

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD 8TH OCTOBER 2015

Present: Councillors:
K Evans (Chair) E Saville
G Cousins K Swift
K Haddow R Trayler-Smith

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council

M4317 APOLOGIES

Received from Councillors Counsell, Murphy, Lewis and Stock.

M4318 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillor K Evans	Caerwent Historic Trust	Trustee
Councillor K Swift	Crick Wildlife Group	Member

M4319 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman wished to add onto the agenda consideration of planning application 2015/01013 Border Waste, Crick, although not in our Community Council area it does impact upon the residents of Crick.

M4320 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

M4321 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 10th SEPTEMBER 2015

These were agreed as a true record.

M4322 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

There was no monthly report from the police.

M4323 PLANNING

2015/00936 Land at Carrow Hill Farm, Carrow Hill, St Brides Netherwent

Widening of Existing Track for Agricultural Use

*This Council recommends **Refusal***

Local information indicates that there is no long term existing track which could be widened. There are other options to access the area of land. Felling of trees is unnecessary and we suggest that the Tree Officer be consulted. This would result in an unnecessary scar on the landscape and be ecologically disadvantageous – suggest a wildlife survey be carried out. This application should be referred to Planning Committee as the applicant is a relative of a County Councillor.

2015/00960 Caerwent Training Area, FoB East and FoB West

Construction of approximately 443 linear metres of “hesco” force protection walling, installation of four timber sangars, installation of two 20’ 150 containers, construction of a 600m² stone hardstanding

*This Council recommends **Approval***

2015/01013 Border Waste, Crick

This Council recommends ***Refusal.***

On the planning application decision of 2013 for this site it clearly stated that a number of conditions were attached to this and these have not been adhered to:

Conditions and Reasons

1. No surface water shall be permitted to drain from the site onto the adjoining highway or into the highway drainage system.
2. Within two months of the cessation of the use hereby approved, the site shall be surfaced with top soil and the area seeded with grass. Prior notification of the date of cessation of the use shall be given in writing to the local planning authority.
3. A tyre wash shall be installed at the entrance of the site. each vehicle leaving the application site shall utilise the tyre wash each time that it leaves the site.
4. The tipping of any material on this site shall cease and the site shall be covered in top soil and replanted with grass on or prior to the 31/12/16.
5. The site shall be used for the depositing on inert top soil, sub soil, clay and hard-core only and for no other materials including any other construction waste.

There has been no evidence of compliance with conditions 1 and 3 which will remain relevant concerns in relation to the current application. Residents' concerns relate primarily to highways safety, drainage and noise as listed below:-

- a. The noise coming from the site.
- b. The number of heavy vehicles with loads coming on and off the site and especially the ones that turn down Crick Road from the A48 as the road is very narrow there.
- c. Entering and leaving the site – on several occasions residents have reported large lorries pulled onto the pavement awaiting the site to open, causing an obstruction of the A48.

On leaving the site large vehicles turning left have to pull right across the A48 and are travelling at slow speed potentially causing safety concerns given the current unrestricted/50 mph speed limit.

This stretch of the A48 has already been associated with a fatal accident in similar circumstances.

- d. The potential safety issue over the debris coming from the site collecting on the A48 and pavement which when we have heavy rain washes down the A48.
- e. The poor condition of the A48 and pavement as a result of the heavy vehicles going in and out of the site.
- f. Ongoing safety concerns over the ever increasing height of the rocks/debris that you can see when driving along the M48 and also about how safe and compacted the land underneath is and who is checking that this is safe.

Council noted that Enforcement had been in contact with the owners of the Welfare Centre on the A48 following recent works there. The owners had been cleaning up the site and undertaking some internal repairs to the building. Enforcement will continue to monitor this.

Council queried the groundworks currently being carried out at Brockwells Farm. Agreed to report.

M4324 CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL & MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

To consider response to consultation.

Identification of a number of errors within the actual proposals. We are concerned about the exclusion of an area of the existing conservation area. We believe this should be retained. The future conservation of Caerwent can only be enhanced by including historic areas of the village.

M4325 TREWEN PLAY AREA

To consider recommendations regarding new play equipment.

Agreed that they were outside the scope for us to replace the equipment. Noted that a large part of the cost would be the safety surfacing which was an essential requirement. Agreed to inform Trewen residents of this and to let them know that we would support any grant applications which become available. The Clerk advised that she had already passed on details of the Asda grant to them. Council noted that the Caerwent Playing Fields Association and the Llanfair Village Fund had previously raised funds to provide play equipment for their play areas.

M4326 PROVISION OF BENCH IN CRICK VILLAGE

To consider request from Crick Wildlife & Environment Project for a bench to be provided and situated in the centre of the village

Agreed that a recycled bench be ordered at a cost of £385.

M4327 PROVISION OF NEW TREE

To consider the provision and planting of new tree at east gate plantation to replace existing dead tree

Agreed to replace this tree and to contact Gwent Wildlife Trust for their advice on the size and any local reputable supply companies.

Agreed to seek quotes re crown lifting of trees, clearing undergrowth/saplings and removal of dead tree for same area plus the westgate area.

M4328 COMMUNITY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

To consider any further progress on the future of the monthly newsletter

The Chairman advised that the magazine has been running for 40 years. The Caerwent Playing Fields Association currently make a profit on it, there are 500 printed and the cost to residents is £4 per annum. As the current printer is finishing in December he has completed some research on alternatives. He feels it could be revamped with colour, better quality and artwork more pronounced. For an 8 page colour glossary the cost for 500 would be £156 compared to the current cost of £110. An electronic version could be made available for a subscription and this may lead to less printing. Agreed that it would be preferable to get the printing completed locally. A separate email address could be set up for articles to be sent to. Agreed that the Clerk ask Councillor Stock to contact the Chairman as soon as possible to discuss. The issue of ownership of the newsletter will be discussed at a later date. A suggestion was made that this pot of money be kept separate and go towards community projects.

