

## **MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2012**

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

In attendance :                     L McKeon, Clerk to the Council

Members of Public:               P & P Edwards, New Cottages, Caerwent  
                                 K Hedley, Canon Lane, Caerwent  
                                 W Edwards, Yew Tree Farm, Llanfair Discoed  
                                 M Van Driel, Cartref, Llanvair Discoed  
                                 S Roderick, Cartref, Llanvair Discoed

### **M3688 APOLOGIES**

Received from Councillors Trayler-Smith, Counsell and Cousins.

### **M3689 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Before commencing with public participation Councillor Evans wished to raise concern following last month's meeting. He felt that the behaviour of a few of the public was extremely rude, abusive and some comments were tantamount to slander. He appealed for them to conduct themselves with politeness. Councillor Hedley agreed that the behaviour was less than should be expected and he proposed that if certain members of the public cannot conduct themselves with decorum in the future then they be asked to leave. This was agreed. The Chairman added that there have been several incidents lately, ie a document altered which was purported to come from this Council, an allegation which was totally unsubstantiated. He thanked Councillors for the motion and will adhere to these new guidelines in his Chairmanship.

Mrs Edwards queried progress on School Lane. The Chairman advised that it will be a couple of months before any decision is taken. Mrs Edwards was concerned that 300 additional houses are now being built in Caldicot which will have a knock-on effect for Caerwent. The Chairman stated that we and Highways are aware of this and it will be included in the study which is on-going.

Mr Roderick welcomed public participation as a positive for democracy and agreed that members of the public should always act courteously. He queried why the minutes of the meetings cannot be published on the website immediately with a caveat that they are draft. The Clerk advised that they are not a legal document until approved by the Council members at the following meeting. Councillor Evans felt that it would be unwise to publish them early as there could be mistakes and then issues could be misinterpreted. The Chairman will seek definitive advice from MCC Legal and the Clerk from One Voice Wales and report back.

### **M3690 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2012**

These were agreed as a true record.

### **M3691 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Caerwent Community Centre Committee	Councillor P Murphy
Caerwent Playing Fields Association	Councillor P Kidger

## **M3692 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT**

Sgt Giles and PcsO Norville had sent their apologies. PcsO Norville had sent a statistical report – crime reduction 41.8%, 33 crimes less than last year, detection rate 30.4%, anti-social behaviour reduction 10.6%, crimes reported for February - 7. The Clerk had emailed the police asking for advice re parking at the War Memorial.

## **M3693 MATTERS ARISING**

### **Merton Green**

Chairman reported that the flags on the A48 and the “Centurion Park” signs all had the appropriate permissions. Indigenous screening will be planted along the A48. The 62 bus should now be operational again through Merton Green as a “hail and ride” service - the Chairman agreed to mention this in the newsletter.

### **Proposed Closure of School Lane**

Study still ongoing.

### **Old Gym Building**

Contracts/transfers for the sale had been received and were signed by the Chairman, Councillor Hedley and the Clerk. The purchase should be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March.

Chairman, MP and the Ombudsman had received letter of complaint re the Marching Band being given permission to use the Old Gym building. The Chairman gave a history on the situation. The Marching Band had submitted an application to the Old Gym Committee to be allowed to use the building again. Some sound proofing has been installed recently and it was agreed by the Old Gym Committee that the Band be allowed back to test this, provided that the Environmental Health Department are present with their equipment to monitor the noise levels and provided that they keep residents up-to-date on their activities. It was agreed to reply acknowledging the complainant's concerns, point out that we support the Old Gym Committee in their efforts to find an acceptable solution and we cannot pre-empt the result until this trial has taken place.

### **Bradbury Farm, Crick (Wildlife Reserve)**

Councillor Swift reported that she had attended a meeting with the Management Surveyor from MCC today. He will draft a lease for us to look at. Nest boxes in wood donated by the Shirenewton Girl Guides. The Monmouthshire Partnership Board had invited the Crick Group to make a presentation on 24<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Provision of Allotments**

Written to MoD re-confirming interest in A48 site – no reply as yet. Peter Davies, MoD, confirmed to Clerk that he had shown Cadw around the site due to it possibly being designated an ancient woodland. Clerk to check progress. Councillor Hedley felt that we should now be looking for an alternative site.

### **Circular Walk**

No progress.

### **Footpath/Land Attached to Great House Farm**

The Chairman reported that disposal of Great House Farm is scheduled for 2012/13.

### **Cwrt Morgan Adoption**

No progress.

### **Caerwent Playing Fields Play Equipment/Trees**

Letter from Solicitor to Playing Fields Association confirming that the Playing Fields Association is responsible for the premises under the terms of the lease. Provided that the Association stays within the terms of the lease it also has complete control over the premises. She did suggest however that we speak to the Leisure Section of MCC before we go ahead with any radical plans. With regard to changing the terms of a lease the written agreement must always take precedence over the actions of any party unless it is specifically and mutually agreed that the terms are to be altered.

### **Queen's Jubilee Celebrations**

Councillor Kidger reported that this will take the form of a fun day picnic (possibly fancy dress for the children) in the park with maybe a subsidy to provide food for the children.

### **Bring Your Village Alive Grants**

Clerk had invited Officer to attend one of our future meetings.

