

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD 10TH MAY**

Present: P Murphy D Hedley
B Counsell K Swift
G Cousins R Trayler-Smith
K Evans

L McKeon, Clerk to the Council

Members of P Edwards, New Cottages, Caerwent
Public: T Meredith, New Cottages, Caerwent
A Davies, Llangerrig, Five Lanes
K Davies, The Laurels, Caerwent

M3712 DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

All Councillors present signed.

M3713 CO-OPTION FOR ST BRIDES NETHERWENT VACANCY

Council agreed to co-opt Richard Trayler-Smith.

M3714 APOLOGIES

Received from Councillors Vosloo and Lewis.
Condolences were sent to Councillor Vosloo who had suffered a family bereavement.

M3715 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Hedley proposed Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Evans. There being no other nominations Councillor Murphy was duly elected Chairman.

M3716 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Chairman proposed Councillor Hedley, seconded by Councillor Cousins. There being no other nominations Councillor Hedley was duly elected Vice-Chairman.

M3717 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES

The following representatives were appointed:

One Voice Wales	These meetings are on the same day as our Community Council meetings – Clerk to inform One Voice Wales again.
Caerwent Community Centre	Councillors Murphy/Counsell
Caerwent Playing Fields Assoc	Councillor Cousins
Neighbourhood Watch	Councillor Evans.Vosloo
Footpaths Sub-Committee	Councillors Evans/Lewis/Cousins

Caldicot CAB
Rogiet School
Caerwent Historic Trust
Poor Wood Management Cttee
Section 106 Committee
Toilets Sub-Committee
Charter Working Party
Emergency Contacts

Councillor Counsell
Councillor Evans
Councillor Hedley
Councillor Evans/Lewis
All Councillors
Councillors Murphy/Counsell/Evans/Vosloo
Councillor Murphy
Councillors Murphy/Evans/Cousins

M3718 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs Edwards enquired if we could provide more dog waste bins in Caerwent, a couple at Merton Green and one near eastgate. It was agreed to enquire of MCC if they could provide some especially as the area is going to be promoted as a visitor area. Councillor Swift advised that the general refuse collection service will remove dog bags as long as they are double bagged.

Mrs Edwards queried a planning application for Great House Farm. The Chairman advised that he as County Councillor and we had not had sight of this. Mr K Davies confirmed that it is on the MCC website (MC/2012/00178) and he appealed that we and the County Council look at the surrounding houses when considering it. Councillor Evans stated that we as a Council had an interest in the footpath issue and accordingly we would look at this application carefully.

Mrs Davies mentioned various properties on Fives Lanes where she felt that more thought should have been given at the planning stage. The Chairman advised that with the advent of the Supplementary Planning Guidance decisions will become much more stringent in this H7 area. Mrs Davies expressed concern regarding the hedge at Shirefield Cottage which she feels should have been re-instated – the Clerk felt that we had already received a reply to this query but she will check.

M3719 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12TH APRIL 2012

These were confirmed as a true record.

M3720 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor G Cousins
Councillor P Murphy
Councillor P Murphy

Merton Green Action Group
Caerwent Community Centre Committee
Planning Application 2012/00268 20 Trewen Road

M3721 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

Pcso Norville had sent his apologies. The Clerk read out a report he had sent. He had visited Merton Green but had not seen evidence of workmen driving machinery using their mobile phones, he is still in discussions with the Roads Policing Officer re heavy vehicles using the Old Roman Road. Speed monitoring had been carried out recently St Tathans 0800 – 0900 (300 vehicles checked) average speed 26 mph, highest speed 38 mph. A48 in 30 zone 1100 – 1200 (300 vehicles checked) average speed 29 mph, highest speed 53 mph.

M3722 MATTERS ARISING

Merton Green

No matters of concern to report.

Proposed Closure of School Lane

Council noted that traffic counters have now been removed – we should receive the results probably late May/early June.

Old Gym Building – Use by The Pigeon Club

Regarding The Pigeon Club - the Chairman had checked the tenure re The Northgate but all was in order. As no rent had actually been paid unfortunately the Club have no rights. He had made enquiries at the MoD but the buildings were not suitable.

The Pigeon Club had met with the Old Gym Committee but had concluded that the Boiler Room was not suitable without substantial expenditure. Also the pigeon baskets would not actually pass through the doors without being tilted.

Crick Wildlife Reserve

Council considered draft lease received from MCC – Chairman will ask a Solicitor to check this. Councillor Swift had contacted the Footpaths Officer who had confirmed that they can supply footpath discs. She confirmed that the area must be closed for one day per year.

Provision of Allotments

Chairman had asked Jim Keech, Tree Officer, to look at the trees at the A48 site and he had suggested that the Bio-diversity group be involved. He has also written to the Highways Officer and is awaiting a reply regarding altering this part of the A48 to 30 mph.

The MoD had outlined a project proposal from Gwent Orchards who had informed them that the area may be of historical significance and therefore become an ancient orchard. The MoD had asked us for a concrete proposal – machinery to be used, which trees to be retained, access arrangements/visibility splays, water supply.

