

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

held on Monday 31st October 2022 at Hood Memorial Hall, Devauden.

Councillors Present: J Williams (Chair)
A Kitson-Smith via Teams
A Williams
M Powell
L Hazell-Smart

In Attendance: I Cavill (Warden)
A Briley - Clerk to the Council

1. Apologies

Cllr P Kenington, Cllr J Lucas and County Councillor R Buckler.

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None.

3. Confirmation of minutes of meeting held 26th September 2022

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 26th September 2022 were approved by all then signed by the chair. To be posted on website.

4. 15 minutes public participation

No public participation.

5. Police Report - Andrew Jones Gwent Police

2/9/2022 – Report of a male arrested at the scene for drug driving offences on the road near Cobblers Plain. The vehicle was also recovered by us as it was being driven with no insurance.

4/9/2022 – Report of a 1 vehicle rtc (road traffic collision) on the B4293 near Howick Farm. The vehicle had ended up on its side. Driver taken to hospital to be checked out, not known to be serious.

14/9/2022 – Report of the theft of heavy-duty electric cable, a log splitter, and other various tools from land on Church cottage lane, Wolvesnewton.

17/9/2022 – Report of off-road bikes in the woods off Coal Road, Devauden.

27/9/2022- Report of a 1 vehicle rtc on the B4293 near Itton village Hall. The vehicle had collided with a deer. Damage was caused to the vehicle, but thankfully the driver was not injured but shaken up. Unfortunately, the deer died.

28/9/2022 – Report of a 1 vehicle rtc on the Cross hands to Old Quarry Road, LLansoy. The vehicle had left the road into a field. The occupants were taken to hospital to be checked out but not deemed to be serious.

20/10/2022 – Report of a suspicious vehicle driving the Itton Common Road during darkness with no lights on. No other details of the vehicle taken, and no crime reported in that area.

6. Matters Arising

- a) **Wye Valley Villages** – Teams steering group meeting arranged for the 23rd of November. Cllr A Williams to agree an agenda with some of the other community councils involved to take to the meeting in preparation. Top of the list being speeding and the introduction of 20mph, one request for this to happen in Itton Common but also to reduce the overall speed in between the villages. Also, on the agenda will be a discussion about the Wye Valley AONB sustainable landscape sustainable places funding 2022-2025 which is a Welsh Government capital funding program for supporting more sustainable and resilient communities, landscapes and access in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks. **Action AW.**
- b) **Dog bin contract** – MCC notified us that they had been unsuccessful in awarding a new contract for dog bin emptying, therefore the service is still currently being provided by Merlin Environmental Services. DCC currently have a fortnightly collection of dog waste, it was proposed by Cllr J Williams and seconded by Cllr A Williams to write to Merlin to request a monthly collection to reduce our costs. **Action AB.**
- c) **Allotments car parking** – DCC received a response from Mark Hand (MCC) saying that the transfer of the car parking area would be between the developer and the Community Council so we would need to cover our own legal costs, MCC would not be involved. The S106 does not make any provision for future maintenance, that would fall to the Community Council. If

the Community Council do not wish to take on the land, it would pass to the management company that would be managing the other open spaces on the site. Cllr L Hazell-Smart to prepare a response to MCC regrettably informing them as we can't see any formal indication about being able to change its use for public community, we can't see how this would be anything but a liability so regrettably we would have to decline, unless there is some other form of way that you could indicate there would be greater public community. **Action LHS/AB.**

- d) SharePoint and new email addresses** - Cllr A Williams has sent new instructions to set up SharePoint with the aim for all the councillors by the end of November to access all DCC documents including the minutes and future agendas. **Action all councillors.**

7. Clerks Report

My Mon outstanding reports

14865962 – dropped kerbs by the village hall – setting up an on-site visit.

14498950 – overgrown hedges/trees by the Hood Memorial Hall – open – MCC comments were - The lane in question is a PROW (Footpath) initially the maintenance of the area would sit with our Countryside department who I will forward onto, but we must also take into consideration if the trees and Hedge rows interfering with the footway are located in private land if this is the case it would be the adjoining land owners responsibility to ensure their plant growth is not interfering with the PROW. Mr Lucas from MCC has been to look at the trees and reported that there two dead ash on the track leading up to Chepstow Park Wood which he has passed onto MCC Rights of Way as this comes under their remit, he has recommended they should be removed. A large sycamore is hanging over the hall buildings, which could be crown reduced. All other trees either side of that track, mainly beech and oak look stable. Liability boundaries just need to be confirmed.

15175543 – Request to extend 40mph on B4293 travelling from Devauden past Kilgwrrwg turning – under review.

15465449 – Star Hill potholes and road surface – under review. Rachel Buckler to supply further updates at the November community council meeting.

