

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
HELD 9TH NOVEMBER 2017

Present: Councillors:
B Counsell (Chair)
B Dawson
S George
K Haddow
P Lewis
K Swift

In attendance: 3 members of the public
L McKeon, Clerk to the Council

M4652 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

The Chair and Vice Chair had sent in their apologies. Councillor Counsell was proposed and seconded. There being no other nominations he took the Chair.

M4653 APOLOGIES

Councillors Murphy, Evans and Cousins.

M4654 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillor K Swift	Proposed works to drains, Ballan Cottage	CWEP Committee Member
Councillor S George	Environmental Permit for Pyrolysis Plant	Previous member STOP action grp

M4655 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair wished to add onto the agenda the quotes for 2018/19 grasscutting/play inspection – agreed.

Announced that Angelique Gittings has now taken over the running of the Post Office from Sarah Woodfield. Agreed to welcome her and thank Sarah for her hard work over the years.

M4656 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Cory reported that speed in his lane on the first week/ten days was much improved but after that went back to how it was previously. He feels that a speed limit should be implemented. The Chairman queried with Mr Cory if the traffic had increased since the bollards had been put in place a few years ago. Mr Cory reported that school and allotment traffic was reduced but there was then an increase of traffic from Barrier Services. Also when the lane was resurfaced there was an increase in traffic. He suggested sleeping policemen but he was aware that not all residents are keen on this idea. He has on a number of occasions reported the speeding to the police but they do not appear to be interested. Councillor Dawson suggested electronic signage for the lane – Clerk will request. Chase Highways signage and speed loop previously requested.

A member of the public wished to raise the consultation on our agenda regarding Definitive Map Modification Order to record routes A and B as public byways open to all traffic, Minnets Lane. He would like to make a recommendation that the green lane be preserved for the future as a green lane whatever the status and keep motorised vehicles off it. It is particularly rich in spring flowers and he feels that we are fortunate to have it within our area. If used as a proper highway he believes it will be used as a rat run with an accident waiting to happen. He feels that we are using 19th century legislation as to what constitutes a highway. Councillor Lewis advised that through the years differing decisions have been made, changed, but then not implemented, hence the confusing situation now. It should have been put on the list of streets but by 2002 it was still not on. Because this had not been carried out the access for mpv's has been extinguished. Councillor Counsell advised that it was designated as a byway open to all traffic in 1992, with repairs to be carried out as if it was a green lane and repaired from materials on site – it has however not been maintained to that standard. As there is a vast amount of information to read and this consultation ends 30th January agreed to defer to the next meeting. The member of the public will attend again next month.

The member of public also queried the progress of the planning application at Upper Seven Acres Wood as he was very concerned about damage to the pristine bluebell wood and bulldozing through the nesting season. He was advised that the decision would be on the MCC website.

M4557 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 12th OCTOBER 2017

These were agreed as a true record.

M4558 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

To note new Police Inspector, Monmouthshire South

Noted.

There was no monthly report.

M4559 PLANNING

To consider:

2017/01087 and 2017/1088 (planning application/listed building consent)

Caerwent House, Caerwent

The whole repair and restoration of the historic Caerwent House and its division

This Council recommends **Approval**

2017/1247 Delfryn, 2 School Court, Llanfair Discoed

Rear and First Floor Extension

This Council recommends **Approval**

Environmental Permit application from DPS Process Solutions Limited to operate a small scale waste gasification/pyrolysis/oxidation plant at Unit 4, Severn Bridge Industrial Estate, Caldicot

Awaiting further technical information so agreed to defer until received. Request that Officer attend meeting or produces a summary of facts in layman terms.

To consider any planning applications received after despatch of agenda.

There were no further applications.

M4560 WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

Registration of Town and Village Greens

To consider

Consultation ends 2nd February. Agreed to defer until next meeting.

M4561 OAK TREE, LABURNAM STEPS, LLANFAIR DISCOED

To consider trimming branches overhanging neighbouring house

Agreed not to pay for trimming of these branches as the tree is not in our ownership. Refer occupant to MCC if they deem that the tree is dangerous.