Councillor Swift suggested that we need an alternative site in case the A48 land does not become available and suggested the old Sub-Station on the A48. Councillor Hedley agreed that we have an obligation to provide allotments and suggested that MCC approach their tenant farmers, especially when tenancies are coming up for renewal. The Chairman advised that MCC have already done this and no one expressed an interest. It was agreed that the MoD A48 site is the preferable site due to its location and the Clerk will approach Gwent Orchards to ask them to meet with us to discuss their plans.

Car Rallies

The MoD had informed us that they cannot always accommodate the car rallies and military training must take precedence. There are some financial benefits for them but there are also problems with theft, litter and destruction of fences.

Circular Walk

Councillor Counsell will be meeting Mike Moran, Leisure & Recreation Manager, shortly. The Chairman had given contact details of the MoD to Mike Moran. Councillor Swift suggested that we discuss this with other groups who had completed similar walks. Councillor Counsell advised that he and Mike Moran will be visiting Sennybridge. Councillor Swift suggested setting up a Trust now in order to get things moving, it was agreed that it was too soon in the planning process for this.

Footpath/Land Attached to Great House Farm

No progress.

Cwrt Morgan Adoption

No progress.

War Memorial Names

Clerk had sent photo of memorial to Newport Memorials. She had received a quote from Philip Blatchly. It was agreed to accept the lowest quote.

Extra Street Lighting, Crick

No progress. Councillor Swift was advised to email the Street Lighting Manager and copy in the Chairman and the Chief Officer.

Local Council Elections

Notice of vacancy in Caerwent ward placed in newsletter and on boards.

Queen's Jubilee Celebrations

The Chairman reported that a site for an oak tree in Llanfair had been decided but a complaint had been received from a farmer – they will now be having a re-think. Councillor Cousins suggested that an oak tree be planted in the open space area at Merton Green – he will suggest this to Barratts.

Finance Request re Caerwent Church Clock

Further information had been received from Caerwent Parochial Church Council regarding the clock refurbishment. Councillor Swift felt that the residents should be fundraising as other groups do in the village. It was agreed that Councillor Trayler-Smith contact the PCC with a view to examining the clock and then make a recommendation.

Caerwent Playing Fields – responsibility of trees

The Chairman and Councillor Hedley will discuss this issue and report back to the next meeting.

Flooding, Triangle Field, Caerwent

The Chairman confirmed that Environmental Health had inspected the site and it is in fact rain water.

“Gated Entrance” A48

The Chairman had contacted Highways who had confirmed that these particular gates are not on the original plan and will be replaced with something much more appropriate to the surroundings.

Bringing Your Village Alive Grants

Information placed in latest newsletter. An enquiry had been received from the Coach & Horses regarding their walls and they have been referred to MCC.

M3723 PLANNING

2012/00268 20 Trewen Road – Two Storey Extension, Porch and Internal Alterations

*This Council recommends **Refusal***

Windows should be installed at the front of the building in keeping with neighbouring properties.

2012/00260 Ashfield, Five Lanes – Erection of Attached Garage/ Implement Store and Canopy, Retention of Conservatory as a Design Variation to previous approval

*This Council recommends **Approval***

Query whether it fits the criteria of H7 as it has already had a substantial extension.

M3724 FINANCE

It was agreed to make payments as per finance schedule dated May 2012.

Councillor Hedley proposed that as the Caerwent Playing Fields Association are not fund raising or putting on the same amount of events that we reduce their annual grant. It was agreed to review this again in the autumn. Councillor Swift proposed that any groups seeking finance from us in the future provide a breakdown of expenditure – this was agreed.

M3725 CORRESPONDENCE

1. MURRAY ANDREWS, MCC SOLICITOR
Standards Committee – seeking nominations. Councillor Swift will make enquiries regarding applying.

Training sessions for new/existing Councillors will be arranged by MCC.

2. THE OMBUDSMAN WALES
Casebook Reports – emailed 2nd May.
3. ONE VOICE WALES
The Big Jubilee Lunch 3rd June
M4 Corridor Enhancement Measures – consultation drop-in dates.
4. LOCAL SERVICE BOARD
They have a mini-bus available for community use if required.

M3726 MEETING WITH MoD

The Clerk will provide the minutes for the meeting on 8th May in due course.

M3727 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

Councillor Swift produced photographic evidence of a car parking behind the white posts at the Wildflower Reserve, Five Lanes. The Chairman agreed to inform the owner of the car that this is not permitted.

Council considered an application to divert Bridleway 33A. Councillor Trayler-Smith was concerned that there would be a loss of heritage/wildlife and hedgerows would be destroyed. It was agreed to seek a site visit.

M3728 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Councillor Counsell reported that Caldicot Citizens Advice Bureau would shortly be merging with the other 3 bureaux in Monmouthshire. Pressure for merger is due to the funding arrangement being altered to the Local Service Board. The Trustees will be geographically from Monmouthshire as opposed to Caldicot. There is some concern that Town/Community Councils funding may be affected as they would then be granting to the whole organisation. The Chairman informed the meeting that he is prepared to present the case to Town/Community Councils to continue to fund to a central organisation as it is imperative that this continues.

The recent AGM of the Playing Fields Association was very poorly attended, no one had taken on the role of Chair and two other members had stood down. They will be publicising the need for a Chair and extra volunteers for the Committee via a leaflet drop as well as through the newsletter.

Chairman Date