

MINUTES OF MEETING OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD 8TH DECEMBER 2011

Present: P Murphy (Chairman) P Lewis
G Cousins K Swift
D Hedley R Trayler-Smith
K Evans D Vosloo
P Kidger

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council

Members of Public: A Davies, Llangerrig, Five Lanes
W Edwards, Yew Tree Farm, Llanvair Discoed

M3655 APOLOGIES

Received from Councillor Counsell

M3656 15 MINUTES PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Edwards reported that dogs off leads had been present recently on Gray Hill. He queried if larger “no dogs allowed” signs could be provided. The Chairman agreed to query this with the Countryside section.

M3657 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD 8TH, 10TH NOVEMBER and MoD MEETING ON 17TH NOVEMBER

These were agreed as a true record.

M3658 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

The Clerk had written to the Inspector re the lack of police presence at our meetings – no reply. She will write again.

M3659 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Cousins	Merton Green Action Group
Councillor Murphy	Old Gym Committee
Councillor Kidger	Caerwent Playing Fields Association

M3660 MATTERS ARISING

Merton Green

The Chairman reported that 2 extra car parking spaces on Ash Tree Road will be regularized. Criminal damage had occurred, ie overpainting of numbers on car parking spaces, and Barratts may prosecute. The entrance to the rear of Llanvair Road has now been resolved with dropped kerbs.

A sewer serving 16 flats was blocked and sewage was entering one flat. Monmouthshire Housing and Welsh Water are currently working on this problem in order to rectify the situation. A resident had contacted Dynarod at the time – K Beirne, Chief Officer, is endeavouring to recompense this individual.

Councillor Cousins reported that small children who have moved into the area are using the building ramps for their toy scooters and he is concerned for their safety. The Chairman agreed to ask Barratts personnel to be extra vigilant with children playing in the area and to ensure that the 10 mph is adhered to.

Proposed Closure of School Lane

Email received from John Barnard (sent to Cllrs 23rd Nov) – Chairman had replied.

The Chairman reported that he had met with Officers of MCC to look at the detailed responses following the Public Meeting held on 7th November. The Cabinet Member still felt that the Lane should be closed but he had deferred his decision until such time as he was satisfied that a traffic impact survey had been carried out. A letter from Paul Keeble, Traffic & Network Manager, had been received confirming this.

Councillor Evans queried if this study will include the westgate, the eastgate and the Caldicot Road. The Chairman confirmed that this was the case and that a traffic counter had already been placed on the Caldicot Road.

Kellie Beirne, Chief Officer, has sanctioned any additional work, ie improved signage, road re-design, traffic calming.

Councillor Cousins suggested that if there was a no through road through the new estate this would ease the traffic onto School Lane. The Chairman informed the meeting that a through road on the estate was a directive from the Emergency Services.

Councillor Trayler-Smith queried if the survey suggests that School Lane should not be closed will the traffic calming measures for the village still be implemented. The Chairman informed the meeting that they would.

Councillor Lewis felt that the safety of pedestrians should be considered. The Chairman confirmed that they will be.

Old Gym

Letter received from Solicitor which had been circulated. It was agreed to reply requesting that on p3 of the Deed – the reference to not holding public meetings and erecting a fence around the site, should be taken out.

Soundproofing had been agreed for the building. The marching band would probably return to this building soon on a limited basis and Environmental Health will monitor.

Bradbury Farm, Crick (Play Area/Wildlife Reserve)

Councillor Swift sought Council approval for the Wildlife Group to investigate and explore this proposed project. This was agreed.

Provision of Allotments

Councillors Lewis/Cousins will visit the site and report back.

Circular Walk

The Chairman had been approached by a farmer who was concerned that his land and crops will be affected as they are adjacent to the boundary fence. The Chairman had agreed to keep him informed of progress.

Footpath/Land Attached to Great House Farm

No progress.

Cwrt Morgan Adoption

No progress.

Bench in recognition of Councillor Nettleship

Materials had been purchased in order to construct this bench.

