

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD 11TH APRIL 2013

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

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council
Pcso T Norville
8 Members of the Public

M3831 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

M3832 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs Edwards, New Cottages, expressed concern that the Old Roman Road west had not been tarmacked as promised by Highways. The Chairman advised that this will be done under the new budgets for this financial year.

Mrs Edwards, New Cottages, raised the fact that a gully had recently been installed by Highways along the Old Roman Road and she queried if this would affect neighbouring properties. The Chairman stated that the Highways Manager is in discussions with some neighbours regarding this.

Mr Edwards, New Cottages, was concerned that Pound Lane is now being used as a turning area. He believed that this lane was supposed to be a cobbled area in order to prevent this. The Chairman agreed to talk to Highways.

Mr Edwards, New Cottages, was concerned about asbestos in the Old Gym building and the possibility of it breaking up. The Chairman advised that the Gym Committee do have an Asbestos Report which is updated annually. The next review is due in May and we will let Mr Edwards have a copy at that time.

Mrs Edwards, New Cottages, reported that the temporary traffic lights installed whilst enhancements are taking place have failed on occasions – she was advised to ring 101 if this happens again.

Mr R Stephens, Llanfair Discoed, raised concerns about planning application 2013/00185 (Rose Cottage, Llanfair Discoed Installation of Three Sealed Cesspits). He explained that throughout this development there have been several instances of the lane being blocked by contractors with the police involved. He is worried about future flooding and the fact that there has been no contaminated land study. He stated that the GRP needs seriously reinforcing.

Mr Stephens, Llanfair Discoed, raised concerns about planning application (2013/00222 Springfield House, Well Lane, Llanfair Discoed Change of Use of the Existing Residential Property from C3 (Dwelling) to C2 (Nursing Home)). Mr Stephens explained that this is a very narrow single track lane and planning permission has already been granted for two houses. There are sewage concerns there already. He feels that a change to C2 will exacerbate the situation on the lane with many more residents and related traffic.

Mr Harris, Myrtle Cottage, raised concern that in the latest community newsletter he believed that there was an inference that his family park illegally at the cenotaph area. Councillor Hedley advised that he and Councillor Haddow had personally visited the area to consider a planning application and witnessed a large black pickup truck parked within 10 metres of the road junction. Councillor Hedley asked Mr Harris to confirm that this was his vehicle and that he was in fact parked illegally on that day – Mr Harris confirmed that it was a company car but could not recall parking. PcsO Norville confirmed that you should not park within 10 metres of a road junction and you could be subject to an endorsable fixed penalty. The Chairman advised that the previous PC for the area had frequently given out warnings to villagers and church goers about parking in this area.

M3833 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 14th MARCH 2013

These were confirmed as a true record.

M3834 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Murphy
Councillor Counsell

Caerwent Community Centre
Proposed Village Pumps

Committee Member
Family connections

M3835 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

M3836 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

PcsO Norville reported that there had been no anti-social behaviour or public safety and welfare incidents. Various thefts from vehicles at Merton Green. A new Enforcement Officer who will deal with dog fouling has now been employed (Laura King). He was pleased to note that the Community Council are installing four more dog waste bins. He is now trained in using the speed gun and will be out in the area shortly.

Various thefts from vehicles at Merton Green. Numerous burglaries at Goytre lately – in order to deter this in our area he is patrolling our villages late at night.

M3837 MATTERS ARISING

Merton Green

The Chairman had received a reply from Highways regarding the parking issue. As the bays are privately owned and do not form part of the adoptable highway the owners of the bays, whether it be individually or MHA, can manage and control the use of the bays as they see fit as long as it does not affect the use of the highway. The use of apparatus such as removable, collapsible or retractable bollards could be the answer. MCC would have no objections to their use if they were set back at least 450mm from the edge of the highway/footway and are an appropriate design that are readily visible to motorists and pedestrians. To clearly identify the spaces against the property by way of a marking in the bay or a plate at the back of the bay would be advisable.

Councillor Cousins will talk to Barratts regarding time limits for working on the site – he had witnessed building work at 6.40 p.m. one evening.

Caerwent Village Enhancement Scheme

Concerns from Mr Harris, Myrtle Cottage – Highways Manager had visited the site - sign pole will be moved to a different location. Councillor Haddow queried if the pavement will continue to the disabled access –the Chairman will enquire.

