

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Held on Monday 25th April 2022 at Hood Memorial Hall, Devauden.

Present: A Williams (Chair)
J Williams (Vice Chair)
M Powell
P Kenington via zoom
A Kitson-Smith
I Cavill
P Williams

In Attendance: A Briley, Clerk to the Council
Sylvia Parry – Ref: Kerbing at Well Lane.

1. Apologies

L Hazell-Smart, R Greenland and Andrew Jones Gwent Police.

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

Cllr A Williams gave written notice of a personal interest in how we co-opt new members.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 25th March 2022 were approved and signed by the chair.

4. 15 Minutes public participation

Sylvia Parry expressed her concerns over the narrowness of the kerbing at Well Lane and how this has affected the residents living there.

5. Police report

I am not sure if there will be any attendance from ourselves at the meeting next week, but I will let you know if we are attending.

Here is the report from between the above dates:

1/4/2022 – The Rural Crime team conducted a poaching operation overnight in our area including forestry areas in Devauden to help combat the illegal activity. No offences were reported.

3/4/2022 – Report of off-road bikes using local forestry areas and the coal road area.

3/4/2022 – Report of lead stolen off the roof of Itton village hall sometime in the last 3 weeks prior.

Please remember to 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

Cofion gorau | Kind regards,
Andrew Jones

6. Matters arising

- a) **Wye valley villages project** – Drafts of signs received and circulated to councillors, final meeting on Wednesday 27th April to finalise designs. **Action AW.**
- b) **Division of responsibilities** – Discussed suggestions of dividing up the workload, setting up a steering group to manage projects coming up like for example the traffic calming, 20mph, EV charging and communities supporting agriculture. Cllr A Williams to set up an online document with a list of potential projects requiring managing for councillors to add to and discuss at the next meeting. **Action AW.**
- c) **Monmouthshire Housing Association fund** – MHA said that anything aligned to the village hall would be acceptable but bearing in mind that the outdoor equipment would have an ongoing maintenance cost. Cllr P Kenington said there was a new piece of play equipment that needed replacing and would investigate further into getting a more detailed proposal with the village hall. **Action PK.**
- d) **Well Lane** – Cllr J Williams reported there were three further complaints from residents:
 - One resident mentioning the width of the road and access to his field being difficult.
 - Another resident the damage caused to trees from vehicles not being able to pass.
 - It has also been noted that the workers from the site are working on a Sunday with loud music and when approached to turn music down residents receiving abuse.

Cllr J Williams to produce the 10-page service agreement and photographs as evidence to then file an official complaint. Clerk to contact Kate Young at MCC planning to chase the decision on the allotment gate and Cllr R Greenland to chase the action of moving the kerbing on Well Lane with Mark Hand at MCC. **Action JW/RG/AB.**

- e) **Election 2022** – Cllr A Williams proposed that 6th May to advertise the co-opting of the two positions, one in Itton and one in Devauden, through the website and notice boards. If more than 2 candidates apply an interview process to take place arranged by the new council after the 5th May. Clerk to confirm the annual meeting date of 23rd May and to locate the Standing Orders booklet.
- f) **Digital Plan** – Purchased Office 365 with 7 licences, only 2 users in place now but plan to roll out to other councillors. After elections set up generic email addresses for the wards, arrange some training and create a website with permissions, setting up folders with minutes, agendas and actions arising to start with. Then think about a public version in the coming months.
- g) **Banking** – HSBC to call Cllr M Powell as a signatory to confirm authority to proceed with adding the two new signatories as requested. (Call 16th May from HSBC).
- h) **Rapid response vehicles** – Receive update from Cllr R Greenland with regards meeting with Jason Killens, did this go ahead? The councillors wish to escalate this further. **Action RG.**
- i) **Dog bins** – Discussion on the location of the bins around Devauden and particular areas that don't have a bin (windy corner for example). Cllr Kitson-Smith proposes a letter to go to the contractor to consider either relocation of bins or arranging for additional bins. Cllr J Williams seconded the proposal and all agreed.
Clerk to write to Susan Parkinson MCC with regards to the dog bin contract. **Action AB.**
- j) **Grass cutting** – Cllr Kitson-Smith waiting for a response from Ann Cook with regards to the cutting of Howells Green.

