

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

held on Monday 30th January 2023 at Hood Memorial Hall, Devauden.

Councillors Present: J Williams (Chair)

A Kitson-Smith (Vice Chair)

M Powell

J Lucas

A Williams

P Kenington

In Attendance: R Buckler County Councillor for Devauden

I Cavill - Warden

A Briley – (Clerk to the Council)

Richard May (Hood Memorial Hall)

Tim Walker (Chair, the Hood Memorial Hall)

Jeremy Horton (Vice Chair, the Hood Memorial Hall)

Cath Moss

Margaret Underwood

David Maddox

Harry and Elizabeth Ellis

1. Apologies

Cllr L Hazell-Smart

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 19th December 2022

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th December 2022 were approved by all then signed by the chair. To be posted on website.

4. 15 minutes public participation

Cath Moss attended the meeting to talk about the defibrillator at The Cot which needs replacing. It is estimated that the cost of this and a cabinet will be in the region of £2,000. The defibrillator would be available for use by local residents and the many walkers, cyclists and other visitors to the area. Finance for the replacement is requested from Devauden Community Council.

Richard May attended the meeting to talk about advertising Hood Memorial Hall events on DCC Bus shelters. DCC would like to put a memorandum of understanding in place to record the details, for example who buys the frames, who maintains them and who is allowed to advertise. This statement of fact would be an agreement between DCC and the Hall committee.

Tim Walker, attended the meeting to discuss logistics and planning for the Devauden festival which is held at the end of May, they are planning the route for the public to walk to and from the car park to the Festival. There are two viable options which were talked about, the safest and quickest is through the DCC allotments. DCC to discuss this option and report back to the hall committee.

Jeremy Horton – Raised the point about the interaction between DCC and the village hall. Cllr Kenington raised on a previous occasion to hold a meeting between DCC and the hall committee to embrace a better relationship between the two.

Margaret Underwood – Voiced her concerns over the lack of communication in the village with regards to news and events with both DCC and the village hall.

David Maddock – Expressed concerns on the display of minutes from the monthly DCC meetings. David claims they were always available within 7 days of the meeting. The clerk does produce meeting notes that give details of any decisions made in the meeting which are posted to the DCC website 7 days after the meeting. This is in accordance with 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.

David also wanted to bring to attention that 70% of the drains and gully's on local roads are blocked. Cllr Buckley suggested that continuous reporting of the

problem on MyMon with MCC will help to create more points in the system which will get more attention within MCC as a problem they need to address.

Richard May – Mentioned the new road signs installed at the entrance of the new housing development. Richard is concerned that the road name has been designated as Cwm Fagor Road rather than Well Lane. Cllr Buckley said she is following this up with MCC. **Action RB.**

5. Police Report - Andrew Jones Gwent Police

There is no relevant crime (crime that will affect the wider community) to report since the last meeting thankfully. Just a couple of matters to note below:

Regarding a previous email from yourselves about speed concerns which we are obviously aware of, hopefully you have received the email from Glen Walker at Go-Safe outlining the fact that the Golden River will be deployed through the village which will give a more accurate speed of vehicles.

23/1/2023 – Speed monitoring was conducted in the village at the entrance to Churchfields between 15.15 and 15.50 hrs. 100 vehicles were checked with an average speed coming back as 19.mph.

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 mentioned she was disappointed that the police, as promised in the past, are not attending the DCC meetings.

6. Matters Arising

- a) Wye Valley Villages project – There have been two meetings since Christmas to figure out a structure for the future governance and to agree some priorities. The steering group discussed the problems with the new road signs and received updates on the 20mph limits. The next meeting is 22nd March. Cllr Kitson-Smith and Cllr J Williams said there had been more negative comments about the new signs, can't see them at night, they don't appear to be reflective and don't have a clear meaning.
Cllr P Kenington has a meeting with Southeast Wales efficiency energy at the hall who is going to do an energy audit on the hall as a pre cursor to potentially getting some funding for energy efficient improvements. Also, as other halls have done, understand how to get EV charging points installed and utilise available match funding, potentially working within the Wye Valley initiative and the MCC hall fund.

- b) Defibrillators – Cllr J Williams contacted the British Heart Foundation to seek advice and recommendations of the current standard for defibrillators. Peter Richards has offered to come along to our next meeting to speak about a cohesive approach to defibrillators. Also, as part of this it was suggested that we need to consider the distance required for defibrillators so that we can carefully consider the locations for all the wards within DCC. **Action JW.**
- c) Allotments car parking – Cllr J Williams to meet with Duncan Mitchell to confirm that the gifted car parking area by the allotments comes with the hedging and the gate as proposed in the plans and to also check that the proposed land is left as is and not tarmacked. **Action JW.**
With regards to access for the 3-day festival in May with the proposal of using the allotments as part of the festival access, DCC are not against it in principle as its only for 3 days and people need to be safe, but we do need to ensure that the allotment tenants are happy for this to happen. Cllr J Williams to speak to the tenants, then Cllr Kenington to liase with the hall committee. **Action JW/PK.**
- d) Dog bins – Clerk to contact MCC to ask them to remove the 7 dog bins, then coordinate giving Merlin one months' notice on the contract. **Action AB.**
- e) Notice boards – Cllr J Lucas was approached by her wards project group to ask for a donation or funds for a new notice board just by The Star Inn. Also, The Cot have requested a new board as the rain is getting in. Clerk to get quotes for a wall mounted board and a single board. **Action AB.**
- f) Grass cutting – MCC have quoted £528 for Rhyd y Fedw based on cut and collect once a year, as this appears expensive clerk to check the cost of just a yearly cut with no collection to compare. **Action AB.**

7. Clerks Report

- Clerk handed in notice, finish date 6th April 2023 – Advertisement for clerks' position to be placed on INDEED, website, notice board and One Voice Wales. **Action AB.**
- Noted clerk is away for February half term (20th – 24th February 2023).

