

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD 9TH FEBRUARY 2017

Present: Councillors:
K Haddow (Chair)
B Counsell
G Cousins
B Dawson
P Lewis
P Murphy
K Swift

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council
1 Member of the Public

M4524 APOLOGIES

Received from Councillors Evans and Trayler-Smith.

M4525 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillor P Murphy	All planning applications	Member of MCC Planning Committee
Councillor P Murphy	Caerwent Community Centre	Trustee

M4526 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair wished to add to the agenda quotes re Village Hall, tree works and also a proposed meeting with Spitalfields re Caerwent House.

M4527 15 MINUTES PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs Thomas of Green Lane House informed the Council that a Cadw representative had informed her that the owners of North Gate House had requested that the Visitor Information Board be removed from their garden and this has actually now been done. She was thankful to this Council for raising this with Cadw and was pleased that the board will be re-instated in a different position in the next financial year and also for confirming the existence of a right of way over the North Gate House which is necessary for both viewing and maintenance. Council agreed to press for the board to be placed on the grass verge outside.

Mrs Thomas had also been in contact with Cadw due to lack of maintenance of the north wall bordering her garden which is crumbling and the adjacent wall towards the north gate which is very overgrown. Weeds invade her garden and vegetable patch and it is an unsightly mess. A small area has been sprayed during the last year and she believes that Japanese knotweed may be present. She queried what the protocol is re this plant. Councillor Murphy advised that this may be a notifiable plant and he will check with MCC.

Mrs Thomas asked if this Council could put pressure on Cadw to maintain the north gate and adjacent wall and even divert funds from the south, east and west walls to concentrate on the north. Her husband previously has cut Cadw's grass but she feels that it is not the responsibility of the householders to carry this out.

Council agreed to contact Cadw with these concerns.

M4528 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD 12th JANUARY 2017

These were agreed as a true record.

M4529 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

Pcso Norville had sent his apologies. He had provided the Clerk with a copy of his monthly report which was read out.

He confirmed that the Sergeant had received our recent email regarding police attendance at our meetings. He advised that they have a lack of resources but a re-organisation is due shortly – two new Probationers are now located at Chepstow.

Clerk had informed him about the recent state of our toilets, ie smearing on the walls. He noted this.

To consider traffic issues in Crick – update from December meeting

Councillor Swift proposed that we contact MCC re progress on the A48 speed review – agreed.

Councillor Swift also raised the following points:

New 30 mph signs in Crick not lit up

Consideration of traffic calming in Crick

Lack of progress re our request to have the David Broome tourist sign relocated from the A48 to the B4245.

No village signs Crick on Caldicot Road/Shirenewton Road

One sign on A48 too small

School buses dropping outside nursing home and dangerous parking on pavements opposite outside garage. Agreed to enquire of the police re parking on a clearway.

Councillor Swift agreed to send her full list of queries to the Clerk/Councillor Murphy.

M4530 PLANNING

PLANNING

2017/00050 Five Lanes, Replacement of Existing Stables

This Council recommends Approval

Query disposal of water in this Source Protection Zone

2017/00078 Mayfield, Caerwent Brook

Proposed Conversion of Garage into two bedroom holiday cottage.

This Council recommends Approval

To consider any planning applications received after despatch of agenda.

There were no other applications to consider.

Caerwent House

A letter had been hand delivered to the meeting from the previous owner of Caerwent House. Agreed to note the contents.

Councillor Murphy advised that Spitalfields Historic Buildings Trust will be visiting the site on Thursday 23rd March and had suggested meeting with the Community

Council, local groups and immediate neighbours beforehand. Councillors Murphy, Lewis, Counsell, Swift, Trayler-Smith, Cousins and Evans had confirmed attendance. Amy Longford, Heritage Manager of MCC will be present. In view of the fact that this is an emotive issue for some, that the police had been called previously to the site and in light of a letter that had just been received by this Council agreed to request police presence.

M4531 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

CLERK'S REPORT

Dates for Diaries

MoD Meeting – Tuesday 11th April, 2.00 p.m. Agreed to change this date.
Community Council Elections – Thursday 4th May

St Brides Flooding

Welsh Water are in the process of liaising with a local farmer for access to complete the desilt on the last section of the sewer, once this work has been completed they will then wait and see what impact it has had on the flooding during heavy rainfall. They will update on progress by 24 February.

Strip of Land to Rear of 40 Merton Green

Meeting held recently with 16 residents from the flats and Councillors Murphy/Cousins with a proposal from the new residents. New and old residents could not come to an agreement therefore Barratts are now fencing the area off.

Noticeboards

Sian Reynish had completed a search at the Land Registry but it was unclear who owned the land. Clerk checked with Highways and they are the owners. Asked them to give permission for the board to remain but with different owners. They agreed provided that the new owners are responsible for the upkeep and maintenance. Clerk had written to Sian to request the £1 purchase price in order for the transfer to take place.

Education Award

Chair had carried out judging at schools on 27th January. The winners had been announced in schools. Chair agreed to contact schools to hopefully arrange for the winning entries to appear in our newsletter.

20 mph sign, Caerwent

Both signs now replaced.

