

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD 13TH DECEMBER 2012

Present: P Murphy (Chairman) P Lewis
K Evans K Swift
K Haddow R Trayler-Smith
D Hedley D Vosloo

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

M3795 APOLOGIES

Received from Councillors Counsell and Cousins.

M3796 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

M3797 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD 8TH NOVEMBER 2012 AND 20TH NOVEMBER 2012

These were confirmed as a true record.

M3798 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Murphy	Caerwent Community Centre Committee
Councillor Haddow	Planning Application 2012/00746 Myrtle Cottage, St Brides Netherwent
Councillor Vosloo	Possible Sale of Laburnam Steps, Llanfair Discoed

M3799 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

Pcso Norville had sent his apologies. A police report had been circulated. The Clerk reported that Pcso Norville had visited the area of Ash Tree Road with the Environmental Health Officer to advise residents re dog fouling. One resident had been issued with an official caution.

Councillor Lewis expressed concern that there had been several incidents lately of the police force being unable to locate properties within the Lanes. It was felt that this was totally unacceptable and it was agreed to write to the Inspector.

M3800 MATTERS ARISING

Merton Green

The Chairman reported that there is no expectation of imminent receipt of Section 106 monies. Councillor Hedley queried if the Village Hall was on the list of possible projects held by MCC – the Chairman will enquire.

School Lane & Caerwent Village Traffic Enhancement Scheme

The Chairman reported that the scheme had been approved by MCC with the addition of pavements and some drainage works. Works will start in January – the Chairman will be meeting shortly with the Highways Manager for a final briefing.

Circular Walk

Councillor Counsell will be meeting with the Leisure Manager in January.

Caerwent Playing Fields Trees

MCC had advised that tree works will be completed w/c 10th December.

Trees, Westwood/Rodge Farms

On 19th November provisional Tree Preservation Orders were made on 6 oak trees. These will be confirmed in six months provided there are no objections.

Time Team Field

Still awaiting lease from MCC. Councillor Evans reported that the Caerwent Historic Trust had proposed that the field be used as a community archaeology site. Cadw and de Montfort University in Leicester had provisionally agreed to offer their professional services. It was agreed to write to the Historic Trust to ascertain their exact proposals.

Cwrt Morgan Adoption

Councillor Evans reported that the new lamppost is now working. He will now be able to progress the matter of the adoption.

War Memorial Names

An additional name will be added to our War Memorial – this will probably be completed in the better weather.

Provision of Allotments

Reply from Estates MCC that unfortunately they have not been able to locate any suitable sites for possible allotments in the Caerwent Area. They will continue to keep a look out for potential sites on council land in the area. The MoD had been informed that following a meeting with Gwent Orchards we are no longer pursuing the site off the A48. Col Howard-Gash had agreed to investigate any other possible sites.

Provision of Dog Friendly Stiles

Reply from Countryside Manager with apology for long delay. They can request replacement stiles but have no powers to enforce a change to gates or to require a dog friendly solution. They are currently assessing all rights of way and this issue has been prioritised with 98 points. The prioritisation system is based upon a list of 7 criteria which are assigned a weighting and given a range of scores. Combined these scores give the final total prioritisation score which falls between 11 and 254 points, the criteria used are as follows: Health, Safety and Effect, Route usage, Route status (footpath, bridleway, etc.), Maintenance/Enforcement type, Accessibility (to those with disabilities), Promotion (National trail, Regional trail, etc.) and Discretionary points. The land owner's permission is required – it was agreed to inform them that we have not had permission.

Dog Waste Bins

Three new bins had been installed – eastgate noticeboard verge, Green Lane and Lawrence Crescent. The Clerk reported that Councillor Cousins is in discussions with Barratts re siting two on the new Merton Green development. The Chairman reported that two possible sites had been suggested – one on Ash Tree Road and one at the end of Llanfair Road. Residents need to be consulted.