15455592 – Slow speed limiting sign to Kilgwrrwg – Mr Lucas from MCC reported that he has trimmed the hedge back in the immediate vicinity of the gradient sign on Kilgwrrwg Lane. The private hedge is already well maintained, difficult to see how the whole hedge could be cut back much further without impacting on its structure. Ideally the sign should be raised higher on a new pole or moved a little way further down the lane.

8. Finance

- a. Balances as of 25 October 2022: current account £4,376.60; deposit account £6,809.75.
- b. Banking – Online banking has been set up, all payments to be made by BACs after approval of payments in the monthly meeting. Waiting for confirmation from HSBC on adding extra signatories to the account. Clerk to chase HSBC are processing. **Action AB.**
- c. Budget/precept review – Precept and budget discussions started to plan for 2023/24. Clerk to prepare a breakdown of full costs for this year and think about where we could cut costs. Full review at November's meeting. **Action AB.**
- d. Cheques approved for October 2022.

October 2022

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount	Vat	Total (£)	Payment method
Merlin	Emptying dog bins – October	98.58	19.72	118.30	BACs
Anita Briley	Clerk salary October	595.83	0.00	595.83	BACs
Anita Briley	Clerk expenses October	33.41	0.0	33.41	BACs
Itton Parish Church	Donation for churchyard maintenance	100.00	0.0	100.00	101858
St Michaels Church, Llanfihangel	Donation for churchyard maintenance	100.00	0.0	100.00	101859

Tor-y-Mynydd					
Martin Leach	Grass cutting Howells Green	30.00	0.0	30.00	BACs
Andrew Williams	MS Business 365 licence – September 22	41.40	8.28	49.68	BACs
MCC grounds maintenance 2022/2023	Grass cutting	819.85	163.97	983.82	BACs
			TOTAL	£2,011.04	

9. Correspondence

Nothing to report.

Circulated Correspondence:

- a) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Guidance on preparing council's training plan.
- b) Trudy Humber MCC. TTRO consultation (temporary road closures)
- c) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Welsh Government funded defibrillators.
- d) Jan Whitham MCC. Sustainable growth in the county.
- e) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Closing deadline for Local places for Nature.
- f) MCC planning application. DM/2022/01385 Cross Farm.
- g) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Creating resilient spaces for nature online conference.
- h) Lindsay Gauntlett MCC. Monmouthshire roadworks.
- i) Susan Parkinson MCC. Give dog fouling the red card meeting.
- j) Jan Whitham MCC Press release. MCC reports £8.8 million overspend.
- k) Jan Whitham MCC. Share views on Chepstow regeneration proposals.

- l) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Joint OVW and SLCC event.
- m) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Ramblers – our paths our future.
- n) Susan Parkinson MCC. Dog fouling stickers.
- o) Planning MCC. DM/2022/01379.
- p) Planning MCC. DM/2022/01338.
- q) Rachel Carter OVW. Building resilient places for nature.
- r) Philip Thomas MCC. Planning aid Wales.
- s) Sadie Beer MCC. Wye valley villages signage.
- t) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. No longer using starleaf, now using zoom for meetings.
- u) Lindsay Gauntlett MCC. Roadworks notification.
- v) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Remuneration annual report.
- w) Jan Whitham MCC. PR – Community nature spaces coming to Chepstow.
- x) Susan Parkinson MCC. Dog bin emptying contract.
- y) MCC planning. DM/2022/01443.
- z) MCC planning. DM/2022/01401.
- aa) Jan Whitham MCC. MCC signs menopause workplace pledge.
- bb) Mark Cleaver MCC. Road closure Chepstow.
- cc) Wendi Patience OVW. October to November training dates.
- dd) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. OVW/SLCC event 9th November 2022.
- ee) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Welsh language fraud attempts.
- ff) Susan Parkinson MCC. Dog fouling meeting.
- gg) David Davies. Monmouthshire council tax hikes.
- hh) Jan Whitham MCC. PR – Council's cost of living summits.
- ii) Maria Mulcahy OVW. Monmouth Newport area committee meeting.
- jj) Trudy Humber MCC. Temporary road closures.
- kk) Judith Langdon MCC. Cost of living summits.
- ll) Lindsay Gauntlett MCC. Monmouthshire roadworks.
- mm) Rachel Carter OVW. Conference on biodiversity.

- nn) Nanette Hepburn MCC. Free weekend bus travel.
- oo) Wendi Patience OVW. Public participation strategy survey.
- pp) Sadie Beer MCC. Wye Valley AONB.
- qq) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Welsh government fuel support scheme.
- rr) OVW news bulletin.
- ss) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Decarbonisation masterclass.

10. Planning

DM/2022/01385 – Cross Farm, Ravensnest Wood Road, Tintern - conversion of an existing small stone barn into an annex – Undetermined.

DM/2022/01338 – Corner Cottage, Kilgwrrwg - erection of single storey building to form a home gym – Recommend no objection.

