

## **MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**held on Monday 20th June 2022 at Hood Memorial Hall, Devauden.**

**Councillors Present:** J Williams (Chair)

M Powell

L Hazell-Smart

J Lucas

**In Attendance:** R Greenland (County Councillor of Devauden ward)

I Cavill (warden)

PC 1528 Lloyd Davies – Gwent Police

Sylvia Parry – member of public

Georgene Hancock – member of public

A Briley - Clerk to the Council

### **1. Apologies**

Cllr A Kitson-Smith, Cllr A Williams and Cllr P Kenington were to join via teams, however there were technical difficulties at the start of the meeting which prevented them in joining. They emailed over individual ward reports which were read out by the clerk.

Cllr J Williams welcomed our new councillor for the ward of Llanvihangel Tor-Y-Mynydd Jane Lucas.

### **2. Police Report**

PC Lloyd Davies attended the meeting with the following police report:

19/5/2022 – Report of a male acting strangely at property on the outskirts of Devauden village. Officers attended and the male was arrested at the scene.

26/5/2022 – Report of an abandoned vehicle in an isolated lane off Kilgwrrwg road. This was connected to the above incident and has since been removed.

10/6/2022 – Report of a red transit van acting suspiciously on the outskirts of Devauden village. No crime has been reported.

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).

Cllr Leighton Hazell-Smart voiced his concerns on the increased volume of speeding in the Devauden and Itton areas to PC Lloyd Davies.

It was discussed there were three ways of going forward, 1) a collaborative approach with the Fire Service and Go Safe team, 2) a local operation just with his colleagues, and 3) a community speed watch group with volunteers.

1) The collaborative approach would involve the police to conduct the mobile speed gun checks and to stop any driver that is travelling above the calculated speed threshold. They would then divert the driver to the village hall where the Fire Service and Go Safe team would provide an educational input to the driver as a means of disposal. Should a driver not wish to engage in the process then the police would issue them with a fixed penalty ticket on the spot.

This approach has worked well in the Tintern area so could be a good option for Devauden as well.

2) In addition to this, it was suggested to lead a localised speed enforcement day whereby the police will provide overt speed monitoring at various locations through the village on an ad hoc basis.

3) Another option to consider is to set up a community speed watch group amongst volunteers which has happened in the past.

PC Lloyd Davies said they hope to show more of a visible presence in the area over the coming weeks when they can.

Mrs Hancock mentioned she had concerns of road safety in particular the roads around the church in Wolvesnewton because of overgrown hedges that have not been cut for years. PC Lloyd Davies said he would contact the rural policing team to report the complaint.

### 3. 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.

### 4. Minutes of meeting held 23rd May 2022.

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23rd May 2022 were approved and signed by the chair.

### 5. 15 minutes public participation

Cllr J Williams had been asked by a member of the public to read out a letter addressed to Devauden Community Council from Mrs Georgene Hancock relating to planning application DM/2020/00875. (The letter has been retained and is available upon request by contacting the clerk).

Mrs Georgene Hancock was asked if she was happy that the letter had been read out and if she had anything else that she wanted to add.

Cllr Powell felt that the matters raised were outside the remit of the community council.

Mrs Hancock asked if DCC could do anything about arranging for hedges to be cut back.

Cllr J Williams requested the clerk to contact Mark Hand to arrange a visit to the site to look at the hedges and the roads and make a decision if they need to be cut back. **Action AB.**

### 6. Matters Arising

- a) **Discussion of new chair** – This has been deferred until the next meeting for discussion.
- b) **Wye Valley Villages project update** – Clerk to email Cllr A Williams for an update. **Action AB**
- c) **New email addresses for the wards** – Clerk to email Cllr A Williams for an update. **Action AB.**
- d) **DCC meeting dates** – Councillors confirmed the dates for this coming year to be held in the main room at the Hood Memorial Hall. The clerk has already booked and confirmed these dates with the secretary. Clerk to display dates on notice boards and the website. **Action AB.**

**Dates as follows:**

|             |                       |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| <b>2022</b> | 25 <sup>th</sup> July |
|             | 26 September          |

|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
|             | 31 October  |
|             | 28 November |
|             | 19 December |
| <b>2023</b> | 30 January  |
|             | 27 February |
|             | 27 March    |
|             | 24 April    |
|             | 29 May      |

