

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD 9th JUNE 2011

Present: P Murphy (Chairman) P Kidger
G Cousins P Lewis
K Evans K Swift
D Hedley D Vosloo

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council

Members of Mrs E Jones, Ash Tree Road, Caerwent
Public: Mr/Mrs Meredith, Old Roman Road, Caerwent
Mr G Lucas, Ash Tree Road, Caerwent
Mr/Mrs Spooner, Ash Tree Road, Caerwent
Mr/Mrs Edwards, Old Roman Road, Caerwent

M3588 APOLOGIES

Received from Councillor Counsell.

M3589 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs Spooner queried Barratts' advertising signage on the A48 from Newport to Chepstow and wondered if this was in fact legal. The Chairman explained that they do have permission for said signage but it is monitored by the Highways Agency of the Welsh Assembly Government. It was agreed that we write suggesting that there are far too many signs.

Mrs Spooner felt that the new road layout on the A48 is poorly designed as it is impossible to pass a bus, lorry or tractor if they have broken down. It is also not wide enough to pass a cyclist. Mrs Edwards expressed concern that ambulances are now travelling on the Old Roman Road instead of the A48 due to the traffic lights. The Chairman explained that this road had been designed by the South Wales Trunk Road Association and built to their specification. He advised that a cycle lane is now in place travelling east and going west you are directed through the village of Caerwent.

Mr Edwards queried why Green Lane House has large boulders on the verge outside of their property. The Clerk was asked to check with Highways.

Mrs Edwards reported that recently a visibly impaired lady from the village could not walk along the footpath at the pinchpoint on School Lane due to it being fenced off for repairs to the wall at Green Lane House. It was agreed that this would have been for safety reasons.

Mrs Jones raised a concern regarding the proposed re-numbering of houses at Merton Green. The Chairman advised that he had come up with a solution whereby the new houses could be called ie Ash Tree Villas/Gardens and this would mean that existing properties could keep their numbers. He had received verbal agreement to this from Highways which has yet to be ratified.

Mr Meredith reported that the litter bin outside the public toilets is extremely full. The Clerk suggested that maybe MCC emptied this as part of their toilet cleaning operation. It was agreed that we had not agreed to take this on as well and to report to MCC.

The Chairman reported that he had received an email regarding the delay in updating our website and that it had not been updated since May. Councillor Evans advised that it is up-to-date and that the date given only refers to the front page. The Clerk advised that minutes cannot be published until they are agreed so there will always be a month delay. Councillor Evans stated that if any villager wished to obtain a copy of minutes or raise any issue they can always contact the Clerk or attend one of our meetings.

M3590 CONFIRMATION of MINUTES of MEETING HELD on 12th MAY 2011 and SECTION 106 MEETING HELD 11th MAY 2011

These were agreed as a true record.

M3591 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Murphy	Caerwent Community Centre Committee (Old Gym)
Councillor Kidger	Caerwent Playing Fields Association
Councillor Cousins	Merton Green Action Group

M3592 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

There was no police report.

M3593 MATTERS ARISING

Merton Green

The Chairman and Councillor Cousins reported on latest meeting with Site Manager of Barratts. The lamppost on Ash Tree Road is still not working and Barratts had advised that MCC should be contacted - the Chairman agreed to talk to the Street Lighting Manager. The Chairman reported that the lamppost at the bottom of Dinham Road had now been removed.

Proposed Closure of School Lane

A report for a Single Member decision had been issued. The process to begin a Public Enquiry will commence on 15th June.

Section 106

Meeting held with Mike Moran, Leisure & Recreation Manager, on 11th May. It was agreed that we now await instructions from him.

Old Gym

The Clerk had again chased the MoD re the purchase of the Old Gym - no reply as yet.

Bradbury Farm, Crick (Play Area/Allotments)

No progress.

Provision of Allotments

To be discussed with MoD at meeting with them on 14th June.

Circular Walk

Councillors Evans and Lewis reported on sub-committee meeting held on 17th May. They had visited the area and felt that it was an excellent project but a major undertaking. Councillor Evans was concerned about future maintenance costs. The Chairman reported that the Countryside Officer had been instructed to visit the proposed walk. Councillor Hedley suggested that lottery grants may be available. It was agreed that a properly constituted group needs to be formed before we can start applying. Councillor Swift proposed that the Crick Group be included in this – this was agreed. The Chairman advised that under the Countryside Officer there is an army of volunteers very willing to help out. Councillor Evans advised that a new car park has been installed by Cadw at the Poor Wood/Hill Fort.

Caerwent House

A report on this will go to Cabinet shortly.

Footpath/Land Attached to Great House Farm

No progress.

Cwrt Morgan Adoption

Councillor Evans reported that he had received information that the developer may still be in the area – further enquiries are taking place. He had received one quotation so far, awaiting a further two. Regarding the lamppost which had been damaged by a refuse lorry, a neighbour had provided a statement to a Manager of MCC – the Chairman agreed to chase this up.

Caerwent Public Toilets

Toilets now open. Low wattage lights fitted to outside. Lights altered to come on at 9.00 p.m. and go off at 5.00 a.m. Urinal sensor flush changed from 5 minutes to 2. Gents toilet door painted and graffiti removed. Cleaner, Clerk/Councillor Evans has set of keys in case of emergencies.

