

Minutes of Meeting of Caerwent Community Council Held 10th November 2011

Present: P Murphy (Chair), B Counsell, P Lewis, G Cousins, D Hedley,
D Vosloo, R Trayler-Smith.

H Counsell (Acting Clerk)

Members of the Public: Mr & Mrs P Edwards, Mr W Edwards, Mrs A Davies,
Mr & Mrs Roderick

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

M3643 Apologies

P Kidger, K Evans, K Swift.

M3644 Public Participation

Mr P Edwards opened with the proposed closure of School Lane and said that at the Public Exhibition on 7.11.11, Mark Davies had talked of road safety and inferred that School Lane would be closed anyway. The Chair explained the process and that following the Public Exhibition 48 feedback sheets had been submitted by residents. He further explained that the Cabinet Member decision scheduled for 8.11.11 had not yet been made and prior to his decision the relevant Cabinet Member would study all information and although Officers may recommend closure, it is not their decision to make.

The Chair asked Members of the Public if they knew who had circulated a modified Community Council notice of the date of the Public Exhibition. Mr Edwards admitted this and was advised by the Chair that this was a forgery which misrepresented the views of the Community Council. However, he agreed to take no further action on this occasion.

Due to Public Participation time constraints, the Chair advised that the proposed closure would be discussed later in the meeting under 'Highways'.

Mrs A Davies asked the Council why she would have received notification of amended plans for Walnut Tree Cottage as she had not registered a previous comment. The Chair was unable to explain this but did advise that the amended plans had been approved.

Mr Edwards commented on the Coach & Horses bonfire and firework display on 5.11.11, he commended the landlord for providing a community event, but suggested that he should have asked for the CADW car park to be opened to alleviate the traffic parked on both sides of the road through the village.

M3645 Confirmation of Minutes of Meetings held 14th June 2011 and 13th October 2011

These were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

M3646 Monthly Police Report

No report had been received from PC Underhill and no response to e-mails from the Clerk. The Chair suggested contacting the Inspector to pursue this.

M3647 Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest were noted.

M3648 Matters Arising

Merton Green – Councillor Cousins reported that he had met with Barratts on Monday 7.11.11 and that parking bays had been installed and numbered. One resident had attempted to alter the number as the bay was not outside his house. Barratts are considering whether to prosecute for criminal damage. D Lloyd will be contacting Mon CC regarding the possibility of additional parking bays.

Proposed closure of School Lane – the Chair advised that this item would be dealt with under 'Highways'.

Old Gym – no progress.

Bradbury Farm, Crick – progressing but nothing to report yet.

Provision of allotments – there was positive feedback from the Public Exhibition. A staggered speed limit of 50 – 40 mph on the A48 westbound was suggested. The Chair advised that it is planned that the A48 speed camera be decommissioned. Councillors suggested leaving the camera casing in position but Mark Davies has already requested this.

Councillors Counsell and Cousins to meet to measure up the allotment site.

Circular Walk – Councillor Counsell advised that he has had e-mail contact with Clive Thomas of the MoD, has met with officers of Mon CC and with Jonathan Berry of CADW and the proposal is progressing. The Chair remarked that Mon CC has entered into negotiations with County Farms tenants.

Footpath/Land attached to Great House Farm – questions were raised at the Public Exhibition and the Chair hopes to clarify the position at the next meeting, after he has spoken to Kellie Byrne regarding land at the rear of the public toilets.

Cwrt Morgan adoption – the Chair referred to the issue of a damaged lamp post, which Glyn Edmunds is pursuing. Councillor Evans is in touch with Glyn and the adoption will take place after this issue has been resolved.

Welcome to Caerwent booklet – the booklet had been received today, however the printing was not to a satisfactory standard and Councillor Lewis will return them to the printer.

Bench in recognition of Councillor Nettleship – Nothing further to report.

November meeting/Supper with MoD – Chair reminded all.

