

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD 13TH APRIL 2017

Present: Councillors:
P Murphy (Chair)
B Counsell
G Cousins
B Dawson
P Lewis
K Swift

In attendance: C Prigg, Solicitor, Twomlows
Inspector P Morris
L McKeon, Clerk to the Council
5 Members of the public

M4554 APOLOGIES

Received from Councillors Haddow, Evans and Trayler-Smith.

M4555 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillor P Murphy	All planning applications	Member of Planning Committee
Councillor P Murphy	Community Asset Transfer (Village Hall)	MCC Cabinet Member Resources
Councillor K Swift	Crick Wildlife Field	Member of CWEP

M4556 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

M4557 15 MINUTES PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was reported that a lot of activity is currently taking place at Upper Seven Acres Wood, ie developing tracks without planning permission and felling of trees. Numerous trees have been bulldozed, wild garlic and bluebells uprooted/dumped to clear a way for a large track. The complainant had spoken to Guy Delamare, Enforcement Officer, but was very dissatisfied with his lack of response. The Chair informed the meeting that he too had contacted Guy and asked him to visit the site again and report back as soon as possible. The Chair had also contacted the Planning Officer, David Wong, who advised that MCC have been waiting four months for a response from the agent. A letter has been sent to the agent today effectively stating that if they do not get a satisfactory response the application will be turned down. Confirmation is required regarding the gradient being commensurate with the ability of vehicles. Concern was expressed about the possible flouting of planning law and destruction of trees in the bird nesting season. The Chair advised that Stop notices are not very easy to issue. NRW have been to the site but have not come forward with any concerns. Councillor Lewis queried whether the land would have to be re-instated if the planning application was turned down and would a licence be required for felling.

Barbara Thomas queried if we knew where the Japanese knotweed near her property is located as Cadw fail to answer her queries. The Clerk will contact Cadw to try to get

a response. Barbara was also advised to contact Nick Ramsey, Assembly Member for Monmouth, regarding lack of replies from Cadw.

Brian Williams of the Crick Wildlife & Environment Project advised the meeting that the resident of Ballan Cottage and Little Ballan Cottage in Crick have requested permission to have a 23 metre pipe, 1 metre deep, installed in the community field which will then discharge rain water into the Crick brook. This is to replace an existing pipe in the field that currently discharges grey water into the brook but is damaged. The inference from the surveyor is that the pipe was damaged when the kissing gate was installed. There is no evidence however of the current pipe on the plan of the field from MCC and CWEP's preferred option is not to have the pipe with water discharging into a brook which is a SSSI. The Chair advised that MCC are aware of this issue as land owners and that Environmental Health are involved.

M4558 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD 9th MARCH 2017

These were agreed as a true record.

M4559 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

Inspector Morris reported that over the year there has been an increase in crime in our area although 20 of these were related to the refuse transfer site. He advised that there were no particular patterns to worry about although the incident count had increased dramatically. Burglaries were few and far between.

Councillor Swift was concerned about the speed of traffic on the A48 in Crick and queried what the residents could do to get the speed limit down. A petition was sent in to Highways in 2014 with 90% of the village wanting it lowered. Inspector Morris advised that he is currently working with Highways regarding a new road safety strategy, which will include speeding, as he feels there should be one group to report incidents to rather than four/five. He advised that the petition be re-submitted.

Councillor Dawson raised the issue of litter on the A48 between Caerwent and the refuse transfer site mainly due to insecure loads and suggested that observation of vehicles is required. Inspector Morris agreed to talk to the local council about this with a view to re-education of drivers.

Councillor Dawson had attended a meeting recently with the Police & Crime Commissioner who had advised that he expected an Inspector, Sergeant or PcsO to attend Community Councils regularly. Councillor Dawson felt that it is important that the police should be visible and communication, eg during burglaries, is paramount. Inspector Morris advised that his force is currently drawing up a rota dealing with Community Council meeting attendance.

M4560 MR CHRISTOPHER PRIGG, TWOMLOWS SOLICITORS re TRANSFER OF HALL/PLAYING FIELDS AND LONG LEASE OF HALL

Mr Trigg advised that other than dealing with the Deed of Dedication from 2013 re Fields in Trust which the National Playing Fields Association have to approve, the Lease is quite straightforward. He proposed not to carry out any searches due to the fact that this is an open area and there are no plans to close it off or develop the area. Council agreed. Councillor Counsell queried if we could draw up a 99 year lease so that no future inheritor organisation can decide to change the lease.

Mr Trigg advised that, subject only to the requirement to pass anything through the National Playing Fields Association, the answer is yes. He will seek advice from MCC regarding the exact drawing up of the map. Mr Trigg will draw up a draft lease with repairing/insuring responsibility and send to us and the CPFA. Clerk to provide details of Chair of CPFA to him.

M4561 PLANNING

2017/00284 Five Oaks, Five Lanes, Caerwent

Extensions to Existing Domestic Garage

This Council recommends **Approval**

2016/01292 Land adjacent to Castle View Barn, Llanfair Discoed but owned by MCC

To install external oil external oil boiler where the current flue outlet is situated

This Council recommends **Approval**

2017/00324 Residential quarters of previous Thai/Indian Restaurant, Five Lanes, Caerwent

Development of 4 Detached Dwellings on Existing Vacant Site

This Council recommends **Refusal**

Design not appropriate for area. Requires a more fitting match with our landscape, e.g a more imaginative design that would give the feel of a cluster of vernacular converted farm buildings.

No plans shown for waste water/rain water arrangements.

On the plans a driveway is shown (adjacent to Five Lanes House land) where a fibre glass tank is currently situated – are the developers aware of this tank.

