

**MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**HELD 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2017**

Present: Councillors:  
P Murphy (Chairman)  
B Counsell  
G Cousins  
B Dawson  
S George  
P Lewis  
K Swift

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council  
Milena Thomas, Regional Sales Manager, Shared Access  
County Councillor A Easson  
4 Members of the Public

**M4613 APOLOGIES**

Received from Councillors Haddow and Evans.

**M4614 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Councillor P Murphy	Caerwent Community Centre	Trustee
Councillor P Murphy	All planning applications	Member Planning Cttee
Councillor S George	Internet Speed, Five Lanes	Resident

**M4615 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**M4617 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr R Cory expressed concerned about the speed of traffic on Sandy Lane and Caerwent Brook, mainly by ancillary vehicles from Barrier Services. The Chair advised that he had been in contact with Barrier Services and received assurances that they would reissue instructions to their drivers and also monitor the situation. Councillor Swift advised that every time this happens the police should be contacted in order for a log to be created. Councillor Dawson advised that photographs be taken of speed marks. The Chair agreed to visit Barrier Services again with photographs provided by Mr Cory.

County Councillor Easson was concerned about the recent planning application for the quarry which he was not consulted on, even though there are cross border issues. His concerns are that the proposal is for all vehicles to travel up through Dewstow Road (his ward) and also environmentally how this will affect the water table. He is seeking our support to reject the plan as it is not a sustainable place to have large lorries on that road and the flora and fauna requires greater consideration. When it goes before Planning Committee he will request to speak. The Chair advised that Monmouthshire Meadows have visited the site and sent in a report to MCC and to Natural Resources Wales regarding the presence of rare plants. Councillor Easson was concerned how this will affect the residents of his area, especially young families. The Chair advised that the applicant has been

asked to provide more information regarding tonnage and numbers of lorries per day and there will be a revised application.

A query was raised as to whether Highways will be carrying out a survey re the motorway bridge. The Chair advised that it is a standard spec bridge.

Rebecca Jones (applicant, 2017/00728 previous Thai Restaurant application) presented to the Council the new revised plans and answered any queries.

#### **M4618 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017**

These were agreed as a true record.

#### **M4619 SHARED ACCESS**

The Chair welcomed Melania Thomas, Regional Sales Manager, Shared Access, to the meeting. She explained that they build infrastructures for wireless network communications and concentrate on village halls and schools. The operators are their customers. She will send all the information we require in order to make a decision.

Councillors raised the following queries:

What percentage of the take on the pole actually goes back to the community – lump sum capital payment £30,000 one off payment in return for 25 yr lease.

Maximum height - 15 metres high, would be restricted by planning – no higher.

End of lease - it would be de-commissioned and put back to how it was.

If company was not here what would the situation be - she was unsure and will get back to us.

Lease arrangements - would be between us and them, no longer than 10 years initially.

Maintenance requirements - access required to mast about twice a year for maintenance.

Agreed that we want to improve the connectivity in this area. The Clerk will check the latest situation with MCC.

The Chair advised that Melania speak to MCC about potential sites as they are currently reviewing this.

#### **M4620 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT**

The report had been circulated.

#### **M4621 PLANNING**

**2017/00766 New Detached Garage, The Courtyard, Carrow Hill**  
This Council recommends **Approval**.

**2017/00728 Development of 4 Detached Dwellings on existing vacant site, Residential Quarters of Red Chillies Thai & Indian Restaurant, Caerwent (Reserved Matters)**  
This Council recommends **Approval**

Layout approved.

Recommend a mixture of brick, natural stone and timber. Concern that the timber is not a natural product - condition that the timber would be natural. Increase the use of natural materials.

We note that each house will have its own sealed unit for sewage management – we recommend that this is a condition.

Fibre glass tank situated at the west of the site fronting Five Lanes House front garden should be removed or made safe (previous sewage problems). This is a fibre glass tank – could collapse if driven on – there is no reinforcement or concrete. This was installed possibly without building regulations some 19 years ago.