Council were disappointed to note that the intended tarmac paving directly outside the Post Office had not been carried out due to a resident complaining to Highways that this should not be included as it was private land. Council considered that it was a very small piece of land and would have finished off the scheme and enhanced the area.

Council were also disappointed to note that the new pedestrianized paved area around the cenotaph is being used as a car park and sadly now has numerous black tyre marks.

A letter of support for the new road layout had been received from a resident who felt that it was a great improvement to the centre of the village. Thanks to the Community Council for supporting this and to our Chairman, Councillor Murphy, for the many hours he has spent liaising with Highways ensuring that the scheme is suitable for the surroundings. She did however request that we explain to residents the “shared space” regarding the new footpath and appeal to villagers to not park on the pavement.

Circular Walk

Councillor Counsell is now in contact with Deserie Mansfield of Adventa re this project.

Time Team Field

Awaiting report from Archaeologist.

Cwrt Morgan Adoption

No progress.

Provision of Allotments

This will be discussed with the MoD on April 23rd.

Provision of Dog Friendly Stiles

Councillors Councillor/Lewis will report on this at next meeting.

Dog Waste Bins

Four further bins ordered for Llanfair Discoed, Canon Lane, Ash Tree Road and Llanfair Road. Councillor Cousins had confirmed that Barratts will finance

one of these.

Best Kept Village Signage, Llanfair Discoed

It was agreed to purchase a sign to be hung underneath the village noticeboard at a cost of £76.

Caerwent Village Hall/Playing Fields Rent Increase

Reply from Legal Services of MCC that they do not believe that the 1937 Act precludes the County Council from charging a commercial rent for the premises. The Act specifically uses the words, “...at a nominal **or other** rent...” and points out that the County Council currently has a policy of awarding rental grants to organisations which can be up to as much as a 95% reduction in the rent payable.

The lease of the village hall is currently between the County Council and the Community Council. If CPFA wish to be the council's tenant under the lease, the Community Council will have to agree to the lease being assigned to the CPFA. The County Council would seek a guarantee from the Community Council for the rent, if it and the Community Council were in agreement that the lease can be assigned to the CPFA.

It was agreed to seek a meeting with the Playing Fields Association to discuss these issues.

Caerwent Toilets

Still awaiting condition report – Chairman chasing. Sub-Committee to be arranged as soon as this is received.

Comments requested in newsletter re future of toilets – one in favour of retention due to visitors/school trips and the fact that the Cadw toilet is rarely open, one in favour of closure due to costs, condition.

Graffiti had been painted over, the mens drier is in fact working contrary to a complaint from a villager.

Councillor Haddow suggested that we could possibly support the Cadw toilets instead. It was agreed to discuss this at any Sub-Committee arranged.

Website Funding from Welsh Government

Invitation to meeting arranged for Thursday 25th April, 6.30 pm - 8.00 pm at the Royal British Legion in Usk. Councillor Swift agreed to attend.

Bradbury Farm Proposed Play Area

Councillor Swift had canvassed some villagers and they would be keen to see a play area of the “forest school” type.

The Chairman advised that Asset Management are currently drawing up a scheme and there is potential for a field to be allocated as a play area.

Exposed BT Cables, Crossroads, Caerwent

BT had attended and buried cables.

Verge Collapse, Salisbury Farm, St Brides

Reply from Highways that verge belongs to land owner – they are therefore not able to carry out any works. The Chairman had requested a site meeting with Highways – Councillors Trayler-Smith, Counsell and Lewis will also attend.

Play Inspections – Trewen/Llanfair Discoed

Quote received from MCC of £25 + VAT per play area for a monthly inspection (currently annual). They advise this to cover the Council with regards to BSEN1176/1177 European standard for children's play. This was agreed.

M3838 PLANNING

2013/00185 Rose Cottage, Llanfair Discoed

Installation of Three Sealed Cesspits

*This Council recommends **Refusal***

There is a better alternative with a partial relocation of the Cesspits to make more even flow of surface drainage and to comply with the normal Building Regulations. A soil contamination survey is required.

