

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD 11TH JUNE 2015

Present: Councillors:
K Evans (Chairman)
B Counsell
G Cousins
K Haddow
P Lewis
K Stock
R Trayler-Smith

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council
Pcso T Norville

M4262 APOLOGIES

Received from Councillors Murphy, Saville and Swift.

M4263 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillor K Evans	Historic Trust	Trustee
Councillor K Stock	CPFA	Committee Member

M4264 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

M4265 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

M4266 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 14TH MAY 2015

The minutes were agreed with the following amendment:

p. 5 M4282 Highways/Rights of Way
should read "Woodcock Cottage", Highmoor Hill

M4267 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

Pcso Norville reported on crime in the area. He advised that his monthly report now includes crime prevention measures. He has been aiding teaching first aid in schools, ie cpr. Councillor Stock advised that the CPFA have been looking into providing a defibrillator at the Village Hall. Pcso Norville requested the date and time of the Caerwent Show so that he can make arrangements to attend.

Councillor Cousins confirmed that he is still investigating the Community Speedwatch Scheme. Pcso Norville agreed that this scheme is a positive deterrent.

M4268 PLANNING

Rockfield Farm, Undy Development Site
Council noted.

2015/00663 Northgate House, A48, Caerwent

Discharge of Condition 5 (Archaeological Watching Brief) from planning consent
2012/00578
Council noted.

M4269 ALLOTMENTS

Council considered the current position regarding allotment provision.

The Chairman reminded the Council that we had over the years contacted MCC, the MoD and local landowners regarding possible land but had not received any positive response. Cadw had confirmed that digging would not be allowed in the Time Team Field, although raised beds could be considered. Agreed to ask Councillor Saville to contact our MP to request his help in contacting MCC and the MoD.

M4270 DINHAM NOTICEBOARD

To consider replacement.

Councillor Cousins reported that he had removed the Dinham noticeboard as it was in a poor state of repair. The Clerk had contacted Usk Prison to enquire if they are currently producing noticeboards for sale - they are presently recruiting for a joinery teacher. Clerk to continue checking on progress.

M4271 PROVISION OF PICNIC BENCHES/BINS ON CAERWENT PLAYING FIELDS

Council considered quotes received and agreed to opt for the recycled ones available.

Agreed that we purchase four picnic benches and three bins. Agreed to also add leg fixings for the benches to deter theft.

Agreed that these be paid for from the "Captain America" fund – noted that this fund will have been used up following this payment.

M4272 TIME TEAM FIELD, CAERWENT

Council considered the recommendations of the 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 from the community then we terminate the lease early as we do not have the resources to undertake the proposed project.

Two responses received so far – introduction of bee hives and use by horses.

Agreed that we would need specialists re bee hives and there is no shelter provision for horses.

Councillor Counsell explained the background to the lease of the Time Team Field. MCC were originally going to sell the land with the Great House Farm estate - we disagreed with this as we felt the field should remain in public ownership due to the archaeology. We persuaded them not to and they then suggested handing over the field to Cadw but taking £20,000 out of the Section 106 monies to pay for it. We again disagreed with this and they then offered the field to us on a five year lease at £250 per year which we agreed to so as to protect the archaeological land from private ownership.

Council considered Structural Survey carried out recently on the stone wall. Previous remedial works on the corner of the wall immediately adjacent to Roman Road had been undertaken to stabilise the corner, the work was to a good standard and is holding up well. The 'Cock and Hen' coping stones are loose and will require to be removed and re-bedded. Foliage will need to be carefully removed to allow the mortar joints to be raked out and repointed. Works should be undertaken at a suitable time of year where correct weather conditions are available to ensure the workability of the lime based mortar.

In view of the fact that a neighbouring property had been querying ownership of the boundary walls agreed to seek clarification from MCC re this and future maintenance.

The Monmouthshire Meadows management plan would see the field become species-rich but would take several years and would require volunteer/villager involvement.

Agreed to await response re boundary walls, any other responses to our requests for help and then consider the Working Group proposal again.

(Councillor Edwards joined the meeting).

M4273 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

CLERK'S REPORT

Dates for Diaries

MoD/Shirenewton Joint Meeting – 26th November, 6.00 p.m.@ Shirenewton.

Caerwent Toilets

Councillor Haddow had contacted the villager who had volunteered to carry out the roof soffit and fascia works on the toilets. The fascias will be provided free by Monmouthshire Windows and all labour will be free. Further works still being considered. Councillor Haddow will contact the Health & Safety Manager at MCC re regulations.

Litter in Area

Reply from Keep Wales Tidy:

Their remit is to help community groups/ volunteers to look after their local environment. On the litter front they could sign up individuals as Litter Champions and give them some kit, guidance, and insurance cover to work independently on their patch. They could facilitate a group litter pick session with a group of our volunteers, providing equipment, risk assessment and guidance. Ideally this would be with a view to some kind of regular thing going forward. They could then help with options like setting up a group that could apply for some funds for equipment and insurance. Agreed to advertise this in the newsletter and on Facebook.

Council were concerned that when taking red and purple recycled bags to the tip that they are then placed by the operatives in the general rubbish pile. Agreed to query this. Also the A48 in the tip area needs clearing of rubbish more regularly.

Tidal Lagoon Power

A representative from Tidal Lagoon Power will attend our next meeting.

Blocked Footpaths/Request for Barrier

Highways Manager had visited the site but could not see any merit in providing a barrier. Ownership of footpath still being queried with MCC.