**To consider any planning applications received after despatch of agenda**  
There were no other planning applications.

**To consider that any three Councillors be delegated regarding decisions on any planning applications received during August.**  
Council agreed.

**To consider new procedures from MCC planning**  
Council noted.

**M4622 COMMUNITY COUNCIL ASSETS ANNUAL INSPECTION**

**To agree on duties**

Council agreed on individual duties – to be reported back to Clerk.

**M4623 GWENT TORFAEN PENSION FUND**

**To approve and publish pension discretions policies**

Agreed to adopt example supplied and inform the Pension Fund

**M4624 PROVISION OF DEFIBRILLATORS**

**To consider financing further defibrillators**

Agreed to defer this until the September meeting pending receipt of further information from Councillor Haddow. Councillor Easson had advised that CTT had received some free defibrillators from Cariadd.

Agreed to check via Councillor Haddow the provision of signage to aid visitors to the area. Agreed to remind residents in the next newsletter that we have installed a defibrillator in the Coach & Horses public house.

**M4625 DOG FOULING**

**To consider information received from MCC**  
Council noted.

**To note that supplies have been ordered**

Council noted that new bin for Crick has now been ordered together with supplies of posters and bags.

**To consider the provision of a bag holder on each bin**

Council agreed to order the bag holders.

PCSOs and Environmental Health Officers have the powers to impose Fixed Penalty Notices for dog fouling. Councillors Dawson/Cousins will meet to discuss the way forward.

**M4625 INTERNET SPEED**

**To consider poor internet speed in Five Lanes**

The Chair advised that there have been numerous meetings between MCC, BT and the providers recently. Some of the problem has been due to the fact that AB Internet had gone into liquidation but other firms are looking to take over.

Clerk to check progress with MCC.

**M4627 LOCAL RESOLUTION PROTOCOL FOR MINOR COMPLAINTS**

**To consider adoption of code**

Agreed to adopt and that the Clerk attend training when it becomes available.

**M4628 CAERWENT PLAYING FIELDS TRAIL/WILDFLOWER GARDEN**

**To consider condition re grass/weeds and future maintenance**

In view of the very overgrown state of the wildflower garden and the trail agreed to arrange a site meeting with our contractor and Councillors Dawson/Counsell with a view to removing the wildflower area/weeding the trail as soon as possible.

Following this to discuss at our September meeting the proposal to have these two areas added onto our maintenance programme.

**M4629 TO RECEIVE REPORTS**

**CLERK'S REPORT**

**Dates for Diaries**

MoD Meeting/Supper – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November, 6.00 p.m. (Shirenewton)

**St Brides Flooding**

Councillors Counsell and Lewis met up with Welsh Water on 6<sup>th</sup> July. Councillor Counsell reported that a tanker was present today clearing out the pipe from the pumping station. At the site meeting they had requested records of maintenance works – not received yet.

**Noticeboard – Carrow Hill**

Confirmation transfer letter sent to new owner.

**Poor Wood – Commoners Rights**

Still awaiting the Official Copy from the Land Registry.

### **Transfer of Village Hall**

Informed Solicitor that footpath indicated on map recently sent over is incorrect.

### **Time Team Field Wall**

Queried latest situation with Principal Surveyor – awaiting reply.

### **Annual External Audit**

All documents now sent in.

### **Toilets/War Memorial Repairs**

Quote received. Agreed that Councillor Counsell review this, add on any missing issues and we then obtain two further quotes.

### **Llanfair Discoed – Councillor Vacancy**

No applications.

### **Wind Turbine, Rogiet School**

Response from MCC that there were some initial issues which were attended to and then further maintenance problems at later periods. The original company had gone into liquidation and the costs for surveying and repairing the wind turbine were prohibitive in comparison to what it would actually generate.

Part of the problem also seems to be the general operation of this type of wind turbine, and that they don't appear to generate/function particularly well in some of the places they have been installed. Other authorities have experienced exactly the same issues with the same conclusions.

