

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD 12TH JANUARY 2012

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

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council

Members of Public: T Meredith, Old Roman Road, Caerwent
 E Jones, Ash Tree Road, Caerwent
 W Edwards, Yew Tree Farm, Llanvair Discoed
 Mr/Mrs Spooner, Centurion Court, Caerwent
 S Ayres, Hillside, Carrow Hill
 W Langdon, Hillside, Carrow Hill

M3667 APOLOGIES

Received from Councillor Murphy

M3668 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs Jones queried when this Council was to have police presence at their meetings. The Clerk informed her that she had written to and telephoned various police personnel on numerous occasions asking this question but had received no affirmative reply. The Clerk was advised to contact the Chief Constable.

Mrs Jones was concerned about the crime rate, especially drug related, within the new Melin Housing estate at Merton Green – a situation which has been unheard of during the past 30 years. Children are also playing on the street and she fears for their safety.

Mrs Spooner pointed out that due to this new housing development residents such as Mrs Jones, who have lived in the area over 30 years, are now having to tolerate incidents such as these. She felt very strongly that these villagers should be compensated for what they have lost and experienced and that we as a community should support them. A resident had apparently sent in a petition to David Davies MP seeking compensation – the Clerk was asked to chase this up.

Mrs Spooner queried why the “open space” cannot be open in order for the children to play. Councillor Cousins informed her that the space is currently being used by Barratts for their Open Days but eventually the fence will come down for all to access. It was agreed to seek clarification on when it is planned to open and seek to release it earlier. Mrs Jones felt that a skate park would be more appropriate for the area.

Mr Meredith was concerned about the lack of lighting on the main road through Caerwent when compared to School Lane. Councillor Swift informed the meeting that she had, with support from the police, led a petition in Crick seeking more lighting and extra lighting had now been installed. It was agreed to write to the Street Lighting Manager and also to the Chief Officer to ensure that the lighting issue is included in the latest village survey.

Mr Spooner had been informed that the Old Gym building improvements are likely to be £200,000 and he queried if we can justify spending this amount when only 9% of

villagers use it. Councillor Evans stated that we have not made any decisions on improvements as we do not yet own the building and have certainly not been given any firm information regarding costs. The Clerk stated that once we own the building we are also then able to apply for various grants as well as the Section 106 fund. Mr Spooner queried who will be in control of the Section 106 monies when it comes in. The Clerk explained that the Community Council will not be holding the funds – it will be controlled by MCC and they will be advertising at the appropriate time for any group to apply for funding.

M3669 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 8th DECEMBER 2011

These were agreed as a true record with the following amendment:

p.5 M3665 Highways/Rights of Way
should read: **No** lighting at Pwllmeyric

M3670 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor G Cousins
Councillor P Kidger

Merton Green Action Group
Playing Fields Association

M3671 MATTERS ARISING

Merton Green

Councillor Cousins reported that he will be meeting with Barratts on Friday 13th January and will be asking for more consideration regarding water and mud on the roads. There are also lighting issues within the estate.

Proposed Closure of School Lane

Traffic survey currently ongoing.

Old Gym

Council signed for new lease on building (previous one expired 31st December 2011). Letters received from our Solicitor regarding Outstanding Queries and also confirmation that clauses relating to use of the building (12.4.5) and the erection of a boundary fence (12.5.1.) have been removed.

Bradbury Farm, Crick (Play Area/Wildlife Reserve)

Councillor Swift stated that there is some progress on creating a Wildlife Reserve in the triangle field next to the wood. She is now in contact with Estates Department at MCC.

Provision of Allotments

Councillor Counsell reported that the fruit trees in the proposed site off the A48 are dead. At the MoD meeting held in November 2011 Col Howard Gash had intimated that he would visit the site and report back – Clerk to check. Councillors Lewis and Cousins will visit the site this month.

Circular Walk

No progress.

Footpath/Land Attached to Great House Farm

No progress.

Cwrt Morgan Adoption

No progress.

Caerwent Playing Fields Play Equipment/Trees

Councillor Kidger had written on behalf of the Playing Fields Association to the Legal Department of MCC seeking clarification on responsibilities re the play areas and the trees. He had received a reply informing him that MCC are not responsible for any maintenance whatsoever and had only completed tree works out of courtesy. The Chairman informed the meeting that the Playing Fields planted the original trees 30 years ago – eight years ago these were taken out by MCC and replaced without any consultation. The Playing Fields have never paid any money out for tree works previously – when a tree was trimmed a few years ago the owner of the adjacent property paid for the work. Councillor Kidger will reply to Legal seeking clarification on points not answered.