### **Dog Friendly Stiles**

Gates will be provided which should be suitable for dogs and their owners.

### **War Memorial Names**

Chairman reported on Llanvair names. Clerk written to Newport Memorials asking for quote re extra names – no reply as yet.

### **Extra Street Lighting, Crick**

Should be turned on within the week.

### **Outstanding Planning Applications, New Cottages, Caerwent**

These had been refused. The applicants will appeal. The Chairman will seek advice from the Head of Planning.

### **M3694 PLANNING**

#### **2011/01206 Manor Farm House, St Brides Netherwent, Proposed Detached Garage & Store & Change of Use of Part of Existing Curtilage to Garden Space**

*This Council recommends **Approval***

Query if Tree Preservation Orders are present. Replanting of trees to replace loss of existing. Style and construction of materials to match those used by neighbours new garaging. Greenhouse should not be constructed of UPVC.

#### **2011/01157 12 Centurions Court, Caerwent Extensions & Alterations with associated work**

*This Council recommends **Approval***

Style of brickwork should match existing house and others on estate.

Recommend site visit.

The Chairman reported that the recent planning application for Hillside, Highmoor Hill, was refused by Planning. He is meeting with the owners to discuss an appeal.

Letter received from villager regarding consultation of planning applications for the Coach & Horses Public House. It was agreed to refer this matter to Planning.

### **M3695 DOG FOULING, CAERWENT VILLAGE**

The Clerk reported that a complaint had been received re dog fouling in the Canon Lane area. The Chairman explained that MCC no longer employ Dog Wardens and that these powers have been transferred to PCSOs. The Clerk will contact PCSO Norville to ask him to monitor the situation.

### **M3696 FINANCE**

Council agreed payment as per Finance Schedule dated March 2012.

### **M3697 CORRESPONDENCE**

1. LOCAL DEMOCRACY MANAGER, MCC  
County & Community/Town Council Elections 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2012  
Notice of election placed in newsletter and on noticeboards.
2. BRIAN COUNSELL, VICE CHAIR OF TRUSTEES, CALDICOT CAB  
The Bureau has become incorporated as a company limited by guarantee which means that trustees are more protected if something unforeseen happens – liability limited to £1 per Director. No name change. Following the election they will accept 1 representative from our Council as a Director for a 3 year period.
3. THE MONMOUTHSHIRE ASSOCIATION  
Sent complimentary 5' x 3' Monmouthshire Flag. This has recently been registered by the Flag Institute and included in the UK Flag Registry. It was agreed that we could possibly fly it at the Jubilee celebrations or offer it to Rogiet School who have a flag pole in place.
4. MARK LLOYD, WELCOME MONMOUTHSHIRE PROJECT OFFICER, MCC  
Making the Most of Monmouthshire's Waterways  
They want to reconnect Monmouthshire communities and businesses with their rivers and waterways and help them realise the maximum year round benefits from them for visitors and residents.
5. SENIOR STRATEGY & POLICY OFFICER, MCC  
Build Your Own Affordable Home.  
This scheme has now been launched. Information on their website.
6. COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES  
Every 10 years the CCW has to review the maps of open access to mountain, moor, heath, down land and registered common land in Wales. This review will start in July when they will issue draft maps of open country and registered common land. They will then accept representations about these maps until 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2012. Could we help to encourage and raise awareness of this review and direct any interested people to their website – [www.ccw.gov.uk](http://www.ccw.gov.uk)

7. HAZEL CLATWORTHY, SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY OFFICER,  
Eco Open Doors. Emailed to Councillors.
8. ONE VOICE WALES  
Consultation regarding M4 traffic from Magor to Castleton.
9. SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER, MCC  
Launch of Rural Conversion Grant Scheme  
Provides capital funding to support the conversion of redundant/  
underutilised barns and similar buildings to enable new and existing  
microbusinesses to grow.
10. MIKE TAYLOR, CONVENOR, CAR RALLIES  
Had been informed by the MoD that a complaint had been received  
re noise, apologised and will do their utmost to improve the  
situation. (MoD subsequently informed the Clerk that car rallies may  
be halted due to this complaint). Councillor Vosloo had carried out a  
survey in Llanfair and the majority had no problem with the rallies.  
Agreed to write to the MoD supporting the rallies but suggesting a  
later start time on a Sunday.

### **M3698 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY**

Fly tipping on Cas Troggy Road. Chevrons A48 west junction need renewing.  
Potholes Old Roman Road west before Caerwent sign and at westgate junction.  
School lane pothole.

Blocked drains at Canon Lane – previously reported – Welsh Water attended.

Llanfair – moss on pavement at t junction. Moss at Caerwent Gardens.

Repairs to lane in Llanfair will take place during the Summer.

Footpath by Northgate traffic lights – trees overhanging.

### **M3699 SEPTIC TANKS**

Councillor Swift reported that there is concern in Crick re residents having to register at  
a cost of £125. The Chairman had asked Environment Health to provide assistance with  
this but it is not an MCC responsibility. He has therefore asked the Environment Agency  
to provide a drop in session. Councillor Swift reported lots of queries – she had  
contacted the Assembly Member who had asked for more villagers to write to him. A  
meeting will be held in Crick shortly.

### **M3700 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

There were no representative reports.

Chairman ..... Date .....