Proposed re-instatement of Village Pumps

Information received from Sense of Roots Officer that the deadline for the grant scheme is 4 pm on Thursday 31st January 2013. This information has been passed onto Councillor Counsell and Mrs M Williams. It was agreed to ask Councillor Counsell to progress this re completing the grant form.

Wormtech

Col Howard-Gash had given a slide presentation on the state of the Wormtech site at the recent community group supper and informed the meeting that the clean-up operation will cost in the region of £2m.

The Chairman advised that the legal position is that the MoD allowed the company to be on site and took rent off them. The Environment Agency permitted the site and monitored it regularly. The Environment Agency and the Fire Brigade made the decision that the fire be allowed to continue to burn. Under the terms and conditions when Wormtech took the waste from the local authority it then became their property. The problem is between Wormtech (now in liquidation) and the MoD. The Chairman will report on this in the next newsletter.

Best Kept Village Signage, Llanfair Discoed

Councillor Vosloo had contacted a Newport company regarding providing a quote for a sign which could be placed underneath the community noticeboard.

Excavation Works, Village Green Area

Reply from Cadw advising that the gardens of Myrtle Cottage, Cross Cottage and Roadside Cottage are excluded from the scheduled area so works to them do not require consent from Cadw. However, although not all of it is covered by statutory protection all of Caerwent is potentially archaeologically significant. As such the archaeological supervision of the works to Cross Cottage was a condition of planning permission from MCC rather than scheduled monument consent from Cadw.

Their understanding is that the works in front of Myrtle Cottage would have been regarded as permitted development and so not require planning permission meaning that there were no controls in place requiring any archaeological watching brief. They believe this is unfortunate as the archaeology in Caerwent is typically not that far below the surface, but with regard to the works by Welsh Water we may wish to note that all the utilities companies do receive regular digital mapping data from Cadw so there should be no risk of them carrying out works within the scheduled area without the proper consent.

Wentwood Reservoir

Clerk contacted Welsh Water but no response as yet. When we contacted them previously their response had been that the reservoir is currently leased to an angling club who maintain the area surrounding it. The water level in the reservoir is maintained at approximately one metre below capacity to assist with flood prevention, however, as water is no longer abstracted from the Castroggi in order to maintain the water level in the reservoir, reducing the level of the reservoir further would not provide any further flood protection as it would not reduce flows in the river.

M3801 PLANNING

2012/00746 Myrtle Cottage, Carrow Hill, St Brides Netherwent

First Floor Extension to Extend Existing Bedrooms and Provide Additional Bathrooms, Internal Alterations at Ground Floor with Bifold Doors Incorporated
*This Council recommends **Approval***

2012/00815 New House, Five Lanes

Two Storey Side Extension to Form Kitchen, Family Room, Two Bedrooms and En –Suite, Single Storey Extension to Form Shower/WC, Lobby and Utility Room, Front and Rear Storm Porches, Various Internal and External Improvements, Detached Double Garage
*This Council recommends **Approval***

2012/00990 Plot 17, Merton Green

Replan of Plot from an Emerson housetype (4 bed) to a Moorcroft housetype (5 bed) and associated works
*This Council recommends **Approval***

2012/00578 The Northgate Inn, Caerwent

Change of Use from Public House to Residential with B & B. Erection of Single Storey Garage and a Front Stone Boundary Wall
*This Council recommends **Approval***
Garage should be in same material as wall, ie stone.

Council noted that **2012/00618 Hillside, Carrow Hill** (Revised Proposals for the Conversion and Extension of Existing Outbuilding for Residential Purposes) had gone to appeal. An informal hearing will take place on 12th February.

Council noted latest Local Development Plan information.

(Councillor Vosloo left the meeting as she had declared an interest in the next item).

M3802 LABURNAM STEPS, LLANFAIR DISCOED

The Chairman advised the meeting that Councillor Vosloo had applied to MCC to purchase the land known locally as Laburnum Steps, currently a public open space. He explained that this piece of land is next to their property, that their bedroom is adjacent to the area and their boiler outlet discharges onto the area.

