

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday 31st January 2022 – Zoom

Councillors present: A Williams (Chair)

J Williams

M Powell

I Cavill

P Kenington

A Kitson-Smith

R Greenland

L Hazell-Smart

P Williams

In attendance: A Briley (Clerk)

1 Apologies

Andrew Jones Gwent Police.

2 Police report

There is very little to report for the Devauden area since the last meeting apart from these matters to note:

21/12/2021 – Report of a 1 vehicle RTC on the Itton road between Howick and the Itton village hall. The vehicle had left the road and ended up in a nearby field. The male driver was taken to hospital with head and other injuries.

20/1/2022 – Report of suspicious activity by a dark coloured Smart vehicle and occupants in Wesley Way. the vehicle entered the street around 2.30 pm and parked. Three males got out and started checking out driveways. They then got back in the vehicle and left in the direction of Monmouth. This was not a local vehicle.

Please remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity 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.pnn.police.uk

I have attached an up-to-date list of current Chepstow Neighbourhood officers for your information.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 December 2022 were approved and signed by the chair.

4 Matters arising

4a After the Wye Valley Villages meetings and updates from received reports, discussions took place regarding opportunities to raise more funding to help with local requirements, such as traffic calming and safer villages. DCC wants to have an active part in the proposed project, and therefore have suggested raising the precept by £5,000. A vote was cast, with results being 2 against and 6 in

favour. It was therefore decided to proceed and return the precept form to Monmouthshire County Council, raising it by £5,000 to £12,160 in total. The additional funds will be used to acquire match funding from the AONB and other funders, and spent on local infrastructure improvements.

Cllr J. Williams wants assurances from the Wye Valley Villages Steering Group and Monmouthshire County Council that the money is ring fenced for the completion of local projects. DCC will discuss any spend as a group before committing funds. **Action AB**

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 landowners of the allotments and hedge, expressly do not give permission for the installation of a gate at the rear of the allotments. The letter has been drafted by Cllr A. Williams ready to be sent. Copy of letter to go to planning at Monmouthshire County Council and to Duncan Mitchell. **Action AB.**

4c Re-siting bus stops in Devauden- Cllr R. Greenland has chased up the officer concerned about a month ago, but it can't be moved forward until the highways engineering unit have assessed if this would be a safe option.

4d Online Banking – It has been agreed to set up online banking and a new mandate for signatories with Cllr A Williams, to be the primary user, Cllr J. Williams, Cllr M. Powell, Cllr A. Williams and Cllr P. Kenington as secondary users. **Action AB**

4e Dog bin register – Susan Parkinson from MCC requires the dog bin register to be updated for DCC, this requires recording the unique identifying code for each bin with a community council code letter for each area. (De for Devauden, It for Itton etc.) Cllr L. Hazell-Smart to record Devauden codes and Cllr M. Powell to records Itton codes. **Action AB/LHS/MP.**

4f Footpath enquiry – Jo Shuttleworth sent an email dated 20/1/22 saying that she uses footpath 357/63/1 on her walks from Wesley Way. She mentions one stile is rotting and unstable and that access to the following stile has a lot of undergrowth. Contacted MCC Countryside officer and Jayne Jones responded to say that gates and stiles are landowners' responsibility but has logged it with issue number 17450. The gates/stiles were put up by MCC Countryside so DCC wants to clarify when this policy might have been changed to be the responsibility of the landowner. Cllr J. Williams to visit Jo Shuttleworth for more information and exact details. **Action AB/JW.**

4g Itton Fibre Optic Installation – Email sent to MCC highways to the attention of Gareth Freeman. They have responded to say the complaint has been recorded on 'My Monmouthshire' system with reference 12612953 and has been referred to Gareth to respond.

4h Update of website – Community councillors information needs updating but waiting for decision on Devauden email addresses before updating.

