

## **MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2013**

Present: D Hedley (Chairman) P Lewis  
B Counsell P Murphy  
G Cousins K Swift  
K Evans R Trayler Smith  
K Haddow

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council  
5 Members of the Public

### **M3951 APOLOGIES**

Received from Councillor Vosloo.

### **M3952 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

### **M3953 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Councillor K Evans	Caerwent Historic Trust	Committee Member
Councillor G Cousins	W.A.R.M.	Relative of Representative
Councillor D Hedley	Monmouthshire CABx	Trustee
Councillor B Counsell	Monmouthshire CABx	Trustee
Councillor P Murphy	Caerwent Community Centre	Committee Member
Councillor B Counsell	Caerwent Community Centre	Committee Member

Councillor Murphy stated that he does not have to declare an interest in the Monmouthshire CABx as MCC no longer have a representative on these Committees.

### **M3954 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr Clift queried why the Community Council finance two village halls. The Chairman advised that one is a Village Hall and one a Community Centre and they are used for different purposes. He advised that they are self financing and we give them an annual grant.

Mr Smith reported that the state of the roads on the Merton Green development is appalling and the machinery used to clean the roads is totally inadequate. Councillors Cousins and Murphy advised that they will be meeting with Barratts the following day and will raise this with them.

Mr Harris handed to the Council a document calling for a community poll in relation to Agenda Item 19 (Finance – precept/106 decisions) in relation to funding of community centre/village hall, toilets and Time Team Field. Council agreed not to carry out this poll until they could fully consider the accuracy of the request.

Mr Edwards queried if Councillors Counsell and Murphy will be leaving the room when deciding upon the precept in relation to the Caerwent Community Centre Committee. Councillor Murphy advised that as there is no pecuniary interest Councillors can remain but just not take part in the discussion.

Mr Edwards was concerned about the proposed Section 106 application from the Caerwent Community Centre Committee as he had seen a figure of £160,000 just for repairs to the roof. Councillor Murphy advised Mr Edwards that the application had not gone in yet but his figure was incorrect as a complete appraisal for all works to the building has been estimated at £167,000.

Council agreed that they were disappointed at the amount of mis-information which has been placed before them recently.

### **M3955 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2013**

These were agreed as a true record.

### **M3956 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT**

There was no police report.

### **M3957 PRESENTATION FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF W.A.R.M. (Widening Access, Research and Mentoring to Positive Mental Health)**

A presentation on this education support group (linked to the University of South Wales) was given. They run groups in Chepstow but are now looking into providing similar in the areas of Caldicot, Rogiet, Caerwent and Magor. They are seeking funding for room hire and are visiting all local Town/Community Councils. They carry out fund raising and there is a nominal charge for those that can afford it. They were advised to apply to the Welsh Church Fund and to Caldicot County Councillors. They have completed an application form for us to consider and were advised that this will be discussed at the next Community Council.

### **M3958 PLANNING**

**2013/00382 9 Eastgate Crescent, Caerwent**  
**Demolish Single Storey Annexe & Construct Two Storey**  
**Rear Extension and Single Storey Side Extension (amendment)**  
*This Council recommends Approval*

**2013/00957 Greenacres, Five Lanes, Caerwent**  
**Proposed Conversion of Bungalow to House with Minor Extensions**  
**at Ground Floor Level**  
*This Council recommends Approval*

**2013/00921 Development of Foodstore, Caldicot**  
Plans available online [www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning](http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning) and at One Stop Shops)  
Noted.

Council noted that the planning application re the Village Hall had been submitted to Planning.

### **M3959 PARISH LAND**

Council considered three parcels of land which at one time or another have been known as parish land – The Pound, The Village Green and the Poor Wood.

The Pound – agreed that Councillor Evans would research ownership.  
The Village Green status is in the hands of a Solicitor.  
The MoD had advised that they will look into the Poor Wood re the transfer from them to Cadw.

Top/Bottom Common (Highmoor Hill) and Bicca Common were also mentioned – Councillor Evans will make enquiries.

### **M3960 COMMUNITY PLAN**

Council considered drawing up a community plan. Agreed to appoint a Working Group (Councillors Hedley/Swift/Counsell/Murphy) and arrange a meeting in February.

### **M3961 REMOVAL OF HEDGE/TREES ON A48, MERTON GREEN DEVELOPMENT**

Council considered the hedges that had been removed during the building works. Agreed that Councillors Murphy/Cousins raise this with Barratts and request that they be replaced with indigenous species, whilst being mindful of any wildflower bedding areas.

