

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD 12TH NOVEMBER 2015

Present: K Evans (Chair)
B Counsell
G Cousins
K Haddow
P Lewis
P Murphy
K Stock

In attendance: R Hoggins, Deputy Chief Officer, MCC
L McKeon, Clerk to the Council

M4317 APOLOGIES

Councillors Saville, Swift and Trayler-Smith.

M4318 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillor K Stock	Caerwent Playing Fields Association	Committee Member
Councillor K Evans	Caerwent Historic Trust	Trustee
Councillor P Murphy	Caerwent Community Centre	Trustee

M4319 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

M4320 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

M4321 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 8TH OCTOBER 2015

These were agreed as a true record.

M4322 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

There was no police report.

M4323 MR ROGER HOGGINS, DEPUTY CHIEF OFFICER (REGENERATION AND CULTURE), MCC

Working with Town and Community Councils to support services that are otherwise at risk due to County Council budget pressures.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Hoggins to the meeting who outlined the difficulties the County Council is having regarding budget pressures. MCC are approaching all Town and Community Councils outlining the services which will be at risk if they are not supported by local Councils. He reminded the Council of the initiative to contribute to area based teams at a cost of £2500 per week to be used for larger projects or shared with neighbouring Councils. MCC priorities lie in housing/social care therefore Highways budgets will be reduced – the frontline team will go down from 30 to 27 and they are looking at ways in which we could possibly support them. Grass cutting has been reduced already. It is not a

statutory duty to cut the lanes. He confirmed that the winter maintenance run will continue with 12 routes as this is an essential service.

This year they are tackling predominantly toilets and parks. He is aware that this Community Council have already taken over the public toilets and MCC do not maintain any parks in our area. He advised that if in the future Councils become larger the local element of Monmouthshire may get lost in the mass and suggested that it would be preferable for us to have a greater say now regarding our own priorities for the longer term. An example would be Chepstow Library, probably used quite a lot by our community, but will need some form of support for the future.

Mr Hoggins was asked what figure is required. He advised that half a million is required from all of the Town and Community Councils. MCC have received £4-5 million less this year. All Councils will have a cut next year. However with the proposed re-organisation there will be re-assessment of the grant situation and per capita funding could rise.

We advised Mr Hoggins that we are keen to continue with the Cluster Working Group and indeed recently have been seeking the latest information on this. He agreed that this is a positive step and issues such as libraries and road sweepers could be dealt with.

A suggestion was made that we accept that some MCC services will be withdrawn and we then arrange for ad hoc work to be done. Mr Hoggins did have a concern that their workforce could become so small that they cannot react to requests.

He will provide a list of MCC services before our precept meeting on which we can then prioritise. He will also chase the Cluster Working Group.

M4324 PLANNING

2015/01157 Woodside, Highmoor Hill

Erection of Garden Office in part of Front Garden

This Council recommends **Approval**

Question 7 on application answered incorrectly - there are several large trees close to proposed site.

No planning application notice has been erected so neighbours unaware of application.

M4325 TREE PLANATIONS (Westgate and Eastgate, Roman Road, Caerwent)

To consider quotes received regarding crown lifting, clearing undergrowth/saplings and planting one new walnut tree

Agreed to accept lowest quote.

M4326 COMMUNITY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

To consider any further progress on the future of the monthly newsletter

The Chairman advised that he had progressed this with the CPFA. He had sought quotes from various printers with the preferable one based in Magor with a three day turnaround. The new format will be printed on A4, in colour, all submissions by email, all organisations to get 1 page free of charge (any extra to be charged £15 per page). A letter will be sent to all distributors inviting them to a meeting to explain the new arrangements. A letter will also go to contributors. Some

contributors have already confirmed that they wish to continue advertising, it was hoped that new advertisers will appear once the format is in colour.

Payment will be by cash to distributors, cash to the Post Office, direct debit or paypal. The Chairman felt that their accounting must be more robust and there should be accountability regarding income. Ownership will continue to lie with the CPFA.

The Chairman was thanked for his hard work in progressing this, thus enabling the newsletter to continue. A formal thank you will be published next month to Hilary Counsell for her years of editing the newsletter and to Mrs Norfolk for the printing.

M4327 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Review of service

Council agreed that the service had gone very well and were pleased to note that around 200 residents had attended.

A request had been received on Facebook to incorporate the Welsh National Anthem into our Remembrance Service. Conflicting views on our Facebook page were that the military pledge allegiance to the Queen, serve in the British military and that the British national anthem is inclusive to all in the UK. In view of this Councillor Murphy agreed to ask his fellow County Councillors what anthems are played at other services.

The Chairman was pleased to report that whilst our Remembrance Service was being held Caerwent Junior Football Club were holding two minutes silence on the Playing Fields.