Occupied caravan on land near Brockwells Meadows – The Chair agreed to pursue the matter with Guy Delamere and ask him for a report back.

Caerwent Public Toilets – nothing to report.

Caerwent Village Hall/Playing Fields - carried forward to next meeting as Councillor Kidger not present.

Remembrance Service 13.11.11 – Chair reminded all. Councillor Counsell to read names in place of Councillor Hedley.

Planning Training Session 19.10.11 – The Chair had been unable to attend. Councillors general consensus was that it was a waste of 2 ½ hours. The Chair will feed this back.

Monthly Police Report – no response to requests to attend meetings, therefore contact to be made with the Inspector.

M3649 Planning

2011/00983 and 2011/01047, BT Cabinets – this was noted, the Chair took plans and information for return.

2011/01011, 2 Rock Lodge – no objections, however the breached stream walls should be reinstated to original height to reduce flooding of St Brides Road.

M3650 Caerwent Playing Fields and Play Equipment – carry forward to next meeting.

M3651 Finance – payments made as per schedule. Apart from £300 cheque to Playing Fields for Christmas parties, as only one party is planned this year. Clerk to contact Councillor Kidger to clarify.

M3652 Correspondence

Environment Agency – Chair to include the registration of septic tanks in his Community Newsletter report for December 2011.

Veolia Environmental Services – timescale of energy recovery proposals noted.

Mon CC Emergency Contacts update – add Councillor Cousins to the current list.

One Voice Wales minutes and Play for Wales Newsletter received.

Street lighting – the Chair informed Councillors that Mon CC is going out to consultation on street lighting and proposing to reduce lighting at night by 50%, rather than switching lights off. Chair to circulate e-mailed information to all. Clerk to contact Roger Hoggins to ask for the likely affect on this area.

M3653 Highways/Rights of Way

Councillor Hedley advised that the kerb sweeper had failed to clean the side streets off Canon Lane.

Councillor Lewis said that the proposed road closure at Highmoor Hill from 11.11.11 will probably not take place as the grass verge has been used, rather than the highway. He noted that the contractors work had been excellent.

Councillor Counsell reported that the cyclepath on the A48 between Five Lanes and Castroggy that was laid 3 – 4 years ago had weeds pushing up the tarmac for 300 yards or so and needed urgent maintenance.

Councillor Cousins reported that the light in the lane had been repaired after a 12 month wait.

Councillor Vosloo asked why there were so many street lights in Court House Road, Llanfair Discoed and not the rest of the village. She was advised that it was probably building regulations at the time.

The Chair fed back on the Public Exhibition which had been held on 7.11.11 regarding the proposed closure of School Lane and explained that although Paul Keeble (Mon CC) had required a response from this Council by 9.11.11, Mon CC' Cabinet Member, Brian Jones would now be considering the issue in two weeks time.

The Chair distributed information on the 48 feedback forms that had been completed by residents at the Public Exhibition and their comments for or against the closure. Thirteen supported the closure, thirty opposed it and five were not known, but had been allocated according to their positive or negative comments.

He pointed out the interesting comments on traffic and safety issues that had been made under the headings 'Concerns', 'Measures' and 'Other Comments'. Councillors agreed that the responses highlighted traffic problems throughout the village and further agreed that the closure of School Lane is a separate issue to traffic calming measures in Caerwent, but that further measures do need to be taken.

Councillors unanimously voted in favour of the proposal to close School Lane. They further agreed to request a long period of monitoring and full Traffic Impact Assessment by Highways, with the Community Council being consulted upon the resultant outcomes.

It was also agreed that residents should be informed that the closure would be the first step in improving traffic management in Caerwent and that the Community Council will be considering the various issues that were raised by residents at the Public Exhibition.

M3654 Representative Reports it was noted that Councillor Lewis was unable to attend the meeting of One Voice Wales being held this evening.

Chairman Date