

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

held on Wednesday 26th June 20203 at Hood Memorial Hall, Devauden

Councillors Present: J Williams (Chair)

M Powell

A Williams

P Kenington

A Kitson-Smith

In Attendance: C Moss

H Dixon (Clerk to the Council)

1. Apologies

Cllr J Lucas & County Cllr R Buckler

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

None

3. Confirmation of minutes of meeting held on 31st May 2023.

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 31st May 2023 were approved.

4. 15 minutes public participation.

Information on the installation and replacement of defibrillators within the area was sought. Cllr P Kenington was able to give an update on the meeting held with Peter Richards and the subsequent monthly council meeting, whereby it was agreed data would be collated to ensure defibrillators were placed in the most effective locations. C Moss generously offered to assist in collating this information from The Cot area, with a map of current defibrillators to be forwarded. **Action PK**

With the new noticeboard now in place at The Cot, confirmation was given that any topical and relevant information of interest can be displayed there for residents to view. Any items of interest including Agendas and Minutes from DCC will be sent to C Moss who has agreed to display them on the board.

5. Police Report

There is very little to report relevant crime wise (crime that would affect the wider community), with only the following matters to note:

1/6/2023 – Report of a suspicious male attending an address in the Glyn Farm Road area going door to door selling household goods. No offences committed.

We have had three separate reports of deer being knocked down and either wounded or killed by vehicles on Itton road in the last month, so please be careful.

6. Matters Arising

Defibrillators

With the opportunity of a first aid being offered for residents, encompassing the use of a defibrillator, it was agreed to enquire about having 2 courses. One to coincide with Devauden Teas on an afternoon and an additional one to be held on an evening for those residents who work. **Action JW**

One Voice Wales

A response was received from Glen Walker confirming he was unable to provide the data requested. It can be applied for under the freedom of information request. **Action LH-S**

Wye Valley Project

Next meeting is scheduled for 12th July 2023 at Catbrook Village Hall.

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. Previous 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 passed Kilgrwrg turning and to add a warning sign, 'blind turning ahead'. In light of the speed analysis in Devauden and some near misses reported from residents trying to leave Windy Corner, this issue has become more pressing – open under review.

15465449 – Star Hill potholes and road surface – some repairs have taken place

15614864 – Request that the '16% steep hill' sign to Kilgrwrg 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 – under review.

16198632 - Wesley Way playground equipment in need of repair – passed to parks and opens spaces in MCC

15878312 - gravel on Llanfihangel-Tor-Y-Mynydd road – under review

17502903 – Road condition between the recent road support works and the Veddwr turning - reported

17502808 – Damaged sign at Coal Lane/Devauden Road junction – reported

Ash tree in Devauden allotments – Quote from Oliver – date to be confirmed for felling once nesting season is over.

Completed paperwork for the transfer of ownership for the new allotment area is with Twomlows for completion.

Some interest has been shown to purchase the redundant dog bins. Enquire if MCC would buy them as a bulk purchase. **Action HD**

Enquiries were made to Environmental Health in relation to waste water/sewage entering local waterways. We are advised to contact National Resources Wales as it does not come under Environmental Health policies. **Action HD**

There is to be an additional authorised person to be added to the bank account for occasions when the clerk is unavailable. **Action HD**

8. Finance

Approved finances as per finance schedule dated June 2023 below

PAYEE	REASON FOR EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT	VAT	TOTAL	PAYMENT METHOD
H Dixon	Clerk Salary	£394.21		£394.21	BACS
H Dixon	Clerk Expenses	£24		£24	BACS
A Williams	Microsoft	£45.68	£9.14	£54.82	BACS
Beverley Williams	Payroll April to June 2023	£62.90	£12.58	£75.48	BACS
HMRC	Tax Liability for period above	£330.80	0	£330.80	BACS
Zurich Insurance	June 23 to May 24 Insurance Premium	£324.52	0	£324.52	BACS

TOTAL: £1203.83

Balances at bank on 25th June 2023:

Ordinary Account: £6,699.65

Savings Account: £5,853.67

With the increased costs of both materials and labour, it was proposed by Cllr J Williams and seconded by Cllr P Kennington that the figure is raised to £500 prior to requiring multiple quotations for work to be carried out.

