

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD 8TH JUNE 2017

Present: Councillors:
P Murphy (Chairman)
B Counsell
B Dawson
K Evans
S George
K Haddow
P Lewis
K Swift

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council
1 member of the public

M4597 APOLOGIES

Councillor G Cousins

M4598 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

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

M4599 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

M4600 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident from Crick queried the planning application on the agenda for Bradbury Farm and advised that he had seen no notices re this. Councillor Swift agreed that no neighbours had been informed and the application was somewhat confusing as it did not appear to link to the original. One condition had been omitted and two items were missing from the application – following a conversation with Planning the file had now been updated.

M4601 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF AGM HELD 11TH MAY 2017

These were agreed as a true record.

M4602 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

PC Louise Thorpe has joined the Caldicot & Chepstow Neighbourhood Policing Team. She had requested dates of our meetings and details of Councillors – Clerk had replied.

M4603 PLANNING

2017/00458 Bradbury Farm

Discharge of Conditions

This Council recommends **Refusal** pending clarification on some conditions:

Condition 2

Plan and samples of proposed external finishes received by MCC for Barn 2.

Query whether this plan and samples are also for Barn 1 as well

Condition 11

Condition indicates a cesspit/pool to dispose of foul drainage.

Plan shows one septic tank with soakaway for both barns and not a cesspit/pool as indicated in Condition. No indication on plan of a separate surface water drainage system and also showing inlet gullies not open grates.

Condition 14

Plan for Barn 2 only shows it is outside the 3 meter buffer zone area.

Query whether this plan is also for Barn 1 as well

Condition 15

Hedge and tree planting scheme received by MCC. Showing existing hedge and boundary stock fencing. **Does not however indicate measures for their protection in the course of the development.**

Neighbours have not been notified about this application.

(Councillor Swift left the meeting)

2017/00590 Byeways, School Lane, Caerwent

Change of Use from Outbuilding to Two Bed Residential Property

This Council recommends Approval subject to whether it conforms to MCC policy.

Consultation from Clarke Telecom re Proposed Radio Base Station Installation at Coach & Horses Inn, Caerwent

This Council recommends refusal – not an appropriate site within the roman wall and conservation area. The Chair advised that a meeting will soon take place with Planning and Clarke Telecom to look at alternative sites. Councillor George suggested the location of the solar farm.

2016/00784 Quarry Application from last month (update)

MCC still awaiting further information from applicant. County Councillor Easson from Caldicot had contacted the Clerk and Chair to raise concern about traffic through his area. The Chair had asked Planning to consult with Councillor Easson in the future. Monmouthshire Meadows had discovered very rare plants in the area and will be reporting this – Clerk to check this has been done.

The Chair had received correspondence regarding a complaint lodged with MCC in January 2017 regarding the land opposite Brockwells Farm. The subject of the complaint was the tipping of hazardous waste namely road planings for which there is no permission and the possibility of hazardous chemicals reaching the Great Aquifer water resource below. A letter was issued by MCC Enforcement on the 30 Jan 2017 giving the owner 28 days to remove the waste. The waste has not been removed and further most of it has been laid to form a hard standing area. Asking for assistance to raise the matter at MCC level meetings. The Chair had raised this with MCC – they had attended the site and further reports are awaited prior to re-consultation. The Chair will be making an amendment in the next newsletter regarding the nature of the waste.

Any planning applications received after despatch of agenda

There were no further applications.

Councillors were concerned about the standard of digital drawings provided recently. The clarity is poor and in some cases there are no dimensions. They felt that the standards are slipping and some of the drawings presented should not have been accepted by Planning Officers. Agreed to write to the Planning Manager with these concerns and also request that links be provided within the notifications.

M4604 CHRISTMAS TREE/LIGHTING

To consider guidelines issued by MCC and recommend any action

Council noted guidelines. Agreed to request further information from neighbouring Councils re their lighting arrangements.

M4605 DOG FOULING – CAERWENT PLAYING FIELDS/LLANFAIR DISCOED

To consider complaints received regarding fouling and appropriate signage

Agreed that the Chair mention in the next newsletter the Red Card Scheme. Agreed to establish who can give out Fixed Penalty Notices. Agreed to order dog fouling supplies from MCC. Agreed to set up a Working Group of Councillors Dawson and Cousins to go forward with this.

Inform MCC of hotspots – Roman Wall, Northgate area, A48 to Crick.

M4606 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

CLERK'S REPORT

Dates for Diaries

Planning Training - Monday 12th June, 4:30 p.m. – 7.45 p.m.,
Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk

MoD Meeting – Thursday 30th November, 6.00 p.m. (Shirenewton)

St Brides Flooding

Welsh Water have been unsuccessful in negotiating the access with a local landowner to complete the desilt. They are in the process of agreeing to set up stock proof fencing around their chamber on a local landowner's field to stop the cattle entering the area whilst works are underway. This has to be agreed with the landowner through their Estates team. They will provide a progress update by 12 July.

Councillor Counsell was concerned that Welsh Water had not referred once to the email he sent regarding the pumping station. Agreed to request a meeting with them at the pumping station with Councillors Counsell, Lewis and George.

Noticeboard – Carrow Hill

£1 now received from M Reynish for noticeboard. Clerk will be writing to new owners to confirm transfer.

