

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD 8TH SEPTEMBER 2016

Present: Councillors:
K Haddow (Chair)
B Counsell
G Cousins
K Evans
P Murphy
E Saville
K Swift

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council
M Jones, Highways Network Manager, MCC
S Lamrick, Street Naming & Numbering Officer, MCC
2 members of the public

M4447 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair announced that sadly Councillor Kingsley Stock had passed away late July. She had informed residents of this in the latest newsletter. A minute's silence was held as a mark of respect.

M4448 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

M4449 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillor K Evans	Caerwent Historic Trust	Trustee
Councillor P Murphy	Caerwent Community Centre	Trustee
Councillor P Murphy	All Planning Applications	Member of Planning Cttee
Councillor B Counsell	Mon County CAB	Trustee

M4450 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Emlyn Powell of Five Lanes had noted that a vote had been taken on his recent application. He was pleased to note this but felt that if any Councillor wanted to object to a planning application then they should visit the property concerned to get the full picture. Council agreed that they would encourage individual Councillors to visit in these circumstances.

Mr Powell was concerned about the quality of broadband where he lives at Five Lanes and it is near impossible to run a business. He has been in touch with David Davies (MP) and BT. He requested that a community based approach is needed to get the situation improved especially as the situation will only be exacerbated when new properties are built in the area. Councillor Murphy advised that the official position is that the Welsh Government have paid BT to cover 95% of properties, unfortunately there are the 5% who will have difficulties. Another company (AB Internet) are putting out aerials to cover the difficult spots. Mr Jones of Highways was pleased to confirm that he had received a request from BT to site a broadband box in the area of the old Indian Restaurant on the A48 nr the phone box. He can only refuse this on highways grounds and is not aware of any. As long as the land belongs to Highways he can see no problem. Mr Powell was very pleased with this outcome.

Mr Harris raised the following concerns with Mr Jones:

The ramp at St Stephen's to Roman Road at Eastgate does not, he believe, meet the regulation act of 1999. The gully at the same place is over full.

Works were carried out recently on School Lane regarding pooling water but nothing was done in relation to the problems at Great House Farm.

St Tathan's Road in a very poor state.

Light NY553 opposite launderette not working.

Mr Jones asked the Clerk to send him these concerns and he will pass them on to the relevant departments.

Mr Harris stated that Cadw had opened up the site by the Temple and the Basilica and he feels that there is now a health and safety concern with derelict buildings. The Clerk was asked to pass this onto Cadw.

M4451 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD 14TH JULY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD 2ND AUGUST 2016

These were agreed as a true record.

M4452 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

Pcso Norville had sent his apologies. The Clerk had written to him again requesting information on the Speed Watch meetings due to be held.

M4453 MIKE JONES, HIGHWAYS NETWORK MANAGER, MCC SIAN LAMRICK, STREET NAMING & NUMBERING OFFICER, MCC **To discuss the naming of the road through Caerwent as "Caerwent Road"**

A street name plate "Caerwent Road" had been installed at the crossroads recently. This Council had written to MCC following complaints from residents as the road had never been known as this and does not appear in resident addresses. They were also concerned about the waste of public money and lack of consultation. Mr Jones had been invited to explain the situation to the Council.

Mr Jones advised that he had received a request from a member of the public to name the stretch of the road from the crossroads to A48 west. Irrespective of who requests a sign, once assessed if found to be a legitimate request, MCC will action.

MCC do not need to consult on the placing of street nameplates. They have not altered or amended Caerwent Road, therefore no consultation was required. Nameplates are there to assist in ensuring the emergency services can identify the correct street and therefore save valuable response time. MCC do however consult with Community Councils on the naming of new streets.

As regards a waste of public money he stated that the street name plate function is self financing as they can earn revenue on this.

The name "Caerwent Road" was extracted from the Highways Register produced in 1998. Roman Road was split into two and has been documented since 1998. In 1999

this had to be transferred to computer by law so also appears on there. This can be cross referenced to the paper document.

Mr Jones stated that unfortunately what may be known locally does not necessarily mean that it is recorded as that on the National Street Gazetteer. The Post Office is not the owner of street names. They are only responsible for issuing postcodes. The local authority is the custodian of the NSG and street names accordingly. Google is a source of referencing but unfortunately it is not always accurate, whereas the NSG is. In the NSG the road has always been registered and known as Caerwent Road. The Gazetteer is updated monthly so will always be more up to date than sat navs.

Sian Lamrick explained that it is her remit to ensure that emergency services can get to an incident. Each property has a unique street reference number and Caerwent Road is included in this for emergency vehicles. If the emergency vehicle has to come in from a different area they will use the unique property reference number and they could get into difficulty if a street plate is not in place.

Councillors understood that it has to be used for emergency vehicles but agreed there was no logic to it as villagers were not aware that they resided on Caerwent Road. A concern was that villagers would phone and say they were on Roman Road – Sian explained that this would be translated back to Caerwent Road on their system. Councillors queried why it is not mentioned on the mapping system – Mr Jones agreed and will ensure that it is placed on.

The Clerk queried if the name can be changed. Mr Jones advised that two thirds of a street need to agree to a change and it is a very laborious, expensive, time consuming exercise.

