

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD 10TH JANUARY 2013

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

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council
 7 Members of the Public

M3809 APOLOGIES

Received from Councillors Haddow and Vosloo.

M3810 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs M Jones from Centurions Court expressed concern regarding the fact that the Caerwent Pumping Station has failed on several occasions recently. This has been an historic problem and on 22/23 December there was an acute problem at Centurions Court with hydraulic overload. Residents were grateful to MCC who worked through the night to ensure that properties were not flooded but she fears that this will happen again if further action is not taken. MCC needs to clear out ditches/culverts nearby and also all ditches at Merton Green.

She stated that MCC and Welsh Water have allowed planning permission for the many new houses in the area some of which are not yet built or occupied. Before planning permission was allowed great concern was raised that the Caerwent pumping station would not cope with any additional demands and recent work by Welsh Water has not worked. Heavy rain is going to be a feature of our climate in years to come. MCC and Welsh Water have a duty of care to provide adequate drainage services to all residents. Local residents need reassurances that the pumping station will not fail in the future and she sought this Council's help in resolving this situation.

The Chairman had spoken to Environmental Health about this who were unaware of the latest problem as the emergency services had dealt with it. He agreed to talk to Welsh Water and to MCC re clearing the ditches/culverts. Councillor Counsell suggested that the pipe/culvert from Centurion Court to Brook Cottage needs clearing.

Councillor Counsell stated that the extra income for Welsh Water from the new residents of Merton Green is £60,000 so funds should be available to provide an adequate service.

Mr P Edwards, Old Roman Road, was concerned about the quality of the repair works carried out by MCC recently on the Old Roman Road west where a pile of soil was laid and posts installed. He felt that the road was now too narrow and was concerned that this could be dangerous with two cars passing in view of the ditch opposite.

Mrs P Edwards, Old Roman Road, informed the meeting that they have been without a phone line since before December. She believes that the delay has been due to the fact that permission was delayed from MCC regarding the provision of traffic lights in order to carry out the work. The Chairman agreed to make enquiries.

Mrs Davis, Five Lanes, was concerned about the state of the entrance nr Brockwells on Dewstow Road where substantial mud has been deposited by numerous heavy vehicles entering the site. The Chairman advised that Environmental Health had visited this site on many occasions.

Mrs Davis suggested that the Council visit the site of the planning application 2012/01057 Walnut Tree Barn, Five Lanes, Caerwent (Erection of a detached 3-bay garage/carport with domestic workshop/store). She was advised that this will be discussed later on in the agenda.

Mrs AM Spooner from the Playing Fields Association was very pleased to announce that she had been contacted by MCC Legal regarding the dedication of the Caerwent Playing Fields as a "Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field" as part of the celebrations to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee. In the event that the field is dedicated there will be a commemorative plaque erected on the site and it will be known thereafter as the Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field. The field will always remain a playing field or, if the Council wishes to dispose of it, the Council must offer an alternative site as a playing field. In addition the land must not be built upon unless it is consistent with the recreational use of the land. Legal had asked Mrs Spooner to provide details of the Trustees of the Caerwent Playing Fields Association so that they are included in the Dedication Agreement but she was concerned about the Playing Fields status as the Community Council are the tenants. The Chairman stated that we have raised a similar problem re the Crick Wildlife Group and are awaiting a definitive statement from Estates Department of MCC so that we have a policy for all groups.

Mrs Spooner was also concerned about the large rent increase proposed from MCC for the Hall and Playing Fields and again the status of the Playing Fields Committee needs to be clarified. Mrs Spooner was advised to arrange a meeting with Estates Department to include the Community Council.

M3811 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 13TH DECEMBER 2012

These were confirmed as a true record.

M3812 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor B Counsell Planning Application 2012/01057 Walnut Tree Barn,
Five Lanes, Caerwent

Councillor P Murphy Caerwent Community Centre Committee

M3812 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

There was no police report.

M3813 MATTERS ARISING

Merton Green

Councillor Cousins reported that building works had recommenced on the site and five more houses had been sold.

Some flooding had occurred on Dinham Road and Councillor Cousins had requested that Barratts fence the ditch area off.

The Chairman reported that a major sewage smell problem had occurred recently at The Dolkins which was found to originate from the MoD. This has now been resolved.

School Lane & Caerwent Village Traffic Enhancement Scheme

The Chairman reported that final plans had been drawn up which included footpaths from the Cadw site to the crossroads and current drainage problems addressed including a soakaway solution on Green Lane.

The Chairman will be contacting Highways to ensure that BT are contacted regarding their current required works.

Circular Walk

Councillor Counsell will be meeting with the Leisure Manager in January. He had met with Zara Bligh from Adventa who is producing three trails in Monmouthshire and informed her of our plans.

Section 106 Funds

The Playing Fields Committee have not as yet put in a preliminary request. Mrs AM Spooner was advised to be prepared with any proposal for when MCC advertise that the funds are available and also keep the Leisure Manager informed.

Caerwent Playing Fields Trees

Councillor Hedley reported that the tree works had not been carried out. It was agreed to seek a refund and chase the works up.

Time Team Field

Still awaiting lease from MCC. Reply from Historic Trust that although they feel that it is an excellent idea to use this field as a community archaeology site it was Cadw who proposed this. Councillor Evans reported that at a recent meeting with staff from Cadw they had shown little interest for the project.

Cwrt Morgan Adoption

No progress.

Provision of Allotments

Written to Col Howard-Gash of the MoD – no reply to date.

Provision of Dog Friendly Stiles

Replied to Countryside Manager that we have not had permission from the land owner. Councillor Counsell stated that this footpath is on the definitive map and is blocked. Councillor Lewis agreed to liaise with Counsellor Counsell to progress this matter.