Funding wise, the turbine was installed as part of the new school build by the builders as a route towards BREAAAM/EPC ratings, and funded via the pre-FIT regime with a single subsidy contribution. As such, there was never going to be any actual income generated from the turbine, only savings on grid electricity consumption.

Councillor Counsell expressed concern about this response. Agreed that the Chair request the figures of power consumption before it broke down and now.

### **Caerwent Quarry Planning Application**

Monmouthshire Meadows have sent MCC a list of the rare plants they found in Caerwent Quarry and have criticised the report completed by the developer's consultants. They have also passed on information to Gwent Wildlife Trust who will also be objecting and to NRW.

### **Caerwent Playing Fields Play Area**

Baby swing has now been installed.

### **Crick Sign**

Still awaiting details of specification/prices.

### **Defibrillator – Spare Batteries**

Have been delivered to Coach & Horses.

### **Xmas Lighting**

Information had been received from neighbouring Town/Community Councils.

Agreed that we opt for City Illuminations as used by Rogiet/Magor. To provide lights, erected and removed on an approximate 20 ft tree would be £700 on a three year deal. Clerk to progress.

### **Highways Issues**

Notice served on Maybury at crossroads on 20<sup>th</sup> June re overgrown hedge.

White lining, crossroads  
Clearance at crossroads  
Damaged dropped kerb outside 18 Canon Lane  
Overgrown footpaths, Caerwent  
Verge mowing, Highmoor Hill  
(all placed on programme of works)

Tree branch split, A48 – works completed

### **SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT**

289 members  
Issues raised:  
Hedge trimming – Caldicot/Dewstow Road  
Mod vehicles Dinham Road  
(All issues in progress)

### **MONTHLY PLAY AREA INSPECTION REPORT**

1 issue  
Agreed to obtain quote

### **M4630 CORRESPONDENCE**

Welsh Government - workshops on higher activity radioactive waste  
Management and disposal  
Monmouthshire Meadows – upcoming events  
One Voice Wales – training courses available  
GAVO – measles outbreak in Newport  
MCC – improvements to Usk Recycling Centre  
GAVO – volunteer information  
Gray Hill Commoners – notes from recent meeting. The Chair will talk to the Countryside Section to check their position. Standing stones now not visible. New owner wants to graze sheep.

## **M4631 FINANCE**

### **To consider balances/payment and approval as per finance schedule dated July 2017**

Balances as at 30th June:

Moneymaster Account	£ 15,865.67
Community Account	£ 12,125.34
Petty Cash	£71.92

1. Clerk's Salary, overtime, allowances, mileage (38)	as per NALC scales
2. Inland Revenue	£49.23
3. Torfaen Pension Fund (employee/employer)	£222.05
4. Henry Burton Almshouse Charity (room hire)	£21.00
5. D Lloyd (internal auditor)	£400.00
6. Petty Cash	£178.00
7. One Voice Wales (training course)	£40.00
8. Merlin Waste (dog bins)	£135.60
9. Llanvair Landscapes (grasscutting)	£600.00
10. Aardvarc Cleaning (toilets)	£317.00
11. Zoll Medical UK (batteries, defibrillator)	£117.43

Council approved.

### **To consider quarterly budget figures**

Council noted.

## **M4632 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY**

### **To report any highways/rights of way issues**

Lawrence Crescent – damage on pavement and overhanging hedge.

Cycle track from Five Lanes to Caerwent, brambles and weeds coming through.  
St Brides opposite Homestead, japanese knotweed present.  
Tump unsightly, requires cutting, ragwort present.

Encroached 2 yds of ground (Caldicot Road). Chair will ask MCC to instruct householders to cut it or they will be billed.

Crick field – drain still uncovered.

Little Mix concert held in Caldicot – our area not informed. Postcode given out was incorrect. Request a copy of traffic management plan/community impact assessment. The Chair will request a de-brief re traffic issues.

## **M4633 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

There were no reports.

## **M4634 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Provision of defibrillators.

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

