

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD
14th SEPTEMBER 2017

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

J Burdon, Community Governor, Rogiet Primary School
L McKeon, Clerk to the Council
5 members of the public

M4635 APOLOGIES

Councillors Counsell, Cousins, Haddow and Swift.

M4636 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillor K Evans	Caerwent Historic Trust	Trustee
Councillor P Murphy	All planning applications	Member of Planning Committee
Councillor P Murphy	Caerwent Community Centre	Trustee
Councillor S George	Planning Application 2017/0070	Attended meetings of pressure group
Councillor S George	Rogiet School	Teacher at school

M4637 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

M4638 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Cory expressed concern that as far as he was aware the Community Council had not made a recommendation to Planning regarding the Barrier Services planning application 2017/00771. The Chairman informed him that this Council had indeed recommended Refusal and the reasons were read out. The Clerk agreed to send a copy of our recommendation to Mr Cory.

The Chairman also informed Mr Cory that he was not happy with the assurances that the Managing Director had given to him re monitoring of vehicles and this Council would be questioning the Operator's Licence with VOSA. Mr Cory advised that the licence was renewed on 5th June but was unsure where this was advertised. There appears to be no regulations whatsoever as lorries are using the road on Sundays at 0215 and 0515. Highways are looking into providing signage in this area and the Chairman will chase this.

Mr Cory queried the latest situation regarding the quarry application. The Chairman advised that the application remains invalid and the agent has been asked to send further information. In answer to a query from a member of the public the Chairman advised that once an application is valid MCC have eight weeks to determine it, once permission is granted five years is allowed for the works to start.

M4639 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 13TH JULY 2017

These were agreed as a true record.

M4640 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

Report noted. PC Thorpe is hoping to attend our next meeting. Agreed at that time to ask her for more information on the reports.

M4641 MR J BURDON, COMMUNITY GOVERNOR, ROGIET PRIMARY SCHOOL To report on Rogiet Primary School

The Chairman welcomed Mr Burdon to the meeting. Mr Burdon explained that he lives in Crick and has been our Minor Authority Governor for approx two years. The body meets every half term and there is a full complement of governors presently. He also sits on separate committees dealing with science and well being. The school is relatively modern with a strong emphasis on digital citizenship. There are 211 pupils and 25% live in Caerwent. The ratio of free school meals has come down, 8 -16%, partly due to a change in the rules - the national average is 22%. The school was inspected in early July and the report was published last week. This can be found on the Estyn website. Overall very positive exemplar teaching, particularly in Welsh and Science, free school meal children progress and key stage 2 doing really well. Teaching staff quite young so quite high turnover due to maternity/paternity leave. Special Needs Report policy had been held up as best practice. Governors have to do compulsory training. They have an at risk register to deal with safeguarding pupils. School bus – teething problems in first two weeks – advised to talk to Richard Cope at MCC.

M4642 PLANNING

2017/00700 Unit 4, Symondsciff Way, Severn Bridge Industrial Estate, Portskewett - Erection of two flue stacks and the siting of storage containers This Council recommends **Refusal**

Insufficient information provided regarding the monitoring of discharge on non-prevalent winds as well as prevalent
Not sort of operation to be next to a residential area
Could deter clean industries from locating there
Increase in traffic in surrounding villages

To note planning applications considered during August:

2017/00958 Old Barn, Crick - Single Storey Extension at Rear to Create Sunroom

This Council recommends **Approval**

2017/00971 The Oaks Country Kennels, Hardwick Farm, Five Lanes – Grooming Facilities, Isolation Unit & Store

This Council recommends **Approval**

Some concern over extra traffic on the lane.

2017/00977 Glenview Farm, Llanfair Discoed - Demolish barn and build two garages and store room on same foot print

This Council recommends **Approval**

2017/00771 Barrier Services Retrospective Application to change the use of land from grazing/agricultural to storage or distribution

This Council recommends **Refusal**:

The access to this site is totally unsuitable for the huge vehicles going along a very narrow lane to get to the depot which has grown in the last few years. The extension to their yard area is presumably due to the extra traffic now using the yard.

Fears for the safety of local residents, walkers and cyclists who use this lane. The local population and infrastructure is under far more pressure than it ever has been and cannot now accommodate such a business. Every support should be given to find a new suitable location that would preserve the jobs of those employed.

2017/00874 - Eastgate Cottage, Caerwent – Discharge of Condition

This Council recommends **Approval**

DC/2017/00811 - Tigh Nar Darag, Llanfair Discoed – New Steel Vehicle Gates & Boundary Wall

This Council recommends **Approval**

To consider any planning applications received after despatch of agenda.

There were no further applications

Council noted the Planning Services Update received from MCC.

M4643 PROVISION OF DEFIBRILLATORS

Council noted that a grant had been received from The Lions and the defibrillator will be delivered to The Woodlands Tavern shortly.

Council agreed to purchase a defibrillator cabinet at a cost of £450 and spare batteries at £117. Agreed to order signs 4/5 for the outside of both buildings plus other sites – to liaise with Councillor Haddow.

Council authorised the electrical installation of the defibrillator. Clerk to check battery life.

M4644 CAERWENT PLAYING FIELDS TRAIL/WILDFLOWER GARDEN

To consider adding these areas to our general maintenance contract

Councillor Swift had suggested that the previous Lottery Fund could have had conditions put on re maintenance. It was agreed that as we now have responsibility for this any queries of this nature will delay required works. Agreed to seek quotes to twice per year:

Maintain and manage the pathway and external borders to maintain a weed/trip free area. Main aim is to regain the full width path weed free with wooden boundary and minimum weeds to external areas. Agreed to keep the CPFA informed.

