

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
held on Monday 23rd May 2022 at Hood Memorial Hall, Devauden.

Councillors Present: J Williams (Chair)
A Kitson-Smith (Vice Chair)
A Williams
M Powell
P Kenington
A Kitson-Smith
L Hazell-Smart

In Attendance: A Briley - Clerk to the Council
I Cavill
Hannah Turner – member of public

1. Apologies

Cllr R Greenland and Cllr J Lucas.

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Cllr J Williams has already given written notice at a previous meeting of a personal interest in Well Lane discussions.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

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

4. 15 Minutes public participation

Hannah Turner introduced herself, who had contacted the clerk previously as interested in the ward vacancies for Devauden but missed the deadline for application so thought

she would come along to see the format of the meeting and to register interest in future positions within DCC.

5. Police report

There is very little to report thankfully for the area since the last meeting apart from the following:

3/5/2022 – Report of the theft of a handbag from an unlocked car whilst parked at a property on the outskirts of Devauden village during the day. It is not known for definite whether the bag disappeared at that time and location as the car had been driven to other locations earlier.

Please remain vigilante 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.

Cofion gorau | Kind regards

Andrew Jones

6. Matters arising

- a. **Co-option for Devauden ward and Itton ward** – Notices placed on Devauden and Itton notice boards and on the website to advertise the two vacancies, expiry date for applications was 13th May. There were two applicants for the posts, Andrew Williams and Leighton Hazell-Smart, they both gave resumes of their suitability for the roles. Cllr J Williams proposed that the two candidates that we have had in the timescale were eminently suitable. Cllr J Williams proposed that we co-opt Andrew Williams, seconded by Cllr A Kitson-Smith and show of hands confirmed decision. Cllr J Williams proposed that we co-opt Leighton Hazell-Smart, seconded by Cllr A Kitson-Smith and show of hands confirmed decision. Signed declaration of office were signed by both to confirm acceptance and take part in the meeting.

Cllr J Williams also proposed that DCC make Ivor Cavill a warden whose responsibility would be related to the Itton area as in the past his experience has been invaluable in issues with the environment, Welsh language, and political points. **Ivor accepted the role of warden for DCC.** Cllr Powell to speak to his contact in OVW to obtain a proper job description for a warden role. **Action MP.**

- b. **Wye Valley Villages Project** – Cllr A Williams gave an update on the project, agreed to set up a SharePoint folder with current updates. Discussing signage for Devauden, Ivor to check spelling of Devauden in Welsh and Cllr Williams to have the Welsh/English parts

swapped. The cost of the signage still needs to be confirmed if any additional costs are required from DCC. Action AW/ IC.

- c. **Division of responsibilities** – This has been deferred to the next meeting.
- d. **Monmouthshire Housing Association Fund** – This has been deferred until the next meeting.
- e. **Well Lane update** - A meeting last Friday was held at Well Lane with Mark Hand, the following proposed solution was suggested:
 - Widen slightly the carriageway/narrow slightly the pavement on the bend in Well Lane (by the boundary garden wall), which forms a slight pinch point;
 - Replace the kerbs with a bevelled edge kerb that will allow large vehicles to mount the pavement if it is clear. This will increase the gradient of the pavement;
 - Residents to keep their hedges trimmed to ensure they do not encroach onto the highway.

Following the meeting, Mark Hand met with Duncan Mitchell, the developer. The timescale for these works to the bottom part of the lane will actually be much sooner than we anticipated at the time of the meeting, to coincide with the development programme.

It is therefore anticipated that these changes will be made to the lower section (new garden boundary wall down, away from the village green) in the second half of June 2022.

- f. **Dog Bins** – Clerk to write to MCC to establish how we get a dog bin relocated and how we would go about purchasing another one if we get permission from the landowner (NRW). **Action AB.**
- g. **Rapid Response Vehicles** – This has been deferred to the next meeting.
- h. **Chepstow Town Council campaign to call for the minor injuries unit to return to Chepstow** – Clerk to write a letter to strongly support this. **Action AB.**
- i. **Review of Insurance Policy** – Clerk to ensure that the newly acquired bench and notice board (The Cot) is added to the policy. **Action AB.**
- j. **Grass Cutting** – Clerk to create a spreadsheet showing the areas that need cutting and exact requirements for each area (no cuts etc). Obtain quotes from MCC and local grass cutting business' using the template, review this in the next meeting. **Action AB.**

