

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

held on Monday 25th July 2022 at Hood Memorial Hall, Devauden.

Councillors Present: J Williams (Chair)

M Powell

L Hazell-Smart

J Lucas

A Williams

A Kitson-Smith

P Kenington

In Attendance: Mr and Mrs Evans

Sylvia Parry

I Cavill (Warden)

A Briley - Clerk to the Council

1. Apologies

County Councillor R Greenland.

2. Police Report

28/6/2022 – Report of a boundary fence cut deliberately by unknown persons overnight at a property on the outskirts of Devauden village.

12/7/2022 – Report of a 2 vehicle non injury RTC (road traffic collision) on the B4293 Nex Common to Cobblers Hill area. Officers attended and all details were exchanged at the scene.

21/7/2022 – We had an Options 20 mph speed operation in Devauden village in conjunction with South Wales Fire service. 276 vehicles were checked with our speed gun with an average speed of 18.5 mph found. 2 drivers had an input with the Fire Service and 1 other driver was advised at the scene. Many thanks for the use of the village hall.

Matter of note: We have recently had reports in the Chepstow area of cold callers attending addresses touting for work (driveways cleaned or laid, tree cutting, guttering cleaned/ fixed etc). Please keep an eye out for your more vulnerable neighbours if you see any like persons attending their address. Some of these workmen use pressurising tactics and can be very intimidating and don't take no for an answer. If you see any such activity and believe your neighbour may be being taken advantage of, please call us on the usual numbers to report.

If workman do attend your address and your happy for them to do the work, take time to think about it, and discuss with family or friends before going ahead with it for obvious reasons but the best course of action is to use a reputable workman that has been recommended by family or friends.

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

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.

Cllr J Lucas expressed conflict of interest in the licensing discussions.

4. Minutes of meeting held 20th June 2022.

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 20th June 2022 were approved by all and seconded by Cllr J Lucas then signed by the chair. To be posted on website.

5. 15 minutes public participation

Mr & Mrs Evans attended and spoke regarding a noise complaint coming from Dorlands. Mr & Mrs Evans are resident at Cwm Fagor Farm.

They provided the meeting with a detail of the noise issue coming from Dorlands and described that the noise levels have been increasing overtime to the point which it became intolerable at an event held at Dorlands on the 9th July 2022.

The issue is now registered with MCC, and they are now investigating it.

The Clerk's guidance was that MCC are providing temporary licenses to Dorlands and that they are reviewing applications on an individual basis. These applications can be refused if noise complaints are received by Environment Health.

Council P Kenington's guidance is to make sure the complaint is raised with Environmental Health and have them attend the property to conduct a noise monitoring check.

The Community Council has agreed to support the noise monitoring check. Clerk to contact Michael Richardson at Environmental Health Services. **ACTION AB**

Additional points raised by Mr Evans relating to the condition of Well Lane and Cwm Fagor Road. (60.3) the road has several potholes and at different points is either crumbling away or has already been eroded. Also, a request for new signage on this road to be installed stating that this road is not suitable for heavy vehicles. **ACTION AB** to contact Mark Hand on both matters.

6. Matters Arising

a) Discussion of new chair

Cllr J Williams to remain as chair.

b) Wye Valley Villages project update

Cllr A Williams provided a short summary of the latest status on the project. Further updates expected in the coming weeks.

c) New email addresses for the wards

Cllr A Williams offered one to one training and or a Teams meeting to present an overview of the capability of SharePoint for all users. In the first instance it was agreed to use the meetings minutes as an experimental workflow for the wards to gain access and explore the tools **ACTION AB** to arrange to send instructions on how to access SharePoint and to set a date for a Teams call.

d) Discussion on minutes

DCC to now publish meeting notes within 7 working days of a council meeting as per The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 6.7. The 2021 inserts a requirement under section 26ZA of Schedule 12 to the 1972 Act that no later than seven working days of a council meeting, the council must publish electronically a note setting out: -

The names of the members who attended the meeting

Any apologies for absence

Any declarations of interest; and

Any decisions taken at the meeting including the outcomes of any votes.

