

MATTERS ARISING UPDATE – May 2012

Merton Green

Report on latest meeting with Site Manager of Barratts.

Proposed Closure of School Lane

Survey still ongoing.

Old Gym

Pigeon Club approached the Committee re use of the building. Site meeting held – letter from Old Gym Committee received:

“As you will know, the Pigeon Club has been given very short notice to quit its premises next to the Northgate Inn. Jackie Williams and I have taken the Club’s leader (Ray Evans) over to the Community Centre to see whether we could help with alternative accommodation. We started at the disused Boiler Room and concluded it is not suitable for human use, without substantial expenditure. As per previous MoD practice, the room is kept locked because it contains asbestos on some of the original equipment/pipework. Also it has no windows, heating or lighting. We looked at one or two other places within the Centre which might be suitable, but there are two over-riding difficulties:

1. the Pigeon Club meets on Friday nights, at which time the Centre is hired by Caldicot Model Car Club, a long-standing ‘client’. The Car Club usually takes up all of our available car parking space too.
2. the Pigeon baskets are approximately 36” square so they will not pass through any normal door opening (although the baskets are barely 12” deep, they cannot be tilted very much once the birds are inside them).

We understand that Mr Evans intends to run his Club from his garage until he can find something more suitable”
Ray Bedford, Secretary, Old Gym Committee

Crick Wildlife Reserve

Council to consider draft lease received from MCC – emailed 1st May.
Councillor Swift to report on any discussions held with the Footpaths Officer and GAVO.

Provision of Allotments

To be discussed with the MoD on 8th May.

Car Rallies

To be discussed with the MoD on 8th May.

Circular Walk

Councillor Counsell to report.

Footpath/Land Attached to Great House Farm

Councillor Murphy to report.

Cwrt Morgan Adoption

Councillor Evans to report.

War Memorial Names

Chased Newport Memorials – have been asked to send them a photo. Chased Philip Blatchly – they will get back to us before our meeting.

Extra Street Lighting, Crick

Councillor Swift to report on any progress.

Local Council Elections

Notice of persons nominated received. Notice of vacancy in Caerwent ward placed in newsletter and on boards.

Queen's Jubilee Celebrations

Councillors to report on possible tree planting areas.

Finance Request re Caerwent Church Clock

Further information received from Caerwent Parochial Church Council:

“Thank you for this email and I hope that my response will encourage elected members to consider offering us something towards the next phase in refurbishing the clock.

The clock mechanism itself failed some time ago with the cables which carried the huge weights snapping causing one weight of many pounds to career through the bell tower coming to rest thankfully on a lower beam. If this had not happened the weight could have easily killed the people that were in the lower tower at the time.

After much debate it was decided that a much better approach was to have the clock electrified. This means that the mechanism that works the clock does not require someone (usually me) going up the tower each week to manually wind it. At the same time it was possible to electronically operate the strike at hour and half hour intervals also the bell calling people to worship could be pre set to ring for 10 minutes prior to services.

This was an expensive refurbishment but all in all we thought it a better approach.

At that time we did approach the Community Council and I am sure that you remember that. We also did approach the ‘Bringing your Village Alive’ fund. We had used this fund to create a picnic area etc. on our land adjacent to the church to make it more appealing with additional shrubs and a picnic table. This has started to be used by tourists at this end of the village. We had been left a bequest by the family of the late Mr Cecil Stone and we decided to use it towards the clock as a tangible memorial to him – he lived very near the church and would doubtless have consulted the clock many times over the course of his life. With the clock repair costing us nearly £6,000 this bequest fell short by about half so with some fund raising events and dipping into our greatly diminished resources we have been able to get the major work done. At that time also we were able to reinstate the light to illuminate the clock and for which the Community Council has given us a donation towards running costs over a number of years.

At the time that the specialist clockmakers – Smiths of Derby – quoted for the clock we asked them to quote for the refurbishing of the clock face itself as all of the rest of the work to get the clock working again was out of sight but the sorting out of the clock face would be a visible outcome. The hands and lettering have previously been in gold leaf and with labour and materials their quote was £3500 to do the work. With churches now being charged the full rate of VAT on repairs this amount would then be in excess of £4200. We knew that raising this sum on top of our previous spend was going to be out of our reach and so came to a decision to compromise on this. The compromise is that we simply wash the gold to brighten it up a bit and re-paint the face itself. A local firm that cuts our churchyard grass has agreed to do the work for us and with the hire of scaffolding to get to the face and their time they have agreed to do the work at a cost of £600, a huge saving.

We are anxious to progress this work as the weather is a serious consideration with the height and drying time for the paint so an early response would be very helpful.”

Caerwent Playing Fields – responsibility of trees

Councillor Murphy to report on any discussions held with Countryside section.

Flooding, Triangle Field, Caerwent

Councillor Murphy to report.

“Gated Entrance” A48

Councillor Murphy to report.

Bringing Your Village Alive Grants

Information placed in latest newsletter. No requests so far.