7. Finance

- a) Balances as of 25 March 2022: current account £4,350.87; deposit account £6807.21.
Cheques approved:

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount	Vat	Total	Cheque No.
Merlin	Emptying dog bins	98.58	19.72	118.30	101818
Anita Briley	March salary (10 hours per month + backpay Feb/Mar 2022)	1061.35	0.00	1061.35	101819
Anita Briley	Expenses for April	15.00		15.00	101820
Hood Memorial Hall	Hall hire – 3x sessions	118.14		118.14	101821
Andrew Williams	MS 365 Business	41.40	8.28	49.68	101822

- b) **End of year accounts** – Awaiting final bank statements to 31st March 2022 to finalise end of year accounts. **Action AB.**
c) **Internal audit** – Agreed on an internal auditor to use for end of year accounts.
d) **Clerk home working allowance** – Cllr A Williams proposed to pay the clerk £6 per week, seconded by Cllr Kitson-Smith and all agreed.

8. Correspondence

Nothing to report.

Circulated Correspondence:

- a) Lloyd Kim MCC. Current enforcement cases.
- b) Trudy Humber MCC. Road closures.
- c) Jan Whitham MCC. Spring into Easter.
- d) Jan Whitham MCC. Register to vote, young people.
- e) Martin Leach. Grass cutting 2022.
- f) Wendi Patience OVW. Training dates for April.
- g) Jan Whitham MCC. Election information for press.
- h) Public sector executive. Procurement virtual event.
- i) Public sector executive. Government to invest 30m into decarbonisation projects.
- j) Wendi Patience OVW. Agenda for Monmouthshire committee meeting.
- k) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Free defibrillators.
- l) Wendi Patience OVW. Training April/May.
- m) Wendi Patience OVW. Monmouthshire committee meeting.
- n) Nanette Hepburn MCC. Ukrainians into Monmouthshire homes.
- o) Peter Cloke NRW. Chepstow Park woods.
- p) Maria Mulcahy OVW. South East Wales regional engagement bulletin.
- q) Wendi Patience OVW. Polling station finder 5 May.
- r) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Celebrating rural Wales event.
- s) Nanette Hepburn MCC. Abergavenny museum.
- t) Nanette Hepburn MCC. MonLife active 60 programs.
- u) Wendi Patience OVW. Newport area committee meeting.
- v) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Ramblers spring into action.
- w) Wendi Patience OVW. May training.

9. **Planning**

- a) **DM/2020/00875** – Conversion of stables, Church Farm, Church Cottage Lane, Wolvesnewton, Devauden. Change of use of stable block to self-contained holiday accommodation. Clerk to respond to MCC planning – Our previous comments in 2020 stand, and we have no further comments to make. **Action AB.**

10. **County Councillors Report**

Nothing to report.

11. **One Voice Wales**

Nothing to report.

12. **Ward reports**

Cllr I Cavill – Suggestion to propose to treat Itton Common the same way as Rhyd y Fedw Green, a once yearly cut and collect. Clerk to enquire about a cost on doing this. Cllr Cavill discussed the idea along with ‘no mow May’, ‘give away trees’, as a possible solution to Rhyd y Fedw Green to perhaps explore the possibility of planting it up. Made enquiries with people who organise this and would be interested in taking up a discussion to advise on what could be planted and when. It was suggested Cllr Cavill could do this on an advisory capacity and take this discussion forward on behalf of DCC. It was agreed that Cllr Cavill (ex-councillor after the election) could continue in an advisory capacity to DCC.

Cllr J Williams – Conversation with John Bowd from Welsh Water concerning the odours on Well Lane, will send someone out as soon as the smell returns so they can keep on top of it. Cllr Williams to contact John Bowd on behalf of DCC when the odour returns. **Action JW.**

Check if the ‘Register of Interest’ form is required to be displayed on the website or if its sufficient to say a record of members interest has been completed. **Action AB.**

Cllr M Powell – The quality of repairs on potholes, Usk Road and outside Devauden village hall were mentioned.

Cllr A Williams – Potholes at the bottom of Well Lane reference (road 60.3) about 100m up from the junction with the (road 60.13).

Cllr L Hazell-Smart – Contact village websites to publicise the drop-in sessions planned in June to talk about the long-term plans for the woodlands and harvesting programme for the next couple of years with Natural Resources Wales. **Action AB.**

Further reports of speeding in Devauden, an idea would be to contact the police to ask what criteria need to be met in order to have more speed vans. **Action AB.**

Cllr P Kenington – Residents reported that the playground on Wesley Way is getting into a poor state of repair, with peeling paint and pieces of equipment being removed and not replaced. Cllr R Greenland to advise on what can be done. **Action RG.**

13. **Date of next meeting**

25 May 2022.