591.76; deposit account £6806.69.
- b) Cheques for approval:
  - i) Cheque number 101800 £83.42 for Merlin Environmental Services.
- c) Invoices/requests for payment received:
  - i) MCC £856.80 for grass cutting services. Amount to be queried as an increase of £160 on last years' costs. Schedule of cuts to be requested. **Action JW**

ii)Hood Memorial Hall donation request for £450 as a contribution toward the cost of insurance for the Bonfire and Firework display. Agreed to the request but clarification of whether the donation complies with section 137 payments to be sought from OVW before the donation is paid. **Action JW**

d) Following advice from OVW, DCC agrees in principle that an Acting Clerk can claim for the cost of office consumables and expenses incurred when carrying out the role.

## **7 Correspondence**

- 1 Remote training sessions Oct
- 2 Job vacancy St Arvans
- 3 Amended version of the Model Informal Resolution Protocol
- 4 Latest news and information from Planning Aid Wales
- 5 Request from Devauden Hall Committee for £450 contribution towards insurance for Bonfire Night. Proposed JW, Seconded AKS. 5 in favour, 1 abstention. Advice to be sought from OVW on whether the contribution is acceptable under section 137 payments
- 6 Licensing and Regulatory Commission meeting cancelled
- 7 Understanding Section 106 Planning obligations
- 8 Community Boundary Review
- 9 Economy and Development Select Committee 8 Nov
- 10 AED information for villages
- 11 Wye Valley Village Consultation Report – discussed. AKS felt it would be useful to have a greater breakdown of the responses received from the included villages.
- 12 New speakers OVW
- 13 Agenda for Children and Young People Select Committee 14/10
- 14 OVW Committee meeting 21/10/21
- 15 Press release: New project to support Green initiatives

- 16 Pilot of Community and Town Councils Self Evaluation Tool Kit
- 17 Patient News Issue 42
- 18 Mon/Newport Area Committee meeting OVW 10 Oct
- 19 Sustain Wales – need help to protect the natural environment
- 20 Councillor survey – discussed. Councillors encouraged to complete.
- 21 Consultation on updating earnings thresholds for Councils tax recommendations
- 22 Tackling loneliness
- 23 Fields in trust – protecting Green spaces
- 24 Press release Abergavenny welcomes Muslim Community
- 25 Commercialisation strategy
- 26 Proposed establishment new school Abergavenny
- 27 Parks for people places and the planet
- 28 NRW Wern Y Cwm overnight parking
- 29 OVW Active travel Plans consultation – AW questioned if this was similar to the some of the aims of the ARUP report
- 30 Westminster Insight: Tackling anti-social behaviour Digital Conference
- 31 Public Sector Executive Daily News: Net Zero Strategy released
- 32 Gareth Freeman: temporary road closure Chepstow Park Woods Lane, Itton. 15/11 – 3/12/21
- 33 Wendy Barnard. 2/11/21 Planning Committee meeting cancelled
- 34 Shan Bowden OVW Presentation. NRW and Dog Fouling
- 35 Andrew Jones – Police report: 1.9.21 – 21/10.21
- 36 Lisa Gillespie – Wye Valley Villages – consultation results
- 37 Kate May – Local Government Commercialisation Conference 10/11/21

**8 OVW Remote training sessions Nov/Dec**

**9 Planning**

- a) DM/2021/01567: Proposed single storey extension, new porch and renovations to the existing dwelling, Itton. No objections
- b) DM/2021/01221: Discharge of condition 6 relating to DC/2013/00417, Catry Cottage, Quarry Road, Star Hill. No objections
- c) DM/2021/01538: Proposed construction of outdoor swimming pool, pool room and verandah, Keepers House. No objection
- d) DM/2021/01635: Detached three bay garage with home office above. Little Owl Barn, Kilgwrrwg. Recommend refusal – concern over the size of the development and accessibility in a sensitive area.

AKS declared an interest in application DM/2021/01635 which was recorded.

**10 County Councillors Report**

No report

**11 One Voice Wales**

- a) New speakers for OVW meeting
- b) Committee meeting 21/10/21
- c) Committee meeting 10/10/21
- d) Active travel plans consultation
- e) Presentation NRW and dog fouling
- f) Presentation from Rita Edwards, EA, NRW, WQ

**12 Ward reports**

- a) AW – Planning to be contacted to query if a retrospective planning application has been submitted by Catref Yard. AW is keen to develop DCC's digital presence - website, digital communication between members, outreach to community. AW will develop a proposal, in consultation with members, John Davies and others.
- b) MP – Nothing
- c) PK – Nothing
- d) IC – Nothing

- e) AKS – The Harvest Festival went well. Pot holes to the Church have been filled. Overgrown footpath to be followed up. **Action JW**
- f) JW – Nothing

### 13 Date of next meeting

29 November 2021, Hood Memorial Hall, Devauden. 7.15

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**Jones, Andrew** (Andrew.Jones@gwent.police.uk) To: you + 9 more [Details](#)

Good afternoon everyone ,

Hope you are all well .

Here is the police report for between the above dates :

20/9/2021 – Report of access gained to the new house building site on the outskirts of Devauden village overnight . Many thousands of pounds of insulation boards were taken . A grinder was used to cut off the padlock to get in .

24/9/2021 – Report of suspicious activity by 2 males in high viz jackets in a white pickup in the Killgwrwg area . When confronted by a resident they said they were from the council but left straight away . The resident rang the council to clarify but were unable to say if they had workers in the area . No other vehicle details taken .

9/10/2021 – Report of a 2 vehicle rtc ( road traffic collision ) on the Itton road near Howick Farm . One person taken to hospital with injuries . The road was closed whilst the incident was dealt with .

Myself and our new Sergeant PS 288 Lee Smith -Stephens will be attending the next Devauden cc meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November so will hopefully see you there .

Please remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity/ crime at the time via either 101 or 999 if you deem it an emergency . If it is low level you can also report via email on [contact@gwent.police.uk](mailto:contact@gwent.police.uk)

Take care ,