

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD 13TH FEBRUARY 2014

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

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council
N Leaworthy, Operations Manager, Landscape & Grounds, MCC
4 Members of the Public

M3998 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

M3999 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Murphy nominated Councillor Counsell, seconded by Councillor Evans. There being no other nominations Councillor Counsell was appointed Chairman.

Councillor Counsell signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

M4000 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Councillor Lewis nominated Councillor Evans, seconded by Councillor Trayler-Smith. There being no other nominations Councillor Evans was appointed Vice Chairman.

M4001 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman proposed that the issue of Community Engagement be added on the agenda. This was agreed.

M4002 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillor P Murphy	Caerwent Community Centre	Committee Member
Councillor G Cousins	WARM to Mental Health	Relative of Committee Member

M4003 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Clift wished to query again why this community is supporting two Village Halls. Councillor Murphy advised that we have one Village Hall and one Community Centre. The Village Hall is run by the Caerwent Playing Fields Association which raises its own funds. Mr Clift was advised that they receive a grant from us which by no means covers the running expenses. The Community Centre who also receive a grant from us, is self financing and run by a Committee. This Centre is used for entirely different purposes, ie rugby, football, model car racing, archery, youth club – none of these could be held in the Village Hall.

Mr Clift queried if local people use the Community Centre. Councillor Murphy advised that local people do as well as people from outside our area.

Mr Edwards queried who owned the Community Centre and where the funds came from for the purchase. Councillor Murphy confirmed that the Community Council own the building

and the funds came from the reserves of the Council on the basis of a grant which originated from the then Mor Hafren Area Committee budget of MCC to support capital projects.

Mr Edwards queried why Councillor Murphy was thanked in the latest newsletter by the Community Centre Committee for his help with the Section 106 application and was concerned about a possible conflict of interest. Councillor Murphy stated that he assisted, as he would with anyone who requested help, as it is his belief that his role is to assist any member of the community who asked for his help. Councillor Murphy advised Mr Edwards that he had clearly declared an interest at the beginning of the meeting with regard to the Community Centre and this had been read out by the Clerk.

Mrs Edwards queried why traffic surveys are taking place in the village at this time of the year when the volume of traffic is low. Councillor Murphy advised that these surveys are carried out at all times of the year to give a true indication.

M4004 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD 9TH JANUARY 2014

These were agreed as a true record.

M4005 MR NIGEL LEAWORTHY, OPERATIONS MANAGER, LANDSCAPE & GROUNDS

The Chairman welcomed Mr Leaworthy to the meeting who had been invited to advise us on wildflower and red poppy planting in the community.

Mr Leaworthy explained that MCC are producing a Pollinator Policy and there will be a number of changes in the way they maintain their open spaces, highway verges and horticultural displays. Annual bedding displays of daffodils/begonias will be replaced with wildflower mixes.

He advised that Yellow Rattle, an indigenous species, has been seeded in areas identified by a yellow top post. These areas will be cut once at the end of the year and then raked. Approximately 13,000 sq metres have been seeded on highway verges. They grow to approximately 12/14" high and sites have been agreed in conjunction with the Highways Department.

Red poppies combined with an annual mix will be seeded by MCC in cemeteries and at war memorials to mark the centenary of WW1. Councillor Evans informed Mr Leaworthy that this Council also wish to plant red poppies and sought his advice in doing so. Mr Leaworthy advised on best practice regarding planting. The Clerk will arrange a site meeting.

Councillor Cousins confirmed that he is in discussions with Barratts regarding the provision of materials to build four planters to surround the War Memorial. He had contacted the residents who normally provide planters for this area and they are happy to keep them watered.

M4006 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

PCSO Norville reported that crime during the month was low.

He advised of a lady walker witnessing a man with an axe in Slade Woods, Highmoor Hill, on 6th February. A 49 year old man has been arrested in conjunction with the incident. The police would be interested to talk to anyone who was in the area between 1600 and 1700 hours.

He requested Community Council policing priority for the coming months. It was agreed that he concentrate on speeding in the village of Crick with the ultimate aim of reducing the speed limit.

The Clerk had contacted him regarding Caldicot Road highways signage at the crossroads following a complaint received last month. Council advised that signage is in place but PCSO Norville will talk to Highways to see if it could be improved in any way. He will visit the area during the school run periods.

He informed the Council of the OWL (Online Watch Link) scheme and encouraged villagers to join up. The Clerk will put posters up in the noticeboards.

M4007 PLANNING

2013/01154 Underwood Cottage, Llanfair Discoed

Extending Curtilage of Site Boundaries to Encompass the Area of Land Outside of Southern Boundary which contains Existing Septic Tank Drainage System
*This Council recommends **Approval***

2014/00052 Listed Building Consent, Brook Cottage, Crick

Proposed New Stone Boundary Walls and Timber Personnel Gates
Providing Improved Security Adjacent to Public Highway
*This Council recommends **Approval***

2014/00196 Advertisement Consent, The Post Office, Caerwent

To replace existing hanging sign with an up-to-date Post Office regulated sign
*This Council recommends **Approval***

Welsh Government Proposals to Reform the Planning System in Wales

Noted.