To consider any planning applications received after despatch of agenda.

There were no further applications.

To consider notification of intent to remove a tree in a conservation area – Byeways, Caerwent

Council agreed with the Tree Officer's recommendations.

To consider works currently being carried out at Upper Seven Acres.

This had been discussed under Public Participation.

M4562 TO CONSIDER PLAY AREA INSPECTIONS REPORT - MARCH 2017

Council noted no matters of concern.

M4563 TO CONSIDER, FOLLOWING CONSULTATION, THE INCLUSION OF THE WELSH ANTHEM AT OUR REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Numerous comments had been received for and against inclusion. Also advice received from the Welsh Language Officer of MCC.

The Chair proposed that, due to low attendance at this meeting, this motion be deferred to the next meeting. This was agreed.

M4564 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

CLERK'S REPORT

Dates for Diaries

MoD Meeting – Friday 28th April, 10.00 a.m. for 10.30 a.m., at Caerwent Training Area (note change of date).

County Council Elections – Thursday 4th May

Code of Conduct Training – Tuesday 23rd May, 6.00 p.m., Caldicot Town Council

St Brides Flooding

Welsh Water Estates department are currently liasing with the landowner regarding access to complete the remainder of the desilt. They will update on progress by 17 May 2017.

Noticeboards

Maggie Reynish had confirmed that they still do wish to take ownership of the Carrow Hill noticeboard, albeit that the key is missing, for £1. She will arrange for payment.

Poor Wood – Commoners Rights

Still no replies from Cadw or the MoD following request of a review of their response. Next step is going through the complaints procedure of the organisations.

Xmas Lights

No progress.

North Gate Wall Repair/Clearing

Confirmation from Cadw that they are clearing some of their property to assist with the renewal of their field boundary fencing. This phase of work will not include clearing the wall tops to the rear of the North Gate Inn.

The Japanese Knotweed that has encroached onto Cadw's land is being managed by their grounds maintenance contractors. The encroachment is being managed according to the protocol for preventing the spread of non native, invasive species.

Time Team Field

Clerk had written to Estates re state of wall – Councillor Murphy had chased this up and is expecting a response soon.

New 30 mph signs – Crick

Reported that these are not illuminated – reply from Street Lighting Manager that they are not supposed to be, they are lit at night from car headlights.

War Memorial

Amy Longford, Heritage Manager of MCC, confirmed that just an exchange of letters would be required between them and us re some tlc to the Memorial. A cleaning method would have to be agreed to avoid stone damage. For any grant to be approved a specialist must first survey the memorial but this fee cannot be claimed back. Grants which are via Cadw are not given for everyday cleaning and minor repairs. A contractor will be contacted regarding re-pointing the crazy paving.

Annual Audit

Received all the paperwork from external Auditors regarding the 2016/17 accounts. Clerk currently working on them.

Their focus for 2016/17 is payroll procedures, website information, adoption of the Code of Conduct and minutes provided in Welsh. Clerk had queried the Welsh provision with One Voice Wales and is awaiting a statement from them. Councillor Dawson confirmed that he had attended a One Voice Wales meeting where it was stated that this is not a requirement for our sector.

Toilets – Non Domestic Rates

Our charge has gone down from £69 to £56 per month.

Local Elections

Close of nominations 4th April. Statement of persons nominated received. No election in our area. We will have to go through the co-option process for the Llanfair vacancy after the election.

Speed of Traffic, Crick

Councillor Murphy had requested that a monitoring strip be installed across the A48 – not yet on the programme. Highways have confirmed that they will review the A48 at Crick, ie improving the signing and lining in the area.

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

258 members

Concerns regarding MoD noise. Councillor Murphy had received a statement from the MoD with explanation but they did not permit this to be published on social media. Information exchange, ie power cut and parking on Old Roman Road/Ash Tree Road.

M4565 CORRESPONDENCE

MCC – Late Books Amnesty in Return for Food Bank donations

M4566 FINANCE

To consider balances/payment and approval as per finance schedule dated April 2017:

Balances as at 31st March:

Moneymaster Account	£17,865.67
Community Account	£ 546.92
Petty Cash	£ 209.00

1. Clerk's Salary, Allowances, Mileage (30)	as per NALC scales
2. Inland Revenue	£46.89
3. Torfaen Pension Fund	£222.05
4. Merlin Waste (dog bins)	£135.60
5. MCC (play area repair)	£30.00
6. Aardvarc Cleaning (toilets)	£280.00

Council approved.

To note new NALC paycales with effect from 1st April 2017.

Council noted and approved.

To note that external audit information has been received for 2016/17.

Council noted.

To consider the purchase of spare batteries for the defibrillator at a cost of £60.

Council agreed.

A request for funding had been received from Caerwent Football Club. Agreed to inform them that they have already been added to our annual grant list and will receive £500 in September

M4567 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

To report any highways/rights of way issues

Crick Road junction – large pothole.
 New light at westgate - too bright.
 Dip in road – outside Ty-Melys, Five Lanes
 New street lights, Highmoor Hill - on during the day (3)
 Adoption process going through now re Merton Green.
 Query re fence around jubilee tree on Merton Green
 Lamp post crossroads (damaged box)

To consider proposal from Caldicot Town Council to support a footpath between Caldicot and Caerwent

Agreed to support this initiative and Councillors Counsell and Dawson to be involved.

M4568 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Toilets – Councillor Counsell had met with contractor regarding outstanding works, redecoration and repair of fascias, painting, flat roof may need re-roofing. New tiling with insulation, repair to door to back room.

M4569 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Councillors to inform the Clerk of any issues.

Chair Date