M4645 COMMUNITY COUNCIL EDUCATION AWARD

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

Agreed that this should be Roald Dahl in Wales

M4646 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

CLERK'S REPORT

Dates for Diaries

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

St Brides Flooding

Details of maintenance carried out at the Castle Coch pumping station in the last 18 months.

- 4 August 2016 – Pump 1 and pump 2 were stripped down and re-shimmed in order to achieve optimum performance.
- 15 May 2017 - Un-obtrusive maintenance was carried out on the pumps.
- Next maintenance visit is due Feb 2018.

The desilt work on the network has now been completed, which we are hopeful will improve the problems previously experienced on St Brides Road.

Poor Wood – Commoners Rights

Cheque cashed for copy of Official Copy from the Land Registry but nothing received. Clerk chasing this.

Transfer of Village Hall

Solicitor away on holiday until 6th September. Clerk informed MCC.

Time Team Field Wall

The responsibility for the wall is split between MCC and the tenants. Both sets of deeds are silent so the costs would be equally borne between the two with the scope and amount agreed in advance of any works. Agreed to write again to MCC to point out that the wall is unsafe.

Toilets/War Memorial Repairs

Councillor Counsell had revised list of works. Passed over to Councillor Swift in order to obtain another quote.

Llanfair Discoed – Councillor Vacancy

No applications.

Dog Fouling

Bag holders ordered and received. The Clerk will pass these over to Councillor Dawson for installation once the bags have been received. New bin for Crick arrived at MCC – Councillor Swift will be liaising re location. Enforcement will be discussed with the police if they attend our next meeting. Councillor Dawson is currently researching this issue.

Wind Turbine, Rogiet School

Chairman has requested information from MCC re power consumption before it broke down and now.

Crick Sign

Still awaiting details of specification/prices. Reminded again.

Xmas Lighting

New detailed requirements received from MCC. Clerk checked with City Illuminations who confirmed that they are able to adhere to all of these.

Internet Access

Although promised at meeting no further information received from Shared Access.

A new company backed by the Welsh Government is now working with MCC. This is being tested at Highmoor Hill. A Monmouthshire broadband surgery event is planned with BT on the evening of Thursday 5th October at the Old School in Raglan. Agreed to post this information on Facebook when timing is known.

Highways Issues

Following complaints that MoD vehicles were accessing the Training Area by travelling up Dinham Road they have now provided appropriate signage.

Re Little Mix concert, further consideration will be given to other events in the future possibly using the Parkwall roundabout and sending vehicles to Caldicot that way.

Japanese knotweed at St Brides – being treated.

A48 cycle track from Five Lane to Caerwent – aware of this but on list of programmed works for the future due to resources.

Overhanging ivy at Lawrence Crescent – notice served on owner to cut back ivy.

Moss on pavement at Lawrence Crescent – will be removed.

Pavement uneven at Lawrence Crescent – inspected and found no issue that needs attending to – MCC will monitor.

Requested appropriate signage for Sandy Lane.

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

Information exchange mainly

311 members

MONTHLY PLAY AREA INSPECTION REPORT

Awaiting quote

M4647 CORRESPONDENCE

Welsh Government – Heritage Impact Statements

Director of Rural England – digital potential research

NHS Wales – Talk Health Event, 8th September, Monmouth

One Voice Wales – Reform of Data Protection Legislation

Electoral Reform in Local Government of Wales Consultation

(Councillors to send any comments to Clerk by 10th October)

Ombudsman Report 2017

MCC – CWEP won Green Flag Community Award

U3A Open Day - 19th October

One Voice Wales – Community Liaison Meetings

M4648 FINANCE

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

Balances as at 31st August:

Moneymaster Account	£20,547.59
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Community Account	£15,867.04
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Petty Cash	£137.03
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1. Clerk's Salary, Allowances, Mileage (38)	as per NALC scales
2. Inland Revenue	£49.23
3. Torfaen Pension Fund	(employee) £47.89
	(employer) £174.16
4. Website domain renewal	£15.72
5. Website hosting renewal	£115.06
6. Aardvarc Cleaning	£294.00
7. Llanvair Landscapes	£780.00

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	£240.00
Llanfair Church	£240.00
St Brides Church	£240.00
Llanvaches Utd Reformed Church	£80.00
Mons County Citizens Advice Bureau	£2500.00
Shirenewton Primary School (annual prize)	£125.00
Rogiet Primary School (annual prize)	£125.00
Caldicot Junior Football Club	£500.00

Council approved.

Council amended and approved Annual Return 2016/17 to include Village Hall improvements on assets list.

M4649 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

To report any highways/rights of way issues

Hedge at dog waste bin at Tump needs cutting back
Increasing number of potholes on Highmoor Hill and Shirefield
A48 at Crick – one of reflectors on bollard is missing
Dewstow Road to Brockwells – lots of rubbish on road
Passing areas on Highmoor Hill all getting smaller, need silt clearing
Cut branches on Highmoor Hill left by BT
End of Sandy Lane – No Through Road post bent over
Railings at Merton Green – Councillor Dawson will seek quote (mention in newsletter)

To note road closures on M48 overbridge on Church Road/Dewstow Roads

Noted

M4650 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports.

M4651 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Provision of play equipment including DDA equipment. Check with Nigel Leaworthy re our obligations and any grants available. Also enquire about the Play Areas in our area (not owned by us) which are in some disrepair.

Slide on Caerwent Play Area – very hot in warm weather. Request Health & Safety advice for next meeting.

Chairman Date