

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

held on Monday 19th December 2022 at Hood Memorial Hall, Devauden.

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

In Attendance: R Buckler County Councillor for Devauden
A Briley – (Clerk to the Council)

1. Apologies

Cllr A Williams, Cllr P Kenington, Cllr J Lucas and Ivor Cavill.

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Cllr J Williams on discussions of Well Lane car parking.

3. Confirmation of minutes of meeting held 28th November 2022

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 28th November 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

9/12/2022 – Report of a two vehicle non injury rtc on the Uplands Road to Newchurch Road, Gaer Fawr. Road conditions were not very good at this time.

9/12/2022 – Natural Resources Wales Rangers in conjunction with Gwent Police Rural Crime Unit have been conducting night-time patrols in our Forestry areas recently and will continue when able going forward looking for poachers etc.

10/12/2022 – Report of a 1 vehicle non injury rtc on Usk Road, Llangwm. The driver hit the hedge and was shaken up obviously but not hurt thankfully. As the previous rtc road conditions were to blame.

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

Cllr J Williams and Cllr L Hazell-Smart said they were very disappointed with the police operation that took place on the 12th December in Devauden. The police recognise there is a speeding problem in Devauden otherwise they wouldn't have come out in the first place, but it feels like they want to disprove there is a problem. The police carried out the speed check operation between 09:30 and 12:30 which didn't cover any peak times where speeding mostly occurs and after the first half hour most locals knew the police were out checking speeds.

The police have emailed a speed complaint form to help build evidence, which Cllr Hazell-Smart suggested to put on the website for the public to fill out and forward to Gwent police if they think there is a problem. This will be helpful to have more data for speeding. **Clerk to action.**

Clerk to write back to Andrew Jones to say the councillors are very disappointed and would like to escalate the speeding problem in Devauden and surrounding villages. Devauden is a main commuter route and in the peak times there are many cases of speeding, hence, to have sufficient data of speeding we request it is imperative to push for the installation of the golden rivers. Cllr J Williams asked Rachel Buckler to also follow this up with the police to enforce how important the speeding problem is. **Action: AB/RB.**

6. Matters Arising

- a) Grass cutting – MCC have requested DCC to confirm if we are renewing the contract so that they can schedule the cuts for next year. However, the quote received from them doesn't make sense, the clerk requested to query this.
Action AB.
- b) Dog bins – DCC pay £1,400 per year to Merlin to empty the dog bins, their costs have increased quite considerably in the last year. We know that dog waste can now go in general bins along with using home recycling. The clerk requested to contact MCC to find out how long it would take to remove the dog bins, then coordinate giving Merlin one months' notice on the contract.
Action AB.

7. Clerks Report

My Mon outstanding reports

14865962 – dropped kerbs by the village hall – setting up an on-site visit. This has been referred again to the area engineer to set a date. Cllr J Williams is very concerned that this is taking so long to arrange a site visit. Clerk to escalate again.

14498950 – overgrown hedges/trees by the Hood Memorial Hall – open.

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 reported that the MCC list of works is extremely long and the points for Star Hill are low priority at the moment. Rachel has a commitment that in the new year she will do a ward wide survey with the department assessing all roads in the area. Rachel to report back in the January meeting.

15614864 – Request that the slow speed limiting sign to Kilgwrrwg be raised higher on a new pole or moved further down the lane – under review.

Ash tree in Devauden allotments – quote from Oliver Field (Tree Surgery Contractor LTD) £1,485 + vat to section fell mature ash tree. DCC feel that the quote above is very expensive. The clerk to contact Western Power as they have on previous occasions trimmed the ash tree so that their cables are not obstructed. David Lucas from MCC, who has previously looked at the tree, is looking into the cost of felling the tree on a joint basis with other trees that need felling in the area as well. Clerk to follow up on further quotes.

15878312 – gravel on Llanfihangel-Tor-y-Mynydd Road – under review.

15851344 – pothole on Cole Lane – under review.

15851252 – pothole Dyers House, Itton – under review.

15850617 – thick gravel on road towards Cobblers Plain – under review.

8. Finance

- a. Balances as of 16/12/2022: Current Account: £1,405.21 and Deposit Account: £6,816.92.
- b. BACs payments were approved for December 2022.
- c. Precept for 2023/24 – Following on from last month's meeting and the evidence produced by Cllr J Williams and Cllr P Keningtons's report, it was

proposed to increase the precept by 100% (75% to stay where we are and 25% as a contingency to allow us to do other things to provide a service to the community).

It was proposed by Cllr L Hazell-Smart to increase the precept by 100%, it was seconded by Cllr A Kitson-Smith. It was put to a vote, three councilors agreed, and one councilor against.

December 2022

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount	Vat	Total (£)	Payment method
Anita Briley	Clerk salary December (back-dated pay to April 22', new rate)	985.89	0.00	985.89	BACs
Anita Briley	Clerk expenses December	29.76	0.0	29.76	BACs
Beverley & Williams	Payroll for Oct-Dec 2022	30.00	6.00	36.00	BACs
Andrew Williams	MS Business 365 licence – December 22	36.00	7.20	43.20	BACs
			TOTAL	£1,094.85	

9. Correspondence

None.