Dog Waste Bins (Roman Wall)

Two bins now in place at Cadw car park and at Tump. The Clerk reported that they will be emptied weekly on a Friday or Saturday. The Chairman had received an email from a resident of Llanfair stating that they would not be in favour of having a dog waste bin in their village. It was agreed to inform this villager that the bins in Caerwent had been suggested and installed by Cadw.

Welcome to Caerwent booklet

Councillor Lewis reported that he had received positive responses from the Baptist Chapel, Historic Trust, Youth Club, Village Hall, Coach & Horses, Football Club. He has yet to approach the MoD Base, the Golf Course and the Nursery. If anyone else has any suggestions could they let him know. It was agreed that he seek a price for printing 200.

Crick Village Enhancement Scheme

Councillor Swift reported that 2 tonnes of top soil had been delivered for the flower bed at the end of Shirenewton Road. Councillor Cousins suggested that he could possibly provide more from the Barratts site – he will liaise with Councillor Swift.

Street Lighting, Crick

Councillor Swift had received notification from the Street Lighting Manager that there was to be enhancement of lighting in Crick.

Village Signs

The MCC signage policy had now been published. The Clerk was advised to obtain a copy from the Tourism Officer.

Recognition of Councillor Nettleship

Mrs Nettleship had spoken with John's family and they would be extremely happy if a simple bench could be provided and placed near the war memorial. This was agreed – Councillors to check on exact location. Work completed by suggested carpenter can be seen at Caldicot Lunch Club (Town Council) garden and at John's grave.

Lawrence Crescent Play Area Equipment

The Clerk will receive a report on this next week.

Fires at Wormtech

A reply had been received from the Chief Executive of Wormtech. It was reported that they are currently being investigated and had been fined £41,000. Councillor Evans expressed concern that if Wormtech are relocating the process of cleanup could take up to a year. Some Councillors had received an email from a Waste Recycling Consultant expressing concern about pollution issues. It was agreed to keep a watching brief.

Provision of Bins – Llanfair & Lawrence Crescent Play Area

Approval given by MCC for bin at Lawrence Crescent. Awaiting price from MCC for 2 bins.

No Dogs Signage – Play Areas

Awaiting response from Legal Department.

M3594 PLANNING

2011/00360/ST Advertisement

Construction of 1 Tri Hoarding & 5 Flags, (Tri Hoarding & 2 Flags already erected), Merton Green, Caerwent

This Council recommends Approval

2011/00366/ST

Construction of 2 Storey Extension to Replace Approved Application 2006/00269 and Construction of a Single Storey Lounge Extension, Crick Nursing Home, Crick

This Council recommends Refusal

Recommend Site Visit

A separate appraisal of sewage arrangements is required.

Light Encroachment

Current hedge screening is not adequate as is very open in nature

The Clerk had received notification of LDP dates. The Chairman advised that a final decision on Candidate Sites will be made on 2nd July.

Councillor Vosloo reported that she had attended a meeting today regarding the new developments on Well Lane in Llanfair. Concern had been expressed about the intention to dispose of sewage through a treatment plant which is then discharged into the local stream. She reported that the stream is not free flowing and is too shallow. The Chairman reported that the Environment Agency had been contacted and they will be speaking to the developer before they put a prohibition notice on. The Head of Planning has also been advised.

M3595 FINANCE

Council noted and agreed the following payments as per Finance Schedule June 2011:

Payments	£2022.42
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Councillor Vosloo reported that she had raised £350 from villagers in Llanfair and also obtained some free plants towards the Best Kept Village Competition.

M3596 CORRESPONDENCE

1. PUBLIC TRANSPORT OFFICER, MCC
Notice has been received from Veolia of their intent to withdraw from the operation of the 62 bus service. The contract will expire on 25th September 2011. On-bus surveys are being carried out to ascertain passenger usage and they are also investigating the possibility of operating the morning and evening rail link services on a demand responsive basis through their Grass Routes operation.
2. ALAN BROWNE, AREA OFFICER, MCC
For the purposes of the Charter meetings only would we be interested in joining the Severnside group. It was agreed that we would prefer to continue attending the Lower Wye meetings.
3. MINUTES/PUBLICATIONS
MCC Countryside News

Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council Mins

M3597 MEETING WITH MoD

Council noted that meeting with MoD is scheduled for Tuesday 14th June 6.00 p.m., MoD Headquarters Caerwent

M3598 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

Councillor Lewis reported that building materials are present at Caerwent Quarry – the Chairman will report.

Councillor Evans queried what the traffic survey on the A48 is and felt that it could be useful for our allotment project. The Chairman agreed to find out.

Councillor Cousins reported re the fire doors which are being replaced by Monmouthshire Housing on Ash Tree Road properties. It will only be those which have been changed by the owners – at the owners cost. Councillor Cousins enquired if communal areas within the flats can be used as smoking areas – the Chairman agreed to check.

M3599 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

There were no representative reports.

M3600 TO CONSIDER EXCLUDING THE PRESS AND PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEM OF BUSINESS ON THE GROUNDS THAT PUBLICITY WOULD BE PREJUDICIAL TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST BY REASON OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED

This was agreed.

M3601 COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR VACANCY (ST BRIDES WARD)

The Clerk updated the Council on applications. She was asked to arrange interviews.

Chairman Date