Occupied Caravan on Land nr Brockwells Meadows

The Enforcement Officer feels that there is not enough evidence currently to take this matter further but will keep a watching brief.

Caerwent Village Hall/Playing Fields

Councillor Kidger reported that he had requested a quote for telescopic bollards. He will talk to his Committee re a door closer.

Reduced Street Lighting

Information on this had been circulated to all Councillors. The proposal is that from midnight to 5.00 a.m. street lights are dimmed – this will reduce the power consumption by 30%. The Chairman stated that there is a cost element but that the scheme will quickly pay for itself. There could be some rural areas where selective switch off during the night takes place. Junction lights will however be left on.

Crick – new lights not energy efficient – Chairman will check and also a date for connection.

BT Kiosk, Highmoor Hill

BT have now sent signed contract. They will remove the telephony.

M3661 PLANNING

2011/01016 Convert 1 of 2 Garages to Extra Room Replacing Garage Door with Window, Plot 95, The Dolkins, Ash Tree Road, Caerwent
This Council recommends Approval

2011/00953 Demolition of Existing Building & Rebuilding of Previous Building on Same Site, Westgate Barn, Caerwent
This Council recommends Approval

M3662 CAERWENT PLAYING FIELDS PLAY EQUIPMENT

Councillor Kidger queried why the Play Areas are managed separately and suggested that they should be under one management umbrella, ie the Community Council. He felt that there should be some written document between the Playing Fields and the Community Council re their roles. He is concerned that the play equipment has potential liability.

Councillor Evans felt that if the Community Council take over the management of the play equipment then our annual grant to the Playing Fields should be reduced. It was agreed to agenda this item for the next meeting and in the meantime Councillor Kidger will talk to MCC re frequency of inspection duties in order to avoid future litigation.

Councillor Kidger had also been in contact with MCC re responsibility of trees on the field and is awaiting a reply.

M3663 FINANCE

Approved as per Finance sheet dated November 2011.

Council considered the Precept for 2012/13 and agreed to keep the figure at £40,000.

M3664 CORRESPONDENCE

1. DAVID DAVIES, MP
Affordable Internet Access. The Chairman reported that progress on this is ongoing.
2. JOHN PEARSON, DEMOCRACY MANAGER, MCC
2012 Local Elections. Briefing Sessions for Potential Candidates will be held on 25th and 26th January at County Hall.
3. MONMOUTHSHIRE HOUSING
Environmental Estate Improvements. Do we have any proposals for our area. The Clerk will enquire if the garages at St Tathans had been painted recently. Councillor Cousins reported that tenants and home owners on Ash Tree Road are having new fire doors fitted but are being charged £680 by Monmouthshire Housing. Hugh Thomas, a Manager at MHA, had intimated that the maximum cost would be £250. The Chairman agreed to talk to the MCC Housing Chief Officer and to the Legal Department at MCC.
4. PAGEANTMASTER, THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE BEACONS
Beacons available for £299 + p & p. It was agreed not to participate.
5. CAERWENT PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
Church Walls & Clock
They will be making an application for a grant under the new Village Alive schemes. They feel that letters of support would help their application and wondered if we could help in this respect. Agreed.
6. MINUTES/PUBLICATIONS
Sevenside Area Committee Minutes

M3665 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

Council considered an online petition initiated by County Councillor Harris regarding the provision of a link to the M48 off the B425 Caldicot/Rogiet and agreed to support this.

Dinham Road – water lies at bottom of road after heavy rain.

Garden waste green bags are constantly being thrown all over the road by the lorry operatives. Chairman to talk to MCC.

Merrils Cottage - 2 potholes

Previous water flooding nr Cwrt Morgan - Councillor Evans to keep a watching brief.

Sporadic street lighting on A48. No street lighting at Pwllmeyric.

Footpath on A48 needs sweeping – getting narrower with build up

Septic tanks – problem registering.

Caerwent Gardens – white line required at junction.

M3666 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Councillor Cousins queried if Community Councillors could be provided with ID cards. Clerk to make enquiries.

Chairman Date