

## **MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD 9<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2015**

Present: Councillors:  
K Evans (Chairman)  
B Counsell  
K Haddow  
P Lewis  
E Saville  
K Stock  
K Swift

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council  
Jeanette Reis/Joe Frampton, Tidal Lagoon Power

### **M4280 APOLOGIES**

Councillors Cousins, Murphy and Trayler-Smith.

### **M4281 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Councillor K Evans	Caerwent Historic Trust	Trustee
Councillor K Stock	Caerwent Playing Fields Assoc	Committee Member
Councillor K Swift	Crick Wildlife Group Quote	Committee Member

### **M4282 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman wished to add to the agenda two extra items:

Speeding within the area.  
Quote re assets repairs.

### **M4283 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

### **M4284 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 11<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2015**

These were agreed as a true record.

### **M4285 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT**

The monthly report had been circulated to all Councillors.

### **M4286 PRESENTATION FROM DR JEANETTE REIS (DEVELOPMENT MANAGER), TIDAL LAGOON POWER**

The Chairman welcomed Jeanette Reis and Joe Frampton from Tidal Lagoon Power. Jeanette explained that this is a new UK industry, that they are a private for profit UK based company and are looking to talk to all stakeholder groups.

The presentation concerned plans for the development of tidal lagoons at Swansea, Cardiff and Newport. This described the elements of the tidal lagoon for Swansea which has been approved and gave an outline of what the lagoons in

Cardiff (much larger) and Newport might include. The UK offers the best opportunities in Europe. Key points were:

- Generate electricity by constructing a sea wall - power generated from the difference in water levels. Primarily energy generation but will provide facilities
- Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon would be the first of its kind in the world
- Will serve 155,000 homes and is relatively small, 9.5 km wall length
- The proposal had attracted considerable community support
- The ultimate plan was to have 6 lagoons in the UK with four of them in Wales with a lifespan of 120 years
- The cost of tidal power was lower than nuclear energy
- The eco and bio-diversity features of the Swansea Bay lagoon as well as the public attractions to be constructed were outlined which included a major water sports facility
- Extensive public consultation had been held
- The elements of the project plan and the planned stages of completion were outlined - four year construction for each lagoon
- Issues relating to sources of material and engineering supplies were explained
- An extensive amount of work had been undertaken with NRW to deal with potential issues
- A significant number of jobs in the construction industry would be created as well as jobs to support the ongoing maintenance of the lagoon

A plan showing the possible area covered by the Cardiff and Newport lagoons was shown and it was noted that the Company was intending to submit a planning application by 2017. As is the case with the Swansea development, the Company would be looking to provide a range of community benefits and would be carrying out wide consultations to identify what benefits were supported and then assess their feasibility. The approval of the Secretary of State for Energy would be required for the proposals to proceed. A particular focus of the Cardiff and Newport schemes was the possibility of including flood defence provision. The Cardiff lagoon would serve 1 million homes.

In the discussion that took place, the following comments were made:

Query regarding coastline – this would not change and water would be held up in the lagoon for about 2.5 hours each day in order to generate the turbines.

Concerns expressed about the impact on the wildlife habitats of the mud flats. The Company advised that the impact on the mud flats was currently being modelled to assess the impact and implications for wildlife. If it was found that there was an unacceptable impact it would be necessary to find alternative facilities for wading birds and other wildlife. They are currently in discussions with the RSPB and the British Trust for Ornithology.

Fishing rights were queried – the Company is working with 350 angling groups on this.

Impact on the environment – 6 lagoons is the equivalent of 4416 offshore wind turbines or 10 reactors.

Cost of electricity - would be lower than other sources over the 125 year life-time of the lagoon but would be higher in the first 30 years as the cost of the investment was re-couped.

Concern if the project did not actually produce the required result. They have an Adaptive Environmental Monitoring Plan in case of this. This has the authority and responsibility to look at Swansea in the long term and have the resources to put it right. They will very much learn from Swansea before constructing more lagoons.

Maintenance costs query – will come out of profit margin.

Need to educate our children re this new power source - Swansea Education Officer working with schools and universities and the company are arranging to visit all community and town councils.

#### **M4287 PLANNING**

There were no planning applications to consider.

Agreed that any applications received over the August period be delegated to three Councillors.

#### **M4288 TIME TEAM FIELD, CAERWENT**

*To consider any offers of help/involvement from community*

Suggestions had been received but no actual offers of help or involvement. .

*To consider MCC response in relation to boundary walls*

MCC had confirmed that the neighbours query was inaccurate and the leaseholder was indeed responsible for the maintenance of the boundary walls

*To consider recommendation of Working Group:*

“We await any response from the newsletter. In view of the fact that the original project has fallen through, if we do not receive any offers of help/involvement from the community then we terminate the lease early as we do not have the resources to undertake the proposed project.”

