

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD 14TH FEBRUARY 2013

Present: P Murphy (Chairman) K Haddow
G Cousins P Lewis
D Hedley D Vosloo
K Evans

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council
8 Members of the Public

M3809 APOLOGIES

Received from Councillors Counsell, Swift and Trayler-Smith.

M3810 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr P Edwards, New Cottages, informed the meeting that the road outside his property will now extend back to the wall opposite due to the Caerwent Enhancement Scheme. He had spoken to the Highways Manager who had informed him that a white line will be painted. He was concerned about the blind spot at Pound Lane when reversing – he was advised that the new signage should help.

Mrs P Edwards, New Cottages, queried when the remainder of the Frostbite money would be spent. She was informed that a Tourism Signage Report is due imminently from MCC and depending on the outcome we could apply for funding for signs through this instead of using the allocated money.

Mr J Harris, Myrtle Cottage, queried how much MCC would put back into the community when they sell off assets, ie Merton Green, Bradbury Farm, Great House Farm. The Chairman advised that Section 106 monies would be applied. Mr Harris stated that Section 106 is from the developer and he wanted to query what MCC would put back in. The Chairman replied that the capital programme has almost entirely focused on the 21st Century Schools Programme – the building of a new secondary school at Caldicot and two new primary schools at Rogiet and Caldicot. The Chairman advised that projects such as these would not be feasible if MCC did not sell off assets. Mr Harris was concerned that MCC did not put money back into the community given that third sector parties were struggling for money. The Chairman advised that under the law Section 106 covers that the authority must be able to use its discretion as to how it spends the money when assets are sold – any change to this would require a change in legislation.

Mrs AM Spooner, Caerwent Playing Fields Association, was very pleased to learn that this Council would be signing the Deed of Dedication re Queen Elizabeth II Fields in Trust scheme and that the Caerwent field would be kept purely for recreational use for our community. She felt that this signing should be celebrated. She had been party to emails from Estates Department of MCC and was still concerned about the status of CPFA, ie applying for grants etc. It was agreed that the Clerk arrange a meeting to include Deserie Mansfield from Adventa who should be able to advise us on these matters and to also include the Old Gym Committee.

Mr N Williams, Caerwent Playing Fields Association, had requested written confirmation from Planning that planning permission was not required for a new storage unit on the field but had received no response. The Chairman agreed to seek this confirmation.

M3811 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD 10TH JANUARY and 16TH JANUARY 2013

These were agreed as a true record.

M3812 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

P Murphy
P Lewis

Caerwent Community Centre Committee
Lewis Electro (electrical contractor)

M3813 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

There was no police report.

M3814 MATTERS ARISING

Merton Green

Councillor Cousins reported that there had been some problems with residents parking in spaces not allocated to them. The Chairman agreed to seek advice. Councillor Evans felt that this was probably a civil matter.

School Lane & Caerwent Village Traffic Enhancement Scheme

Works commenced w/c 11th February

Circular Walk

No progress.

Caerwent Playing Fields Trees

These trees had still not been cut – the Clerk was asked to chase this up again. The Chairman advised that Highways had been inundated with requests to remove fallen trees due to recent bad weather and this is probably the reason for the delay.

Time Team Field

Written to Cadw twice – no reply. The Chairman had explained the situation to the Chairman of the Caerwent Historic Trust and he had agreed to also write to Cadw.

Cwrt Morgan Adoption

No progress.

Provision of Allotments

Clerk had provided to the MoD details of required allotment site size.

Provision of Dog Friendly Stiles

Councillors Counsell/Lewis will report on this at the March meeting.

Dog Waste Bins

Councillor Cousins is still awaiting confirmation that Barratts will fund two bins at Merton Green. Clerk received further complaint from resident on Canon Lane re fouling there and enquiring if a bin could be provided – passed complaint over to PCSO for him to monitor. The Environmental Health Officer had visited Canon Lane and put up a sign – they will continue to monitor.

Councillor Vosloo had carried out a poll in Llanfair Discoed re dog bins – she had received 15 replies of which 13 were in favour. It was agreed that the best location would probably be at the end of the Penhein road. The Chairman agreed to seek information from MCC re costs and bring to next meeting.

Proposed re-instatement of Village Pumps

Councillor Counsell has applied for “Bringing Your Village Alive” grant. The Chairman had met with two Officers from Highways re the Pump on School Lane and agreed that the area needed tidying up with possibly a bench installed. They had agreed to draw up a sketch and also waive the usual fee.

Best Kept Village Signage, Llanfair Discoed

Councillor Vosloo had contacted Newport Signs and they could provide a sign to hang underneath the noticeboard for approximately £75. She will bring a sketch to the next meeting.

Flooding, Crick Property

The MoD had attended to clear out pipes on their land.

Police Navigation – Five Lanes

Councillor Lewis had visited the Ambulance Station – they no longer have maps of the area with every property identified by name and purely rely on satellite navigation.

Code of Conduct Training

Councillors were notified of this training which will take place on Wednesday 27th February.

Caerwent Village Hall/Playing Fields Rent Increase/Insurance

Estates have confirmed that there is a conveyance that states that the land was transferred to the rural and district Council of Chepstow in 1971. They will confirm that MCC have legal title and enquire if it is registered with the Land Registry. Councillor Evans noted that MCC now have copies of the Deeds whereas in the past they had been unavailable. It was agreed to ask Mr R Griffiths of Estates for a copy.