4i Digital proposal plan – Cllr A. Williams presented costs to buy a laptop for the clerk. It was agreed to go ahead and proceed with the purchase (£360 - £400). The group also discussed setting up Google Workspace (or equivalent) for more efficient workflows and information sharing within the council and with the public. This would cost approximately £400 per year in total. Members would be issued with a ward email address as part of this process. **Action AW - final quotes and recommendation.**

4j Kerbing Well Lane - Cllr R. Greenland has written again to the Head of Operations for Highways to escalate the ongoing problems. Mr H. Williams, a Well Lane resident has received an

unsatisfactory response from Mark Hand with regards to the width of the lane. DCC to respond with a letter to Mark Hand stating that the road is not fit for purpose. Records show the lane is not wider now than previously - and it was a soft verge in any case. Also point out that we regularly witness heavy goods vehicles mounting that kerb hence it can't be a practical solution. **Action AB.**

5 Finance

- a) Precept form to be completed for £12,160 and returned to MCC. **Action AB**
- b) We have received an outstanding sundry debtor invoice demand for the Devauden common annual grounds maintenance contract for £856.80. Cllr I. Cavill is unhappy with the mismanagement of the green known as Rhyd y Fedw as it's being cut more than once a year and grass cuttings are not being collected. Suggested that it should be cut **ONLY** once a year and preferably in July. Phone call to David Cox to check the details of the maintenance contract and to sundry debtors to say we are still in dispute. **Action AB.**
- c) Clerk to claim for working from home expenses and claim for the last 2 months (£15 per month). **Action AB**
- d) Notice of conclusion of audit to be displayed in notice boards and if anyone wants to inspect it and see the audit, they can make an appointment with the clerk. AB to check how long it needs to be displayed. **Action AB/JW/MP**
- e) Balances as of 25 December 2021: current account £5,536.30; deposit account £6807.03. f) Cheques for approval:

Merlin Environmental Services - £100.10
Clerks Wages December - £54.10
Clerks Wages January - £305.40
St Michaels Church (grass cutting) - £100.00

6 Correspondence

- a) Funding Tracker needs to be set up to establish what DCC may apply for in the future. Include in Matter arising for February. **Action AB**
- b) Cllr A. Williams mentioned budget live stream taking place MCC.
- c) Consultant's report – Government scheme EV charging and how the public sector can get involved, see if this could be a fit for us locally in DCC.

Circulated correspondence:

- a) Jan Whitham MCC. PR – MCC increased funding for next financial year.
- b) Lynda Wilcox NHS Wales. Notice of CHC council meeting – 12th January 2022.
- c) Kelly Keyse MCC. Bake-off star – Foster carer recruitment campaign.
- d) Kelly Keyse MCC. PR – Council's Christmas wishes campaign.
- e) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Welsh Tax Acts.
- f) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