- e) **Monmouthshire Housing Association fund** - Clerk to email Cllr P Kenington for an update. **Action AB.**
- f) **Well Lane Kerbing** – Cllr J Williams reported that works on the kerbing had started but as promised by Mark Hand MCC no markings had been made for residents and DCC to review before works. Clerk to write to MH to give the feedback and find out why markings have not been done for review. **Action AB.**  
Cllr J Williams reported that there has still been no response from MCC planning or the developer regarding the proposed installation of a gate into the allotments. DCC have already sent a letter objecting to this. Clerk to contact MCC planning and Mark Hand to reiterate that we categorically do not want a gate into DCC owned land. **Action AB.**
- g) **Dog Bins** – Clerk reported the cost of a new dog bin would be £189 + vat with MCC and Merlin would charge £45 + vat to move a bin. Looking at relocating a bin to “Windy Corner”, clerk to contact Public Highways to ask for permission. Also contact NRW to ask for permission to place a new dog bin at “Wern-y-cwm” car park. **Action AB.**
- h) **Grass Cutting** – Clerk presented template to complete to send out to suppliers to receive quotes for next years’ grass cutting contract. Email received from a member of the public in Itton Common requesting that the Oak tree outside his house needs pollarding as getting too close to the houses. Clerk to respond to the email sent by the member of public and to contact MCC about the pollarding and the honey fungus he mentioned also. All councillors to look at schedule to then discuss at the next meeting. **Action AB.**
- i) **Clerk Annual Leave** – The clerk will be on annual leave the week of the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

## 7. Finance

- a. Balances as of 25 May 2022: current account £4,053.23; deposit account £6,807.21. To note precept payment of £4054.00 (included in figures above).
- b. End of year accounts – April 2021 to March 2022 – Clerk filed with Audit Wales and audit notice displayed on the website.
- c. HSBC – Still waiting for forms to be sent to Cllr M Powell to be able to add signatories to the account. **Action MP/AB.**

d. Cheques approved:

| <b>Payee</b>        | <b>Reason for expenditure</b>                | <b>Amount</b> | <b>Vat</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>Chq No.</b> |
|---------------------|--|---------------|------------|--------------|----------------|
| Merlin              | Emptying dog bins – June                     | 98.58         | 19.72      | 118.30       | 101831         |
| Anita Briley        | Clerk salary June                            | 595.83        | 0.00       | 595.83       | 101833         |
| Anita Briley        | Clerk expenses in June                       | 47.41         |            | 47.41        | 101834         |
| Beverley & Williams | Payroll/PAYE admin                           | 32.90         | 6.58       | 39.48        | 101835         |
| HMRC                | PAYE Quarter 1                               | 38.36         |            | 38.36        | 101836         |
| Hood Memorial Hall  | Hall hire April and May (£39.38 per session) | 78.76         |            | 78.76        | 101830         |
| Martin Leach        | Grass cutting Howells Green                  | 30.00         |            | 30.00        | 101832         |
| Jacqui Williams     | Time capsule for Jubilee (Devauden)          | 59.00         |            | 59.00        | 101837         |
| Andrew Williams     | MS Business 365 licence - June               | 41.40         | 8.28       | 49.68        | 101829         |

## 8. Correspondence

Nothing to report.

### **Circulated Correspondence:**

- a) Wendi Patience OVW. Training dates.
- b) Lindsay Gauntlet MCC. Monmouthshire roadworks.
- c) Jan Whitham MCC. Chepstow cabin for wellbeing opens since covid.
- d) BMBO. Notice of cycling event 25/26 June.
- e) Southeast Forest Operations. Virtual workshop 9<sup>th</sup> June.
- f) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Heritage fund.
- g) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. NRW board recruitment.
- h) Susan Parkinson MCC. Red card dog fouling agenda.
- i) Kim Lloyd MCC. Monthly enforcement list.
- j) Chris Evans Gwent Police. Speeding concerns.
- k) Lindsay Gauntlet MCC. Monmouthshire roadworks.
- l) NRW. Virtual workshop information.
- m) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. National forest funding for Wales.
- n) Planning MCC. DM/2022/00819.
- o) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. 2022 version of the Good Councillors Guide.
- p) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Statutory guidance relating to the local government and elections.
- q) Maria Mulcahy OVW. Area committee meeting 7<sup>th</sup> July.
- r) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Finance and governance toolkit.
- s) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Newsletter edition 6.
- t) Rachel Carter OVW. Celebrating nature week.
- u) Tim Donegani LGP Partnerships. Toolkit for community councils.
- v) Lindsay Gauntlet MCC. MCC roadworks week ending 26 June 2022.
- w) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Newport area committee meeting.