VAT Claim for 2022-2023 has been compiled and will be submitted. **Action HD**

Internal Auditor is away on holiday but will contact us upon his return, within the next few days, to audit accounts as soon as possible. **Action HD**

9. Correspondence

None

10. Planning

Fast track planning application DM/2023/00805

Devauden Community Council is concerned by the scale of this development and its potential implications. Cartref Yard has undergone considerable upgrade over the last ten years. This proposed expansion would further increase the existing internal shed space to 2.3 times its current capacity - adding 392 sqm in total. This is a huge expansion.

The use of the yard has historically always been described as 'agricultural' but we note that it has largely been used as a transport hub for a small local haulage business. This new application is very vague about its intended future use. It gives a one word answer - agriculture - but later notes that the location is not part of any agricultural holding. In any case agriculture in Wolvnesnewton is not practised at a scale that would seem to need huge additional storage facilities of this kind.

This development is right at the centre of Wolvesnewton, accessible only through the very narrow lanes that link the community to the B4293 and B4235. These lanes are also in a poor state of repair. Any activity at the yard which increases current levels of traffic, or encourages the increased use of large vehicles, would be highly inappropriate.

Given the lack of detail about the intended use of the yard, Devauden Community Council cannot currently support this application.

11. County Councillors Report

County Councillor Buckler was unable to attend but sent the following:

The Well Lane situation. The council officers are being extremely stubborn about not referencing Well Lane. I am speaking with Mark Hand this week to reinforce how extremely unreasonable this is.

The road through the new housing is classed as a private road where the market prices houses are so the householder is entitled to put the sign up. However, I think it says no through road? in which case I can have another go at the officers.

I want to flag up that there is going to be a review of catchments for primary and secondary schools this year. Councillors had a meeting this morning detailing this intention. Is it possible to let the community know, and if there are any points/concerns to contact me so that I can lobby for good outcomes.

Also there is now no noticeboard at Llanvihangel tor y mynndd, as it was taken down to repaint The Star, and it fell apart. The project group have asked me to request a new one.

Dropped curbs in Devauden; this is progressing, but another officer is now involved so doesn't quite understand what position they should be in. I'll contact again to make things clear. But they are receptive to putting them in.

12. One Voice Wales

Next meeting scheduled for 6th July 2023

13. Ward Reports

Cllr A Kitson Smith - Contacted by a concerned resident as Howells Green has not been mowed this season. **Action HD**

9pm Cllr Kitson-Smith left meeting.

Cllr J Williams – Awaiting quotation for the replacement of the 2 allotment gate posts. A resident has raised a concern regarding the footpath from the village towards the bus shelters. The undergrowth is partially covering the pavement causing significant narrowing of the walkway. It was also raised that hedges along Coal Lane are overgrown and have not been tended for some time. **Action HD**

5 complaints have been raised regarding the dead trees and high grass around the new development. The entrance to the community orchard is blocked and no one is sure who is responsible for its upkeep. Contact to be made with MCC and the developer to ascertain who is responsible for the ongoing upkeep of the grassed areas, hedges and trees. Contact to be made with Land Registry to confirm ownership of areas around the new development and the legal status of community orchards. Cllr J Williams to plot a map of areas which are of concern to send MCC for clarification. Jeremy Horton to be contacted regarding the removal of a festival display hanging at the entrance to the hall car park. **Action HD & JW**

9.15pm Cllr A William left meeting

Cllr P Kenington – Nothing to report

Cllr A Williams – Meeting arranged for 5th July to update Microsoft Office on Councillors devices.

Cllr M Powell – The road drain outside of NP16 6BX needs professionally clearing. **Action HD**
Cllr Powell to check voltage in phone box to replace correct bulb.

14. Items and date for next meeting – Monday 31st July 19.15hrs