ACTION AB to provide notes template

e) **Monmouthshire Housing Association fund**

Cllr P Kenington reported this is ongoing, no real updates since last feedback.

f) **Well Lane kerbing/allotment gate**

Cllr J Williams provided an update on the correspondence received from Mark Hand relating to DCC decision on the allotment gates.

Contact Mark Hand to confirm to him that we wish to make further enquiries, but in principle DCC are interested in taking on the land, however we would need an endowment that covers the maintenance in perpetuity including any legal costs associated with the transfer of ownership. **ACTION AB/PK**

g) **Dog Bins**

Relocating Dog Bins to Windy Corner – No Decision on who owns the land, waiting for feedback from MCC.

New Bin at Wern-y-Cym – Confirmed by NRW that this is their land, but they have advised that they require Public Liability Insurance and First Aid Certificates for the contractor that installs and empties the bin at this site. The current contractor has no first aid certificate and has advised that they have no intention to acquire one. **ACTION AB** to contact NRW and review the requirement at this site and with the contractor.

An additional request has also been received for Chepstow Park Wood which is now under DCC. Details to be presented to the next meeting for review and decision.

h) **Grass Cutting**

Grass cutting schedule reviewed and agreed for the future maintenance agreement.

i) **Speeding update in Devauden**

Agreed the need to run additional speeding sessions at commuter times. Contact Lloyd Davies to agree this. It was also discussed that the 40mph speed limit leaving Devauden on the B4293 should be extended passed the Kilgwrrwg turn as there have been several concerns raised by residents attempting to join the B4293 from the Kilgwrrwg road about the increasing speed of the motorist leaving Devauden from 20mph zone. **ACTION AB**

j) Traffic calming report/Llanvihangel project group

Cllr J Lucas raised a concern relating to the road surface and speed on (60.8) joining the (R71) down to (60.15). Possible opportunity to add new painted white lines to put emphasis on the narrowing of the road.

7. Finance

- a. Balances as of 25 June 2022: current account £2,625.65; deposit account £6,808.06.
- b. Bank reconciliation from April to June 2022 was noted.
- c. Banking

The person dealing with the signatory's request at HSBC has now left. Check with HSBC who is now handling the request. DCC to raise a formal complaint. Check with One Voice Wales whether there are any restrictions on the type of bank or accounts that the Community Council can use. Discussion to switch HSBC to one of the online bankers. *It was agreed that all councillors to be added as signatories and to complete the HSBC banking mandate form. An agreement was made that once the extra signatories were added to proceed with getting online banking set up.* **ACTION AB**

- d. Councillor Remuneration for 2022/23

Payments towards costs and expenses discussed. Councillors to review and confirm.

- e. Cheques approved:

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount	Vat	Total	Chq No.
Merlin	Emptying dog bins – July	98.58	19.72	118.30	101838
Anita Briley	Clerk salary July	595.83	0.00	595.83	101840
Anita Briley	Clerk expenses in July	38.76	0.00	38.76	101841

Martin Leach	Grass cutting Howells Green	30.00	0.00	30.00	101839
Andrew Williams	MS Business 365 license – July	41.40	8.28	49.68	101842

8. Correspondence

Nothing to report.

Circulated Correspondence:

- a) Leighton Jones Welsh Government. Statement of payment proforma.
- b) Susan Parkinson MCC. Meeting notes from dog fouling campaign.
- c) MCC Planning. DM/2022/00862 – Internal remodelling of swimming pool building. Devauden Road.
- d) Trudy Humber MCC. TTRO notices 6-12 July.
- e) Kelly Santaana MCC. Roadworks.
- f) Wendi Patience OVW. June/July training dates.
- g) MCC Planning. DM/2022/00942 – Planning permission.
- h) Lindsay Gauntlett MCC. Monmouthshire roadworks.
- i) Kim Lloyd MCC. Monthly enforcement list.
- j) MCC Planning. DM/2018/01741 Well Lane development.
- k) Wendi Patience OVW. July training dates.
- l) Susan Parkinson MCC. Dog fouling signs.
- m) Mark Hand MCC. 20mph latest updates.
- n) Wendi Patience OVW. Changing mowing to save wildlife.
- o) Taylor Watts MCC. Events licence.
- p) Lindsay Gauntlett MCC. Roadworks week ending 22/7/22.
- q) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Latest news from Planning Aid Wales.
- r) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Innovative practice conference.
- s) MCC planning. DM/2022/00918 Branksham House, Devauden Road.
- t) Jan Whitham MCC. Press release about the town centre in Chepstow.
- u) Richard Morgan Government Business Team. Minor injuries unit to return to Chepstow email.
- v) Lindsay Gauntlett MCC. Monmouthshire roadworks.
- w) Wendi Patience OVW. August training dates.

9. Planning

DM/2021/01795 – Discharge of condition 8 and 13 for planning decision (Land off Well Lane development of 15 houses)

With regards to the above discharge of condition 8, the revised drawing shows the planting that will be placed on the public side of the fence alongside the public access to the community orchard and wildflower meadow between properties 11 and 12 which looks fine.

But it was raised that residents were unable to find similar details of the planting that is to be placed on the lane side of the 1.8-meter fence by properties 1 - 5. Request to see the plans for this planting. **Action AB.**

DM/2022/00918 – A single storey rear extension to a three-storey detached dwelling, Branksham House, Devauden Road.

Waiting for further information. **Action AB.**

DM/2022/00942 – Planning permission – Retrospective approval of extension to agricultural building and siting of caravan. Fair Oak Nursery, The Cot, St Arvans.

DCC still have outstanding questions on this application. **ACTION AB.**

10. County Councillors Report

None.

11. One Voice Wales

Nothing to report.

12. Ward Reports

Cllr M Powell – Reported that there is now know one in charge of the defibrillator in Itton, the battery is coming up to being 3 years old and the pads are out of date. Cllr Powell to contact Rita Edwards St Arvans CC. **ACTION MP.**

Ivor Cavill – Reported very sad news that John Rogers died who had a big role in Itton Community Council and was a major benefactor to the parish. He also was a governor for Shirenewton school. Our condolences and thoughts go to John's family.

Cllr A Kitson-Smith – Reported a request from the secretary to the parochial church council for Kilgwrrwg for a donation for the upkeep of the grass cutting. This will be included in the accounts for the end of September. Cllr P Kenington mentioned the same donation should be arranged for Devauden church. **Action AB.**

Cllr A Williams – Reported that he was still investigating the speeding issue raised by Ann Octon in the last meeting who is requesting help to secure a 20mph speed limit for Itton Common (currently 30mph). Cllr Williams is looking at ways to consult with the public and a get broader consensus of peoples' views, he will report back at the next meeting. **ACTION AW.**

Cllr J Lucas – Reported that she went to see Mrs Hancock in Wolvesnewton, it was agreed that DCC would contact MCC to request an officer to come out to assess the trees and hedges. **ACTION AB.**

Cllr J Williams was sent a letter from Mrs Hancock which was read out in the meeting.

Cllr J Williams – Reported that she has had some complaints about hedge cutting in Wesley Way as you go down on the left-hand side, it's very overgrown. Also, reported that nothing has been done about the dropped kerbs at the Hood Memorial Hall, residents are having problems attending events because of the access, particularly mobility scooters. **ACTION AB** to contact Mark Hand.

Clerk – Received a phone call from one of the residents in The Cot to complain about the state of the notice board at The Cot. (The Cot is now in the boundary area of Devauden Community Council). Cllr J Williams said she would visit to assess the condition of the bench and the notice board. **Action JW.**

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

The date for the next meeting is Monday 26th September 2022.