Dog Waste Bins

Councillor Cousins reported that Barratts still have to confirm that they will fund two dog waste bins for the Merton Green area. Councillor Cousins will seek the views of residents on locations, ie Ash Tree Road and Llanfair Road nr post box.

Proposed re-instatement of Village Pumps

Councillor Counsell had established the location of the base of one of the Pumps on School Lane. He is in contact with MCC re completing the grant application.

Wormtech

Chairman had reported on the latest situation in the January newsletter.

Best Kept Village Signage, Llanfair Discoed

No progress.

Flooding, Crick Property

Written to the MoD – no reply to date.

Police Navigation – Five Lanes

Reply received from Inspector that the geography of the area is a problem for all emergency services. Officers do have Sat Navs but this will only take them to the area and not the exact house. They do have a mapping system which their control room view. The system shows every house and shows where the officer is on the map. The control room staff can then direct them in. However this is by no means perfect and it is still difficult to locate houses in the dark with many local residents not placing their house numbers or names in prominent positions so they can be seen. Sometimes it is easier to ask a local person. There are approximately 30 officers who cover the Caerwent area with officers from Chepstow and local officers in Caldicot and it is impossible for all of them to know the locality of every house in every rural area they cover from Tintern to Magor to Caerwent. He suggests that this Council provide him with a map showing every house and name. It was agreed that we cannot provide a map as suggested. Councillor Lewis will enquire if the ambulance service can provide one and also refer the Inspector to the Mon Maps website.

Code of Conduct Training

The Clerk confirmed that this will take place on Wednesday 27th February at 7.00 p.m. in the Burton Homes Hall.

Caerwent Village Hall/Playing Fields Rent Increase

This will be discussed at a meeting to be arranged with the Playing Fields Committee and Estates Department of MCC.

Trees, Laburnum Steps

Tree Officer has visited site and reported that the two cherry trees are dead and require removal – he is arranging this.

Review of Electoral Arrangements

Dates of consultation meetings emailed to Councillors.

Caerwent House

The Cabinet have agreed to additional funding recoverable from the owner. The works are in the capital programme. The legal situation is in the process of being clarified.

Caerwent Toilets

The Chairman agreed to ask Property Services to inspect the property and make any recommendations re repairs/improvements.

One this report has been received it was agreed that we call a meeting of the Sub-Committee. It was agreed to obtain quotes to provide sensor lighting. Councillor Swift proposed that the building be converted into one unisex toilet – it was agreed to discuss this at the Sub-Committee.

M3814 PLANNING

2012/01057 Walnut Tree Barn, Five Lanes, Caerwent

Erection of a detached 3-bay garage/carport with domestic workshop/store

*This Council recommends **Approval***

2012/00948 Land Adjacent to Brockwells Farm, Caerwent

Change of Use of Land to Allow Provision of Three Mobile Unit Holiday Lodges

*This Council recommends **Refusal***

Inaccurate location detail (correct locality is that it is part of the old Caerwent Quarry, adjacent to Woodland View)

Unsuitable site due to the proximity of the possibly dangerous quarry face.

Too prominent on the landscape

Unsuitable access on the brow of the hill with poor vehicular vision.

Insufficient detail of the type of structure proposed

It was reported that substantial earthworks have been carried out here recently which has culminated in excessive mud on the road. MCC have attended on a number of occasions to remedy the situation. This Council hoped that these costs would be borne by the perpetrator and the Chairman agreed to clarify this.

2012/01093 19 Trewen

Porch & Home Office Single Storey Extension at Front of Property

*This Council recommends **Approval***

M3815 FINANCE

It was agreed to approve payments as per Finance Schedule dated January 2013.

M3816 CORRESPONDENCE

1. MIKE MORAN, LEISURE MANAGER, MCC
Chepstow and Caldicot Play Schemes 2012 Report
2. ONE VOICE WALES
Training Courses 2013
(Councillor Swift will be attending on 31st January)
3. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES

Annual Report

4. ANDREW LEWIS, TEN ELMS FARM
Informing us of damage to the Old Roman Road by large vehicles
The Chairman advised that MCC had attended.
5. ONE VOICE WALES
Buckingham Palace Garden Parties. Invitation to nominate Chairman to attend. The quota of twenty invitations, drawn from a hat, will be allocated to one couple, per council, per area. Agreed to nominate Chairman.
6. MIKE MORAN, LEISURE MANAGER, MCC
Play Audit. It was agreed that Councillor Evans complete this form.
7. ONE VOICE WALES
Latest funding news. Circulated to all Councillors, the Playing Fields Committee and the Community Centre Committee.
8. ALAN BROWNE, AREA SERVICES OFFICER, MCC
Budget consultation to be held 23th January in Magor.

M3817 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

Advertising signs at Northgate Inn – already reported.

Potholes – Dinham Road, crossroads, Caldicot Road footpath to Vernon Grove, Highmoor Hill and Five Lanes.

Salisbury Cottages verge at St Brides collapsing into brook.

Fives Lanes to Carrow Hill – edge sunk (needs hardcore).

Blocked drain – Dinham Road.

Too wide a junction on A48 east into Dinham Road and Llanfair Road – supposed to slow traffic down but fear an accident will happen.

The cutting of hedges but not clearing up afterwards – it was agreed that we mention this in newsletter.

Sandy Lane now blocked off with bollards in place. No consultation.
The Chairman had received complaints from residents re speed of traffic through this area and he had contacted Highways.

Walnut trees to be trimmed (west and eastgate).

M3818 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Councillor Evans reported that he and Councillor Lewis had attended a meeting of the Poor Wood Liaison Committee with Shirenewton Community Council and Cadw, minutes had been circulated. Various issues had been raised including Poor Wood licences. Cadw will be having an internal meeting on 28th January where these issues will be raised.

Chairman Date