### **M3962 CONSULTATION – MCC - REVIEW OF COMMUNITIES & ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS**

Council noted Public Consultation meeting to be held 9<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at County Hall. As this is the day of our meeting the Clerk had requested further information from MCC. Response required by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

### **M3963 SCHOOL LANE STREET NAMING**

Council noted the result of the consultation that the lane officially be named School Lane. Noted that the consultation brought to light a local name of The Cross for part of School Lane around the cenotaph. A petition in favour received from Cross Cottage, Myrtle Cottage & Laurel Dene residents. Agreed to recommend that “The Cross, School Lane” be used for postal addresses.

### **M3964 “PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY” SIGNAGE – CAERWENT VILLAGE**

Council considered village sign design from Highways. Agreed that this was acceptable and that we will require three.

Council considered signage for other villages and agreed that we request larger “Crick” signs.

### **M3965 WWI CENTENARY YEAR 2014**

Council considered planting red poppies to mark the centenary. Agreed to ask Mr N Leaworthy of MCC to attend a future Community Council meeting to advise on this and to also discuss general grasscutting issues. Suggestion of planting poppies in Time Team Field – agreed to seek permission from Cadw.

Councillor Cousins volunteered to construct some planters to be placed around the cenotaph. Agreed that he would seek the views of the villager who provides planters currently.

### **M3966 WILDFLOWER RESERVES**

Council considered planting wildflowers at the three entrances into Caerwent. Agreed to also discuss this with Mr Leaworthy at a future meeting.

### **M3967 COUNCIL POLICIES**

An update was given on Council policies – agreed to set up Working Group to progress.

### **M3968 TO RECEIVE REPORTS** (for information only)

Clerk's Report (written) – received.

Time Team Field Working Group Report (written) – received.

MoD meeting (oral) – new security fence may be erected, MoD had requested another formal expression of interest re allotments, Councillor Murphy will query planning re Orchard field and Change of Use from Domestic to Horticultural. Circular Walk – recommendation that this now be completed piecemeal and that funding is not sought under Section 106. Strip of land and picnic site at Cwm still available – (seek advice from Tree Officer). Meeting re the railway line has been requested with MCC.

### **M3969 AGREED THAT STANDING ORDERS BE EXTENDED BY 30 MINUTES**

### **M3970 FINANCE**

Council considered payment and approval as per finance schedule dated December 2013.

Minutes of Finance Committee held 9<sup>th</sup> December 2013 – received.

Council considered and approved recommendations of Finance Committee dated 9<sup>th</sup> December. Precept of £40,000 agreed for 2014/15. Agreed that the increased cost of dog bin emptying and further toilets maintenance be funded from reserves. The cost of the FOI requests was considered – agreed that we use our reserves for this year but that this will not be sustainable over an extended period.

Council considered and agreed financial request from Caerwent Historic Trust re the purchase of a bookcase to house the Historic Trust collection. Agreed to purchase the bookcase.

Council noted and agreed price increase from dog waste contractor from January 2014.

### **M3971 DISCUSSION DOCUMENT FROM MCC REGARDING HOW THE COUNTY COUNCIL MAY WORK CLOSER WITH OTHER BODIES TO SUSTAIN SERVICES AND FACILITIES**

Council considered recommendations of Finance Committee. It was noted that we do not have many services which are likely to be cut and also that savings do not have to be made within the next year. This will therefore not impact greatly on our precept setting for 2014/15. Council considered and agreed to invitation to join a “cluster group” of Councils re devolution of services.

### **M3972 CORRESPONDENCE**

Historic Trust – Time Heals (digging Caerwent with Operation Nightingale (wounded servicemen) nominated in Archaeology Awards 2014.  
One Voice Wales – December Funding Newsletter.  
FOIs/General Enquiries (42.)

### **M3973 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY**

To note Works Embargo over Xmas period on main shopping streets in Mons towns.  
Dead end sign will appear shortly on School Lane.

### **M3974 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

No reports.

### **M3975 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Request that Mr Leaworthy of MCC attend either January or February meeting.  
Request for Dinham Road noticeboard to be re-sited.  
MCC Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements.

### **M3976 TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC DURING THE FOLLOWING THREE ITEMS BY REASON OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED**

Agreed.

### **M3977 NUMBER OF FOIs AND GENERAL EMAILS FROM ONE RESIDENT**

Council considered the number of FOIs/General Emails from one resident which are in the region of 300. Council considered the non-attendance of resident at arranged meeting and noted that this had been the third invitation from us to meet to discuss his concerns and a way forward. Council agreed on a response.

### **M3978 LETTER FROM SOLICITOR**

Council considered contents and agreed on a response.

### **M3979 INFORMATION COMMISSION OFFICE**

Council noted letters received.

Chairman ..... Date .....