M4454 PLANNING

The following applications were considered:

2016/00852 1 Burton Villas, Caerwent

Demolish Existing Metal Garage/Workshop. Erect Two Storey Side Extension to give new Lounge/Study/Master Bedroom.

This Council recommends **Approval**

Preferably the window reveals should match existing.

2015/00916 9 Cadoc Close, Caerwent

Extension of garden curtilage to rear and side of property and erection of new side fence, leaving 1 metre border outside fence to keep edge

This Council recommends **Approval**.

2016/00833 Casa Mia, Wentwood

Demolition of Existing Dwelling, Garage & Stables, Construction of New Replacement Dwelling & Car Parking Area

This Council recommends **Approval** with conditions:

The concerns are that the design seems out of sympathy with the site. However the principal of taking the old buildings down is completely supported. Single Storey looks to be added on - would prefer 1/3rd stone, 2/3rd wooden cladding so that it appears more integrated. Would prefer the roof in slate. Would be helpful if a CAD drawing is supplied. Recommend that this go to Delegated Committee.

2016/00963 Athel House, Llanvair Discoed

Landscaping and development of the rear terrace and garden allowing more access.

This Council recommends **Approval**.

To consider any planning applications received after despatch of agenda

There were no further applications.

M4455 PROVISION OF DEFIBRILLATOR

To note that the financing of this has been approved by The Lions and the unit will be installed shortly. To note that villagers have been informed about future training sessions.

The Chair advised that she is now in possession of the defibrillator and ten training dummies. She has names of 15 people who have requested training. She will arrange this some time in October for daytime and evening. She will talk to the Coach & Horses re exact location of defibrillator but they had advised that it should be inside due to poor phone signal. We will need to purchase a housing for it and some signage. Councillor Murphy advised that she contact the Welsh Language Officer re signage. Councillor Saville suggested that a closed social media group be created to call upon for support and advice – agreed to consider this once the training has been completed.

The Chair advised that the grant scheme for these defibrillators may be coming to an end. The price with the grant would be £400 and £1200 thereafter. It was therefore agreed that we put in applications for three additional units for other villages.

M4456 COMMUNITY COUNCIL NOTICEBOARDS

To consider the retention of three boards

(Caerwent church, Llanvair Discoed and Crick) and removal of the other six.

To consider any resident views regarding the provision of boards within our area.

The Clerk reported that she had received no further comments following the placement of a notice in the boards proposed to be removed. She had however noticed an increase in requests to join our Facebook page.

Council agreed to remove six boards. Councillor Swift will visit the boards to see if any are suitable for the CWEP organisation and will endeavour to remove.

CWEP had, as agreed, recently painted one of the remaining boards and still have the Caerwent one to complete.

M4457 SEVERNSIDE CLUSTER

To consider the provision of mechanical sweeping services in the cluster area.

A document had been circulated requesting views on the Cluster Group (Caldicot/Potskewett/Rogiet/Caerwent/Magor & Undy) employing a road sweeper. This would give us one sweep per fortnight and cost £6132 per annum. The Council would have to commit to a three year contract.

Council noted that this would not cover the A48 and that currently we only have two sweeps per year and there does not appear to be a problem. Council agreed not to commit to sweeping services. If there appeared to be a problem re sweeping agreed to use an ad hoc service.

M4458 PLAY EQUIPMENT AT CAERWENT PLAYING FIELDS

To consider installing a cradle seat on the swing unit at a cost of £140.40.

Council Agreed.

Council re-confirmed that the CPFA had relinquished their responsibility for the play area and Council agreed formally to take on this responsibility.

M4459 COMMUNITY COUNCIL EDUCATION AWARDS

To consider a subject for this year's award for Rogiet/Shirenewton schools

Agreed that the subject of The Olympics be given to the schools.

M4460 IT WAS AGREED TO EXTEND STANDING ORDERS BY 30 MINUTES

M4461 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

Clerk's Report

Dates for Diaries

MoD Meeting/Supper – Monday 21st November 6.00 p.m.

Community Asset Transfer

This should go to Committee for approval in October.

St Brides Flooding

Welsh Water will be carrying out the required investigation work in the first 2 weeks of December. Natural Recourses Wales have been made aware of the issues and have carried out sampling of the watercourse where no impact was found as a result of the Sewerage Pumping Station. Bearing this in mind the solution to the issues suffered are at present not a top priority for them as they have already committed funding to resolve pollution and property flooding for the next couple of years. They will however seek to fit new sealed and bolted manhole covers where the flooding occurs to attempt to alleviate the issue for residents. They will update further by 15 December.

Strip of Land to Rear of 40 Merton Green

Meeting will be held on 23rd September with MCC/Barratts/Mons Housing.

Notice of Vacancy – Caerwent ward

Notice placed in boards advising that a request for an election to fill the vacancy must be made in writing by 10 electors.

St Bridget's Church, St Brides (signage)

Planning Enforcement will visit to make a judgement.

Notice of Councillor Expenses 2015-16

Placed on noticeboards and on website (nil return).

