

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD 12TH JANUARY 2017

Present: Councillors:
P Murphy (Chair)
B Counsell
G Cousins
B Dawson
K Evans
R Trayler Smith

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council

M4506 APOLOGIES

Received from Councillors Haddow, Lewis and Swift.

M4507 WELCOME NEW COUNCILLOR FOR CAERWENT WARD

Bernie Dawson was welcomed onto the Council as our new Councillor for the Caerwent ward. He signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

M4508 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillor P Murphy	Caerwent Community Centre	Trustee
Councillor P Murphy	All planning applications	Member of Planning Committee
Councillor K Evans	Caerwent Historic Trust	Trustee

M4509 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair wished to add onto the agenda a financial request from Caldicot School for an event they are holding this summer.

M4510 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

M4511 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD 8TH DECEMBER 2016

These were agreed as a true record.

M4512 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

Pcso had sent his apologies and had sent his monthly report.

Councillor Counsell expressed a concern that Caldicot Station is not always manned. He was advised that they do publish when they are open and there is a phone outside the building where all calls are diverted to their headquarters.

Councillor Dawson expressed concern that the police do not attend our meetings very frequently. He referred to the Commissioner and Chief Constable expectations in this regard. Agreed to state our support for our Pcso but to write to the

Inspector to request improved police representation. Councillor Dawson also cited an example of police workload whereby they are providing first aid training which he felt should be coming out of the Health Board budget – agreed that we could raise issues such as this when the Inspector attended our meeting.

M4513 MCC RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

To consider consultation

Following our request information had been received from MCC suggesting that a Footpaths Group be set up for our area. Councillor Dawson informed that he is aware of a couple of people who could be interested and he will send their details to the Clerk.

M4514 PLANNING

2016/00909 Change of Use of Infant School to Single Family Dwelling, Caerwent

This Council recommends refusal but would be minded to approve if the following were included:

An alternative to the dormer windows on the front elevation west.
Prefer obscure glass in the extended window on the rear elevation east.

The Bat Survey is out of date.

2016/01277 - Land at Five Lanes, Proposed Agricultural Building

This Council recommends approval.

Only to be used for forestry storage/application and any timber felling carried out under licence.

To consider any planning applications received after despatch of agenda:

2016/01471 8 Bishop Close, Caerwent Second Storey Extension Over Garage

This Council recommends Approval.

M4515 TRANSFER OF VILLAGE HALL

To consider quotes re legal services

Not all quotes received – in order to proceed with this matter when they are received Clerk to appoint the cheapest.

M4516 ASSETS INSPECTION REPORT 2016/17

To consider and agree on any action

Council agreed that the Clerk arrange for Councillor Counsell to have a site meeting with our tree contractor/toilets contractor to obtain quotes.

Council agreed to enquire if CWEP would be interested in any of the painting/repair works.

Councillor Cousins agreed to make enquiries re works required at War Memorial.

M4517 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

CLERK'S REPORT

Dates for Diaries

MoD Meeting – Tuesday 11th April, 2.00 p.m. Agreed to check venue.

St Brides Flooding

Welsh Water confirmed that their CCTV survey has found a build-up of silt in the network. They have partially cleansed the sewer but a small section is outstanding due to access issues. They will provide a further progress update by 20 Jan 2017.

Councillor Counsell concerned that they have still not mentioned the pumps in any of their reports. Agreed that he have a site meeting with them following their next report.

Strip of Land to Rear of 40 Merton Green

All organisations still in discussion but hopefully should be resolved soon.

Noticeboards

All boards removed now except for Carrow Hill following further request from resident for it to remain. Agreed to contact resident to advise that if she can confirm in writing the ownership of the land and get permission for the board to remain then we will sell the board to her for £1 for her to acquire and maintain it.

Locked Gate, Trewen

Now unlocked.

Education Award

Written to the two School Heads re judging hopefully to take place in January by our Chair.

20 mph sign, Caerwent

One sign now replaced and the other one has been ordered.

Poor Wood – Commoners Rights

Written to MoD and Cadw.

Reply from Cadw that this information is in the public domain. Council agreed that the information requested is not in the public domain and that we ask them to review their reply. No reply from the MoD as yet.

Councillor Vacancy – Llanfair Discoed Ward

Advertised on boards and in Chair's newsletter/Facebook.

No expressions of interest received so far.

Village Hall Improvements

For info – we have until 25th January to raise any issues with the builder.

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

218 members

Concern was expressed online about the removal of the metal railings at Merton Green. Barratts were proposing instead to install a knee rail fence but residents were not in agreement with this. Councillor Murphy negotiated with Barratts and now hoop topped railing will be installed with MCC funding half the installation cost. The railings could be painted black at a later date.

M4518 CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you letter from organisers of the Xmas lunch for our contribution – very successful event.

MCC Countryside Newsletter

MCC Latest News

One Voice Wales – consultation regarding changing the name of the National Assembly.

NHS Engagement Event – 17th February

Xmas Lights letter from Street Lighting Manager – agreed to send this to our contractor for his comments and then forward to MCC.

M4519 FINANCE

To consider balances/payment and approval as per finance schedule dated November 2016:

Balances as at 31ST December:

Moneymaster Account	£19,790.06
Community Account	£14,802.57
Petty Cash	£ 37.43

1. Clerk's Salary, Allowances and Mileage	as per NALC scales
2. Inland Revenue	£22.86
3. Torfaen Pension Fund	£219.93
4. Petty Cash	£250.00
5. Aardvarc Cleaning (toilets)	£261.00
6. Merlin Waste (dog bins)	£169.50
7. Crick Wildlife & Environment Project (work on noticeboards)	£50.00
8. Aardvarc Cleaning	£195.00
9. Aztec Electrical Services (Xmas tree)	£150.00
10. MCC (Play Area seats & surfacing cleaning)	£421.60
11. MCC (energy contract – War Memorial)	£48.97

Council approved.

To note that Section 137 expenditure limit for 2017/18 is £7.57 per elector.
Council noted.

To consider request from Caldicot School for funding re event to be held in summer

Agreed to request a more detailed breakdown of what the money will be spent on and also information on how many children from Caerwent attend the school.

M4520 AGREED TO EXTEND STANDING ORDERS FOR TEN MINUTES

M4521 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

To report any highways/rights of way issues

Lights still not working at Merton Green – Councillor Murphy had mentioned this to the Street Lighting Manager as one of the snagging issues before the site is adopted.

The park at Merton Green is still flooding – Barratts are aware of this but Councillor Cousins was asked to send any photos to Nigel Leaworthy at MCC.

Footpath into Vernon Grove very slippery, needs cleaning.
Footpath opposite 1 Canon Lane tarmac raised.

Lane from Carrow Hill to Highmoor Hill often floods – Councillor Murphy will ask the landowner if he could dig a drainage hole.

Rubbish in laybye near the Five Lanes tip – this has already been reported.

M4522 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Evans advised that the Caerwent Historic Trust AGM will be held on 24th January.

The Clerk had received a request that Lynne Lovell from St Stephens Close be thanked in the Chair's next newsletter as she regularly litter picks in the village of Caerwent.

M4523 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Councillors to raise any issues with the Clerk for inclusion on next agenda.

Chair Date