

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD 8TH JANUARY 2015

Present: Councillors:
K Haddow (Chair)
G Cousins
P Lewis
E Saville
K Stock
K Swift
R Trayler-Smith

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council
A Davies, new owner of Old School

M4186 ELECTION OF CHAIR

As the Chair and Vice Chair had sent apologies, nominations were requested for a Councillor to take the Chair for this meeting. Councillor Trayler-Smith nominated Councillor Haddow, seconded by Councillor Cousins. Councillor Trayler-Smith was nominated by Councillor Haddow but declined. There being no other nominations Councillor Haddow was appointed Chair.

M4187 APOLOGIES

Received from Councillors Counsell, Evans and Murphy.

M4188 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

M4189 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillor Stock Caerwent Playing Fields Assoc Committee Member

M4190 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Andrea Davies introduced herself as the new owner of the Old School. She wanted to apologise for the fact that the alarm on the Old School building had recently gone off. The Community Council thanked her for this but were not aware that it had caused any difficulties for the community. She left her contact details in case of future incidents.

She explained that her family currently reside in South Gloucester, her four children are however schooled in Wales and they had bought the Old School building with a view to creating a family home. They are keen to retain the character of the building and are meeting with an architect soon to draw up sensitive plans. They have already carried out bat surveys and are aware of the fungal rot present in the building. Andrea was thanked for attending to apologise and also for explaining their intentions re the Old School.

M4191 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 11TH DECEMBER 2014

These were agreed as a true record with the following amendment:

p.2 **Planning - 2014/01403 25 Ash Tree Road, Caerwent**
should read "Plot 84"

M4192 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

There was no police report.

Council noted changes within the Monmouthshire Local Policing Unit in that Inspector David Morgan had been replaced with Inspector Lysha Thompson who joins from Risca.

M4193 PLANNING

2014/01519 Five Lanes Farm, Caerwent

Proposed Conversion of Redundant Agricultural Buildings 2, 3 and 4 into Residential Usage

This Council recommends Approval

Conditions:

We believe that Building 2 has already recently extended the size of the footprint. Rooflines should be at the same height.

Natural stone to be used.

Query if NRW is completely happy with this in view of the number of aquifers in the area.

MCC site meeting will be held on 13th January re **2014/01403 25 Ash Tree Road, Caerwent** Non-Material Amendment from previous application 2009/00725, Relocation of Parking Area for Plot 84 as shown on planning layout. Councillor Cousins agreed to attend.

Council noted that appeals had been made to the Welsh Ministers against MCC's decision to refuse planning permission for the following proposed two developments:

2014/00892 Old Gunters Barn, Caerwent

To fit two electrically operated gates between existing stone walls opening on to property. Provision of new hard surfacing.

2014/00113 Myrtle Cottage, The Cross, Caerwent

Outline application for dwelling at the rear of Myrtle Cottage

M4194 WELCOME TO CAERWENT COMMUNITY BOOKLET

Councillor Lewis reported that this is in working progress. A draft should be available for the next meeting.

M4195 END OF WORLD WAR 1 CENTENARY PLANS

Proposal to Plant Ceremonial Trees on Caerwent Playing Fields.

Agreed that in view of the Trail being installed on the Playing Fields it was difficult to consider a location on the fields at this current time.

Another proposal was put that we consider some kind of permanent commemoration in the Time Team Field – agreed to re-agenda this for the next meeting.

M4196 CADW GARDEN

Proposal that we start discussions with Cadw regarding the future of this land.
Alteration to Proposal that we start discussions with Cadw with a view to obtaining a lease on the land.

A vote was taken with the result 1 FOR/6 AGAINST.

M4197 REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS RE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION POLICY

Agreed to agenda for next month.

M4198 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

Clerk's Report:

Dates for Diaries

MoD Historic Booklet meeting – 10th February, 10.30 a.m., MoD Headquarters
Joint Community Councils Meeting with MoD – 29TH April, 2.00 p.m., Shirenewton.

Caerwent Playing Fields Lease

No progress. .

Community Led Plan

Awaiting report from Committee. The do have a draft questionnaire and are looking into funding.

Merton Green Advertising Signs

Reply from Highways – signs must be removed within 6 months of the completion of the site.

Pedestrian Barrier, A48, Merton Green

Christian Lowe, Development Engineer, will look at the site in more detail and report back.

Dog Waste Bin, Merton Green

Written to MCC requesting an additional bin – awaiting reply.

Westgate Barns Meeting Room

Reminded Cadw of our request.

Valuation of Caerwent Community Centre

Requested a valuation - awaiting reply.

Time Team Field

Councillor Counsell in contact with builder regarding re-pointing of wall.

Welfare Centre – Removal of Trees

Chased MCC Tree Officer. Also written to NRW who are investigating this.

Rogiet School Governing Body Representative

MCC confirmed that we can nominate someone from the community to carry out this role provided that the school are in agreement. They will contact the school on our behalf.

Caerwent Toilets

Councillor Counsell in contact with builder re toilets repairs.

Poor Wood

Reply from Cadw that the Welsh Government's legal team have advised them that the Crichel Down rules contain a number of exceptions to the obligation to offer the land back to the previous owner. The most pertinent one would appear to be the following: "Where it is decided on specific Ministerial authority that the land is needed by another department i.e. that it is not, in a wider sense, surplus to Government requirements." In the case of Llanmelin Hillfort, the transfer of land was from the MoD to Cadw and therefore the property remains a government asset and is not considered to be "surplus land".

M4199 CORRESPONDENCE

Countryside Manager, MCC - newsletter for Volunteers and Friends of
Monmouthshire Countryside Service
Monmouthshire Engages Budget Events 2015
MCC – Request for the Electoral Register

M4200 FINANCE

Council considered and approved finance schedule dated January 2015.

M4201 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

Councillor Lewis reported that the track at Woodcock Cottage at Five Lanes used to be a highway (No.71/10) but is now not recognised as a highway.

A large branch from one of the conifer trees in Crick fell onto the highway on Boxing Day evening. The police and highways were in attendance and removed swiftly. Councillor Swift is in discussions with Highways regarding the possible removal of two of the trees.

M4202 URGENT ITEM

Councillor Haddow reported that she had contacted County Councillor Murphy regarding the MCC Catchment Area & School Admissions Policy Consultation just produced as it will affect families within our area. He had agreed to arrange a meeting within the area with the Education Department and she will let us know when this is.

M4203 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports.

M4204 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

To consider final decision on ownership of Poor Wood.
To consider re-instatement of Facebook page.
To consider Time Team Field Maintenance Plan.
To consider End of WW1 Commemoration Plans within the Time Team Field.
To consider White Lining for Parking on Ash Tree Road.
To consider review of Standing Orders re Public Participation Policy.

Chair Date

