

**MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD 9TH FEBRUARY
2012**

Present: P Murphy (Chairman) K Swift
 B Counsell R Trayler-Smith
 G Cousins D Vosloo
 K Evans

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council
 Ps R Giles
 PcsO T Norville

Members of Public: T Meredith, Old Roman Road, Caerwent
 E Jones, Ash Tree Road, Caerwent
 Mr/Mrs Edwards, Old Roman Road, Caerwent
 W Edwards, Yew Tree Farm, Llanvair Discoed
 A Spooner, Centurion Court, Caerwent
 B Smith, Ash Tree Road, Caerwent
 A Davies, Llangerrig, Five Lanes

M3677 APOLOGIES

Received from Councillors Kidger, Lewis and Hedley.

M3678 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs Edwards stated that in the local Free Press on 18th January 2012 our Chairman was quoted as saying that the whole village was supportive of the closure of School Lane. The Chairman disputed this and requested sight of this article. This was produced and there was no mention of the alleged quote. Mrs Edwards informed the meeting that she had spoken to the reporter who had verbally given her this information. The Chairman repeated that he had never made this declaration and informed the meeting that any decision on this will be made by a Cabinet Member of MCC once the current traffic survey has been completed.

Mr Edwards expressed concern that he and his neighbour had not received any communication regarding their planning applications from 2 years ago. The Chairman agreed to check progress on this.

Mrs Jones was pleased to see police presence at our meetings again. Melin Housing had contacted her after the last Council meeting to discuss her complaints and they were not aware that there were drug related problems on the estate. Mr Smith was concerned at the allocations awarded to drug related individuals on the Merton Green estate and queried if they should be vetted. He expressed concern that problems such as these have not been experienced in the last 36 years – he cited an example of police having to knock down doors to remove tenants. Ps Giles confirmed that one particular tenant has indeed been evicted and is currently in prison – he will speak with Melin re their allocations. The Chairman confirmed that he had already been in contact with Melin to remind them of the protected policy for affordable housing, ie should be for local people and key workers, and that we will not tolerate unsuitable allocations. Mr Spooner was of the opinion that this destruction of the way of life for existing Merton Green residents is due to this development being allowed to go ahead.

Mr Smith reported a large pothole at the junction of School Lane/A48.

M3679 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 12TH JANUARY 2012

These were agreed with the following amendment:

p.4 M3674 Correspondence 3.

Should read:

“.....with regards to repairs to the stone walls within the village of Caerwent”

M3680 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor P Murphy

Old Gym Committee

Councillor G Cousins

Merton Green Action Group

M3681 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

The Chairman introduced Ps Roland Giles and PcsO Tim Norville and welcomed them to the meeting. Ps Giles apologised for the lack of police attendance due to staff shortages. He will attend our future meetings and if not PcsO Norville will attend on his behalf.

He reported that for the current financial year crime is 45% down. There have been 40 crimes in Caerwent which equate to 4 per month. The detection rate is 32.5% which is above target.

A query was made concerning a male with a white van travelling the area allegedly looking for children. Ps Giles confirmed that this was reported in the Undy/Rogiet area but no crime had actually been committed.

The Chairman asked if the Village Hall car park could be monitored in the evenings as we have had complaints previously regarding anti-social behaviour. PcsO Norville agreed to patrol the area.

Councillor Cousins reported that a car transporter had arrived in Merton Green on 2nd February to deliver a car and within a short while the police were in attendance. He had been informed that this was drug related.

Councillor Swift queried if she could receive police reports for her Crick email notifications. She was advised to join Owl on-line Watch.

M3682 MATTERS ARISING

Merton Green

The Housing Department had contacted Mrs E Jones re complaints from last meeting.

Reply from David Davies, MP, re compensation, stating that he had written on two occasions but Barratts were unwilling to award this.

Reply from Barratts indicating that the play area to the east will open ahead of schedule hopefully in June.

Numerous flags on A48 – have they got permission. Hedge along A48 has been mooted out and we requested this be kept as a screen. It should be replaced with an indigenous species. Chairman to check these two issues.

Proposed Closure of School Lane

Council noted letter received from Mr/Mrs Thomas, Green Lane House.

Old Gym

No further progress.

Bradbury Farm, Crick (Play Area/Wildlife Reserve)

MCC will consider letting a field for a Wildlife Reserve and will be making contact with us. The Chairman had been contacted by MCC in his capacity as County Councillor and had given his approval.

Councillor Counsell still felt that a Play Area should be provided in Crick. The Chairman informed the meeting that this is a separate issue and will be dealt with if any development takes place at Bradbury Farm.

Provision of Allotments

Councillor Counsell had met with Mr P Davies of the MoD. He had been informed that the MoD were viewing the piece of land on the A48 with another interested party. It was agreed that we write to Col Howard Gash to re-confirm our interest.

Councillor Cousins had visited the site on the A48. It measures 200 x 100 metres. In the top left hand corner is a large dip which will prohibit use in this particular area. There is a blackthorn hedge through the middle.