M4008 COUNCIL POLICIES UPDATE

Council received the Working Group meeting minutes dated 21st January and agreed the recommendations:

Standing Orders amendments agreed.
Publication Scheme amendments agreed.
Risk Assessment & Management Policy amendments agreed.
Complaints Procedure Policy agreed.
Unacceptable Actions of Individuals Policy agreed.
Retention of Documents Policy agreed.

M4009 TREWEN PLAY AREA

Council considered the condition of the play equipment. Councillor Haddow had provided photographs. The annual report from MCC, which also included the Llanfair Discoed area, was considered. Agreed to seek quote re works required.

M4010 CAERWENT TOILETS

Council considered our 2011 proposal to alter the non-domestic rating list. It was agreed, in view of the fact that our comparison to a toilet in Caldicot turned out to be an error on the Valuation Office Agency rating list, that we take no further action.

Council considered the legionella testing recommendations of MCC. Agreed to seek clarification.

M4011 CAERWENT VILLAGE HALL & PLAYING FIELDS

Council considered the current leasing arrangements. A letter had been received from the Chairman of the CPFA seeking clarification of the intention of MCC to transfer the Hall over to MCC. Councillor Murphy advised that the CPFA are fully aware that Estates Department are currently taking a report through the Scrutiny Committee which will then go to the Cabinet for a final decision. Agreed to advise the CPFA that we too are very keen to get this issue resolved, we are awaiting the outcome of the report and Councillor Murphy is actively pursuing this.

Council considered mound of earth in north west corner of field and agreed to take no action.

M4012 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

Clerk's Report (written)

M4013 FINANCE

Council considered the purchase of bulbs/flowers for Llanfair Discoed in preparation for Best Kept Village competition. Agreed to an amount of £100.

Council considered and agreed to the updating of Council reference books at a cost of approximately £100.

Council considered Play Area inspection contracts:
Caerwent Playing Fields £441 - agreed
Llanfair Discoed and Trewen £612 – agreed

Council considered grounds maintenance contract £678 – agreed. Also agreed to re-visit this once we have clarity on the management of the Playing Fields.

Council considered and agreed payment as per attached finance schedule dated 13th February 2014.

M4014 CORRESPONDENCE

CAB Newsletter
Cadw Newsletter
Monmouthshire County Council Census 2011 Town and Community
Council Statistics
One Voice Wales training courses
Sainsburys Community Grant Fund
Keep Wales Tidy – Working Parties at Rogiet Countryside Park
MCC - workshops on the future of recycling and waste
Welsh Government – Natural Resource Management bulletin
MoD Community Covenant Grant Scheme
22 FOIs

Late Correspondence:
Sevenside Caldicot Programme Board – invitation to join the Board, next meeting on 19th February. Agreed that Councillor Swift be our representative and attend this meeting.

M4015 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Council considered and agreed that some form of community engagement should take place. Agreed to discuss this with Deserie Mansfield. Clerk advised Council of Community Questionnaire carried out in 2007 and will provide copies to Councillors.

M4016 HIGHWAYS RIGHTS OF WAY

MCC Managing our Public Highways – Consultation Document.

Council considered and agreed that the proposed charge of £75 for any benches or trees planted in memoriam is excessive.

Council considered lack of street lighting on A48 to Llanfair Discoed. Councillor Murphy reported that he had met with the Highways Engineer who had suggested reflective posts and improved white lining. He will also investigate any power in the area in order to provide post mounted lights. Council agreed with these proposals. It was reported that a highways roundel was missing.

Potholes opposite Driving Range, Carrow Hill lane nr telephone box.
Bradbury Farm lane verges being damaged by contractors.

A request from one resident in Crick had been received for a dog waste bin. Councillor Swift was not aware of a problem in the area but will monitor the situation.

Resident had volunteered to remove the lichen and repair the crazy paving on the War Memorial – Council agreed.

M4017 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no representative reports.

M4018 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The revision and re-printing of the Welcome to Caerwent booklet.

M4019 TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC DURING THE FOLLOWING ITEM BY REASON OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED

This was agreed.

M4020 VILLAGE GREEN STATUS

It was agreed that our research has shown that whilst evidence exists that this area was at one time deemed to be the “Village Green” no formal registration of the land was ever made. Consequently the land currently remains unregistered and having sought legal advice the Council do not intend to pursue registration of this land. It was further agreed to make it known through the newsletter that we no longer hold any interest in this land and will not be undertaking any further action into the ownership.

Chairman Date