

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD 11TH OCTOBER 2012

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

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council

Members of
Public:

W Morgan, Five Lanes Cottages
N Downes, Five Lanes Cottages
L & M Jones, Wern House, Five Lanes
P & P Edwards, New Cottages, Caerwent
A Davis, Llangerrig, Five Lanes
J Harris, Myrtle Cottage, Caerwent
W Edwards, Yew Tree Cottage, Llanfair discoed
S Ayres, Hillside, Carrow Hill
M Langdon, Hillside, Carrow Hill

M3772 APOLOGIES

Received from Councillors Counsell and Swift.

M3773 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs Edwards queried the re-surfacing of the Old Roman Road. The Chairman stated that this will be completed in the better weather.

Heavy vehicles going through the village again – identified as from Hansen. Clerk advised that the Police and Highways have already been informed.

Mr Harris was concerned about double taxation re the Community Council's acquisition of the public toilets. He was informed that when MCC decided to close down the toilets we had agreed to take them on. We had advertised the fact in the newsletter and there were no objections. It had been agreed that in the initial year we pay for them out of our reserves and then review the situation re precept. The Clerk informed him that the actual cost in the first year had been £4500 as opposed to £8200 when they were run by MCC.

Neighbours commented on the planning application 2012/00659 Wentwood Inn - not in keeping with surrounding area, too many houses, not rural in their design. Sewage system to the east – not seen any sewage emptied. Environment Agency should be involved. Underground fuel tanks on the west of the site should be removed. No notification received by neighbours – the Chairman advised that the planning notice will be moved to a more prominent site. He also stated that the planning policy for this area is such that it is not possible to erect three or four large houses on this site. It is not allowable to erect any new dwellings in the countryside, only alterations to existing properties.

M3774 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 13TH SEPTEMBER 2012

These were confirmed as a true record

M3775 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Caerwent Community Centre
Ash Tree Road Action Group

Councillor P Murphy
Councillor G Cousins

M3776 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

Apologies received from PcsO Norville. Clerk had circulated the police report. Councillor Lewis expressed concern that the police were not able to locate an incident on Five Lanes – he will provide exact details to the Clerk.

M3777 MATTERS ARISING

Merton Green

Council was informed that the bus will not be able to run through the new estate for four weeks due to resurfacing of the road – it will instead use Dinham Road.

Open Space – Clerk to check who will ultimately own and manage it.

School Lane & Caerwent Village Traffic Enhancement Scheme

The Chairman reported that a Public Exhibition had taken place on 4th October. A report had been received from Highways analysing the 44 forms filled in by the public. As a result of the public response the majority who commented were in favour of the enhancements. Council noted that the closure of School Lane was for an 18 month experimental period. Councillor Haddow queried who would make the final decision after this period – the Chairman informed the meeting that we would be consulted again at this time.

Storm Water Management query – reply received from Paul Keeble, Highways, that this will be considered as part of the road enhancement programme. There was a concern that the storm water management would not be included in the £115,000. The Chairman stated that the scheme as it stands has been costed at £115,000 but Highways were aware of the water problems.

Pound Lane – MCC will monitor the position re this lane.

Council agreed to support the scheme but request that the number of hgvs using the Old Roman Road be looked at sooner rather than later.

Councillor Haddow although supportive of the 20 mph limit wished to record that she would prefer to see the enhancements put in place before the closure of School Lane.

Chairman and Councillor Vosloo presented apologies and left the meeting. Councillor Hedley took over the Chair.

Old Gym Building

No further matters.

Crick Wildlife Reserve

Lease received duly sealed on behalf of MCC.

Circular Walk

No progress.

Caerwent Playing Fields Trees/Play Area

Letter received from Playing Fields Committee concerning the future management of the playing fields and play area. It was agreed to seek a meeting with the Playing Fields Committee and request sight of the last three years accounts.

Great House Farm Planning Application/Footpath – Site Meeting

Councillor Haddow reported that she had attended a site meeting where she had been advised that the only development proposed, in addition to renovating the main house, is the conversion of the barn. MCC had agreed that the permissive footpath will be upgraded to a Public Right of Way. She reported that Welsh Water had no objections to the sewage arrangements. An archaeological dig will be carried out before the planning application is decided. There is evidence of bats in the building - any development will have to take place in certain months in order to not disturb them. Due to the narrowness of the access road vegetation will be removed. Highways, the Countryside Council for Wales and the Ecologists Group have no objections.

Time Team Field

Chairman has contacted MCC Legal re grazing rights – it had been agreed that sheep can occasionally graze – now awaiting final lease.

Cwrt Morgan Adoption

No progress.

War Memorial Names

Councillor Evans will email information to the Clerk.

Provision of Allotments

Clerk in discussions with Gareth King, Management Surveyor, who will now talk individually to tenant farmers to progress this issue.

“Gated Entrance” A48

No progress.