Councillor Kidger advised that the play areas are inspected monthly.

BT Kiosk, Highmoor Hill

We are now the legal owners of the box. Clerk placed notice in box informing the public. Information on upkeep received from BT. Councillor Lewis will pass this onto Mr/Mrs Reece of Hawkers Cottage and Mr/Mrs Whitehead of Gales Cottage who had kindly offered to maintain the box in good condition. Councillor Counsell advised that he has five new plastic panels if required.

Gray Hill “No Dogs Off Leads” signage

Countryside Section are dealing with this.

Monmouthshire Housing New Fire Doors

Councillor Cousins stated that new fire doors are required in the Monmouthshire Housing blocks if the current ones are not fire proof for 30 minutes. The original cost is £1,700 but Monmouthshire Housing can provide them to owner occupiers for £860. Owners can also arrange for their own doors but they must provide a certificate of installation.

ID Cards

Clerk had researched internet companies but they only deal with bulk orders. She had spoken to Caldicot Printing who suggested printing on card and then laminating for a cost of around £25 for 10. It was agreed to arrange for these after the May election.

Bench in Recognition of Councillor Nettleship

Council agreed that a plaque be installed “In Memory of Community Councillor John Nettleship + dates served.”

Queen's Jubilee

Councillor Counsell proposed that this Council award £500 to the Playing Fields Committee towards a celebration event. Councillor Kidger will report back on this next month.

M3672 PLANNING

2011/01033 Retention of Two Storey Extension to Rear Elevation of House to Form Larger Kitchen & Larger Bedroom with En-Suite, The Post Office, Caerwent

This Council recommends Approval

2011/01158 Conversion of Outbuilding to Residential with Moderate Extension, Hillside, Carrow Hill

This Council recommends Approval. Suggest that Planning Committee undertake a site visit.

2011/01190 Erect Greenhouse at back of Garden, Court House, Llanvair Discoed

This Council recommends Approval

2011/01199 Conversion of Barn into Dwelling (Resubmission of Approval M/11597), Great Llanmelin, Llanvair Discoed

This Council recommends Approval

2011/01183 Removal of Existing Garage & Replacement Canopy Over, Nido d'Amore, 1 Five Lanes Cottage, Caerwent

This Council recommends Approval

2011/00808 Proposed Extension and Change of Use to Existing Store Building to form Tea Rooms, Coach & Horses, Caerwent

This Council recommends Approval

Council noted latest information on Monmouthshire Local Development Plan – Consultation on Site Representations

M3673 FINANCE

Approved as per finance sheet dated January 2012.

M3674 CORRESPONDENCE

1. TIM O'DONOVAN, LANDSCAPE CONSULTANT, MCC
Costs for our grounds maintenance contract for 2012 (cutting Caerwent, Llanvair Discoed & Trewen play areas) will remain the same at £651.78 + VAT.
2. JOHN PEARSON, LOCAL DEMOCRACY MANAGER, MCC
Local Council Elections Briefing Sessions 2012
3. BIG LOTTERY FUNDING
Community projects grants of up to £5,000 available.
Deadline 3rd February. The Clerk and Councillor Hedley will look into applying for this with regards to repairs to the stone walls within the village.

Councillor Swift queried whether we could apply for a grant to tidy up the land behind the toilets in Caerwent – it was agreed to ask Councillor Murphy what the latest situation is regarding this land. Councillor Trayler-Smith felt that it is not always appropriate to clear all areas as this is the countryside.

4. ALAN BROWNE, AREA SERVICES OFFICER, MCC
Mobile One-Stop Shop service has been stopped for the time being in its current format. They are looking at several different models to continue the service and these include the use of the police community bus. .
5. VEOLIA
Proposed Energy Recovery Facility within Llanwern Steelworks Complex. Planning application now submitted to Newport.
- 6 MINUTES/PUBLICATIONS
Mins One Voice Wales Committee

M3675 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

Councillor Trayler-Smith reported that he is constantly having to remove empty bottles and cans from St Brides Road and suggested some police presence in the area.

Clerk asked to check dog friendly stiles requested some years ago.

M3676 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Councillor Counsell proposed that extra names be added to the war memorial. The Clerk agreed to send her copy of the names to Councillor Hedley for him to check the actual memorial.

Chairman Date