7. Finance

- a. Balances as of 22 April 2022: current account £2,075.94; deposit account £6,807.21. To note precept payment of £4054.00 (not included in figures above).
- b. Cheques approved:

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount	Vat	Total	Chq No.
Merlin	Emptying dog bins	98.58	19.72	118.30	101823
Anita Briley	Clerk salary May	608.63	0.00	608.63	101826
Anita Briley	Clerk expenses in May	97.41		97.41	101825
Philip Brabon	Internal audit	100.00		100.00	101827
Andrew Williams	MS Business 365 licence	41.40	8.28	49.68	101824

- c. **HSBC** – New mandate to be filled out to add new signatories to DCC account. Decide the date to visit HSBC with signed mandate, circulate to all councillors for attendance if available.
- d. **End of year accounts** – Final accounts completed with internal audit April 2021 to March 2022. Chair to sign Audit Wales documentation ready to submit. **Action JW/AB.**

8. Correspondence

Cllr Hazell-Smart – Following correspondence from Andrew Jones and Glen Walker from the Gwent police, it was proposed to ask for their attendance at the next meeting to cover concerns about the current speeding issues in Devauden and surrounding areas. Further conversation with Andrew Jones about a mobile speed camera as used in Itton with volunteers a few years ago. Action AB.

Circulated Correspondence:

- a. Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Age friendly Wales.
- b. Lindsay Gauntlett MCC. Monmouthshire roadworks.
- c. Mark Hand MCC. 20mph roll out.
- d. Council studies Audit Wales. Survey.
- e. Lucy Allen CCC. Letter concerning primary health care.

- f. Kim Lloyd MCC. April enforcement cases.
- g. Planning MCC. DM/2022/00465.
- h. Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Keep Wales tidy.
- i. Trudy Humber MCC. Road closures.
- j. Lindsay Gauntlett MCC. Roadworks May.
- k. PSE. Net zero government.
- l. Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Keep Wales tidy packages.
- m. Wendi Patience OVW. Training places.
- n. Wendi Patience OVW. New councillor induction.
- o. Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Climate change newsletter.
- p. Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Plant life Cymru.
- q. Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Future Wales newsletter.
- r. Jan Whitham MCC. Food fund available.
- s. Nanette Hepburn MCC. Foster Wales Monmouthshire.
- t. Nicola Perry MCC. Agenda County Council.
- u. Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Celebrating rural Wales event.
- v. Wil Barnston MCC. 10-year celebration of Wales coastal path.
- w. Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Good practice examples of global warming.
- x. PSE. Welsh government to invest millions in net zero ambitions.
- y. Wendi Patience OVW. May training dates.
- z. Lindsay Gauntlett MCC. Monmouthshire roadworks up to 20 May 22.
- aa. Abigail Barton MCC. MCC website survey.
- bb. Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Network about environmental issues.
- cc. Jan Whitham MCC. New chair elected MCC.
- dd. Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Community ownership fund.
- ee. Lindsay Gauntlett MCC. Monmouthshire roadworks week ending 27 May.
- ff. Jan Whitham MCC. Monmouthshire elects first female leader.
- gg. Susan Parkinson MCC. Update on dog bin contract.
- hh. Huw Rowlands Gwent Police. We Don't Buy Crime Team.
- ii. Jan Whitham MCC. Jubilee weekend.
- jj. Southeast forest operations. Virtual workshop Thursday 9th June.
- kk. PSE. Newport council transfer to cloud-based storage.
- ll. Angharad Selway NRW. Drop-in sessions for NRW 15/16 June.

9.Planning

- a. DM/2022/00465 – Cledd Y Tan Farm, Newchurch, Devauden. Planning permission to make two small turnout paddocks for horses. No objection. **Action AB.**

10. County Councillors Report

Nothing to report.

11. One Voice Wales

Nothing to report.

12. Ward reports

Cllr A Williams – Reported that the potholes at the end of Well Lane were filled in. Also, confirmed that a SharePoint site has been set up for DCC, the next step is to set up ward defined emails.

Cllr P Kenington – Reported that the Devauden Festival was a great success.

Cllr J Williams – Reported that Well Lane was busy but was well monitored, however on Saturday evening at 11:30 bollards were put at the top of Well Lane, so residents had to remove them to return home.

13. Date of next meeting

20 June 2022.