They basically would like to maintain it and extend their garden. The Chairman had received quite a number of representations from villagers who wanted it retained as a public amenity. It was agreed that we could not approve the sale of this land and it should continue to be an open space for the community.

(Councillor Vosloo rejoined the meeting)

M3803 CODE OF CONDUCT

Councillor Hedley advised that training by MCC is available for individual Councils re the new Code of Conduct for Councillors. It was agreed to arrange this.

Councillor Swift reported that the Crick Wildlife Group had recently received training from Adventa which was extremely useful. She advised that the Community Council, the Playing Fields Committee and the Community Centre Committee also undertake this training. This was agreed.

M3804 ANNUAL PLAY INSPECTIONS (TREWEN & LLANFAIR DISCOED)

Council considered report.

M3805 FINANCE

Council approved payment and approval as per Finance Sheet dated December 2012.

Councillor Hedley expressed concern at the amount of overtime (£242.55) that the Clerk had claimed due to researching information for 36 Freedom of Information Requests made by Mr J Harris, given that she is only contracted for 16 hours per week. It was agreed that there is no provision for this in our precept and if these requests continue at this level then this will unfavourably impact on the amount levied and we may have to re-visit our precept figures.

M3806 CORRESPONDENCE

1. ZARA BLIGH, RESEARCH & MARKETING CO-ORDINATOR, ADVENTA
She works for Adventa which has European/Welsh Government funding for projects in Monmouthshire – one of the tourism projects is to create a circular route from Caerwent – they are at the very early stages but have employed a consultant (Peter Strong – local historian) to research the local history on the three trails that they are producing and are meeting with Cadw next week to discuss what trails they have. Councillor Counsell had noted this information and is meeting with the Leisure Manager in January.
2. RHYS OWAIN, MANAGEMENT SURVEYOR, MCC
Rent Review – Caerwent Recreation Hall & Playing Fields
Council expressed concern at the proposed rent increase from £5000 p.a. to £8600 p.a. albeit that a grant is available for up to 95%. Council noted that the Playing Fields Secretary is meeting with the Estates Department of MCC to discuss this large increase.
3. K MARTIN (via email listings on website)
Regarding Caerwent Community Centre activities. This had been passed to

the Caerwent Community Centre Committee who had responded to us. It was agreed to ask them to reply to Mrs Martin. The Model Car Club Committee had also been informed of this and had replied to us – it was agreed to enquire if they are happy for their response to be forwarded.

4. JOHN PEARSON, LOCAL DEMOCRACY MANAGER, MCC
Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements. Regional seminars will be held throughout Monmouthshire in January 2013 to which we will be invited. Representations must be received by 22nd February. It was agreed to enquire when our additional Councillor post for the Dinham ward will be implemented.
5. MR J HARRIS, MYRTLE COTTAGE, CAERWENT
36 Freedom of Information Requests
6. MINUTES/PUBLICATIONS
Sevenside Area Committee
Keep Wales Tidy Annual Review

M3807 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

Councillor Haddow had requested that the refuse truck be re-routed to avoid travelling along the Old Roman Road.

St Brides Road blocked sewage pipes. Potholes at Salisbury Cottages and at Carrow Hill junction.

Bollards Cwrt Morgan light still not working. Right of way sign lights out at westgate.

Bradbury Farm potholes.

A48 Crick storm drains not coping – pipes not large enough. Family from Crick (Brookland Cottages) recently flooded, accommodated at a local hotel – flooding coming from an MoD field tenanted by a farmer. It was agreed to write to the MoD.

M3808 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Council noted that the Head of Rogiet School is now on maternity leave and will be off for the remainder of the academic year. The Deputy Head will act up with three teachers covering.

The new Dewstow School and Usk headquarters of MCC will be opened by Princess Anne some time next year.

Chairman Date