Bench – Cadw Garden

Has been removed.

Education Awards

Replies from Heads of School that they are happy to continue with this award.

Agreed that “Living in Monmouthshire – What you Like About it” would be an appropriate project for this year with a prize giving ceremony in each school attended by Councillors. Agreed that an in school project would be preferable from September onwards with the deadline of Christmas.

Pension

Current stakeholder pension does not come under the criteria for the new pensions regulations. Contacted MCC to enquire about their pension scheme – awaiting reply.

Woodcock Cottage, Highmoor Hill, 71-10 being used by off road vehicles for access to Slade Road

Reply from Definitive Maps Officer that this is still a highway and they are unaware of any extinguishment order. They are raising this with their management and Highways. Councillor Lewis was concerned that ownership needs to be clarified as neighbours have issues with the mess involved and who is responsible for clearing it.

Outstanding Issues – Merton Green

Still to finish off are the area of quite enjoyment plus the play area to the side of plot 43. All other landscaping issues have been completed. Barratts' Completion Manager is in contact with Tim O'Donovan of MCC with regards to site handover.

Councillor Murphy had met Tim O'Donovan and the Barratts rep on site. Councillor Cousins had provided photographic evidence of the un-drained parts of the play areas. They dealt with several residents' queries including the access problem at the triangle – MCC Solicitors will be providing their view on this next week. Tim O'Donovan will provide to Barratts a snagging list before he will adopt the site and Councillor Murphy has asked if we could be provided with a copy.

Agreed that we ask Tim O'Donovan to ensure that the fencing/hedging on A48 be returned to as previous and that we seek confirmation that our request to put Tree Preservation Orders on the A48 Merton Green trees has been approved.

Carrow Hill – Proposed Mirror

Mirrors are no longer permitted on highways.

Social Media Report

There are now 45 members and interest is gradually growing.

Report on Working Group Meeting with CPFA

MCC had sent the current deed and title documents. Any transfer must include the Tenancy at Will. Apart from the fact that the Field is a Field in Trust and permission must be sought there are no other issues re the Title Deed.

The alternatives appeared to be to have either a freehold transfer or a long leasehold transfer. The CPFA preference is that the Community Council take the freehold and they take a long lease. The CPFA set out the parameters from their point of view. They felt that there should be standard terms in a lease of this nature. It has not been clarified by MCC as to whether the actual Fields will be transferred at the same time as the Hall.

The tenant (CPFA) should be responsible for insuring the building and the Community Council the land. A fully repairing lease to the tenant would be appropriate.

The car park situation (including fence and boulders) requires clarification as to whether this be taken on by the CPFA or the Community Council.

Drainage information requires discussion. If the drains service the Hall they may be the responsibility of the building, ie CPFA. Need to consider future blockage problems.

All equipment will have to be inspected monthly, the play equipment will have to be replaced eventually and we may wish to add to the Trail at some point.

A lease term of 125 years was proposed- agreed to seek advice from MCC. A peppercorn rent of £1 was proposed. The CPFA outlined their income and expenditure. Agreed that the lease be on a commercial basis where they pay their bills. Advised to maybe charge more for wedding events, especially when they have improved facilities. Breakclause that the tenant can give six months notice.

A detailed business plan is required. Councillor Murphy agreed to check with MCC on this and he will also check the Raglan application which has recently gone into MCC.

Red Card Dog Fouling Scheme

Councillor Cousins had attended a meeting at MCC and had been given information and posters. He had placed some of these at appropriate sites. He will arrange to place others at the Forestry entrance and on the Playing Fields in Caerwent.

M4274 CORRESPONDENCE

Local Democracy Manager, MCC – Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements

Newport City Council - Proposal to establish a Welsh-medium secondary school in Newport

Home Start Monmouthshire – notice of AGM

South Wales Automobile Club – notification of Car Rally at Training Area on 21st June

M4275 FINANCE

Council considered and approved payment as per finance schedule dated June 2015.

Council considered and approved the Annual Return 2014/15. Signed by the Chairman.

Council considered and approved the effectiveness of Internal Control and agreed that there were no issues of concern.

M4276 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

Council considered visibility issues on A48 at entrance to Llanfair Discoed. Noted that this had been rectified at the time. MCC had intimated that they cannot cut on a more regular basis due to cost restraints but if we contact them with one-off requests they will consider. Agreed to report that the Trewen and St Brides Road junctions require cutting.

Tree plantations (walnut/cherry) on Roman Road (west and east) require works. One dead walnut tree, clearing out scrub, brambles and ivy, raising the crowns. Request quotes.

Oak tree at Merton Green provided by Barratts requires protection.

Japanese knotweed growing inside of gate at Tip.

A48 Five Lanes to tip and onto Pen-y-lan pathway bad state of repair – dangerous for cyclists and pedestrians.

Noted scaffolding on Caerwent House. Agreed to check on current situation so that we can give residents accurate information.

Lane adjacent to Green Lane House – poor state of repair.

M4277 AGREED TO EXTEND STANDING ORDERS BY TEN MINUTES

M4278 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Counsell reported that Monmouth Citizens Advice Bureau will be closing down on 30th June. On 1st July Monmouthshire County CAB will be moving in and taking over the management and building up a relationship with the volunteers. The Trustees will not be transferring over but so far there are 14 existing volunteers who will help to continue to provide a good service where typically they advise 1,500 people annually.

M4279 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Councillors to inform Clerk of any items.

Chairman Date