- g) Jan Whitham MCC. PR – Campaign launch to support those facing money worries.
- h) Deryck Evans Audit Wales. Completion of audit.
- i) Jan Whitham MCC. PR – Free climate change training.
- j) Kim Lloyd MCC. Confidential enforcement monthly lists.
- k) Jessica Knowles Government events. Conference for financial management in local government.
- l) Planning MCC. Consultee letter – DM/2021/02058.
- m) Planning MCC. Consultee letter – DM/2021/01907.
- n) Susan Parkinson MCC. Dog waste collection contract documentation.
- o) Amy Gullick MCC. Electoral register 2021/2022.
- p) Hazel Chatsworthy – Carbon literacy training – 18th January.
- q) Deb Jeffreys. Responding to policy consultations.
- r) Nicola Perry. Cabinet agenda – 19th January.
- s) Matt Duffy Welsh Government. Appeal DM/2020/01035.
- t) Richard Williams MCC. Agenda for strong communities select committee 25th January.
- u) Charities Buying Group. Energy bills increase 51% by April.
- v) Public Sector Executive. Levelling up the next generation of leaders.
- w) Jan Whitham MCC. PR – Gwent gets ready for nature isn't neat 2022.
- x) Richard Williams MCC. Café pavement policy 25th January.
- y) Claire Appleton Insignia UK. Queens Platinum Jubilee.
- z) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Phishing emails.
- aa) Richard Williams MCC. Budget summary papers. bb) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Chief Operating Office vacancy/Welsh Government. cc) Plantscape. Planter's funding.
- dd) Joe Skidmore MCC. Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
- ee) Richard Williams MCC. Agenda budget summary papers. ff) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Community shared learning events.
- gg) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Vacancy, Director for Welsh Government. hh) Nicola Perry MCC. Decision sheet for cabinet – 19th January. ii) Wendy Barnard MCC. Supplementary agenda, EAS business plan. jj) Richard Williams MCC. Economy and development select committee. kk) Nicola Perry MCC. Agenda County Council, 27th January.
- ll) Richard Williams MCC. Meeting cancelled Economy and development select committee.
- mm) Susan Parkinson MCC. Dog waste contract – dog bin register. nn) Wendy Barnard MCC. Change of date for meeting of Strong Communities Select Committee. oo) Shan Bowden OVW. Info for OVW/Monmouthshire/Newport area committee. pp) Deb Jeffreys Planning Aid Wales. Upcoming events. qq) Nicola Perry MCC. Supplementary agenda 27th January. rr) Naomi Johnson SLCC. New clerk training information pack.
- ss) Jo Shuttleworth. Enquiry email – Rotting stile and lots of undergrowth.
- tt) Jane Lee MCC. Wye Valley Villages strategy and action plan. uu) Wendy Barnard MCC. Agenda for children and young people select committee. vv) Deb Jeffreys Planning Aid Wales. Responding to policy consultations, 26th January. ww) Richard Williams MCC. Agenda planning committee 1st February. xx) Gareth Freeman MCC. Road closures. yy) Public sector executive news. zz) Jan Whitham MCC. Monnow street consultation. aaa) Lisa Gillespie MCC. Wye Valley Steering Group. bbb) Public Sector Executive. Decarbonisation through EV adoption. ccc) Public sector network letter. Proposals to protect landscapes. ddd) Richard Williams MCC. Agenda Economy and development select committee. eee) Kelly Keyse MCC. PR – MonLife referral scheme. fff) Richard Williams MCC. Adults select committee. ggg) Richard Williams MCC. Adults select committee.
- hhh) Jan Whitham MCC. Monmouthshire CC budget proposal 27th January. iii) MCC Highways – Fibre optic installation Itton.
- jjj) NHS – UK digital covid certificate.
- kkk) Gareth Freeman MCC. Temporary road closure applications. ll) Lisa Gillespie MCC. Wye Valley Villages – draft stage 3 report. mmm) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Raising awareness, community, and town councillors.

nnn)Public Sector Executive News ooo) Jayne Jones MCC Countryside.
Public enquiry, rotting stile etc. ppp) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Queens
Jubilee. qq) Kevin James MCC. Precept Advice 2022-2023. rrr)
Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Deputy director North Wales vacancy. sss)
Nanette Hepburn MCC. Employment and skills service. ttt)
Gareth Freeman MCC. Road closure consultation.

7 **Planning**

- a) **DM/2021/01907:** The Hay Barn – Removal of condition 2 (The proposed residential accommodation shall be used solely for purposes ancillary to the main dwelling and shall not form a separate unit of accommodation) for planning decision 18279. Cllr A. Williams to look at the details and assign to relevant councillor. **Action AW.**
- b) **DM/2021/02058:** Are of woodland forming part of Tredean wood in Devauden. Creation of a short section of forestry access track to allow management of the woodland. Recommend approval from DCC. **Action AB.**

8 **County Councillors Report**

Nothing to report.

9 **One Voice Wales**

Nothing to report.

10 **Ward reports**

Cllr A. Williams – A call from Malcolm Ridley saying the 150-meter hedge adjacent to his house which is owned by Natural Resources Wales has not been cut for 2-3 years. He reported that vehicles coming up the lane are getting damaged. People are complaining to him as they think it's his hedge, but it isn't. Malcolm has contacted NRW but with no response. Cllr M.Powell to contact NRW. **Action MP**

11. **Date of next meeting**

28 February 2022.