M4329 LOCALISED SERVICES

To consider Localised Services Document received from MCC

Council considered this and agreed that we would probably not have enough work to justify spending the amounts of money suggested by MCC. Agreed to agenda next month when we will know more about the MCC services which are at risk. The Chairman advised that there had been no response to his request for an Odd Job Person for our area.

M4330 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE – SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

To note arrangements made

The Clerk reported that John Waters will be taking the service this year. Wreaths had been ordered. Road closure ordered. Mr Squibbs unable to carry out the bugler duties this year – Clerk contacting an alternative. Agreed to ask Councillors Murphy and Counsell if they are willing to participate in the service again.

M4331 DEED OF SURRENDER – LAND AT GREAT HOUSE FARM

To consider and sign document

Council agreed to sign the Deed of Surrender and forego its interest in the land. Agreed that they were disappointed to do so as the lease was exercised in good faith for a community project by Caerwent Historic Trust who were proposing to arrange a community archaeological project in conjunction with Operation Nightingale (injured servicemen rehabilitation) and the University of Leicester archaeological unit. Previous excavations by “Time Team” had indicated that there were remains in that location so it seemed a logical solution to provide a safe and secure area for the project to take place. Unfortunately as the plans progressed Cadw indicated that it was unlikely that Scheduled Ancient Monument consent to excavate would be given so the project proposal came to a halt. The Community Council then engaged on a process of consultation to try and find alternative uses for the field and received some useful and interesting suggestions, however without solid backing from the community in respect of time and commitment none of these options proved viable.

Noted that the Community Council originally took out a 5 year lease on the field at £250 per year. We have entered into the 2nd year of the agreement so the total outlay has been £500 plus £220 for grasscutting/repairs. The only other costs incurred by the Council that may be attributed to the field is the purchase of poppy seeds for the WW1 Centenary poppy display that was centred in the field at a cost of £76 and £25 to Monmouthshire Meadows for inspection of the flowers in the field as a possible option for a Wildflower Meadow. There is no penalty clause in surrender.

M4332 MCC – MONMOUTHSHIRE EXISTING ACTIVE TRAVEL ROUTES MAPS CONSULTATION

To consider response

Agreed that a safe walking route should be provided from Caldicot to Caerwent. We would support a route along the disused railway line from Caldicot Country Park – agreed that this would be much safer and more interesting to walkers.

M4333 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

Clerk’s Report

Dates for Diaries

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

Caerwent Toilets

Councillor Haddow reported that there was no progress as the contractor had been ill. Clerk reported that the spring will be adjusted on the tap in the ladies toilet.

Allotments

Councillor Saville received reply from MP re MoD land indicating that the Minister had clarified that there are no plans to dispose of either of the sites in question.

Councillor Saville will now write back to MP to ask him to pursue this with MCC.

Community Asset Transfer

Meeting held with GAVO Consultant who had subsequently sent over various documents for us to complete. The indication was that it could all be completed by the New Year. Councillor Haddow had agreed to meet up with the CPFA to complete the forms.

Youth Offending Team Mons/Torfaen

The Clerk had spoken to someone from the service and will chase this up.

Noticeboards/Benches

Councillor Swift reported that first coats had gone onto most of the benches and the rest of the work will be carried out weather permitting.

Chair's Education Grant

Written to Heads of Schools asking them for dates for the prize giving ceremonies. No reply as yet.

Section 106

It had been proposed by MCC that both the Community Centre and the CPFA will now be allocated £5,000 less. They have been informed. This was approved by Cabinet on 7th October and will now go to Full Council of MCC.

Dog Fouling

Information re red card scheme placed on our Facebook page. Councillor Cousins had met with an Officer of MCC re siting of the additional bin at Merton Green and re-siting of bin on Llanvair Road.

Reports received that cats are fouling the Caerwent field and track – information passed to the CPFA.

Phone Box, Highmoor Hill

Red paint has been donated by a resident. £30 has been raised by residents towards painting, agreed to support them by donating the extra £30 required.

Social Media Report

The Working Group reported that there are currently 92 members on Facebook. A new cover photo has been placed. Concerns raised again by residents as to why we cannot post MoD notifications on this page - agreed to discuss this with the MoD at our meeting in November. Advertisers have been removed in line with policy. Complaints received from residents re regular negative postings from one resident – agreed that in line with our Facebook “Conduct” policy that this person be removed. Council agreed that some inaccurate and misleading information is being posted regularly by this resident and agreed to prepare a statement outlining the correct facts.

M4334 CORRESPONDENCE

MCC – Planning Training Course
Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council News Bulletin
Gavo – membership – agreed to join (no cost)
One Voice Wales – BBC Charter Review
Monmouthshire Meadows newsletter

M4335 FINANCE

To consider and agree payment of Finance Schedule dated October 2015
Council agreed.

To consider transferring to the MCC payroll scheme

The Clerk had requested information from MCC regarding this but this had not been received. Agreed to agenda for next month.

M4336 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

To report any highways/ rights of way issues

MCC verge side advertising on the A48.
Merton Green – traffic lights sensors not working.
Lights still out on Shirenewton Road.

M4337 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Swift wanted to publicly congratulate and thank all of the volunteer groups within our area, ie girl guides who live in the Caerwent ward, working for their Duke of Edinburgh Award who had helped out in the woodland and the Crick field. She proposed drawing up a list of all volunteer groups.

M4338 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Councillors to inform Clerk.

Chair Date