

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD 11TH FEBRUARY 2016

Present: Councillors
K Evans (Chairman)
B Counsell
G Cousins
K Haddow
P Lewis
P Murphy
K Stock
K Swift
R Trayler-Smith

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council
K McCorriston, Mons/Torfaen Youth Offending Team
8 Members of the Public

M4362 APOLOGIES

Received from Councillor Saville

M4363 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillor Evans	Caerwent Historic Trust	Trustee
Councillor Lewis	Planning Application 2015/01594	Relative Involvement
Councillor Murphy	Caerwent Community Centre	Trustee
Councillor Stock	Caerwent Playing Fields Assoc	Committee Member
Councillor Counsell	Mons CAB	Trustee
Councillor Murphy	All planning applications	Member Planning Cttee

M4364 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced the sad passing of two residents in the last few weeks. Mrs Townsend from Five Lanes who was 100 and Mabel Hudson from Caerwent who was 105, sadly passed away. Our condolences go out to their friends and family.

The Chairman wished to add onto the agenda speed of traffic within the village of Crick.

M4365 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A villager queried if Councillor Trayler Smith should declare an interest in relation to planning application 2015/01534 The Glen, St Brides Netherwent, as he lived nearby. The Clerk advised that there is no mention in the Code of Conduct of a prescribed distance. A Councillor would however have a prejudicial interest in the consideration and decision of a planning application proposal if they or a close personal associate of theirs (e.g. a relative or a good friend) lives next door to the proposed site. Councillor Murphy added that this is only one vote out of a Council of ten members and villagers can rest assure that individual Councillors make their own judgements on issues.

Residents from Merton Green expressed concern about the bus no.75 hale and stop service travelling through their estate. They consider that the route is a major

health and safety concern as the roads are very narrow, there is an extremely tight bend, 3 sharp corners and the bus frequently has to mount the pavements to pass through. There are 3 parks near the route actively used by children on the estate and residents fear for their safety. They consider that the usage is very low and had contacted the Passenger Transport Unit to ask for the bus to be re-routed so that the stop is on the A48 rather than through the estate for a safer option. Indeed they had received notification that the bus would be stopping coming through the estate and then heard that an objection had been lodged.

Councillor Murphy stated that he was aware of the concerns and had contacted the Transport Passenger Unit and the bus company. He had been informed that a bus stop cannot be provided on the A48. Councillors Murphy and Cousins had suggested an alternative route and this route had been trialled today. However the bus route is determined on usage due to transport regulations and as there are people using it the bus company now advocate keeping the current route.

A resident queried if the Passenger Transport Unit realise that the bus is not used on a certain part of the estate and will they review the situation. They expressed concern that they had previously received 56 days notice of the bus stopping and then this was rescinded. The Chairman advised that this Council was not privy to this notice but will raise this with the Unit. Councillor Murphy will also continue his discussions with the Unit.

The Manager of the Junior Caerwent Football Club was in attendance to request funding for the Club. He advised that they now have five junior teams who are doing very well. He had completed an application form and was requesting funding for 2/3 football kits to form an identity and encourage team morale. The Chairman thanked him for attending and advised that this would be discussed under Finance.

M4366 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 14TH JANUARY

These were agreed as a true record.

M4367 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

Pcso Norville had sent his apologies. He will send his report as soon as possible.

M4368 PRESENTATION BY KAREN McCORRISTON, SENIOR REPARATION/ COMMUNITY OFFICER, MONMOUTHSHIRE/TORFAEN YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM

Karen McCorriston gave an overview of her work with the Youth Offending Team. Their aim is to reduce re-offending in 10 – 18 year olds. They are a multi-agency service and work with Social Workers, Probation Officers, the Police, Victim Workers, Substance Abuse Workers and Parenting Skills Workers. They consider the young person's peers, neighbourhood, parenting, any substance abuse and then tailor make a programme for the young person. There are different levels but young people can be given 2 - 40 hours to pay back to the community for first time offences. The victim can be involved. Projects are litter picking (not on the highway – only parks and play areas), graffiti removal, gardening, removal of brambles, clearing rights of way, planting, small scale painting, delivering leaflets. They prefer to give them something meaningful to do, they help them with qualifications and hopefully increase their employability.

