

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD 14TH DECEMBER 2017

Present: Councillors
P Murphy (Chair)
B Dawson
K Evans
S George
P Lewis
K Swift

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

M4572 APOLOGIES

Received from Councillors Cousins and Haddow.

M4573 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillor P Murphy	All planning applications	Member Planning Committee
Councillor P Murphy	Caerwent Community Centre	Trustee
Councillor K Evans	Caerwent Historic Trustee	Trustee
Councillor B Counsell	Planning Application 2017/01309	Neighbour
Councillor B Counsell	Mons Citizens Advice Bureau	Trustee

M4574 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

M4575 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Cory informed the Council that they are still waiting for the 20 mph advisory sign on Sandy Lane. He has noted that the number of larger lorries has reduced but the traffic has not slowed down. The Chairman advised that Highways have now decided to go through a procedure to get this signage installed without going through the normal statutory consultation.

Mr Cory advised that he had been informed today of a revised planning application for the quarry and he is aware of a meeting that had been held with Caldicot Town Councillors. The Chairman informed Mr Cory that this is a re-consultation and the Community Council have also received notification of this today. In view of this late notification this Council will be requesting more time in order to consider this at our January meeting. The Chairman has already asked that if the Planning Officer is minded to recommend approval that it go before the Planning Committee and there will then be a site meeting.

A resident from Highmoor Hill queried the consultation regarding the Definitive Map Modification Order to record routes A and B as public byways open to all traffic, Minnets Lane. He was advised that this Council had sought clarification regarding Route B from MCC and it appeared that this is a separate issue to be dealt with at a later date. Councillor Lewis advised that Minnets Lane currently is a minor road but has never been listed as such so is open to all vehicles at the moment. Agreed to recommend that this be designated as a bridleway to protect the flora and fauna on both routes. Agreed to request some lockable barriers at either end between points A and C.

A resident queried the Upper Seven Acres Wood situation – agreed that the Clerk write again to the Planning Officer to check on progress.

M4576 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 9th NOVEMBER 2017

Council agreed that these were a true record with the following amendment:

p. 4 Caerwent Public Toilets

should read: “Agreed to accept Option 1 at £1790

M4577 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

Report received with minimal detail – no mention of investigations/outcomes or recent attempted break-ins. Councillor Dawson agreed to speak with the new Inspector about our misgivings. Councillors to inform Councillor Dawson of any particular concerns they have re police matters.

The Clerk informed the Council that PcsO Norville is now back at work on restricted duties but is hoping to attend our next Council meeting.

M4578 PLANNING

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

We have no experience/background regarding the detail to make a fair unbiased decision on the application. We did request information to be provided in layman terms but this was not forthcoming. We therefore recommend refusal.

**2017/01390 27 Highfield, Caerwent
Building of wooden pergola in back garden**

This Council recommends **Approval**

2017/01309 - Discharge of Conditions 2 and 3, Red Chillies Thai/Indian Restaurant, Five Lanes

This Council recommends **Approval**

**2017/01361 Ty Cefn, Five Lanes North, Caerwent
Extension of existing 2 stable blocks to add an additional stable plus small storage area**

This Council recommends **Approval**

To consider any planning applications received after despatch of agenda

Notification of two further applications (Caerwent Quarry and Giggleswick (Llanvair Discoed) had been received today. Agreed to seek further time in order to discuss these at our January Meeting.

M4579 WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

To consider Registration of Town and Village Greens

Agreed that there are no issues in our area.

M4580 MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION

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

Agreed to recommend that this be designated as a bridleway to protect the flora and fauna on both routes. Agreed to request some lockable barriers at either end between points A and C.

M4581 WORLD WAR I CENTENARY COMMEMORATIONS

To consider displaying large poppies throughout the main road in the village of Caerwent to match the number of fallen listed on the cenotaph. To liaise with neighbouring communities to link up with this.

This was discussed and it was agreed that metal poppies would be preferable made by a local blacksmith to be displayed throughout our villages and then onto the War Memorial railings.

To consider planting a tree for each of the fallen (at an agreed location following consultation with the community) which could have a name plaque of the individual in close proximity.

This was discussed and various sites were considered including the Playing Fields and MoD land with a possible remembrance garden using the existing trees.

To consider any other initiatives in this respect.

It was agreed that all of these suggested projects be engaged with the two schools of Rogiet and Shirenewton and also the MoD. Councillor George will speak with the Head at Rogiet to start the driving process.

War Memorial

To consider quotes regarding relaying of slabs and painting of railings. To consider any works required on the actual memorial.

Agreed that we require a plan and samples regarding the slabs before we can make any decision. Councillor Swift will chase this. Awaiting painting quote.

Agreed that the War Memorial needs cleaning.

Councillor Dawson and his wife offered to now look after the boxes at the cenotaph following the retirement of Mr/Mrs Maddox from this task. He will be in contact with them to discuss his intentions. Council thanked Councillor Dawson for this kind offer.

M4582 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

CLERK'S REPORT

Dates for Diaries

MoD meeting – Thursday 5th April, 11.00 a.m., Caerwent Training Area

Transfer of Village Hall

Requested progress report from Solicitor.

Time Team Field Wall

Councillor Haddow had reported that the leaseholder had informed her that their

remit was to return the field “in no worse state than they received it”. Agreed to ask Councillor Haddow to enquire if they had any intentions of repairing the wall.

Dog Fouling

New bin installed at Crick next to bus stop east – informed Merlin Waste.

