

## **MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2012**

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

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council  
11 Members of the Public

### **M3783 APOLOGIES**

Received from Councillors Swift and Vosloo.  
The Chairman presented apologies from the Chief Officer (Regeneration & Culture, MCC) who had hoped to attend this meeting.

### **M3784 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mrs Davies who was hoping to raise a concern with the Chief Officer was advised to write to the Chairman who will then pass this on.

Mrs Williams was pleased to hear that the Council had made some enquiries regarding funding to reinstate Pumps into Caerwent village. She handed to the Council historical information and stated that she had received a favourable response from villagers so far. She had located part of one of the pumps and the villager who currently has it on their land would probably be willing to pass it back to the community. Councillor Counsell will liaise with Mrs Williams to progress this project.

Mr Harris queried if the Standing Orders dated 10<sup>th</sup> May 2001 were correct. He was informed that they were.

Mrs Edwards felt that a dog bin should be provided on Green Lane rather than School Lane. The Chairman informed her that the location can easily be changed if necessary.

Mrs Edwards was concerned about the road closure which takes place every year during Remembrance Sunday. She was informed that this is for one hour only once a year but we will ensure that the police open up the road as soon as possible.

Mr Edwards was of the opinion that at the recent exhibition regarding the road enhancements a sealed box for comments should have been provided. Mr Edwards expressed concern that at the recent Coach & Horses fireworks display there was no control of traffic. The Chairman informed him that we had requested that the Cadw car park be utilised and marshalls used.

### **M3785 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD 11<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER and 23<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER 2012**

These were agreed with the following amendment:

“Merton Green Action Group” page 1 11<sup>th</sup> October 2012

### **M3786 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Merton Green Action Group  
Caerwent Community Centre  
Citizens Advice Bureaux

Councillor Cousins  
Councillor Murphy  
Councillor Counsell

### **M3787 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT**

Pcso Norville had sent his apologies and a police report which the Clerk read out. He will be visiting the area with the Environmental Health Officer re dog fouling and is monitoring heavy lorries through the village.

### **M3788 MATTERS ARISING**

#### **Merton Green**

The open space and play areas on the Merton Green development will be adopted by MCC as a Leisure Adoption. They will maintain all areas. There will be “No Dogs Allowed” signs in all three play areas. It was agreed to look at locations for two dog bins. Councillor Cousins reported that one house recently occupied is now up for sale due to noise from the base – it was agreed that their Solicitor should have informed them of this.

#### **School Lane & Caerwent Village Traffic Enhancement Scheme**

This will go for single Cabinet Member decision on 14<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **Circular Walk**

Councillor Counsell was disappointed that he had made no progress due to lack of response from the Leisure Manager at MCC. The Chairman asked Councillor Counsell to provide him with all sent emails.

#### **Caerwent Playing Fields Trees/Play Area**

Council reported on meeting held with Playing Fields Committee on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

Current lease is made out to Caerwent Community Council. Order put in for immediate tree works – will be carried out this month – Playing Fields Committee informed.

The Chairman reported on previous accounting procedures of the Playing Fields Committee and Council noted that all amounts were in order.

#### **Time Team Field**

Still awaiting lease from MCC.

#### **Cwrt Morgan Adoption**

Councillor Evans reported that they are still awaiting a new light.

#### **War Memorial Names**

Councillor Evans had completed extensive research on names and it appeared that most appeared on War Memorials in other towns. It was agreed to add one extra name.

### **Provision of Allotments**

Clerk reminded Estates Department – no reply to date.

### **“Gated Entrance” A48**

Council noted that new “gates” had now been installed.

### **Provision of Dog Friendly Stiles**

Clerk reminded Head of Countryside – no reply to date.

### **Dog Waste Bins**

Three new bins should be installed this month.

### **Proposed re-instatement of Village Pumps**

Bringing Your Village Alive Officer, MCC, had replied intimating that we may be eligible for funding under either Sense of Roots or Bringing your Village Alive schemes depending upon the approach. For example if we have old photographs of the pumps that were there originally, and wish to replicate them, this could potentially be funded under BYVA. If we are looking to include them as part of an interpretive scheme giving some information about the history of the village, then they could potentially be funded under Sense of Roots scheme. This had been discussed under Public Participation. Councillor Counsell agreed to progress this.

### **Wormtech**

Statement from Wormtech put in latest community newsletter. The Chairman advised the Council that MCC had severed the contract with Wormtech.

### **Supper with MoD – Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

Representatives from local organisations had been invited.

### **Remembrance Service – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November**

Road closure arranged, bugler invited, wreaths delivered to organisations. It was agreed that Councillor Hedley lay our wreath and Councillor Counsell read out the names.

### **Blocked Footpath – Grayhill to Tripp**

MCC have made a site visit and will be writing to the landowner.

### **Best Kept Village Signage, Llanfair Discoed**

Council agreed to discuss this next month when Councillor Vosloo would be present.

### **Trees, Westwood Farm**

Councillor Counsell met with the Tree Officer on 30<sup>th</sup> October. They agreed that one oak is already dead and there are others in the vicinity (all oaks) that would warrant protection by a Tree Preservation Order. The Tree Officer has put a new order in hand with Legal Services and we will be informed when this has been served on the relevant landowners/occupiers.

## **Citizens Advice Bureaus**

Councillor Counsell reported on funding of CABs where in the future each Bureau will have to put out to tender. The smaller Bureaux will consequently not be able to attract funding streams associated with being a larger entity. A merger of all four Monmouthshire Bureaux has therefore been proposed effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013, supported by MCC, so that they can compete on level terms. This will mean that any grants will go into a central pot. They currently receive funding from MCC, the Welsh Assembly Government and Community Councils. He confirmed that no buildings will close, the public should not see any difference but the management structure would be merged. 4,000 clients are seen each year at Caldicot with 10,000 problems.