They always check proposed projects, check the area and risk assess them. No electrical equipment or ladders are used and they are supervised at all times, usually two young people to one Supervisor. Try to get them working in their own area in order to give something back to their own community so that they can have pride and then move on. She advised that her organisation now has new website www.monmouthshire-torfaen-yos.org.uk and a twitter account (MonTorfaenYOS) where projects can be advertised.

To consider future involvement with the team

The Chairman thanked Karen for attending and giving us an insight into their work. Council agreed that they would consider any suitable projects and contact her again.

M4369 PLANNING

2015/01594 Multiple Sites Along A48

Advertising Signs

*This Council recommends **Refusal***

We see this as a conflict of interest - if the Planning Committee sees fit to approve this there could be a case of maladministration.

Caerwent is an historic ancient town and modern advertising signs are contradictory to this.

Dangerous/distracting for drivers.

Urban litter in a countryside setting.

MCC have previously discouraged signage on verges and we are disappointed in this complete u-turn due to the authority now trying to raise funds.

Wild flowers (yellow rattle) are being trialled in Crick at a site next to a proposed sign – another contradiction.

2015/01394 Bradbury's Farm, Crick

Change of Use

Extension of the existing residential portion of Bradbury's Farm

*This Council recommends **Approval***

2015/01534 The Glen, St Brides Netherwent

Detached Garage and Store. Steel Frame.

The Chairman invited the owner to explain the application. He advised that he originally had put in an application which included an oak and stone cladding façade but this was rejected by Planning. He would prefer the original plan.

Council noted that the site plan is not accurate. Council were concerned that due to the proposed materials the building looks like an industrial unit.

The Chairman put a proposal that this Council refer this to the Planning Committee for decision following a site visit and that there should be more appropriate materials in keeping with the construction of the existing property on the site. A vote was taken with the result 7 for/2 against.

M4370 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE/PLAY AREA INSPECTION CONTRACT 2016/17

To consider quote re 2016/17 of £1818 for grasscutting and all play area inspections.

Agreed.

To consider quote of £130 re moss removal

Agreed.

M4370 DEFIBRILLATOR

To consider the provision of a Defibrillator within the community

Councillor Haddow had been in touch with The Lions regarding possible funding, still awaiting response. Agreed to await their response before going forward with contacting suppliers. The Clerk advised that the British Heart Foundation currently have no funding opportunities but can advise on suppliers. Noted that Marshfield Community Council had just installed one – the procedure is that you telephone a number and a code is given to access the equipment. Alternative systems involve glass cases to be broken – Council were concerned about vandalism re this. Councillor Lewis advised that this equipment must be administered within 5 minutes so timing is crucial - after 5 minutes the chances of survival are much reduced. Councillor Haddow advised that the Caerwent Playing Fields Association are also looking into this and it was agreed that we support them in this. Agreed to bring this proposal back to the next meeting when we have more information.

M4371 COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER (Village Hall)

To consider draft Business Plan

Council considered this document which had been drawn up by Councillor Haddow. Agreed that this now be sent to MCC for their consideration. Councillor Haddow was thanked for her hard work in this area.

Councillor Swift queried where CPFA funds would be allocated if they folded and whether this should be included in this document. Agreed that this information should not be included in the Business Plan but in any lease document that we draw up with them in the future.

M4372 BUS SERVICE NO. 75

To consider proposal from the Passenger Transport Unit that the service stops entering Merton Green and that a temporary bus stop be located near to the site on the A48.

Council noted that this proposal had been withdrawn following the further information that a stop cannot be located on the A48. Agreed that we write to the Unit to query why we had not been informed of this notice, to put forward villagers concerns and to discuss the way forward.

Councillor Saville had asked that he wished to make it known that he supported the residents of Merton Green in their quest to have the bus stopped from entering the estate on the grounds of safety.

M4373 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

Clerk's Report

Dates for Diaries

MoD/Shirenewton Joint Meeting – 21st April , 2.00 p.m. at Caerwent Training Area followed by visit to former Wormtech site.

