

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD 8TH SEPTEMBER 2011

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

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council

Members of Mr/Mrs Edwards, Old Roman Road, Caerwent
Public: Mr W Edwards, Yew Tree Farm, Llanfair Discoed
Mrs A Davies, Llangerrig, Five Lanes
Mrs H Slater, The Woodlands, Five Lanes
Mr R Thomas, Green Lane House

M3615 APOLOGIES

Received from Councillors Kidger, Evans and Cousins.

M3616 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman announced the sad passing of Esther Kidger, Councillor Peter Kidger's wife. Condolences were sent to Councillor Kidger and his family.

M3617 WELCOME NEW COUNCILLOR, ST BRIDES NETHERWENT

The Chairman welcomed Richard Trayler-Smith as the new Councillor for the St Brides Netherwent ward. The Council looked forward to working with him.

M3618 15 MINUTES PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr W Edwards reported that the Planning page of the MCC website is not up-to-date. The Chairman stated that it should be but he will make enquiries.

Mr P Edwards queried if there was any progress re removal of the boulders/bollards at Green Lane House. The Clerk reported that she had received a reply from Highways stating that they had requested that the owners remove them. Mr Thomas (Green Lane House) explained that he was the owner of the grass verge and that the boulders and bollards had been placed to deter vehicles destroying the verge and undermining the foundations of his wall. He confirmed that he had received a letter from Mr Church in Highways – undated, unsigned and without an envelope. He had subsequently had a conversation with Mr Church where he had agreed on action to be taken and had then (a few days later) received exactly the same letter as the original one from Mr Church, so there appeared to be some confusion. Councillor Vosloo agreed with Mr Thomas that the corner is dangerous but that the bollards do look somewhat unsightly. Councillor Counsell suggested that the kerb on the triangle be taken out. The Chairman agreed to ask Steve Lane, the Highways Inspector, to visit Mr Thomas to reach an agreement.

Mr P Edwards queried where the £2,000 donation from Frostbite had been spent and was concerned that part of this had been spent in Llanvair. The Clerk confirmed that only £500 of it had been spent so far on a bench in the Play Area in Lawrence Crescent.

Mr Edwards queried if £150,000 had been given by MCC to the owner of Caerwent House towards repairs on his house. The Chairman stated that negotiations had taken place with the owner of Caerwent House but that no monies had been passed over. MCC are not prepared to allow any further deterioration of the building and have taken

formal steps to enforce improvements to the building. Any monies spent on the building will be recovered from the owner. Details of this will be supplied at our next meeting by Kellie Beirne, Chief Officer and Simon Robersshaw, Conservation Manager.

Mrs Davies reported that following the planning application for an entrance onto the lane at Shirefield Cottage the hedge has not been re-instated. The Clerk was asked to report to Enforcement.

Mrs Davies queried if the works at Walnut Tree Cottage on Five Lanes are actually in line with the permission granted. The Chairman had already queried this and Planning had been in contact with the owner and asked him to provide an amended plan.

Mrs Davies reported that a Wormtech lorry had a couple of weeks ago travelled along Five Lanes and ripped off branches of trees. She had contacted the One Stop Shop but as they failed to remove the branches from the highway within 2 days she had removed them herself. Clerk to inform Waste Management Department.

Mrs Davies reported a very low helicopter last night but this was dealt with very efficiently by Peter Davies of the MoD. It was agreed to write to the MoD stating that we had received numerous complaints regarding the breach of the agreement re low flying over residential areas.

M3619 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 14TH JULY 2011

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

p.6 **M3612 CORRESPONDENCE** should read:

2. Dr Stephanie Tyler,

M3620 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor B Counsell

Caldicot Citizens Advice Bureau

M3621 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

The Clerk reported that following a local complaint Pc Turner had carried out a speed monitoring exercise today between 7.30 a.m. – 8.30 a.m. on the top part of Lawrence Crescent – 12 cars were travelling at approx 20 mph and 4 at 15 mph so there is no evidence currently of speeding. He will visit the area again in the early evening and weekends and will report back. He did state that there are a few cars with loud exhaust systems which may appear to be travelling fast but are in fact not.