M4328 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

Clerk's Report

Dates for Diaries

MoD/Shirenewton Joint Meeting – 26th November, 6.00 p.m. at Shirenewton.

Caerwent Toilets

Taps have been adjusted. Fluorescent tubes and starters need replacement, also outside lights, ceiling glass requires cleaning.

Allotments

No progress.

Community Asset Transfer

Councillor Haddow had liaised with the CPFA and completed the Expression of Interest which had now been sent in. She will now concentrate on completing the Business Plan. Agreed to enquire if there are examples of others.

She was thanked, along with Nia Gittins of the CPFA, for their hard work in completing this.

Noticeboards/Benches

All benches have been painted. Work on noticeboards will be completed in the better weather.

Education Grant

Heads of Shirenewton and Rogiet schools have suggested that January would be an appropriate time to have the award ceremonies – Council agreed.

Section 106

Final decision will be made by MCC on 18TH November.

Merton Green

Received remedial works list required prior to adoption from MCC. Councillor Cousins reported that several lamp posts on Ash Tree Road and Merton Green have no cowling to the rear. Agreed to add these onto remedial works list.

Speedwatch

Councillor Swift had reported that Crick residents will probably not now be included in this scheme as the area has to be a 30/40 mph speed limit. Councillor Cousins will continue to promote this. The police have asked if we can advertise this further – agreed to advertise this on Facebook and in the newsletter.

Mons/Torfaen Youth Offending Team

Senior Reparation/Community Officer will attend our meeting in February.

Community Council Statement

A statement from the Community Council correcting misrepresentations and inaccuracies posted on Facebook by a resident had been prepared and placed on noticeboards, in the newsletter and on our own Facebook page. Council were pleased to note that positive feedback had been received from the community regarding this statement.

Brockwells Farm groundworks

Planning permission is in place for these works.

Odd Job Person

Councillor Murphy reported that one expression of interest had been received from a resident who resides in Llanfair Discoed.

Flower Displays – War Memorial

Remembrance wreaths currently in place. Councillor Cousins will contact the villager who normally plants up the boxes to discuss future planting.

Social Media Report

25 more members had been added on our Facebook group this month. Complaints received re fireworks and speed of traffic on our site. Agreed to put up Speedwatch information.

Advertisers had been removed. One member removed from page, as per our Facebook policy, following misrepresentations of Council business and false accusations of Councillor criminal activity.

M4329 CORRESPONDENCE

MCC – New Lottery Funding available for Monmouthshire countryside communities.

Ramblers Cymru – Guide to Public Footpaths. Councillor Lewis advised that he is aware of and involved with a scheme already in place identifying issues through Footpath Wardens – there are so many repairs required, they are inundated and are unable to undertake further surveys at the present time.

Mr J Barnard – concern regarding contact with Cadw regarding their fields.

M4330 AGREED TO EXTEND STANDING ORDERS FOR 15 MINUTES

M4331 FINANCE

To consider payment and approval as per finance schedule
Agreed payment

To consider request for funding re Eisteddfod 2016
To agenda for next month

To consider request for funding for Caldicot Youth Group Charity
Agreed to donate £100

To consider donation to Caerwent church re provision of Christmas meal
Councillor Lewis will make enquiries about this and report back

To consider that Councillor Haddow be added as a member of the Finance Committee
Council agreed.

The Clerk had received confirmation that it is allowable to claim back VAT on Architect fees – she had informed the CPFA.

M4332 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

To report any highways/rights of way issues

Melin Homes block of flats on Ash Tree Road (numbers 35 – 41) - some residents not taking their rubbish from store to road on collection day therefore resulting in excessive rubbish in the store with resultant health and safety issues. Agreed to

contact MCC.

Dead end sign for Sandy Lane knocked over.
Ruts on Carrow Hill still not been dealt with.
Ruts outside Ty Melys, Five Lanes.
Lane to Whitehall Farm, Highmoor Hill, very poor condition.
Crossroads signs at Carrow Hill still missing.
Green Lane requires a clean up.
20 mph sign in centre of Caerwent not working.
Weeds on A48 dualcarriageway opposite Northgate.

(Councillor Lewis declared an interest in the following item)

Following our complaint, together with numerous others from residents, Council were pleased to note that the recent advertising placed on the A48 verges had been removed by MCC and the advertiser reimbursed. Councillor Murphy advised that this advertising will re-appear in more suitable locations.

Report of dogs being deliberately walked on Llanfair Discoed Play Area. Noted that a sign is in place, as indeed there are signs at Caerwent and Trewen, and to ask villagers to adhere to this.

M4332 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports.

M4333 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Councillors to inform Clerk of any items.

Chair Date