Circulated Correspondence:

- a) Jan Whitham MCC. Visitor to Caldicot leisure centre returns to thank those who helped save his life.
- b) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Date change for nature hub.
- c) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Innovative practice conference.
- d) Nia Watts MCC. MCC Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) Preferred Strategy Consultation.
- e) Susan Parkinson MCC. Dog bin contract with Merlin.
- f) Andrew Jones Gwent Police. Go-Safe response.
- g) Jan Whitham MCC. Council proposes new growth strategy for Monmouthshire
- h) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Welsh Air Ambulance.
- i) Rachel Lewis MCC. RLDP Preferred Strategy - Engagement events Poster
- j) OVW. News bulletin.
- k) Sadie Beer MCC. Wye Valley signage.
- l) Tracy Gilmartin OVW. Electoral Administration and Reform White Paper.
- m) Richard Day MCC. Notice of Making - TRAFFIC REGULATION, SPEED LIMITS AND PARKING REGULATIONS CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2019 (Amendment Order No 5) 2022.
- n) Planning MCC. RLDP Preferred Strategy Consultation Event dates/times.
- o) Wendi Patience OVW. Important - Nominations and Council One Voice Wales Representatives.
- p) Wendi Patience OVW. JANUARY, FEBRUARY & MARCH 2023 TRAINING DATES.
- q) Mark Cleaver MCC. Ash Dieback - Tree Safety Work A466 Chepstow.
- r) Joanne Chase MCC. Appointment of a Community Councillor to the Standards Committee.

10. Planning

No planning applications.

11. One Voice Wales

Nothing to report.

12. County Councillor Report – Rachel Buckler

- a. Star Pitch condition of the road was brought up in the MyMon report and is ongoing.
- b. There have been major problems with Openreach causing road closures which have badly affected The Star and other local businesses. It seems that Openreach and the council have not communicated the road closures clearly with lack of notice. It has left a lot of ill feelings hence Rachel to follow up to and ensure there is no repeat of this.
- c. Planning application DM/2022/01401 – Pool Cottage. DCC originally objected to this application as we agreed with the comments made by the planning officers.

Rachel is pursuing this one as a revised application has been made to the north elevation adding more stone cladding work.

- d. Rachel has been contacted about planning application DM/2022/00942 – mobile home at The Cot. They are applying retrospectively but it is quite likely they will be seeking permission for a house. This application is not popular with the neighbors.

13. Ward Reports

Cllr A Williams – (ward report sent by email ahead of the meeting)

- a. Rita Edwards in her 'Chair at St Arvans' capacity has informed me that they wish to maintain ownership of the defibrillator that we inherited from St Arvans and will re-site it elsewhere in their ward. So that unit will not move onto our asset register and we will need to consider a replacement as part of a more comprehensive policy on defibrillators.
- b. Anita and Rita have had some discussion regarding the extra precept that will be generated by boundary changes (The Cot etc). Rita was at pains to point out that the precept is levied per household, not per person/resident. I'm sure we knew this.
- c. I'm attending a meeting on January 10th with MCC's Wye Valley Villages officers, to discuss the structure of the program of work and how that reflects in the agenda and timing of steering group meetings.
- d. I remain in favour of a substantial increase in our precept, to fund programs that serve our community and generate measurable social value. There is no immediate pressure to set the precept, so if there are uncertainties remaining, I'd suggest we delay the final decision until January.

Cllr P Kenington

Cllr P Kenington had asked for a discussion about the termination of the post office van in Devauden. Rachel Buckler to follow up on this as locals rely on this service. **Action RB.**

Cllr L Hazell-Smart

- a. Reported that there was no further news on the bus stop advertising, discussion was had with Richard May, and he was to discuss with The Hood Hall committee.
- b. Speeding was mentioned in the police report.
- c. Received feedback on the Wye Valley sign from several locals that it doesn't perform the basic function of a sign. They feel that it's poor, it merges into the hedgerow hence losing the gateway feel and you can't see it at night.

Cllr A Kitson-Smith

Nigel Knowland contacted Cllr Kitson-Smith asking for a contribution for churchyard maintenance for St Peters Church in Newchurch as we have done in the past. It was agreed by all to contribute £100. Cllr Kitson-Smith to forward to the clerk to action for next month's payments. **Action AKS.**

Cllr J Williams

- a. Reported that there is no salt box at the Hood Hall, Rachel Buckler to contact MCC to arrange delivery of one. **Action RB.**
- b. Cllr Williams highlighted the urgency to respond to MCC and developer at Well Lane regarding car parking as the development is nearing completion. Cllr L Hazell-Smart to prepare a response and the clerk to chase the developer. **Action LHS/AB.**

Cllr M Powell

- a. Request that David Lucas (Tree Officer at MCC) writes to Mr. N Chamberlain from 2, Itton Common concerning the oak tree which he believes needs to be pollarded. Clerk to contact Mr. Lucas. **Action AB.**
- b. Cllr Powell asked for the clerk to arrange disclaimers for claiming allowances for councilors for the next meeting in January. **Action AB.**

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

The date for the next meeting is Monday 30th January 2023 at 19:15.