Education Grants

The Chairman reported that he had visited both Rogiet and Shirenewton Primary Schools today to carry out the judging. He was very impressed with the entries with brilliant artworks. He will put the winning entries onto our website.

Section 106

MCC have approved that funds from the Section 106 pot re the Village Hall architect fees be transferred to us.

Merton Green Outstanding Issues

Following a site meeting with Councillors, Barratts had agreed that railings would be provided on Merton Green and the gap would be filled in.

Additional Signage on A48

MCC have agreed to place reflective discs on the feature gates. Once adopted we will request strimming around this feature.

Upper Seven Acres Wood

Site meeting to be held shortly with Tree Officer, Planning Officer and Biodiversity/Ecology Officer.

Speedwatch

A presentation by the police will be held on Wednesday 17th February at 7.00 p.m. All interested parties had been invited.

Welsh National Anthem (Remembrance Service)

No further views had been put forward following request in newsletter. Agreed that current service remain.

Street Lights, A48

Had been fixed on Tuesday 9th February.

Local Government Pension Scheme

Received information from LGPS regarding appointing an Adjudicator. Agreed to appoint the Chair to this appointment.

Social Media Report

136 members

Numerous comments re lights on A48

Query re handover of Merton Green, what has and what has not been adopted.

M4374 CORRESPONDENCE

Tidal Lagoon Power Update

Severnside Programme Board – Whole Place Community Plan
MCC – Waste and Street Services Satisfaction Survey
MCC - Queen's 90th Birthday Beacon Celebrations
One Voice Wales – Draft Local Government Bill – Consultation Events

M4375 FINANCE

To consider payment and approval as per finance schedule

Agreed

To note Section 137 expenditure limit has been increased to £7.42 per elector

Council noted

To consider funding request from Caerwent Football Club

Agreed to award a grant of £750.

Councillor Counsell further proposed that the Football Club be added onto our annual grant amounts rather than applying every few years. Agreed.

Councillor Cousins requested that some form of acknowledgement of our support would be appropriate.

To note letter from Mons County Citizens Advice – request for continued funding

Council noted

To consider budgeting procedures.

Agreed that any funding requests now be dealt with on a quarterly basis rather than ad-hoc.

M4376 AGREED TO EXTEND STANDING ORDERS BY 30 MINUTES

M4377 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

To report any highways/rights of way issues

St Brides Road flooded and consequently breaking up road. Pipes are restricted – Welsh Water cleaned pipes out previously, now is blocked again, requires jetting.

Flooding worse since Lower Rock Cottage took a couple of bricks out of their wall and water consequently pours over.

Potholes:

A48 west entrance

Lane to Whitehall Farm, Highmoor Hill.

Dinham Road

A48 end of Dinham Road east

Flood sign at entrance to Storefields, Carrow Hill, knocked over.

Now 5 street lights out on Merton Green – had informed Barratts.

Remind Highways of issues previously raised with Roger Hoggins.

Speed of Traffic in Crick

Councillor Swift asked the Council to support the residents of Crick in their quest to have the speed limit reduced. Another accident had occurred recently and residents

are extremely concerned that a fatality will happen in the future. A petition had been sent to Highways last year which had been signed by most of the residents. MCC had agreed in June 2015 to reduce the speed limit on the Old Shirenewton and Crick Roads to 30 mph but this has yet to happen. Council agreed to write to Highways in support of the campaign to reduce the speed limit on the A48 in Crick. Councillor Murphy had asked for a meeting to advance this.

Temporary road closure of part of R134 Carrow Road, Carrow Hill to facilitate water main improvement works from 7th March to 24th April.

Council noted. Complaint received from resident that alternative lane from Carrow Hill is in very poor condition with no passing places and you would have to reverse a fair distance. These comments had been passed onto Highways who will look into this.

M4377 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

To consider appointing a Councillor as our representative to the Severnside Programme Board

Agreed to appoint Councillor Counsell.

The Chairman advised that Caerwent Historic Trust had agreed to look at the reintroduction of village pumps. Councillor Counsell had agreed to pass over all of the previous information.

M4378 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Provision of noticeboards
Provision of a Defibrillator

Chair Date

