

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD 13TH SEPTEMBER 2012

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

In attendance: PcsO T Norville
P Keeble, Head of Highways, MCC
L McKeon, Clerk to the Council

Members of
Public: P Meredith, New Cottages, Caerwent
I Trigg, Caerwent Football Club
P & P Edwards, New Cottages, Caerwent
A Davis, Llangerrig, Five Lanes
J Harris, Myrtle Cottage, Caerwent
B & R Thomas, Green Lane House, Caerwent

M3759 APOLOGIES

These were no apologies.

M3760 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Meredith queried the estimated cost of extending the Village Hall at £600/700,000 as quoted at the last meeting. Councillor Hedley stated that this was the price given by MCC to reproduce the same facilities as the Old Gym.

Mr Meredith was concerned that School Lane had 5 street lights whereas the Old Roman Road from the cenotaph to the A48 west only had 3 even though this was a longer stretch of road. Mr Keeble agreed to raise this with the Street Lighting Manager for assessment but did mention that there is now a policy of dimming/reducing lights and there is no statutory requirement to provide them. Mr P Edwards raised the concern of no lighting off the A48 into Caerwent west – Councillor Counsell informed him that we had raised this previously but there was also the issue of discouraging Caldicot traffic from using the village.

Mr Trigg from Caerwent Football Club informed Councillors that the Club was doing extremely well with ages 6 – 11 attending. They need changing rooms and facilities and are hopeful that improvements can be made to the Village Hall through Section 106 monies. They also require funding to purchase the football strip and he requested that the Council consider donating £1,000 towards this. The Chairman advised him to speak to the Area Officer of MCC for this to go before the Area Committee and also to apply to the Welsh Church Fund. He agreed to keep us informed with this and we will then consider any further funding required.

Mr P Edwards queried if this community could sustain two Halls with all the associated costs. He was advised that both Halls are busy but used for different activities. Councillor Counsell stated that the Village Hall is just not big enough to accommodate the activities of the Youth Club for example. Mr Edwards was concerned about asbestos in the building – he was informed that a full asbestos

report had been carried out and there was not a problem. It had been identified in the external Boiler Room but this was permanently sealed.

Mr Harris stated that the local authority had a responsibility to provide adequate drainage through a Storm Water Management Plan. He cited water pooling in the cenotaph area. Mr Keeble noted this request.

M3761 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF METING HELD 12TH JULY 2012

These were agreed as a true record.

M3762 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor K Haddow 012/00296 Planning Application – Westgate Farm Barn
Councillor D Vosloo 2012/00695 Planning Application – Castle View Barn
Councillor K Swift Crick Wildlife Reserve

M3763 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

Pcso Norville informed the meeting that there had been an increase in shed burglaries and metal theft. He advised that villagers ring 101 if they had concerns re scrap metal merchants. He had carried out speed testing on the A48 and the average was 29 mph with the highest 52 mph. He had been in contact with Environmental Health and was made aware that funding had been agreed for two more bins, just awaiting Cadw approval.

He agreed to email his report to the Clerk for her to circulate. Councillor Swift queried if this could be passed onto the public – he will check.

Councillor Cousins was concerned about the allocations being made on the Melin housing section at Merton Green. The Chairman agreed to talk to the Housing Department at MCC to ensure that they are applying MCC Allocations Policy.

M3764 PAUL KEEBLE, HIGHWAYS MANAGER, MCC

Mr Keeble gave a presentation on School Lane & Caerwent Village Traffic Enhancement Scheme. He explained that the proposals are safety driven and should create safe route linkage for the wider community. A public consultation had taken place in April 2010 where it was mostly supported with 1 or 2 reservations, a further exhibition was held in November 2011 where there was a mixed response. A traffic study had then taken place incorporating volume/speeds/patterns. A proposed scheme has been drawn up and funding of £115,000 from the Welsh Assembly Government has been granted to be spent this financial year. The proposals are a “Shared Space” concept which will be safe for pedestrians to walk, rather than cars dominating. Good safety results of such schemes have been reported in Europe.

The scheme would incorporate an advisory 20 mph limit with conservation type gateway entry features, closing off School Lane with the A48 to provide a safe linkage for pedestrians using the A48 crossing, resurfacing of the main carriageway through the village centre in a close graded material to enhance and reinforce the shared space, provision of interactive junction/speed warning signs on approach to the village from the A48, improved signage on the approach to direct traffic to the most appropriate route, reduce the number and size of the existing signage within the

village, improvements to linkage and signage of the national cycle route which runs through the village.

Councillor Hedley queried if the new scheme in Caerleon had improved their situation. Mr Keeble reported that there had been some success even though they had made no physical changes.

Councillor Counsell queried if Highways had taken account of the houses being built at Caldicot – Mr Keeble agreed to provide this information but he believed that the figures were not significant.

Councillor Hedley proposed that the speed limit of 30 mph on the A48 be extended to Cwrt Morgan – Mr Keeble advised that there is currently a review of all speed limits.