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. The clerk escalated with Mark Hand – no response.

14498950 – overgrown hedges/trees by the Hood Memorial Hall – open and passed to service area.

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

15465449 – Star Hill potholes and road surface – under review.

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

16198632 – Wesley Way playground equipment in need of repair – passed to parks and open space in MCC.

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

15851344 – pothole on Cole Lane – complete.

15851252 – pothole Dyers House, Itton – complete.

15850617 – thick gravel on road towards Cobblers Plain – complete.

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. 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. Waiting for another quote to come through.

8. Finance

- a. Balances as of 26/1/2023: Current Account: £4,357.96 and Deposit Account: £6,816.92.
- b. Precept payment noted £4,053.00 (20 Dec 2022)
- c. Councillor remuneration disclaimer – All councillors apart from Cllr J Lucas and Cllr M Powell signed the disclaimer to declare they do not wish to claim the allowance for work as a local councillor.
- d. BACs payments were approved for January 2023.

January 2023

Payee	Description	Amount	Vat	Total (£)	Method of payment
Merlin	Emptying dog bins – December 2022	98.58	19.72	118.30	BACs
Merlin	Emptying dog bins – January 2023	8.58	19.72	118.30	BACs
Anita Briley	Clerk salary January 2023	639.17	0.00	639.17	BACs
Anita Briley	Clerk expenses January 2023	29.76	0.00	29.76	BACs
Andrew Williams	MS Business 365 licence – January 2023	36.00	7.20	43.20	BACs
St Peters Church, Newchurch	Churchyard maintenance	100.00	0.00	100.00	Cheque
			TOTAL	£1,048.73	

9. Correspondence

Cllr A Williams mentioned about the EV charging companies that DCC should investigate for on road charging in Devauden.

10. Planning

DM/2022/01829 – High Ridge, Lane from B4293 Itton Road to Park House, Itton Common, NP16 6BZ – garage with hobby art room above. DCC suggested the proposed garage be moved back into line with the existing garage otherwise no objections. **Action AB.**

11. One Voice Wales

Nothing to report.

12. County Councillor Report – Rachel Buckler

- a. Rachel has been in contact with the post office with regards to the removal of the mobile post office van in Devauden, they are saying they are not going to re-open this service. Rachel is going to try to understand how many people were using the mobile service by getting a freedom of information request to then lobby furiously getting David Davis involved to build a case to have it re-instated.
- b. In January a road survey was carried out and there was a promise from MCC that they would resurface Star Pitch next year within the budget. A reminder to continually use the MyMon app to report any potholes and severe road conditions.
- c. Cllr J Williams asked for help to escalate the dropped kerbs at the village hall. Rachel to follow up on this.
- d. The friends of the 65 bus consider the bus stop by the hedge as dangerous and wanted to see if it could be moved to where the green is. Rachel has a site meeting booked so will give an update in the next meeting.

13. Ward Reports

Cllr J Lucas

Mentioned about the gravel/potholes on Church Lane not being very good.

Cllr A Kitson-Smith

1. Cllr A Kitson-Smith - After a couple of local (Kilgwrrwg) meetings. There is still significant concern being raised over the junction of the Kilgwrrwg Road with the B4293, due to this being on a quite blind corner coming out of Devauden and about 100metres after the change from 40mph to National Limits (60mph). There has been at least one accident here and there have been reported a number of very near misses. A request for the 40mph limit to be extended beyond the

junction past Windy Corner and adding a warning road sign saying, 'blind turning ahead'. Clerk to report to MCC. **Action AB.**

2. There has been an unauthorised diversion of footpath FP14 undertaken by Cledd-y-Tan Farm which is apparently making it extremely difficult to use this path and it has also caused some issues with neighbouring properties. MCC footpaths really need to get onto this – amongst other footpath issues. Cllr Buckler to research who to report this to. **Action RB.**
3. The footpath bridge from Cllr Kitson-Smith's property over the stream to Ann Cooke's field where the Church of the holy cross is situated is in need of repair to the walkway. The understanding in Kilgwrrwg is that specifically, bridges over streams are the responsibility of MCC. Clerk to report to MCC. **Action AB.**

Cllr P Kenington

Cllr Kenington suggested a meeting to discuss new initiatives for the increased precept money. The meeting has been arranged for Thursday 23rd February.

I.Cavill

The pothole outside Dyers house has been filled in. There were 4 houses that were inconvenienced for 3 weeks having no refuse collection because there was no liaison with highways that closed the road, but this has been sorted now.

Cllr A Williams

Mentioned the defibrillator on Rita's (St Arvans Chair) fence. (Part of defibrillator discussion in 'matters arising' section 6b)

Cllr J Williams

1. Mentioned the new road signs installed at the entrance of the new housing development. There have been concerns voiced that the road name has been designated as Cwm Fagor Road rather than Well Lane. Cllr Buckley said she would follow this up with MCC. **Action RB.**
2. The ash tree in the allotments still needs to be addressed, need to contact western power again to see if they would cut the branches that are impacting their lines. **Action AB.**

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

The date for the next meeting is Monday 27th February 2023 at 19:15.