

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD 14TH JUNE 2012

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

L McKeon, Clerk to the Council

Pc 1474 C Lee
Pcso 173 K Vaughan

Members of
Public: T Meredith, New Cottages, Caerwent
A Davies, Llangerrig, Five Lanes

M3729 APOLOGIES

Received from Councillor Swift

M3730 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

M3731 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Cousins	Merton Green Action Group
Councillor Murphy	Caerwent Community Centre Committee

M3732 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 10th MAY 2012, MEETING WITH MoD HELD 8TH MAY 2012 and MEETING WITH JAZZ BAND 31st MAY 2012

These were agreed as a true record.

M3733 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

Pc Lee introduced herself as the Ward Officer for our area. She reported that crime is down, a total of 14 crimes this past month, including 6 burglaries and 2 drug related offences. She has been in the area speaking to residents and leaflet dropping.

Councillor Evans queried the scrap metal thefts at the Welfare Centre. Pc Lee informed the meeting that the thieves had been arrested at the scene. The police are due to have a meeting with the Mod next week. The Clerk reported cold calling in the village – Pc Lee reported that she had visited a resident regarding this issue and had given advice.

M3734 PRESENTATION BY CHRIS ASHMAN, NAVIGANT CONSULTING re TOTAL PLAN MONMOUTHSHIRE

Mr Ashman explained that his company had been commissioned by MCC to consider improving the area of Severnside and had been looking into unemployment, depravation, health statistics, transport and also how the area compares to the rest of Monmouthshire and Wales. He reported that Caerwent came out well in terms of life experience, ie unemployment, academic achievement rates and health issues. One

area of concern however was the accessibility of services, ie distance to the Doctor, Dentist.

Priorities for Severnside are to improve Caldicot School (hopefully ultimately leading to the improvement of examination results), improved leisure (theatre) services, provision of a new supermarket, refurbishment of Caldicot town centre to encourage more footfall, annual festival for the area. Landlords in the town centre are very supportive of joint working towards improvement. A workshop to include all stakeholders will be held shortly. A Sustainable Severnside Community Interest Company will be established. Councillor Trayler-Smith expressed concern that this appeared to be re-development rather than re-generation.

There are also significant areas of improvement for tourism hopefully funded by the lottery/private sector – Caerwent Heritage Village, Sudbrook Heritage Village, Magor/Undy Heritage Village, Caldicot Castle & Country Park and the Wales Coastal Path. Mr Ashman was advised of our proposed circular walk/picnic spot and the availability of the MoD railway line.

The Chairman advised Mr Ashman that our priorities would be tourism improvement including links to for example Llanmelin Hill Fort, funding for the Old Gym building, improved public transport, communication signal enhancement, area signage, broadband improvement, overcoming restrictions laid down by Cadw.

This study will be completed in July and recommendations by the end of this financial year. The school project will hopefully be completed by 2014 and the supermarket by 2015.

M3735 MATTERS ARISING

Merton Green

Councillor Cousins was pleased to report that Barratts had agreed to plant a 20-50 ft semi-mature oak tree in the open space hopefully surrounded by a circular bench. He was congratulated on his efforts.

Councillor Cousins reported some fencing on the lane at the back of Llanvair Road which now blocks the walk way. He will mention to Barratts.

Proposed Closure of School Lane

Survey results should be received soon.

Old Gym Building

Letter of complaint received re Youth Club youngsters playing outside. Also complaint to Probation Services regarding grass strimming at the site (noise/smell). Old Gym Committee will be meeting with complainant shortly.

Crick Wildlife Reserve

Solicitor has looked at draft lease and recommended slight amendments. Clerk advised Legal Department at MCC.

Provision of Allotments

Alice Rees, Project Officer from Gwent Orchards will be attending our meeting in July.

Circular Walk

Councillor Counsell reported on a very positive meeting with MCC. The Footpaths Officer had in fact suggested a smaller circular walk. He and Mike Moran, Recreation Manager of MCC, will be meeting with Major Brooks at Sennybridge shortly to look at a very similar scheme in that area.

Footpath/Land Attached to Great House Farm

Mr R Griffiths, Management Surveyor, MCC, had confirmed at a meeting on 31st May that the house, barn and outbuildings will be sold as one lot with planning permission, hopefully during the summer. The Chairman had enquired why we were not informed of a planning application which had appeared on the website. Apparently this particular plan was invalid and they are currently working on a revised one.

Regarding the field to the rear of the toilets Mr Griffiths had agreed that MCC could grant a lease to the Community Council for five years at a rent of £250 p.a. Legal Department had sent a lease - Solicitor to look at this.

Mr R Griffiths had confirmed that the County would be prepared to dedicate the footpath as a public right of way. Councillor Counsell reported that he had subsequently been informed by Mr Griffiths that this would not in fact be the case. The Chairman agreed to raise this matter with the Chief Officer.

Cwrt Morgan Adoption

No progress.

War Memorial Names

No reply from Newport Memorials. Clerk in discussions with Philip Blatchly.

