

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD 12TH APRIL 2012

Present: P Murphy (Chairman) P Kidger
B Counsell K Swift
G Cousins R Trayler-Smith
D Hedley

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council
Pcso T Norville
Pcso S Davies

Members of Public: B Williams, Manor Farm, Crick
W Edwards, Yew Tree Farm, Llanvair Discoed
T Meredith, New Cottages, Caerwent

M3701 APOLOGIES

Received from Councillors Lewis, Evans and Vosloo.

The Chairman informed the meeting that Councillor Lewis is currently in hospital and this Council wished him a speed recovery.

M3702 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Meredith referred to a road traffic accident which occurred recently on the Old Roman Road where the road was temporarily closed off. He felt that if School Lane was permanently closed then an incident similar to this happening again would only exacerbate the situation.

Council noted that traffic counters are in place in Caerwent village ascertaining traffic movements in and out of the village. When the survey has been completed MCC will discuss the findings with us.

Mr Meredith commented that the new "gates" on the A48 looked rather unsightly. The Chairman agreed that they did not look as if they were completed and will enquire if they are in fact the finished product.

Mr Edwards reported on a break-in at Dewstow Golf Club. He was advised to speak with the Police Officers after the meeting.

M3703 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 8TH MARCH 2012

These were confirmed as a true record with the following amendment:

p.5 **M3698 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY**
Should read:
"Footpath by Northgate Inn traffic lights – trees overhanging"

M3704 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor P Murphy	Caerwent Community Centre Committee
Councillor G Cousins	Merton Green Action Group
Councillor P Kidger	Caerwent Playing Fields Association Ltd

M3705 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

Pcso Norville reported on crime this month – thefts of diesel from a building site, a trailer from a driveway and radiators from outside a property. He warned of scrap metal merchants and advised that villagers contact the police if suspicious.

He had patrolled the Village Hall car park area and there did not appear to be any inappropriate activities. The Chairman requested that he continue to monitor this area especially as the nights were getting lighter.

The Clerk had advised him about heavy lorries from the building sites using the Old Roman Road and he is in discussions with his Traffic Section about this.

He will, at the request of the Clerk, monitor the roman wall re dog fouling. He advised that he can, in conjunction with Environment Health, issue a fine.

Councillor Cousins queried if the workmen on the Barratts site could be warned against using their mobile phones whilst driving their JCB/Dumpers. PCSO Norville agreed to patrol the site.

New Police Officer for our patch – Pc Caroline Lee.

M3706 PRESENTATION BY CLAIRE DOVEY-EVANS & BETHAN GIBBENS, MCC, re BRINGING YOUR VILLAGE ALIVE & SENSE OF ROOTS GRANT SCHEMES

Claire Dovey-Evans informed the Council about the Bringing Your Village Alive Grant specifically for conservation areas. Nine grants available – 3 for £40,000 and 6 for £8,000. 17 conservation areas are currently being appraised and there will be a lot of competition. 80% of the total costs of a scheme is available. Eligible projects would be capital projects (not design, planning permissions etc) - monuments, architecture, historic property, walls, railings etc. Claire confirmed that walls would be eligible and the Chairman agreed to mention this in the next newsletter in case any home owners are interested. Claire confirmed that a joint application would be acceptable and she will be able to assist with this. The grant scheme is in arrears and so owners need to be able to fund the project initially.

Bethan advised on the Sense of Roots Grant scheme which is not restricted to conservation areas. Aims to bring to life Monmouthshire's agricultural, industrial and cultural heritage – to inform the public about the history and heritage of the area. 6 grants available at £8,000. 80% of total cost available, capital projects only, ie interpretation boards, heritage trail, sound posts. She confirmed that this could not be awarded to purchase a plot of land. Councillor Swift will contact Bethan regarding a project in her village.

M3707 MATTERS ARISING

Merton Green

Chairman/Councillor Cousins will meet on site on 13th April.

Proposed Closure of School Lane

Council noted that numerous counters are in place throughout the village monitoring traffic movements.