Poor Wood – Commoners Rights

Ordered copy of Title Register but no information regarding commoners rights. Have now ordered the Official Copy from the Land Registry.

Transfer of Village Hall

Solicitor had sent over map for confirmation. Blue edged area of Village Hall agreed. Regarding the red edged area outline for the field agreed to query the footpath ownership with MCC.

Time Team Field Wall

Queried latest situation with Principal Surveyor – awaiting reply.

Annual Audit

Clerk had met with Internal Auditor to go through all documents.

Toilets/War Memorial Repairs

Not able currently to contact contractor due to illness.

Upper Seven Acres Wood

Planning asked the agent to justify the need for this track previously and he has explained that this track is necessary as the lane leading to the farm to the store fields and through to Undy is too narrow and has high banks which make it impractical to take the agricultural implements up the lane (i.e. the combine harvester is 3.7m wide, the C drill is 4m wide, cultivators, rollers and discs when folded are 3m wide), coupled with the difficulty in turning into the field due to the narrow width.

Countryside Department had seen some of the vehicles described on site and are satisfied that this track is reasonably necessary for the agricultural operation of this farm and a new woodland management scheme will be agreed to manage the woodland and to mitigate the loss of the trees during the creation of this track. Given the above, the application will be recommended for approval.

Llanfair Discoed – Councillor Vacancy

No applications. Agreed to approach a resident who could be interested.

“Crick” sign (too small)

Reply from MCC that they only replace damaged signs. Agreed that we enquire if MCC would have any objections if we replace it and what the specifications would be.

Shared Access

Invited one of their Area Managers to attend a future meeting – waiting for confirmation.

Dog Waste Bin - Crick

Ordered – may take a couple of months as MCC do a batch order and ours was the first on the list.

Recycling/Waste Management

Invited Recycling Manager to attend one of our future meetings but she is unavailable – she has suggested Carl Touhig instead (Waste Management Mgr).

Insurance

CPFA have their own insurance policy. Stall holders at the show are not covered by this – they must have their own liability insurance.

Ground Falling into Brook, Salisbury Cottage, St Brides

Councillor Counsell had attended a meeting with Highways and they agreed to make the necessary repairs.

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

284 members

Issues raised – dog fouling on Caerwent Play Area, painting of railings at Merton Green, stolen plants/possible wildflower area at Merton Green, speeding traffic – all issues being dealt with.

PLAY AREA INSPECTIONS REPORT

There were no issues.

M4607 CORRESPONDENCE

Rogiet School Newsletter. Councillor Counsell queried why the wind turbine on the school is not in working operation. The Chairman agreed to ask the Energy Officer at MCC.

M4608 FINANCE

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

Balances as at 31st May:

Moneymaster Account	£ 15,865.67
Community Account	£ 12,125.34
Petty Cash	£71.92

1. Clerk's Salary, Overtime, Allowances, Mileage (38)	as per NALC scales
2. Inland Revenue	£49.23
3. Torfaen Pension Fund	(employee) £47.89
	(employer) £174.16
4. Henry Burton Almshouse Charity (room hire)	£21.00
5. D Lloyd (internal auditor)	£400.00
6. Petty Cash	£178.00
7. Merlin Waste (dog bins)	£135.60
8. Aardvarc Cleaning	£278.00

Council agreed.

To approve the Annual Return for 2016/17

Council approved and signed.

To consider Internal Auditor Report for 2016/17

Council noted report

To review effectiveness of Internal Audit

Council considered internal audit to be effective and adopted said document. Agreed to add training of Councillors as an area for development.

To re-approve terms of reference for Internal Auditor

Council re-approved the terms of reference for 2017/18.

Quote of £65 had been received from CWEP for the painting of the goal posts in Llanfair Discoed. Agreed to enquire if the Kissing Gate at Trewen could be added to the quote for £100 total.

M4609 AGREED TO EXTEND STANDING ORDERS FOR 10 MINUTES

M4610 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

To consider speed of traffic on Dewstow Road, any traffic calming measures and visibility issues due to overgrown vegetation

The Chair advised that all hedgerows will be cut shortly and speed monitoring is currently being carried out throughout the area.

To report any highways/rights of way issues

Regarding the proposal to close the footpath from Canon Lane to prevent burglaries, the Chair advised that two collapsible posts could be installed but the cost would be £1100. Councillor Dawson will pursue the issue with residents who requested it.

White lines at Caerwent crossroads need renewing.

A48 opposite east gate junction – tree split encroaching onto cycle path.

Damaged trees encroaching on cycle path to Crick

Footpath from Canon Lane to Caldicot Road – needs weeding

Footpath between St Tathans and Canon Lane into Playing Fields – needs clearing

Damaged dropped kerb 18 Canon Lane

Centre of village at crossroads needs clearing of weeds

Litter from Caerwent Brook over Dewstow to motorway bridge

Highmoor Hill (both lanes) – verges need cutting.

Hedge at Maybury at crossroads in Caerwent encroaching into road.

M4611 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor George had received very complimentary remarks from Rogiet School regarding our resident representative who serves on their Governing Body. Agreed that we ask him to attend our meeting in July to give us some feedback.

M4612 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Councillor Haddow had been made aware that new funding has become available for defibrillators – agreed to place on next agenda.

Chair Date