DM/2022/01379 – Cross Farm, Ravensnest Wood Road, Tintern – Planning permission – sustainable oriented glamping – Recommend no objection but would like more information on the location of the composting toilets in proximity to the stream.

DM/2022/01401 – Pool Cottage, Devauden – Planning permission – alterations and extension to existing dwelling. Recommend objection, agree with the comments made by the planning officers.

DM/2022/01443 – The Bothy, Coal Road, Devauden – Adding one storey to the existing property – Recommend no objection.

11. One Voice Wales

Nothing to report.

12. County Councillor Report

County Councillor R Buckler was absent from the meeting but did forward the following message:

Firstly, I'd like to say I look forward to working with you all, and I look forward to seeing you in November.

Apologies for my absence this time, I am unwell.

Star Hill/Pitch update

Following on from contact made by Councillor Jane Lucas, I have been in touch with the engineers and officer in charge of Asset Management for Capital Budgets regarding the dangerous state of this section of road. It is being assessed and I will have more updates for the November Community Council Meeting.

It is fair to point out, that there is little/or no capital funding for this year for projects such as this, but I am highlighting the dangerous nature of the road surface and will continue to do so as a matter of urgency.

In the meantime, they have confirmed they will address any potholes or dangerous conditions on this section of carriageway.

Please do make me aware of anything arising from tonight's meeting that needs my attention.

Rachel Buckler

13. Ward Reports

Cllr A Kitson-Smith

- Commented on the hidden gradient sign on the Kilgwrrwg Road being cleared by MCC, however it was suggested that it wasn't in the right position as it will always get covered by the hedge and needs to be raised. Clerk to contact MCC to progress this action. **Action AB.**
- Reported that the defibrillator in Kilgwrrwg is being looked after by Mike Fleetwood as an act of charity, doing a weekly check on it and reporting to the British Heart Foundation. Clerk to contact Barrie Howells to see if there is a more cohesive approach to managing defibrillators in the community. **Action AB.**

Cllr A Williams

- Mentioned that over a year ago it was discussed about creating a newsletter for Devauden/Itton and surrounding areas that would encompass the minutes and the discussions in monthly meetings leading to decisions. Ideally would be made available every two months via email, website, and the parish magazine.

- Mentioned that Rita Edwards had got in touch with him saying she was uncomfortable that Rachel Buckler had attended our last meeting and why had the other candidates not been given the same opportunity. Cllr Williams explained that no invites were given out to attend the DCC meeting and in this case, Rachel Buckler had just turned up and sat at the back to listen and didn't speak.

Cllr M Powell

- Reported that Mr Chamberlain is still concerned that the oak tree in front of his house at Itton Common will come down and damage his house. Clerk to contact Mr Lucas at MCC to discuss. **Action AB.**

Cllr J Williams

- Reported that Mr Lucas Tree Officer from MCC had been to look at the ash in the allotments and thought they were stage 2 ash dieback. He thought it would be cheaper and safer to remove the tree rather than let the tree degrade further. Mr Lucas has passed this to Mark Cleaver in Grounds and Cleansing for further advice and will also check on liability. Cllr A Williams to contact Alan Morgan for a quote to remove tree. Clerk to research further contractors and MCC for quotes to remove the tree. **Action AB/AW.**
- Requested that the clerk writes a letter to Michael Richardson from (Environmental Services) to thank him for his prompt help on getting the Churchfield sewerage leak resolved with Welsh water. **Action AB.**
- To chase with MCC an on-site meeting with to discuss the dropped kerbs outside the village hall. **Action AB.**

Cllr L Hazell-Smart

- DCC received a request from the village hall to put up a couple of poster-frames, one each on the two bus shelters in the village which DCC own. The frames would be like those on the village green and would carry posters advertising village events only. Cllr Hazell-Smart commented that the principal of the poster frames seems a fair request, however wondered as its advertising space, could there be a chargeable fee and if so maybe look at the fees DCC pay on using the hall to see if these could be discounted in return for the advertising space as a suggestion. DCC would need to ensure that a proper license agreement is made including that the hall would be liable for the upkeep of the frames. Cllr Hazell-Smart to contact the hall (Richard May) to discuss further. **Action LHS.**

- Lots of residents commenting on how much they have seen an increase in speeding in the village. Clerk to contact Lloyd Davies again to bring to his attention and to try to set further and more regular speed check operations in the coming winter months. **Action AB.**
- Mason's Arms is up for sale being marketed as a pub. There is a local village pub group who is waiting to see if anyone takes it and are possibly looking at the feasibility of opening it as a community venture.
- Reported that there was a large house fire in the village, thankfully nobody was hurt.

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

Discussion on the website.

Budget and precept discussion.

The date for the next meeting is Monday 28th November 2022.