Old Gym

Completion re purchase of building took place on 30th March. Solicitor will be in touch in due course with evidence that the property has been registered in our name. Chair of Old Gym Committee had confirmed that the Centre is fully insured, the fire alarms and security lights are checked every Tuesday by the Committee. They employ Dragon Services to check fire alarms, fire extinguishers and security lights every 3 months. PAT testing is done on a yearly basis - last test February 2012. The Mod completed an asbestos review in February 2012.

Clerk had written to complainant re Marching Band with a copy to Ombudsman, MP, Old Gym Committee and Environmental Health – Ombudsman acknowledged. The Chairman informed the meeting that the trial has still not gone ahead.

Councillor Counsell had been contacted by The Pigeon Club who had expressed interest in using the Old Boiler House. The Chairman warned that asbestos is present and that is why this external building is totally locked up. Councillor Counsell felt that there could be grants available to remove this. The Chairman agreed to ask the Health & Safety Manager at MCC for advice.

Crick Wildlife Reserve

Councillor Swift has received confirmation that MCC Estates are willing to lease the land (map circulated) with the following conditions - a lease for a term of 15 years, rent reviews every 3 years, the use to be for recreational land, a rent of £150 p.a., for which a rental grant of up to 95% of the rent may be available. It was agreed that this was acceptable and Councillor Swift will progress the matter.

The Community Council will be required to ensure that rights over the land are not granted without the Landlord's consent. Therefore, there will be a requirement for the Community Council to place signs at all entrances to the site making clear that the access to the site is permissive and can be removed at any time. Councillor Swift was advised to contact Ruth Rourke, Footpaths Officer and also GAVO re available grants.

Councillor Counsell queried if the whole of this land will be dedicated to a wildlife reserve and wondered if there could be room for a play area. Councillor Swift stated that this would be an educational resource anyway – it would be a public area with benches and a pond with a path surrounding it. Keep Wales Tidy had agreed to fund the insurance and this could not therefore include a Play Area. The Chairman agreed to remind Asset Management that we had requested a Play Area on the Bradbury Farm site.

Provision of Allotments

No reply from Mod – Clerk had reminded.

Circular Walk

Councillor Counsell had contacted Mike Moran, Leisure Manager, but there had been no further progress.

Footpath/Land Attached to Great House Farm

Chairman reported that plans are currently being drawn up for the site.

Cwrt Morgan Adoption

No progress.

War Memorial Names

Still no reply from Newport Memorials – reminded them. Clerk had also contacted Philip Blatchly who will send their mason to visit the Memorial and then send us a quote – they would want to do it in the better weather.

Extra Street Lighting, Crick

Councillor Swift reported that the lights are still not on. She will however put a case together for a reduced speed limit and arrange a meeting with Paul Keeble, Traffic Manager.

Car Rallies

Clerk had written to MoD supporting the Car Rallies – no reply. Also written to the organisers asking for a later start time on a Sunday – this was agreed.

Local Council Elections – 4th May

Official notice from MCC placed on noticeboards. MCC will email us a Statement of Persons nominated on 9th April - this will also appear on the MCC website.

The Chairman understood that Councillor Kidger had not put himself up for nomination as he hoped to move out of the area. He thanked him for his past contribution and wished him well for the future.

Dog Fouling

Further complaint received through Cadw re dog fouling on the roman wall. They may provide further signage in the area and more information on their website but also requested our help in reminding villagers that dogs should be on leads around the wall. Clerk had contacted PcsO Norville and Environmental Health asking them to patrol the roman wall and Canon Lane area. Clerk had also placed notices in boards.

Septic Tank Registration

Meeting will be held in Crick shortly.

War Memorial Parking

PcsO Norville had visited the site occasionally and the situation is now much improved.

Coach & Horses Public House planning consultation

Clerk had reported complaint re lack of consultation to Planning who informed her that the complainant had actually received a copy of the plans and had discussed said plans with the Planning Officer and the Conservation Officer.

Queen's Jubilee Celebrations

Proposal from Councillor Vosloo that £150 be awarded to Llanfair in order to plant a tree and plant up some containers. This was agreed. She was advised to check tree purchase on the Forestry Commission website. It was agreed to consider tree planting in other areas, ie Crick and Caerwent – Councillors to report back next month.