M3622 MATTERS ARISING

Merton Green

The Chairman reported that the access problems on Llanvair Road had now been resolved with dropped kerbs. Barratts had agreed to complete the building of the houses nearest to the current occupied properties first. Councillor Hedley reported that there appears to be water drainage problems on Dinham Road – Clerk to report to MCC. It was confirmed that Melin Housing had purchased the 28 affordable houses.

The Community Council had been asked for one more street name – it was agreed that “The Dolkins” would be the most appropriate.

The Fair Trading Officer of MCC Trading Standards has visited the Barratts site and spoken with the Assistant Commandant at the MoD re information given to prospective purchasers – she is making further enquiries and will report back to us shortly.

Proposed Closure of School Lane

The Chairman reported that he is still pressing for a public meeting.

Old Gym

Our solicitor has now received communication from the MoD re purchase of the building.

Bradbury Farm, Crick (Play Area/Allotments)

Councillor Swift reported that she had met with County Farms re obtaining some land for a wildlife site. She had indicated that the triangle field would be ideal but had been informed that a condition would be that the site should not be encouraging wildlife to the area. It was agreed that the Chairman brief Kellie Beirne on this and then maybe she can report on this next month.

Provision of Allotments

MCC manage 3 allotment sites in Monmouthshire (Abergavenny, Chepstow & Monmouth). Policy document for Chepstow had been circulated. It was agreed to chase Highways re access requirements.

Circular Walk

It was reported that this issue has been passed onto Mike Moran, Leisure & Recreation Manager. The Chairman confirmed that Mr Moran will also attend our next meeting.

Footpath/Land Attached to Great House Farm

No progress.

Cwrt Morgan Adoption

No progress.

Welcome to Caerwent booklet

Councillor Lewis reported that 90% of the contributor articles are now in. He had received a quote of £150 for 300 from Caldicot Church Printing. It was agreed to put mention in the booklet of how to obtain the newsletter. It was agreed that the Clerk carry out any admin tasks on an overtime basis.

Village Signs

No further progress.

Bench in recognition of Councillor Nettleship

A quote of £657 plus VAT plus plaque/engraving had been received. It was agreed that although we want to provide a fitting memorial for Councillor Nettleship this appears to be rather expensive. It was agreed to obtain another quote.

Tour of Caerwent Training Area for Caerwent/Shirenewton Councillors

Will take place on Saturday 17th September 12 noon.

November Meeting/Supper with MoD

Date changed again to 17th November at 6.00 p.m.

Directional signage to Cadw Car Park, Caerwent

Cadw did raise this matter with Highways a couple of years ago but there was no progress. The Officer at Cadw will chase the matter with them again.

Occupied Caravan on Land nr Brockwells Meadows

Reply from Planning Enforcement Officer- he had met with the owner of the caravan on site. At the time of his visit there was one mobile home and one touring caravan. The mobile home had livestock feed in but did not appear to be lived in or indeed capable in its current state. The owner had informed him that he intended to move the touring caravan shortly. The Clerk had been informed that there is a post box on site and also a telephone line had been installed – she will report this to Enforcement. Councillor Lewis proposed that we write to the Gwent Wildlife Trust to enquire if they are aware of the amount of agricultural machinery and piles of logs spreading over the Brockwells Meadows – this was agreed.

Play Areas Repair Costs

The Chairman agreed to remove the weeds mentioned in both play areas. It was agreed to accept the quote from MCC otherwise.

Risk Assessment Inspection Reports

The Clerk reported that work on the noticeboards was progressing. She reported a leak in the toilets. The Clerk planned to query if Probation Services could paint the inside of the bus shelters.

The Clerk agreed to email inspection duties and Councillors will contact her with their findings.