2013/00222 Springfield House, Well Lane, Llanfair Discoed

Change of Use of the Existing Residential Property from C3 (Dwelling) to C2 (Nursing Home)

*This Council recommends **Refusal***

Concern that a change of use will lead to the floodgates being opened for future escalation.

Sewerage concerns.

Highways issues – concern over pressure on a single track no through road.

There is no bus stop or bus service in the village as indicated on the planning application.

M3839 FINANCE

Council agreed payments as per finance schedule dated April 2013.

A proposal was put by Councillor Swift that any community groups requesting funding in the future complete an application form. This was agreed.

M3840 CORRESPONDENCE

1. RACHEL JOWITT, WASTE STRATEGY & RESOURCES MANAGER, MCC
Changes to Recycling & Waste
2. HAZEL CLATWORTHY, SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY OFFICER, MCC
Eco Open Doors 27/28 April.

3. TIDY TOWNS, MCC
Dig it Monmouthshire Workshop – 6th April. Councillor Swift had attended. They are hoping to set up a scheme whereby members of the public or community groups can look after very small pieces of land/verges. The Chairman had received a consultation document regarding this which he will forward.
4. MR J HARRIS, MYRTLE COTTAGE, CAERWENT
5 Freedom of Information Requests
5. PLANNING MANAGER, MCC
Notice of Planning Training Session to be held 19th April 2013.
Councillors Swift and Vosloo hope to attend.
6. MR J HARRIS, MYRTLE COTTAGE, CAERWENT
Concerned about inference in community newsletter that his family park illegally at the cenotaph area. (This had also been discussed under Public Participation). It was noted that our previous PC had on many occasions issued cautions to villagers and church goers regarding parking in this area.
7. GWENT ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS
Gwent Best Kept Village Competition 2013. Closing Date 10th May.
Llanfair Discoed had been entered.
8. MR J HARRIS, MYRTLE COTTAGE, CAERWENT
Council noted communication received regarding asbestos in Caerwent Community Centre (Old Gym). It was noted that we are aware that there is low level asbestos in the building. In 2008 the MoD (previous owners) made arrangements for the outside storeroom to be locked up and access restricted with a sign affixed to the door NO ACCESS. We noted that in 2008 the Centre was closed for 3 days following a similar complaint from Mr Harris – an examination was carried out and the complaint was unfounded. We are in possession of an asbestos report which is updated annually, next review due in May.

The Community Centre Committee had invited the Community Council to a tour of the building – this was agreed.
9. WELSH GOVERNMENT
Fallen Stock Guidance.
10. WELSH ASSEMBLY
Information on Measles Outbreak
11. MONMOUTHSHIRE HOUSING
Neighbourhood Team Services
12. O JONES, CAERWENT HOUSE
Concerns about flooding to his property following the new road layout. It was noted that the Highways Manager had visited Mr Jones and had spoken to the contractors who were satisfied that there would not be a

problem here. Clerk to contact Highways. Councillor Counsell pointed out that the pond on said land never fills to capacity.

M3841 MEETING WITH MoD

Council noted meeting date with MoD as Tuesday 23rd April in Shirenewton.

M3842 COMMUNITY WEBSITE

Councillor Evans proposed that we provide further information on the community website regarding the precept, ie a piechart re spending of the Council. This was agreed.

M3843 REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS/FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Council considered revised Standing Orders/Financial Regulations. It was agreed to adopt these.

M3844 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

Footpath from Tigh Na Darag to centre in Llanfair is in very poor state of repair.
Untaxed car in Llanfair – advised to contact PCSO Norville.
Bollards still at St Brides, leaking water.
NY 272 lamp out
Wall at Steps Cottage in danger of falling into road.

M3845 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Councillors Hedley and Swift had attended a Car Rally in the MoD Base run by The Foresters Club which they felt was extremely professionally run.

Councillor Counsell left the meeting

Proposed re-instatement of Village Pumps

Councillor Counsell had gathered all required information for the grant application which had now been sent into MCC. It was agreed to go ahead with this scheme. The maximum amount of the grant will be £8,000. It was estimated that the total cost will be around £10,500 and the Council agreed to fund the balance. Three quotes were considered and it was agreed that our preferred bidder was Safety Fencing Ltd.

Chairman Date