Councillor Swift enquired if MCC have to obtain public support for the scheme to go ahead. Mr Keeble advised that the ultimate decision is with the Cabinet Member but he would obviously prefer the scheme to be supported locally.

Councillor Swift queried where the traffic would be diverted as she had concerns for increased traffic in Crick. Mr Keeble suggested that diversions could be to Parkwall but it was felt that this was not practical.

Councillor Evans suggested a weight restriction on the Old Roman Road – Mr Keeble reported that there was little evidence of HGVs using this road. The Chairman advised that we have had previous experience of this and it was usually sorted with a phone call to the companies

Councillor Cousins queried if cyclists on the A48 could be made to use the cycle route – Mr Keeble informed that this could not be mandatory but possibly an off road cycle route along the A48 could be provided at little cost.

Councillor Haddow suggested that the traffic calming measures be installed initially, then School Lane closed if required. Mr Keeble advised that this whole proposal was safety led with concerns for pedestrians from the new estate accessing the village so School Lane is fundamental in their proposals. They propose to close School Lane with an 18 month experimental order and monitor the situation. Councillor Haddow felt that the closure would be merely shifting one problem area to another. It was confirmed that Green Lane would also be closed.

It was agreed that Mr Keeble contact the Chairman regarding arranging a public meeting very soon and Councillors agreed to advertise this to as many villagers as possible.

M3765 MATTERS ARISING

Merton Green

Councillor Cousins had agreed with Barratts that a dog waste bin could be provided on the Open Space provided that it is funded by ourselves.

Old Gym Building

Chairman had requested in the newsletter that any concerns re Old Gym

activities be sent to us – none received. Information on activities in Old Gym building in Years 2010 and 2012 for comparison received from Old Gym Committee. Petition of 5 signatures mentioned by Mr Shelley at last meeting was in fact sent to the Chief Executive of MCC in February 2011. Further letter received from Mr Shelley – it was agreed to respond that having seen his letter we are satisfied that his questions were answered at the meeting.

Crick Wildlife Reserve

Signed lease sent into MCC. Councillor Swift reported that Monmouthshire Meadows had visited the site and had produced a management plan. She is checking with Estates Department re grazing rights. She will arrange for the grass to be cut once the final lease has been approved by MCC. Councillor Swift was concerned that the new Committee would be sub-letting – she was advised that this was not the case. She queried if this field could be added to our public liability insurance – Clerk to check. She will meet with the Clerk re filling in the grant form.

Circular Walk

Councillor Counsell reported that he had received no response from Mike Moran re this. The Chairman advised him to attend a meeting on 2nd October.

Footpath - Great House Farm

The Chairman had arranged a meeting on site for 18th September with the Estates Department

Time Team Field

Reply from MCC re grazing that in principal they have no objection to putting the land over to grazing, the Council however has to put all of its grazing land out to competitive tendering. As there would be no guarantee that the Community Council would be successful in being granted the land if it is to be used for grazing they suggest that the use remains as recreational. The Chairman will raise this issue with Legal.

Cwrt Morgan Adoption

The Chairman advised that a new lamppost should be fitted shortly. Once this has been done the adoption should be much easier

War Memorial Names

Councillor Evans had researched this and felt that not all names need to be added – he will email the list to the Clerk.

Provision of Allotments

Wrote to Brooms in Crick. Reply – the field next to McAlpines unlikely to be suitable for several reasons. We queried if they had anything else and also the cost – they do not have a standard price for this as it is not something they have been asked before – they would need to consider several factors, including access etc - unless the budget is going to be financially viable for them they would not

look into it. Basically they need an idea of what our approximate budget is and access requirements.

For info - typical plot size 10 rods (approximately 250 sq m/300 sq yds) – average cost to allotment holders - £25 per year with concessions available.

It was agreed to write to Matthew Lewis of Countryside re any possible County Farms land.

Caerwent Playing Fields – responsibility of trees

Councillors Murphy/Hedley had met with Mr T O'Donovan of MCC and a report had now been received from the Tree Officer. Immediate recommendations are that 3 trees require felling due to fungus/cracking. The cost is £750 + VAT. The Playing Fields have requested that we pay for this. Councillor Hedley was of the opinion that they should be fundraising. Councillor Hedley agreed to forward his tree report to all Councillors so that they can obtain any alternative quotes.

“Gated Entrance” A48

No further progress.

Provision of Dog Friendly Stiles

Footpaths Officer still trying to arrange meeting with farmer – Clerk chasing. It was agreed to write to Mr Lewis, Countryside, informing him that we are going to fund it and install them.

Caerwent Toilets

Welsh Water visited site and repaired leak on stoptap. They will make another visit in September to double check. They will reimburse us accordingly. Clerk had ordered new signs.

Dog Waste Bins

Two more bins will be located in Caerwent village shortly – awaiting Cadw approval.