Provision of Dog Friendly Stiles

Wrote to Head of Countryside indicating that due to lack of progress from MCC we will install and fund these ourselves – no reply to date.

Dog Waste Bins

To be provided on the triangle on School Lane, near the eastgate noticeboard and on Lawrence Crescent. It was agreed to seek clarification of the Lawrence Crescent bin as it was agreed that we could not be seen to be encouraging dogs into the Play Area.

Proposed re-instatement of Village Pumps

Clerk had written again to Deserie Mansfield and also to the two Project Officers – no reply to date.

Wormtech

Mr J Harris, Myrtle Cottage, had sent information which had been circulated.

A statement from the Environment Agency was read out:

“On 19th July 2012 the Environment Agency suspended the permit for the Wormtech site based on a risk of *potential* not actual pollution. The suspension in effect meant that the site could not receive any more waste from authorities such as Monmouthshire, Torfaen etc. For Monmouthshire for a period the waste was being transported by Wormtech to Rosehill Invessel Composter in Gloucestershire, but since the end of August Viridor Waste Management have been managing the waste and taking it to their facility in Somerset and TEG Facility in Exeter. In terms of the Wormtech site at the MoD base it continues to be monitored very closely by the Environment Agency, the MoD and MCC. The EA and MCC were on site on 4th October and samples were taken from within and outside the site to check if any pollution had occurred – the analysis of the samples has not yet been completed but early results show that there has been no impact on the nearby Castroggi Brook and no effluent has been found to have left the MoD site. The EA is working very closely with the MoD to ensure that the site is managed properly and pollution risk minimised.”

Joint Meeting/Supper with MoD – Tuesday 20th November 2012 (6.00 p.m. Village Hall, Caerwent)

Council noted date of meeting/supper. It was agreed to invite local groups.

Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements

Confirmation received from MCC that some properties currently in the Crick ward be transferred to the St Brides ward register. Councillor Lewis proposed that Nanny Goat Cottage, Common y Coed, be transferred to Undy.

M3778 PLANNING

2012/00659 Wentwood Inn, A48 Caerwent

Conversion of Redundant Former Restaurant with Staff Living Accommodation into 7 Terraced Houses with Detached Car Ports

*This Council recommends **Refusal***

Too many houses

Concern about adequate sewage provision

Underground fuel tanks to be removed

Materials not sympathetic to the area – should be similar to neighbouring properties.
Notice of planning application should be in a more prominent position
Recommend a Site Visit

2012/00618 Hillside, Carrow Hill

Revised Proposals for the Conversion and Extension of Existing Outbuilding for Residential Purposes

*This Council recommends **Approval***

**M3779 LLANVAIR DISCOED SUCCESS IN WINNING THE “BEST KEPT VILLAGE”
51-350 CATEGORY COMPETITION**

Council congratulated the village in their achievement. Agreed in principle that some signing could be provided but to look at costs.

M3780 FINANCE

Council approved payments as per Finance Schedule dated October 2012.

M3781 CORRESPONDENCE

1. NEIL WILLIAMS, CAERWENT PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE
Open Letter to Community re current situation. Placed on boards
2. CHEPSTOW & CALDICOT CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAUS
Future funding of the Bureaus. Councillor Counsell will advise on this at the next meeting.
3. CHIEF EXECUTIVE, MCC
Update on The Charter – circulated.
4. BOWLES GREEN LTD
They have been commissioned by MCC to prepare a Walking Product Development Strategy. This is to improve all aspects of walking in the County. Invitation to map consultation session 23rd October.
5. MINUTES/PUBLICATIONS
Chepstow CAB Annual Report

M3782 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

Inaccessible right of way Grayhill to Tripp.

Hedge trimmed on Caldicot Road but vegetation left.

Roman wall opposite Burton Homes overgrown vegetation.

Dog fouling occurring regularly on Ash Tree Road 7.45 am every morning

Council noted future pruning work to a row of mature trees alongside the A48 adjacent to the new Merton Green development, to clear tree growth from overhead power lines.

M3782 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Councillor Swift had sent a report on the Crick Community Group:

Throughout the year they have been holding monthly 'tidy up' days in the village which range from weeding, litter picking, planting, strimming etc. These have been well attended by Crick residents of all ages wanting to help out and make a difference to our village.

In September they undertook a 'Keep Wales Tidy' initiative - the Yellow Fish campaign - which aims to stop people pouring oil, paints, solvents or chemicals into surface water drains or gullies on the side of the road. Volunteers including children from Crick stencilled yellow fish alongside drains and water courses as well as on the bridge in Crick.

One of 280 applications The Crick Community Group has been very successful in obtaining a grant from the 'Have a Wild Weekend for Wales' which is funded by the Welsh Government, CCW and Homebase, the aim of the weekend-long campaign was to encourage groups to create new wildlife habitats to improve local biodiversity by undertaking small practical projects to benefit native species. We will be working with our local girl guides on this in the Walnut Grove wood in Crick.

Chairman Date