Play Equipment – Caerwent Playing Fields Play Area

Following a play inspection the barber's pole and springs/clamps/platform were removed on health and safety grounds. The cost will be £97.41 and was approved by the Chair under our Financial Regulations.

Assets Inspection

Awaiting some inspection reports – will put on October agenda.

Model Financial Regulations

No deadline to implement these, just recommended that we adopt the latest set.

HSBC do not do a pre-paid card, Post Office have withdrawn new applications for their pre-card scheme. All other pre-paid card schemes have to be filled in by an individual so this would be unsuitable.

Banking arrangements – it is not mandatory that the Council must seek credit references in respect of members or employees who act as signatories.

Council agreed that the adoption of these regulations are a work in progress.

Social Media Report

194 members

Increased information exchange.

Dog mess concerns – agreed that residents need to name perpetrators.

Speeding concerns – police carried out a check on the A48, highest speed was 53 mph.

CPFA Project Report

They are nearing completion. The new floor is booked in for next week and they hope to replace the floor in the existing hall to match the new in the near future. The build is about 2 or 3 weeks behind, this is down mainly to the flat roof and a few changes made to the plans along the way.

Despite the very poor weather they believe they made about £2.5k (this will go some way to replacing the floor).

There is an empty shell which they hope will one day become changing rooms.

Community Centre Project Report

The Centre has been closed during the summer, so that major refurbishment could take place and will be reopening on September 19th.

The roof has been completely removed and both pitched roof and flat roof areas have been replaced. The lighting in the main gymnasium has been removed and replaced with cost efficient LED lighting. The ceiling in the gymnasium was removed and will be replaced with a resilient mesh netting fabric which will protect the lighting from damage from footballs, etc. Interior painting of the gymnasium will be completed this week. The building is now asbestos free.

They have obtained various small grants from Asda, the Welsh Church Fund, Lower Wye, and Awards for All. They are at present in the process of obtaining a quote to replace the flooring in the gymnasium.

M4462 CORRESPONDENCE

Monmouthshire Meadows newsletter

Living Levels Project newsletter

Mons County Citizens Advice – statistical information to March 2016

Heritage Lottery Fund – looking for Newport projects

One Voice Wales – training courses available

Welsh Government – Planning Policy questionnaire

M4463 FINANCE

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

Balances as at 31st August:

Moneymaster Account	£ 19,274.58
Community Account	£ 24,432.36
Petty Cash	£ 71.58

1. Clerk's Salary	as per NALC scales
2. Inland Revenue	£57.34
3. Torfaen Pension Fund	£172.85
4. Merlin Waste (August)	£169.50
5. Llanvair Landscapes (August)	£400.00
6. Aardvarc Cleaning (August)	£195.00
7. Burton Homes room hire (August)	£21.00
8. Waters Construction (Village Hall)	£74,100.00
9. Merlin Waste (September)	£135.60
10. Website hosting	£100.66

Annual Donations:

Caerwent Playing Fields Association	£2000.00
Caerwent Community Centre	£2000.00
Newsletter	£500.00
Crick Wildlife & Environment Project	£200.00
Caerwent Parish Church (churchyard maintenance)	£280.00
Caerwent Parish Church (floodlighting)	£150.00
Caerwent Baptist Chapel (churchyard maintenance)	£240.00
Llanfair Church (churchyard maintenance)	£240.00
St Brides Church (churchyard maintenance)	£240.00
Llanvaches Utd Reformed Church (churchyard maintenance)	£80.00
Mons County Citizens Advice Bureau	£2500.00
Shirenewton Primary School (annual prize)	£125.00
Rogiet Primary School (annual prize)	£125.00

Council approved above payments.

To consider Finance Committee minutes dated 2nd August

Noted quarterly budget meeting held. Agreed that there is a potential to make approximately £1,400 savings by the end of the financial year based on current spending. Agreed to take no action currently but to review at the next quarter.

Councillor Swift requested that “sponsored by Caerwent Community Council” be added to the newsletter and also any other donations we give to be acknowledged. Agreed.

M4464 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

To report any highways/rights of way issues

Timber fence located at the bottom end of Highfield - one support post has rotted away at the base, and the cross spars are becoming loose. Councillor Murphy to action.

20 mph signs through village still not working.

Trench at eastgate (bus shelter to Highfield) needs digging out.

Llanvair Road trees opposite houses are very dense and need thinning out.

Our request for more hardcore on the Carrow Hill ruts had been granted.

Wall at Time Team Field in need of repair – Chair will enquire of new leaseholder.

Councillor Edwards had received request to hold a small fireworks event in his area. Advised to talk to Chris Jones of Barratts.

Bradbury Farm Lane in Crick overgrown. A resident has volunteered to clear the area and also remove some of the soil. Advised to ask Nigel Leaworthy of MCC re where to tip soil.

M4465 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Swift was very pleased to report that the Crick Wildlife & Environment Project had won a Community Green Flag award. Council congratulated them on this.

She would also like to record thanks to a resident of Crick, Linda Taunton, who on a daily basis walks from Crick to Bennetts Farm and clears all of the litter away.

M4466 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Councillors to inform Clerk.

Chair Date