Tree Preservation Orders

Clerk suggested a site meeting with Tree Officer and Councillor Counsell re Westwood Farm. Trees at Bradbury Farm Crick do not fit criteria. No obligation on part of owner to trim tree at Laburnum Steps, Llanfair Discoed.

Bridleway Five Lanes – Quad Bikes

Footpaths Officer and police visited area – quad biking now ceased on this bridleway.

Broadband Provision

Councillor Evans reported that a meeting had been held in July with Deserie Mansfield. He advised that Caerwent and Crick villages now have fibre optic broadband. This leaves Llanfair Discoed, Five Lanes, St Brides and Carrow Hill

which unfortunately are all on different exchanges. A meeting with providers had been arranged in Llanfair Discoed – they required 50 subscribers to make it financially viable – Councillor Vosloo had been trying extremely hard to get villagers on board but so far has only received 19. Two other providers will make a presentation shortly. It would be difficult to tie St Brides in with Penhow as this comes under Newport City Council with different grants available. Very difficult to progress until we get the buy-ins of the individuals in the community. Shirenewton different exchange. The Chairman will talk to Kellie Beirne about this.

Councillor Evans reported that the website is currently being re-vamped. We will be able to take advertisements on the site if we wished. We can set up as many community groups as we want – the Playing Fields have already set one up. Councillors will be able to have their own email addresses. We also now have a Twitter and Facebook account.

Proposed re-instatement of Village Pumps

In correspondence with Deserie Mansfield regarding this.

M3766 PLANNING

2012/00178 Great House Farm, Caerwent

Conversion of Single Storey Stable into 3 Bedroom Dwelling

This Council recommends ***Refusal***

Use of Mains Sewage System (is it connected)

No clear indication of no new rights of way but we have requested one

Designation of majority of site as outside area of archaeological interest

Stable conversion will disturb bats/owls

Access road too narrow for up to seven vehicles

2012/00695 Castle View Barn, Llanfair Discoed Garden Room

This Council recommends ***Approval***

2012/00743 Conservatory to Rear of Plot 38, Ash Tree Road, Caerwent

This Council recommends ***Approval***

Council noted planning applications considered during August:

2012/00296 Westgate Barn, Caerwent

Retention of Existing Half Constructed Detached Double Garage

*This Council recommended ***Approval****

2012/00511 Millbrook House, St Brides

Replace Existing Building

*This Council recommended ***Approval****

M3767 MoD MEETING – 20TH NOVEMBER 2012

Council noted date of next meeting.

M3768 FINANCE

Payments agreed as per Finance Schedule dated September 2012. A request from the Football Club for finance was considered and it was agreed that we donate a minimum of £300.

The Annual Return for year ended March 2012 had been returned from the external auditors with no matters of concern. Council approved and Chairman signed.

M3769 CORRESPONDENCE

1. JOHN PEARSON, LOCAL DEMOCRACY MANAGER, MCC
Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements
Reply that we require one more Councillor for the Dinham ward. Also candidates should have more access to electoral rolls. eg Electoral Register in libraries was not up to date. We had an instance where a candidate used his adjacent neighbours to nominate him and found that they were in completely different wards about 5 miles away.
2. WELSH GOVERNMENT
Consultation on the discretionary power available to unitary authorities and community councils to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental well-being of their area.
3. MCC
Requesting Nomination for Minor Authority representative at Shirenewton Primary School. Nominated Councillor Haddow – decision will be taken at their AGM on 28th September.
4. DAVID FLINT, CHURCHES TOGETHER CALDICOT
Looking to set up a local foodbank. Notices placed on boards.
5. ONE VOICE WALES
Training Courses available
6. WELSH GOVERNMENT
The Good Councillor's Guide 2012
7. MCC
Wormtech, contracted to compost its green, food and cardboard waste had their license suspended by the Environment Agency on 19th July 2012. Officers have been able to plan services and contingency arrangements in light of what was emerging. The suspension will remain in place until the site operators prove that all the areas used for the treatment of waste are sealed and that liquid from the composting process, known as leachate, cannot escape from the site and pollute the local environment. Public Health Wales have commented that they are satisfied there is no wider public health risk at this stage. The MoD has also been kept up to date on activities and issues at the site so that they can assess any risks to their troops.
8. Request from Playing Fields to nominate the Playing Fields for the Queen Elizabeth II Fields in Trust status. Clerk had confirmed to them that we had previously nominated this field and were awaiting the outcome.

9. MINUTES/PUBLICATIONS

Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council Area Committee Minutes
Ombudsman Annual Report 2011/12
Play for Wales Newsletter
Severnside Area Committee Minutes

M3770 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

Council to consider request from Smerdon Tree Services (contracted by Western Power) to trim trees at Bottom Common, Highmoor Hill – agreed.

Cycle track at Five Lanes requires repair. Chairman advised that weedkilling is currently taking place before repair.

Two benches on Cadw land are rotten.

M3771 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

There were no reports

Chairman Date