## 9. Planning

**DM/2022/00819** – High Ridge, Lane from B4293 Itton Road to Park House, Itton Common. Garage with hobbies and art room above. No objection. **Action AB.**

**DM/2022/00871** – Agric Notification proposed machinery store. Huntsman Cottage, Curre Hunt Kennels, Itton. No Response.

## 10. County Councillors Report

Speed Restrictions :- Cllr R Greenland reported that it was good to see the new speed restrictions being implemented in Devauden, however he has now asked MCC to extend this further in particular way beyond Tredean Lodge to where the bus stops is as its dangerous to have a bus stop where the traffic speed restrictions end. DCC had previously received a letter from a member of the public with these exact concerns. Cllr Greenland confirmed that this will take place in a future traffic order. However, beyond

Devauden Cllr Greenland has been concerned for some time about the speed limit through New Inn towards Cobblers Plain and has put in a request to have a consideration of lower speed limits through New Inn. These considerations also apply to Itton and all rural villages to implement 20mph, however public consultations should be held to ascertain where they go in our area.

## **11. One Voice Wales**

Nothing to report.

## **12. Ward Reports**

**Cllr A Williams** – Reported he had a letter from Ann Octon, requesting we help secure a 20mph speed limit for Itton Common (currently 30mph). Cllr Williams supports this and will respond to the email separately and copy the group. **Action AW.**

**Cllr P Kenington** – Reported that the Chair of the Hood Memorial Hall, Kevin McElroy has indicated that he plans to resign in July. As of today, but not sure who will be taking over.

Cllr P Kenington was approached by a Devauden resident during the week, complaining that the DCC minutes were a little tardy in making their way to the website. He mentioned that the most recent minutes were April's. Clerk to clarify. **Action AB.**

**Cllr A Kitson-Smith** – Reported that he took some of his family on a bit of a ramble during the Jubilee weekend, heading to Llansoy from Kilgwrrwg. He was very concerned at the state of some footpaths, with some routes clearly blocked, a very rotten and dangerous bridge over a ravine and difficult access at many points. Cllr Kitson-Smith will try and put something more complete together for footpaths in MCC. **Action AKS.**

Also, a brief note on speed monitoring. The vans were out around the Jubilee weekend in St. Arvans and Llanishen, but clearly not in Devauden or Itton.

**Cllr L Hazell-Smart** – Asked a question about the use of the village green and whether historically we've ever used it for things like 'farmers markets', if we would consider this in the future. Maybe it could be factored into the 'Wye Valley Villages Project' as some sort of community activity where local businesses could display their goods/crafts etc. or Xmas fetes as an idea.

**Cllr J Lucas** – Reported concerns about the speed limits into Star Hill. Cllr A Williams put together a road safety report which was submitted to MCC, clerk to forward to Cllr J Lucas. Cllr Lucas to attend Llanvihangel project group meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> July at The Star and will report back. **Action AB/JL.**

**Cllr J Williams** – Reported the Jubilee was very well attended with over 200 people even though the weather wasn't very good. Thanks were expressed to DCC for the

donation of the time capsule. It was a nonprofit event and there was a small amount of money left over which was donated to the 'Tom Walker Leukemia' charity.

Cllr Williams attended the drop-in session with NRW held at the Hood Memorial Hall last week which talked about plans for Chepstow Park Woods. Talking to NRW (Thomas Blythe) he mentioned that trees up the side of the hall and the dangerous branches should be cut back for safety. Contact footpaths (MCC) to establish who is responsible for cutting back the trees along this lane. **Action AB.**

### **13. Items for the agenda and date for next meeting.**

Llanvihangel project group

Grass cutting contract

The date for the next meeting is Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022.