Council voted on this recommendation with the result being:

5 For, 1 Against, 1 Abstention

The recommendation was therefore carried. Councillor Counsell wished to record that he voted against this.

#### **M4289 MONMOUTHSHIRE/TORFAEN YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM**

*To consider inviting an Officer to attend a future meeting to explain their work*  
This was agreed.

## **M4290 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME**

*In view of The Pension Regulators advice to consider transferring from current stakeholder provider to the Local Government Pension Scheme.*

The Short Guide to the Local Government Pension Scheme had been provided to Councillors. Council noted the contribution rates and agreed to transfer to the LGPS.

## **M4291 TO RECEIVE REPORTS**

### **CLERK'S REPORT:**

#### **Dates for Diaries**

MoD/Shirenewton Joint Meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> November, 6.00 p.m. at Shirenewton.

#### **Caerwent Toilets**

Councillor Haddow progressing this.

#### **Litter in Area**

Requested interest and help from residents in newsletter and on Facebook – 1 reply received to date. Clerk advised that Keep Wales Tidy would need more than 1 volunteer to commence the project.

#### **Outstanding Issues – Merton Green**

Tim O'Donovan of MCC will send us his snagging list when completed.

#### **Allotments**

Councillor Saville had contacted our MP who had in turn written to the MoD and MCC – awaiting response.

#### **Oak Tree, Merton Green**

Reply from MCC: If the tree is either dead or in poor condition, then it will be replaced again prior to adoption. You are not able to TPO a tree until it reaches semi maturity, around 20 years of age.

#### **Tree Preservations Orders – Tree A48 Merton Green**

MCC confirmed that our previous request to TPO these has been approved.

#### **Community Asset Transfer**

Councillor Murphy had met with Estates to query certain points – info sent over to CPFA who will now prepare a draft lease but MCC will advise on this. Clerk had sent contact information on Gwent Energy over to the CPFA.

Councillor Haddow agreed to clarify with the CPFA the terms and conditions of the Trail recently installed on the field.

### **Speed Camera**

Clerk had asked for vegetation surrounding camera to be cut back.

### **Tree Plantations, Old Roman Road, Caerwent**

Councillor Counsell had met up with our contractor on site – awaiting quote for removal of one dead walnut tree and raising of crowns.

### **Trewen Junction, A48**

Councillor Murphy has requested that this be made more visible.

### **Social Media Report**

The amount of members on our Facebook page had doubled over the last month.

### **Caerwent House**

Latest information: MCC are in discussion with a Welsh-based Building Preservation Trust with a view to entering into a Back to Back agreement to enable completion of the Compulsory Purchase that has been agreed by Welsh Government. They have regular meetings with the Trust to progress this. They have commissioned a valuation and are meeting the valuer this month to discuss their assessment. In the meantime they are reviewing the works needed for making the shell of the building safe, wind and water-tight and in the first instance have commissioned temporary protection to the roof to prevent the building's condition deteriorating too much further. A bespoke tarpaulin has been manufactured and this work will be completed as soon as they have carried out a further bat survey. They remain committed to rescuing this important and very prominent listed building and are confident that its historic character is capable of repair and reuse.

### **M4292 QUOTE RE ASSETS REPAIRS**

Agreed to add this onto the agenda as these works are better carried out during the summer months. Quote for sanding down/treating of benches/noticeboards £500. This was agreed.

### **M4293 CORRESPONDENCE**

MCC Countryside Newsletter  
MCC – War Memorials in Wales  
One Voice Wales – Birthday Honours 2016

### **M4294 FINANCE**

Council agreed payment of finance schedule dated July 2015.

## **M4295 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY**

*To consider correspondence from resident re speeding within the area*

Agreed to support resident in their campaign against speeding in our area. Inform that we believe that enforcement is extremely important re this issue. Also make them aware of the Speedwatch Scheme. It was confirmed that various names had been put forward for this scheme to our local PCSO.

Area between the Temple and the Post Office (known locally as The Orchard) and the field at the back of the Forum Basilica (running from School Lane and Burton Homes Road) are waist high in nettles and grass – footpath virtually inaccessible.

The left-side verge between Byeways and the North Gate entrance to the village is overgrown with nettles and brambles.

The trees in the garden adjacent to the Church need to be pollarded.

Previously reported but the footpath in Burton Homes Road is still overgrown with nettles, making it impossible to use. Also the connecting stile to other end of this footpath at Eastgate is now overgrown due to lack of use because of the problem at the other end.

Speeding vehicles on road just inside the fence of the MoD – mainly contractors.

Tracks at Five Lanes need trimming.

A48 hedging needs trimming – difficult to cycle (Councillor Haddow to confirm exact location).

## **M4296 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Mons CAB has now officially taken over the Monmouth Citizens Advice Bureau.

## **M4297 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Play Equipment Review – all three Play Areas (Caerwent, Trewen, Llanfair Discoed).

Planting of tree on tree plantation, Roman Road.

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