MCC do have buildings insurance for the premises – they will let us have a copy to view. The premium indicated is £256.77 per annum. They suggest that MCC continue to provide cover for the buildings insurance and invoice the Community Council for this. It is usually the case that MCC can achieve a cheaper insurance quote therefore this may be the best way forward. The Community Council will still

remain responsible for all other insurance at the property such as public liability etc.

Estates have contacted Tintern, Shirenewton, St Arvan's and Devauden Village Hall re their rental levels – no replies as yet. The Chairman will seek the help of County Councillors in obtaining this information.

Flooding, Centurions Court

MCC have CCTV'd the public sewer running from Centurions Court into the SPS and all is fine although it is likely further investigatory works will need to be done. Welsh Water attended the Pumping Station w/c 21st January to carry out works.

Queen Elizabeth II Field in Trust – Caerwent Playing Fields

Confirmation from Estates Department that the Community Council should sign the Deed of Dedication document. This document was signed by two Councillors and witnessed by the Clerk.

Loss of Caerwent Telephone Lines

A statement had been received from MCC: BT did not make an application for traffic lights in order to complete their works until 7th January and MCC duly gave permission on 8th. BT requested that the required works commence on 4th February. MCC as the Local Authority have a duty to co-ordinate all works on the highway, and do not reasonably stop Public Utilities from undertaking their works, especially where the customer is out of service - the customers need always come first.

Dewstow Road Condition – Brockwells Area

Enforcement action in progress – an Enforcement Officer will be visiting the site on Friday 15th February. The site owner will be required to clean the area up and any costs will be borne by them. A local resident has engaged the support of David Davies MP, who has written to MCC to check they are being robust in challenging if any breach of regulations has occurred.

Caerwent Toilets

Councillor Counsell is in discussion with Property Services re carrying out a survey on the building re any required works.

Clerk had contacted three electricians – awaiting quotes re sensor lighting. A meeting of the Sub-Committee will be called once these and the building survey have been received.

Sandy Lane

Reply from Highways MCC that they received an enquiry from local residents on the Caerwent side of the underpass via Councillor Murphy regarding vehicles inappropriately using the Sandy Lane underpass as a short cut from Caerwent to Caldicot – they therefore investigated the history behind the highway layout. There was existing highway signage in place indicating a “No Through Road” at the Caldicot end. Additionally, anecdotal evidence from local residents indicated that there were bollards in place historically, however, these appeared to have been

removed over a period of time. Therefore, they replaced the bollards and introduced some additional information signing and as they were returning the lane to its existing historical layout they did not consult with the local communities.

Section 106 Application – Caerwent Playing Fields Association

Mr N Williams, Chair of CPFA, had advised that they have contacted MCC re a preliminary application and they had been sent an application form. He was advised to fill it in even at this early stage.

M3815 PLANNING

**2013/00055 Plot to North of 1 Lawrence Crescent, Caerwent
Retention of Development – Regularisation of 1800 mm High Fenceline**
This Council recommends *Approval*

**2012/00086 Five Lanes Farm, Caerwent
Proposed Extension & Internal Alterations**
This Council recommends *Approval*

**2013/00118 Northgate Inn, Caerwent (Advertisement Consent)
V Shaped Advertising Hoarding for Housing Development**
This Council recommends *Refusal*

Causes an issue for the latest submitted double garage application at the Northgate (2012/00578)

Not in keeping with the conservation area.

Very unattractive sign for a housing development which is not in our area.
Application request to have it in situ until 2016 unacceptable.

**2012/00578 Northgate Inn, Caerwent (revised)
Proposed detached garage to now be located to the right of the Inn
Existing shed and fencing highlighted on the revised site plan will be removed
Proposed front boundary wall will be reduced to 1.3m in height (previously 1.6m)**

This Council recommends *Approval*

As previously commented the garage should be in the same material as the wall, ie stone

Councillor Counsell had requested that the Clerk raise the matter of a Play Area at Bradbury Farm in Crick. The Chairman noted this.

M3816 FINANCE

It was agreed to approve payments as per the Finance Schedule dated February 2013. Council noted that the Clerk had submitted the annual VAT return and the Toilets annual grant.

Councillor Counsell joined the meeting.

M3817 CORRESPONDENCE

1. ALAN BROWN, AREA SERVICES OFFICER, MCC
Mobile Police Surgeries
2. WELSH GOVERNMENT
Websites for Town & Community Councils
£1.25m additional funding has been released to County Councils to support local democracy and public engagement. Part of this is intended to assist in the development of websites for community councils. It was agreed to contact MCC re applying for this.
3. GWENT ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS
Achievement Awards 2013.
4. MR J HARRIS, MYRTLE COTTAGE, CAERWENT
8 Freedom of Information Requests
5. MINUTES/PUBLICATIONS
Severnside Area Committee Minutes

M3818 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

Council noted Bridleway 33a Diversion at Casa Mia, Llanfair Discoed.

Street lighting opposite eastgate junction – sensor broken.

Dinham Road numerous potholes.

The Chairman had carried out a major inspection of St Brides Road with Highways Officers recently. There were suggestions of widening the stream or installing flash point ponds. He will receive recommendations and bring back to a future meeting.

M3818 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

There were no reports.

Chairman Date