M4562 PROPOSED WORKS TO DRAINS AT BALLAN COTTAGE, CRICK

To consider further information received

MCC advise that due to the lease, as tenants of the land, the insurers/property owners should be discussing this matter with the Community Council direct and not MCC. There will almost certainly be a prescriptive right for the property owner to continue to discharge to the stream via its current route given the length of time it has been doing so (over 20 years). This prescriptive right supersedes the lease agreement and will also provide the right to access and maintain the pipe.

The Crick Wildlife & Environment Project were disappointed that MCC have concluded that the Community Council decision to refuse access to the community field for the drainage pipes from Ballan Cottage will not be defensible. The area involved in the proposed work represent to them their best success of three years work in developing the wildflower population, in particular the introduction of yellow rattle. If the pipe has to run through the field there are a number of requests they would like to put forward:

- The pipe is rerouted to avoid the gate area – this was suggested by the surveyor but will minimise the disruption to work they have done and may wish to do in the future.
- The final route is agreed with input from CWEP
- There is an assurance given in writing that the pipework will not be vulnerable to damage by use of tractors in the field to undertake annual grass cuts
- Access to the field by contractors will be arranged with CWEP and via the gate on Crick Road
- It will not be practical to mark the route of the pipe under the field. Markers should be positioned at points where the pipe crosses boundaries so that fence posts will not be sited there when fencing is replaced.

Councillor Dawson proposed that we provide our contact details for the insurance company and then clarify all of these issues with them. Also to ask for proof of the prescriptive rights, any plans, previous permissions, information on their deeds and query any maintenance that has been carried out over the last 20 years. Council agreed.

M4563 MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULATION

To consider Definitive Map Modification Order to record routes A and B as public byways open to all traffic, Minnets Lane

Council agreed to defer until next month.

M4564 CAERWENT PUBLIC TOILETS

To consider the recommendations of the Toilets Working Group

Council noted.

Councillor Swift had contacted all contractors and received revised quotes apart from the painting. Agreed to accept Option 1 at £1790 for roof works and £2400 for windows. Painting quote to be considered at a later date. Agreed to install induction cable instead of insulation.

Councillor Counsell had checked the toilets for consumption/possible leaks and reported that there is a slight one in the back room. It was also reported that the tap in the men's toilet had been found on occasionally. Agreed to replace the two taps. Clerk will check meter readings and send to Councillors. Agreed that any works be delayed until the water situation is remedied.

M4565 WAR MEMORIAL

Councillor Swift had visited the site with a contractor. She was advised that the current slabs are Indian Sandstone. Advice was that the joints are very small so would be difficult to rake them out. To take the originals up and relay would not be recommended as it is already laminating now. New slabs and labour £954 + VAT, reclaimed slabs and labour £1600 + VAT. There would also be a cost for repainting the railings. Council agreed to discuss this project under the WW1 Centenary Commemorations proposals at a future meeting.

M4566 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

CLERK'S REPORT

Dates for Diaries

Toilets Working Group – Monday 6th November, 7.00 p.m. (Burton Homes Hall)

Remembrance Service – Sunday 12th November, 10.55 a.m. (Caerwent church)

MoD Meeting/Supper – Thursday 30th November, 6.00 p.m. (Shirenewton)

Transfer of Village Hall

MCC provided new map. Clerk hand delivered to Solicitor's office.

Time Team Field Wall

Councillor Haddow will be contacting the lease holder.

Dog Fouling

Councillors had placed bag holders onto bins and filled with bags. Agreed to put in newsletter that if anyone spots an empty holder to report straight away and we will fill up.

Agreed that we do not require any more bins in our area.

Wind Turbine, Rogiet School

Councillor George had discussed the situation with the Headteacher of Rogiet Primary School:

The cost to build the turbine was £55,000 achieved though securing grants.

The wind turbine generated energy per year to offset the school's energy bill by approximately £700-£800.