Llanfair Discoed bin overfull and also at the Tump - Clerk will check which day the contractor empties and confirm frequency.

Defibrillator

Councillor Haddow liaising re training for defibrillator at Llanfair.

Clerk will be ordering ten plain signs, locations to be added by us.

Toilets

Pipe to the cistern has been fixed, two new taps installed.

No material change to the external appearance of the building so planning application not required.

Councillor Counsell will monitor the water usage situation for a month and if all satisfactory we give the go ahead to the contractor. (Painting £410 extra).

Clerk contacting electrician to obtain electrical certificate before work commences.

One of the lights is out but has to be replaced by entering the loft.

Councillor George will take photographs of asbestos now for our records and will check re statutory requirements. Councillor Swift will look into asbestos registers.

Xmas Tree lights

Very popular with residents (numerous positive comments on social media).

Collapsed Drain, Ballan Cottage, Crick

MCC have now given our contact details to the insurance company, no contact as yet.

Caerwent Community Council Education Award

The Chairman will carry out the judging at both schools in January. He will be contacting the Communications Team at MCC to see if there is any media interest.

Data Protection

New Data Protection requirements will come into effect next May. The draft bill has yet to go through parliament but the Society of Local Council Clerks intend to provide advice and support on this subject - this will include them providing a full set of model documentation.

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

336 members

Record number of positive comments re Xmas tree lighting

MONTHLY PLAY AREA INSPECTION REPORT

Not received this month.

REPORT RE MEETING WITH MOD/SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Noted. Agreed at next meeting to seek MoD/Car Rally site visits.

M4583 CORRESPONDENCE

One Voice Wales newsletter

Invitation to Stakeholders meeting 29th January – The Monmouthshire

Way – a new long distance path Councillor Dawson is hoping to attend.

Natural Resources Wales newsletter

Welsh Government – Agriculture Regulations Wales

Editor, Caerwent Newsletter – proposal to change production to bi-monthly.

Councillor Lewis proposed that the content be increased so that it is not so repetitive.

Councillor Evans advised that consultation on this will be carried out in the next newsletter. Agreed that our Chairman also mention this in his article.

M4584 FINANCE

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

Balances as at 30TH November:

Moneymaster Account	£14,870.06
Community Account	£1,303.95
Petty Cash	£63.28

1. Clerk's Salary/Allowances/Overtime	as per NALC scales
2. Inland Revenue	£75.16
3. Torfaen Pension Fund	(employee) £53.42
	(employer) £194.26
4. Aardvarc Cleaning (toilets)	£365.00
5. Merlin Waste (dog bins)	£135.60
6. Petty Cash	£186.00

Council noted and approved.

To note minutes of Finance Committee held 13th November and consider recommendations for the precept 2018/19.

Council noted that a letter of engagement had been provided to the Internal Auditor which listed the scope of the internal audit process. Agreed that the internal audit process is satisfactory.

Council agreed that reserves be earmarked for any required works on our two buildings (Village Hall, Community Centre), War Memorial repairs and any future possible redundancy payments.

Council considered a three year forecast and agreed that a further document be produced to show an annual increase of 2.5% on all spending.

Council agreed with recommendation that we request £48,000 precept for 2018/19.

To note Appropriate Sum under Section 137(4)(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 for Section 137 Expenditure: Limit for 2018-19 is £7.86

Council noted.

M4585 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

To report any highways/rights of way issues

Lamp post at Five Lanes House out. Reported numerous times – query four day repair contract. A48 50 mph speed sign knocked 180 degrees.

Litter in verges on Dewstow Road and near the entrance to the quarry. Councillor Swift advised that Keep Wales Tidy could possibly assist.

Highways Issues Updates from MCC

Overgrown hedge, 1 St Tathan's Place – notice already served by MCC.

Laurel hedge overgrown, Caerwent Gardens – notice now served on Meadow View.

Moss on pavement, Caerwent Gardens – added to list.

Old direction sign onto A48 – will programme repair.

Potholes/branches, Highmoor Hill – added to programme.

Cycle path slippery/weeds coming through, opposite Trewen – added to a prioritised list but risk is extremely low of accident happening so scored accordingly.

White lining required, A48 and Caldicot Road – lining on A48 still adequate, will be looking to refresh in next financial year. Caldicot Road will be completed shortly.

STOP lettering and white lining requires renewal, crossroads – on the list to be done but existing marking is still adequate.

Councillor Counsell concerned about MCC response re cycle path on A48 which was renewed a few years ago at some expense. It will become particularly dangerous at night if no action is taken – bumps are 2 inches high and the brambles take up a third of the cycle path. He feels this is a neglect of council property and queried the cost of the new track. The Chairman will seek to have a site meeting with Nigel Leeworthy of MCC regarding this issue. Councillor Swift advised that possibly Sustrans could help with tidying up any cycle paths – she will provide contact details to the Clerk.

To consider lack of response from Highways re Crick issues.

Councillor Swift was concerned about the lack of response to Crick issues reported several times to Highways either by herself or the Clerk. She agreed to send her report to the Clerk again who will chase this. Councillor Dawson advised that it is very important to report any road traffic concerns to the police so that it can be logged.

M4586 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Historic Trust meeting in January, to be announced in the newsletter.

Crick Wildlife & Environment Project request help re ragwort pulling on the MoD land inside the base at the west entrance.

M4587 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Councillors to inform Clerk.

Chair Date