Circular Walk

Mr M Moran, Leisure Manager, MCC, is arranging a meeting with interested parties.

Footpath/Land Attached to Great House Farm

No progress.

Cwrt Morgan Adoption

No progress.

Caerwent Playing Fields Play Equipment/Trees

The Clerk reported that Councillor Kidger had written a further letter to MCC and is awaiting a reply.

Queen's Jubilee Celebrations

The Clerk reported that the Playing Fields Committee is hoping to arrange a village Jubilee celebration on 2nd June. Preliminary ideas are a barbeque/picnic on the field with a band and events for children. It was agreed that we fund this to the amount of £500. Councillor Vosloo reported that Llanfair are considering planting a tree. It was agreed that the Chairman mentions in the newsletter that if any group is proposing to arrange a celebration we are prepared to consider financial support.

Big Lottery Funding

Clerk had been advised that the Grab a Grant Scheme would probably be unsuccessful re the walls. She was advised that Heritage Lottery funding would be more appropriate. Information given to Councillors Hedley and Counsell.

The Chairman advised that the Area Committee had monies available up to 31st March 2012 for any capital projects.

Land to Rear of Toilets, Caerwent

The Chairman reported that there had been no decision by MCC as yet.

Dog Friendly Stiles

Footpaths Officer had visited the site and noted the access problems. Clerk was asked to check if they are actually going to install the requested stiles.

War Memorial Names

The Clerk reported that Councillor Hedley had visited the Memorial and six names are missing. Councillor Counsell reported that there are also three names in the church in Llanfair which he feels should also be added. The Chairman will check.

Councillor Swift reported that cars are parking at the War Memorial quite frequently. It was agreed that we would not want yellow lines to be placed here. The Chairman agreed to mention this issue in the newsletter.

Planning Application 2011/00808 Proposed Extension and Change of Use to Existing Store Building to form Tea Rooms, Coach & Horses, Caerwent

Council noted copy of letter to MCC received from resident re objections to this planning application.

Councillor Swift felt that it is only courtesy to consult possible affected neighbours of a planning application. The Chairman, although he does visit neighbours himself, stated that it is not Council policy to do so. Councillor Trayler-Smith stated that we represent villagers, it would be difficult to consult them on every single matter and they should be aware that they can approach us.

Councillor Vosloo wanted to put on record that she felt that this Tea Room is an excellent proposal particularly for visitors to the area.

Street Lighting, Crick

The Street Lighting Manager had intimated that the three new lights will be switched on very soon.

Caerwent House

Tenders received, MCC hoping to instruct and building works to commence end of March. The owners had declared that they wish to stay in the house whilst work is in progress.

Memorial Bench – Councillor Nettleship

This will be installed on Saturday 4th February by Mr John Ball. Councillor Counsell agreed to attend. The Clerk suggested that Mr Ball be approached regarding the extra names for the War Memorial.

M3683 PLANNING

2011/01199 Conversion of Barn into Dwelling (Resubmission of Approval M/11597), Great Llanmelin, Llanvair Discoed

Council noted further information received.

**2011/00809 Proposed Alterations & Extensions, Coach & Horses
Public House, Caerwent**
This Council recommends Approval

M3684 FINANCE

Council agreed payment as per Finance Schedule dated February 2012.

M3685 CORRESPONDENCE

1. COTYLEDON CIC
They have been commissioned by MCC to help deliver improvements to visitor related signage in the county. Council discussed answers to survey.
2. OPT FOR LIFE CYMRU
Kidney Wales Foundation recently launched the Opt for Life campaign with the aim of supporting the Welsh Government's proposed change in legislation on Organ Donation in Wales. This Council agreed to support this.
3. TIM MacDERMOTT, CUSTOMER ACCESS MANAGER, MCC
Tell Us Once Initiative. Poster placed on boards.
4. BRINGING YOUR VILLAGE ALIVE OFFICER, MCC
Two grants available (Bringing Your Village Alive) and (Sense of Roots).
It was agreed to request a presentation.
5. MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITIES, WELSH GOVERNMENT
Proposal to Alter the Date of Local Government Elections in Wales from May 2016 to May 2017. This was agreed.
5. MINUTES/PUBLICATIONS
Severnside Area Committee

M3686 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

Rubbish present on lanes and in lay-bys on A48.

Court House Road, Llanfair Discoed – pavements extremely slippery in cold conditions.
- would it be possible for the spreaders to go on the pavement.

No. 62 bus not currently travelling through Merton Green – Chairman to check.

“Centurion Park” signs more than 2 miles away + one sign blocking traffic lights opposite Dinham Road – Chairman to check.

Tipper lorries using Caerwent village again – Chairman/Councillor Cousins will discuss with Barratts.

M3687 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Councillor Counsell will be representing this Council at the funeral of ex Councillor Betty Blatchford.

Chairman Date