Monthly Police Report

Pc Underhill intends to attend our October meeting.

Caerwent Public Toilets

Information on costs so far had been circulated. It was agreed to turn the hot water off. The Clerk reported a leak in the boiler room – plumber arranged. Manhole cover and “Ladies” sign needs replacing.

Asbestos Survey received (emailed to Councillors).
Legionella Survey will be carried out within next few weeks.

Request for an additional “Low Bridge” sign on A48 relating to Crick Road

Reply from Highways stating that it is considered that there is no requirement for further warning signs on the A48. Also they do not feel that the volume of overheight vehicles using Crick Road would warrant further signing. The Chairman agreed to arrange for

Mr Kinsella, Highways Officer, to meet with Councillor Swift on site.

M3623 PLANNING

The Clerk reminded Councillors of a planning training session to be held on 19th October at 7.00 p.m. in Shirenewton.

M3624 REPORT ON MEETING HELD re LOCAL JAZZ MARCHING BAND NOISE NUISANCE

A meeting had taken place on 28th August 2011 with the Community Council, residents of Highfield and the Jazz Band. It had been agreed that the Jazz Band continue to practice at the Village Hall on a Monday and Wednesday 6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m. with one hour outside in the middle of the field. It was further agreed that no playing of instruments takes place outside in the car park on arrival/departure or during break times and that the bass drum is toned down. The situation will be monitored by all and a further meeting will take place on 28th September. The Chairman informed the meeting that a Championship will be held this weekend on the Playing Fields and he had asked the Jazz Band to inform the residents. Councillor Swift felt that it would be appropriate if they always put fliers through residents' doors re forthcoming events.

M3625 FINANCE

Council noted and agreed the following payments and income as per Finance schedule dated September 2011:

Payments:	£10,878.07
Income:	£15,042.55

A new HSBC bank mandate form was signed by Councillors.

M3626 CORRESPONDENCE

Council noted the following:

1. VEOLIA ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
Consultation on Proposals for an Energy Recovery Facility within the Llanwern Steelworks complex.
2. ONE VOICE WALES
Training Courses for Councillors - details circulated.
3. AMY GULLICK, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES, MCC
Vacant Properties Report
4. BETHAN GIBBENS, RURAL PROJECTS OFFICER, MCC
Village Community Facility Capital Investment Scheme provides capital funding to support the physical improvement of village community facilities that improve the range of rural services. This information has been sent to all Village Hall Committees.
5. JOHN PEARSON, LOCAL DEMOCRACY OFFICER, MCC
Consultation on Polling Districts/Places – MCC Propose No Change in our community
6. BRITISH TELECOM
Adopt a Kiosk (relating to Highmoor Hill). Councillor Lewis had consulted

with neighbours and proposed that the Kiosk be adopted. Volunteers would be willing to keep it maintained. This was agreed. The Clerk will complete the process.

7. LOCAL DEMOCRACY MANAGER, MCC
Request for 2012 Electoral Roll.

M3627 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

Large pothole outside The Merrils, Carrow Hill.

Footpath at St Tathans needs clearing of brambles, also Canon Lane footpath overgrown and rubbish present.

It was agreed to query again if we could have a weight restriction on the Old Roman Road.

Four street lights have now been installed in Crick. Councillor Swift proposed that we now press for a reduced speed limit.

Councillor Swift proposed that some of the signage in Crick is not required. She was advised to contact Paul Keeble, Highways Manager.

M3628 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Councillor Counsell had noticed in the Clerks & Councils Direct magazine that cups are available for the Queens Jubilee and proposed that we purchase these for the children of the area. Councillor Swift queried if we could seek villagers views on this and it was agreed to mention this in the next newsletter.

The Chairman advised that a Village Enhancement Grant Scheme is available where £50,000 is available.

M3629 CAERWENT HOUSE

This report was deferred to a later meeting

Chairman Date.....