

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

held on Monday 24th April 2023 at Hood Memorial Hall, Devauden.

Councillors Present:

J Williams (Chair)

M Powell (attended from 8pm)

P Kenington

L Hazell-Smart

A Kitson-Smith

In Attendance:

County Councillor R Buckler

Sgt S Hayward

PCSO Andy Jones

H Dixon – (Clerk to the Council)

1. Apologies

Cllr J Lucas.

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Cllr A Kitson-Smith declared an interest on planning application
DM/2023/00565

3. Confirmation of minutes of meeting held 27th March 2023

An amendment was made to point 14 of the minutes to correct the date of the May meeting. It now reads Wednesday 31st May 2023 at 6pm. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 27th March 2023 were approved.

4. 15 minutes public participation

No members of the public were present.

5. Police Report

Report from Andrew Jones as follows:

There is no relevant crime (crime that would affect the wider community) to report thankfully since the last meeting apart from the following matter of note:

We have had 3 reports of damage to a property in the village, these are isolated incidents to that property only and should not affect anyone else. Enquiries have been conducted and measures have been put in place to hopefully deter any further incidents occurring.

Cllr L Hazell-Smart thanked Andrew Jones for his assistance with the speed checking within the village, leading to the possibility of Devauden being a 'Go Safe' site. DCC awaiting a reply from Glen Walker with regard to collated raw figures. Sergeant Hayward will send follow up email to Glen Walker. **Action SH**

'We Don't Buy Crime' offered to visit DCC for a talk on rural crime. Email with details to be resent. **Action A Jones**

6. Matters Arising

a. Defibrillators

Meeting arranged at 10am on Thursday 27th April with Peter Richards to check the map for adequate coverage, identify any gaps, excess provision and funding availability.

b. Clerk vacancy

The vacancy has been filled by Heather Dixon as of 12th April 2023. Anita Briley our previous clerk, has agreed to meet with the new clerk to facilitate switching of online banking to the new clerk. **Action HD**

c. Allotments car parking area

Twomlows Solicitors based in Chepstow have been instructed to act on DCC's behalf in the transfer of the land, Duncan Mitchell has been notified. Forms have been passed to new clerk for completion. **Action HD**

d. Wye Valley Project

A subcommittee meeting was held on 20 April 2023 to discuss our priorities for the WV project. The following priorities were decided on:

- Speeding & road safety throughout the villages
- Sustainable transport which includes active transport and links to Eco-transport
- Economic regeneration
- Walking routes through the AONB

e. **Dropped Kerbs** – JW requested new information from Graham Kinsella but no reply to date. **Action RB**

f. **Felling of Ash Tree** – The quotation from Oliver Field has been accepted, however the felling will have to wait until after nesting season.

g. **Hood Hall** – The agreement giving permission access through the allotments was confirmed and to be sent to the Hall Committee for countersigning.
Action PK

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 escalated with Mark Hand – no response. Cllr Buckler to escalate to MCC.

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

15175543/16320561 – Request to extend 40mph on B4293 travelling from Devauden past Kilgwrrwg turning and to add a warning sign, 'blind turning ahead'. In light of the speed analysis in Devauden and some near misses from residents trying to leave Windy Corner this issue is becoming more pressing. – open, under review.

15465449 – Star Hill potholes and road surface – under review

15614864 – Request that the “16% steep hill” sign to Kilgwrrwg be raised on a high pole, moved to the other side of the road and slightly further down to avoid being obscured by the hedge growth. – 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.

8. Finance

Consideration needs to be made regarding 2023/2024 budget. Priorities for the budget are:

Noticeboards

Defibrillators

Allotments

Training

Estimates of costs required to set the budget.

With regard to the Wye Valley Village Project it is agreed in principle to potentially contribute towards a suitable project, which would add value to the community.

Reconsideration to made towards donations.

Allowances to be processed as agreed in the previous meeting. Clarification to be sought from One Voice Wales for both 2023 & 2024 allowances to be paid in April.

Action HD

Approved balances/payments as per finance schedule dated April 2023. Signed by chair.

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount	Vat	Total (£)	Payment method
Anita Briley/ Heather Dixon	Clerk salary April 2023	934.83		934.83	BACs
Anita Briley	Clerk expenses April 2023	29.76	0.00	29.76	BACs
Andrew Williams	MS Business 365 licence – March 2023	39.20	7.84	47.04	BACs
The Hood Memorial Hall	Hall hire (January 23 – March 2023)	70.00	0.00	70.00	BACs
			TOTAL	£1081.63	

Year end accounts for March 2022 – March 2023. (Emailed to councillors and available on SharePoint). Approved and signed.

9. Correspondence

Nothing to report.

10. Planning

DM/2023/00416 – Planning permission – Proposed change of use from existing caravan site to permanent siting of shepherds hut. Campsite, Sunnybank Farm, B4293 Nex Common to Cobblers Hill, Devauden. No objection.

DM/2023/00565 – Planning permission – Proposed new replacement entrance porch. Modified conservatory/garden room and canopy to rear. Internal modification to plans on two floors. Fenestration revisions to elevations. Kilgrwrg House, Kilgrwrg Road, Kilgrwrg, Devauden Monmouthshire NP16 6PD. DCC decision to be made after application has been viewed.

11. County Councillor Report – Rachel Buckler

1. Caravan at The Cot is still pending. Concerns have been raised and the Planning Officer has re-visited the application several times. Cllr R Buckler to confer with the Planning Officer. **Action RB**
2. Notification received of damage caused by a lorry stuck and unable to exit a lane opposite the entrance to Tredean House. **Action RB**

12. One Voice Wales Nothing to report.

13. Ward Reports

Cllr A Kitson-Smith
Nothing to report.

Cllr A Williams
Nothing to report

Cllr M Powell
Residents of Itton have requested a notice board due to the distance from the notice board at Itton Common.

Cllr J Lucas
Nothing to report

Cllr L Hazell-Smart
Nothing to report

Cllr J Williams

1. Residents have in in contact regarding Well Lane's missed garden refuse collection. RB has been in contact with Mark Hand and will follow up. **Action RB**

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

Future meeting dates at The Hood Memorial Hall:
Wednesday 31st May 2023 at 18:00

Monday 26th June 2023 at 19.15
Monday 31st July 2023 at 19.15
Monday 25th September 2023 at 19.15
Monday 30th October 2023 at 19.15
Monday 27th November 2023 at 19.15
Monday 18th December 2023 at 19.15