The Chairman confirmed that MCC are supporting this merger as they do not want to lose the CABs who provide a very valuable service for the residents of the area. Councillor Counsell sought assurance that our current level of financial support would continue under the new arrangement. This was agreed and would be confirmed under Finance Precept.

## **M3789 PLANNING**

### **2012/00852 Per Ardua, Carrow Hill**

Garage/Workshop

*This Council recommends **Approval***

### **2012/00737 The Glen, St Brides**

New House to Replace Existing

*This Council recommends **Refusal***

The Glen is a particular example of a very local Monmouthshire vernacular and the epitome of “the country cottage”. Should be preserved as part of our local, and indeed, our national architectural history and heritage. The proposed design is a typically contemporary pastiche of ancient and modern more suited to the urban executive home rather than this landscape which is recognised as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. A large number of trees have been removed – some of which were mature specimen examples – some 70 years in age. The magnolia tree was an excellent specimen. Query approval sought for removal of trees. Existing access to the property is shown as being retained. However, the existing access has already been altered without permission – query if stream has been piped under a new culvert. Not in keeping with surrounding area.

Council noted current stage of Local Development Plan and that a report is being taken to a meeting of Full Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> November at Caldicot Leisure Centre.

## **M3790 FINANCE**

Council agreed payments as per Finance Schedule dated November 2012. Council considered the Precept for 2013/14 and agreed not to increase the current figure of £40,000.

Councillor Haddow queried why the Community Council took over the ownership of the toilets in Caerwent. The Chairman advised that when MCC decided to close a few toilets in Monmouthshire we were offered the Caerwent ones. We had consulted with the community at the time and received no objections. Councillor Counsell confirmed that they are used frequently by both locals and visitors and the Cadw toilets in the village are rarely open. We had considered at the time that we did not want another depressing

derelict building in the centre of the village. We had run them in the first year for £4,500, as opposed to the cost of £8,200 when they were managed by MCC.

Councillor Counsell reported that the villager who recently painted the War Memorial did so without charge.

### **M3791 CORRESPONDENCE**

MONMOUTHSHIRE HOUSING

“Love Where You Live” Scheme. Drop-in session on 4<sup>th</sup> December

JAMES HARRIS, MYRTLE COTTAGE, CAERWENT

For our information he had asked questions at the Strong Communities Select Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> October regarding the in-vessel composting facilities operation 2003/2012 and The Environment and Water Framework Directive in relation to Caerwent, Llanfair Discoed and the Neddern catchment.

JAMES HARRIS, MYRTLE COTTAGE, CAERWENT

Caerwent Community Centre building query re asbestos in sealed external Boiler Room

(Response from Secretary of Caerwent Community Centre Committee advising that recently two 9” square holes near ground level on the north wall have been covered with plywood set on mastic sealant and then screwed back on the wall. Mastic sealant has also been applied around the outer edges of the plywood. The gaps between the doorframe and the wall have been sealed, the larger ones with polyurethane foam, the smaller ones with mastic sealant. Also battens have been fastened to the inside faces of the doorframe and the floor and draught excluder foam has been glued to the battens. The door closes tightly against the foam. His opinion is that the exposure risk was negligible before the work was carried out. The MoD were responsible for the management of the asbestos up until April 2012. For this purpose they employed a specialist contractor whose only requirement for the Boiler Room was to fit a warning notice and to stipulate that the door be kept locked with the key available to only one person. An asbestos survey was carried out in March 2012).

IMPROVEMENT SUPPORT OFFICER, MCC

Improvement Plan

OMBUDSMAN

Ombudsman Casebook

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Emergency Contacts Directory

Council confirmed contacts as Councillors Murphy, Evans and Cousins.

### **M3792 VILLAGE GREEN, CENTRE OF CAERWENT (CENOTAPH AREA)**

Council considered recent excavation works carried out by the owner of Myrtle Cottage on the Village Green whereby tarmac had been removed and chippings installed. The Chairman had received complaints from villagers regarding this and had asked the Highways Inspector to make a site visit. He had done so and reported that the chippings are not dangerous, the area is flat and the spillage of stones likely to be restricted. The owner, Mr Harris, has agreed that a line from face of stone wall to face of adjacent stone wall will be surfaced with hot bitumen surfacing. This would, in effect, be the old verge line and would put additional distance between the carriageway from where the chippings are placed on private property. He has asked Mr Harris to undertake the work in 56 days. He will confirm the details in a letter to Mr Harris.

Mr Harris was advised that any works in this area would require the permission of the Community Council as this area is designated a Village Green. The Clerk had looked in previous files and it appeared that any new owners of houses surrounding the Village Green should have been informed by their solicitor that an easement be sought from the Community Council. He was advised to apply for an easement to his property through his Solicitor.

Councillor Counsell proposed that Cadw be contacted due to the possible archaeological disturbance. Council noted that Welsh Water and Daniels Electrics had attended the area recently and had dug very deep with no watching brief from Cadw. It was agreed to contact Cadw.

### **M3793 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY**

Bus shelter eastgate cement cracked.

Bollards light out – Cwrt Morgan

Flooding on St Brides Road - bricks occasionally removed from retaining wall of Rock Cottages in order to alleviate problems further down the valley. It was agreed to write to Welsh Water to enquire about dropping the reservoir in order to control the flooding at St Brides.

Burton Homes – pitch black – not very well lit at night.

### **M3794 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

There were no representative reports

Chairman ..... Date .....