Poor Wood – Commoners Rights

Written to Cadw to request that they review their response.
Written to MoD – their deadline under the FOI scheme was 1st February – reminded.

Village Hall Improvements

Chair and Councillor Murphy had met with the Architect re the final snagging list.

Transfer of Village Hall

Appointed Twomlows £750.00 + disbursements. Clerk signed Terms & Conditions of Business document and taken in her ID to their office. MCC are now in contact with them.

Police Attendance at Community Council Meetings

Written to Inspector – no reply as yet.

Xmas Lights

Passed on Street Lighting Manager's letter re guidelines to contractor for his comments – no reply as yet. The Clerk advised that Rogiet, Magor and Caldicot Town Councils all use City Illuminations for their lights at an approximate cost of £700 per year. The Clerk was asked to enquire who arrange for the Shirenewton lights. Councillor Swift suggested solar lights but it was felt that these would not be bright enough.

Caldicot School Funding Request

They are checking the information requested, ie what the money will be spent on and how many children attend their school from Caerwent.

MCC Rights of Way Improvement Plan

Councillor Dawson agreed, along with a couple of his neighbours, to form an informal footpaths group who can check on any footpath query and liaise with MCC. They have all completed this kind of work previously and been trained by MCC in this respect.

Defibrillators

Councillor Swift advised that she had investigated ambulance response times re Crick. There had been seven cardiac calls over five years and the average response time was nine minutes.

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

234 members

Council pleased to note that the community came together via our page to raise funds following a break-in at St Stephens Church.

M4532 CORRESPONDENCE

Keep Wales Tidy event – 1st March.

One Voice Wales – Gwent Police & Crime Commissioner talk 6th April – Councillor Dawson agreed to attend.

One Voice Wales – minutes from Area Committee & Gavo information.

One Voice Wales – third sector funding.

Query re removal of interpretation panel at North Gate – Clerk had contacted complainant and Cadw

M4533 FINANCE

To consider balances/payment and approval as per finance schedule dated November 2016.

Balances as at 31ST January:

Moneymaster Account	£19,790.06
Community Account	£11,973.46
Petty Cash	£ 207.42

1. Clerk's Salary, Overtime, Allowances, Mileage	as per NALC scales
2. Inland Revenue	£58.23
3. Torfaen Pension Fund	£229.45
4. MCC Playground Inspections (Caerwent)	£464.36
MCC Playground Inspections Trewen/LD	£642.98
MCC Grasscutting (LD, Trewen Play Areas and Caerwent Playing Fields)	£712.44
5. MCC extra grasscutting Castroggy	£216.00
6. Henry Burton Almshouse Charity (room hire)	£21.00
7. Merlin Waste (dog bins)	£135.60
8. Aardvarc Cleaning (toilets)	£260.00
9. Henry Burton Almshouse Charity (room hire)	£21.00

Council approved.

To consider quarterly budget information September 2016 – December 2016

Council noted.

To consider renewal of Grounds Maintenance Contract for 2017/18

(£712.44 2016/17, £730.25 2017/18)

Council agreed.

To consider renewal of Grass Cutting Contract for 2017/18 Junction on A48 to Llanfair Village

(£180.00 2016/17, £184.50 2017/18)

Council agreed.

To consider renewal of Play Area Inspections Contract for 2017/18

Caerwent Playing Fields (£464.36 2016/17, £475.96 2017/18)

Trewen/Llanfair Discoed (£642.98 2016/17, £659.06 2017/18)

Council agreed.

Quote received from contractor re Village Hall extra works of £730.00, some of which were safety related. Agreed, that as current leaseholders, to have these works completed so that the building is in good condition in readiness for the transfer and our future lease with the Caerwent Playing Fields Association.

Quote received from contractor re Trewen Play Area tree works and four bus shelters. The Chair agreed to seek clarification re the quote.

Agreed that the Clerk send a list of painting works re bus shelters to CWEP.

To consider recognition of Community Council finance contributions

Councillor Swift was concerned that “sponsored by Caerwent Community Council” is not appearing in the newsletter. Clerk to contact the Editor.

She proposed that any groups that receive funding from us be asked to mention in their publicity. Agreed.

The Chair advised that the Caerwent Junior Football Club are holding a fun run on 18th February and she has been asked to attend for a photo opportunity to hand over the new kit.

M4534 TO EXTEND STANDING ORDERS FOR 15 MINUTES

Agreed.

M4535 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

To report any highways/rights of way issues

Blackpool Hall Lane closed off – no notice.

A48 from Five Lanes to Penylan Road – top surface breaking up.

Border Waste in Crick – still mud on road and caravan in situ.

Caerwent Show posters still in situ along the A48

Caerwent Brook to Golf Club – white lining needs re-doing all the way up

To consider the safety of the Time Team Field wall

Councillor Swift reported that the coping stones are in need of repair. The Chair advised that she had spoken to the leaseholders previously about this but will do so again.

M4536 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

**To consider appointment of representative to One Voice Wales
Area Committee**

Councillor B Dawson was nominated. There being no other nominations Councillor Dawson was appointed as our representative.

M4537 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Questions for the Police Commissioner at One Voice Wales seminar.

Chair **Date**