Courthouse Road pavement surface, Llanfair Discoed

Reply from Highways – they are only able to salt strategic routes within the network based on a number of criteria and this road is not included. They will however visit and rate it against criteria for salt bins to see if it qualifies for placement.

Publication of Minutes on Website

Advice from One Voice Wales is that it is the decision of each Community Council as to whether they publish draft minutes. Advice from MCC Legal: Section 228 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides “The minutes of proceedings of a parish or community council shall be open to the inspection of any local government elector for the area of the council and any such local government elector may make a copy of or extract from the minutes.” The legislation is silent on whether this right extends to draft minutes, MCC do not publish draft minutes and they agree with One Voice Wales that this is for each Community Council to determine. It was agreed to put up the agendas and matters arising update on the website the week before the meeting but not to publish draft minutes.

Visitor Signing Project

Visitor Signage audit sent by Cotyledon to all Councillors – Council agreed with and noted contents.

M3707 PLANNING

2012/00176 Extend Home to Enlarge Kitchen, Erect Conservatory, Create Storage and Relocate WC. First Floor Extension to Create New Larger Bedroom with En-Suite, 10 Eastgate Crescent, Caerwent
*This Council recommends **Approval***

2012/00121 Porch Covering Two Exit Doors, Caerwent Baptist Chapel
*This Council recommends **Approval***

M3708 FINANCE

Council agreed payment as per Finance Schedule dated March 2012.

Request from Caerwent Parochial Church Council for funding towards refurbishment of the clock face. It was agreed to seek more information on exact improvements made to the clock and maybe suggest Bringing Your Village Alive grants.

M3709 CORRESPONDENCE

1. FORESTRY COMMISSION WALES
Hydro Power Development on the Welsh Government Woodland Estate. Seeking expressions of interest from community organisations to work with specialist companies to identify sites where community scale (less than 5MW) hydro schemes could be developed to generate renewable electricity using water. Council noted.
2. MARK YOUNGMAN, TRANSPORT & COMPLIANCE MANAGER, MCC
Bus Shelter Guidance. Council noted.
3. SEVERN TUNNEL ACTION GROUP
Update on station's development. Council noted.

4. GWENT ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS
Best Kept Village Competition. Information passed to Councillor Swift. Llanfair Discoed village had already entered.
5. MINUTES/PUBLICATIONS
Severnside Area Committee Minutes
Monmouthshire Countryside Newsletter
One Voice Wales 'The Voice'
One Voice Wales Committee Minutes
Play for Wales

M3710 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

Council considered complaint from resident and letter from Traffic Manager regarding heavy lorries using the Old Roman Road.

Crick footpaths have still not been cleared/cleaned.

Flooding in triangle field – flooded on 11th April. Chairman will make enquiries.

Eastgate Crescent/School Lane – potholes.

Crossroads – overgrown and rubble (unsightly). Also entrance to Burton Homes - wall damaged.

M3711 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Councillor Kidger reported that the Playing Fields Association Annual General Meeting will be held on 1st May and it would be appropriate if Councillors could attend. He confirmed that he is standing down as Chairman so we will have to bear in mind that we will need a representative for this Committee from May. He has applied for a small grant for play equipment and is working on a plan for the future.

Trees on Playing Fields – he had been shown correspondence from 2003 where Monmouthshire County Council had indicated that they were responsible for the trees and had mentioned works planned for the next 10 years. He queried if the situation now is purely a matter of finance. The Chairman agreed that the Officer concerned was probably giving some degree of protection to his budget in this changed financial situation. Councillor Kidger stated that the Playing Fields Association are obviously able to cut the tree requested by a resident but queried why a possible large project be the responsibility of a small management committee run on behalf of MCC. The Chairman will contact the Countryside Section for advice. Councillor Kidger will contact the Tree Officer regarding cutting the tree overhanging a residents' garden.

The Chairman advised any groups to apply for funding through The Welsh Church Act Fund.

Chairman Date