The intention of the wind turbine was to only ever offset the energy costs of the school and not to generate for the national grid or for any other similar energy provider.

The annual cost of maintaining the wind turbine was £900.

The turbine is now redundant and will need to be scrapped at a cost of £1,000+ to dismantle and a further cost for removal.

The Headteacher was disappointed about the performance of the wind turbine and the amount of time spent on this project trying to maintain it.

The Chairman was happy with the explanation which appeared to be a child led project with all good intentions.

Crick Sign

Reminded again.

Xmas Lighting

Tree will be up by 4th December, maximum of 20ft. Lights will be on by 5th December. All required information received from contractor.

Remembrance Service

Wreaths collected and delivered. Clerk had liaised with Highways and they will be delivering appropriate signage/cones to the closure locations. Councillors Lewis, George and Dawson will put these out on the day at 10.30 a.m.

Defibrillator

Instructed electrician to carry out necessary works (labour £110, materials £135). Councillor Haddow had only just been informed that the clear plastic front cover was damaged on arrival. She will visit to take photos. Agreed to let residents know in the newsletter of this new defibrillator and that training will be arranged soon. Agreed to send a letter of thanks to The Lions. Councillor Haddow will progress the provision of signage.

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

318 members

No issues to report, just information exchange.

MONTHLY PLAY AREA INSPECTION REPORT

No issues

ANNUAL ASSETS INSPECTION REPORT

Council noted. Agreed that CWEP be asked to quote for some of these.

M4567 CORRESPONDENCE

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations – courses available

Health Board – Review of Elderly Mental Health Services

Welsh Government – Burial Charges for Children

M4568 FINANCE

To consider balances/payment and approval as per finance schedule dated November 2017:

Balances as at 31ST October:

Moneymaster Account	£15,868.55
Community Account	£6,399.21
Petty Cash	£109.18

1.	Clerk's Salary, Allowances, Mileage (36)	(as per NALC scales)
2.	Inland Revenue	£49.23
3.	Torfaen Pension Fund	(employee) £47.89 (employer) £174.16
4.	Go Daddy (unlimited business email storage)	£86.29
5.	Caerwent Playing Fields Association Xmas Parties	£400.00
6.	Caerwent Church Xmas Lunch	£100.00
7.	Henry Burton Almshouse Charity (room hire)	£21.00
8.	Llanvair Landscapes Grasscutting £400, strimming plantations £160, hedge cutting LD & Trewen Play Areas & tracks at Five Lanes £340	£900.00
9.	Information Commissioner's Office – data protection Registration	£35.00
10.	Merlin Waste (dog bins)	£169.50
11.	Aardvarc Cleaning	£240.00
12.	MCC (annual grasscutting/play area inspections)	£2459.72

Agreed that any donations given out be asked to acknowledge the Community Council sponsorship on any promotion material. Agreed to query the lack of mention of our sponsorship within the newsletter.

Dog Bin Emptying - to consider price increase from £3.39 to £3.75 per unit with effect from April 2018 due to increased landfill, fuel and labour costs.

Council noted and agreed.

To consider quote of £2101.02 + VAT from MCC for 2018/19 continuing grasscutting contract/play area inspections.

Council noted and agreed.

M4569 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

To report any highways/rights of way issues

No 1 St Tathan's Place – hedge overgrown
Caerwent Gardens - laurel hedge blocking pavement
Branches and potholes on Highmoor Hill
Five Lanes old direction line onto A48 junction (black and white) fallen over.
NY592 street light not working

The Clerk reported that the hedge surrounding the dog bin at the Tump has been cut, all potholes reported have been added to MCC list, No Through Road sign on Sandy Lane bent over added to list, passing bays at Highmoor Hill added to sweeping reactive list.

M4570 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports.

M4571 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

WWI Centenary commemorations
Registration of Village Greens
Definitive Map Modification Order, Minnets Lane
Lack of response from Highways re Crick matters

Chair Date