Extra Street Lighting, Crick

The lights are now working. In view of the fact that the police had intimated that we could request a reduced speed limit in Crick once we had extra street lighting the Clerk reported that Councillor Swift had contacted Highways. She had received a reply that Crick was on the 3 year forward programme and they did not anticipate the traffic increasing significantly in Crick following the implementation of the Caerwent scheme. Councillor Swift was concerned about this reply. It was agreed that we discuss this issue with the police again.

Finance Request re Caerwent Church Clock

Councillor Trayler-Smith had met with a member of the Caerwent PCC on site and made a recommendation that we provide financial assistance to them. Councillor Swift had reported to the Clerk that she could not support this as she felt that they had not adequately fund raised. Councillor Hedley advised that they usually did this through the Caerwent Show but as this is not occurring this year it is difficult for them. Councillor Trayler-Smith reported that the change of colour from black to blue is an edict from the Church authorities so they have no choice. Council voted to donate £600 towards required works.

Caerwent Playing Fields – responsibility of trees

Chairman/Councillor Hedley will be meeting with Mr T O'Donovan of MCC in July.

“Gated Entrance” A48

Chairman is chasing this.

Bringing Your Village Alive Grants

Councillor Counsell expressed concern that the Project Officers for this scheme are not totally involved in the grant process. The Chairman reported that the Coach & Horses had put in an application.

Dog Waste Bins

Reply received from Head of Operations at MCC that they do not fund the provision of dog waste bins. The Chairman agreed to enquire of the Chief Officer if they could be provided under a tourism initiative.

Diversion of Bridleway 33A

Chairman/Councillor Counsell had met on site with Footpaths Officer, Open Spaces Society, the Ramblers and the British Horse Association. Agreed no objections.

Reinstatement of Hedge, Shirefield Cottage

Clerk had checked with Planning Enforcement. They (and we) have no record of a planning application at this address.

Meeting with MoD

Councillors to note that next meeting is due to be held on 20th November 6.00 p.m.

Car Rallies

Letter from Garth Tyre & Auto Services that a Car Rally will take place in the Base on 24th June.

Marching Jazz Band

The Marching Band are now emailing Highfield residents and the Community Council regarding their activities.

M3736 PLANNING

2008/01341 Rose Cottage, Llanfair Discoed Erection of 2 Detached Dwellings/Garages and Rear Extension to Existing Property

*This Council recommends **Refusal***

These plans are not acceptable as they do not adequately deal with sewage disposal. Questions remain over distances from habitable rooms of cess pits and the arrangements re Rose Cottage itself as no effluent can pass into the stream (Environment Agency had refused permission).

The planned cess pits require special arrangements over the lack of load bearing capacity for the intended positioning and the lack of adequate provision is challenged.

**2012/00382 Casa Mia, Wentwood, Llanfair Discoed
Demolition of Existing Dwelling, Garage & Stable. Construction of
New Replacement Dwelling & Garage**

*This Council recommends **Approval***

Provided this is within the 50% permitted development allowance.

**2012/00377 3 Martins Road Caerwent
Single Storey Extension & Porch. Change Driveway from Tarmac to Pavers,
Convert Half Garage to Study**

*This Council recommends **Approval***

**2012/00428 3 St Tathan's Place, Caerwent
First Floor Extension Over Existing Garage**

*This Council recommends **Approval***

**2012/00353 2 Trewen Road, Caerwent
Demolition of Existing Single Garage. Proposed Two Storey Side Extension to
Form New Kitchen & Master Bedroom and Single Attached Garage with Utility
Room to Rear**

*This Council recommends **Approval***

Council to note that the applicants re Planning Applications 2010/01097
2 New Cottages Caerwent and 2010/01010 3 New Cottages Caerwent have
appealed against Refusal.

The Chairman and Councillor Hedley had previously discussed and been party to correspondence regarding a flue installed at 47 Canon Lane and the problems experienced by the immediate neighbour. The Chairman reported that various MCC Officers had visited the site, the owner had been requested to burn the correct fuel which is now happening. The neighbour had been informed by MCC that under present legislation/powers the authority is not in a position to take action regarding the flue.

M3737 FINANCE

It was agreed to make payments as per Finance Schedule dated June 2012.
As the bill for the water at the public toilets appeared somewhat high Councillor Counsell agreed to visit the public toilets to monitor the water meter.

Council approved Annual Return accounts for 2011/12 prior to external audit. The Clerk reported that this year we are included in the random 5% sample of councils who have been chosen for a spot check by the external auditor, therefore she will have to provide additional information.

M3738 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Nick Ramsay, AM
Congratulations to all Councillors on their election. He is happy to attend one of our meetings to explain the role of the Assembly or to discuss any particular issues of concern.

2. WELSH ASSEMBLY
Practice Guide - "Realising the Potential of Pre-Application Discussions"
3. DESERIE MANSFIELD, SOCIAL ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
Invitation to event on 21st June at Itton. Re broadband in rural areas and grants available. Chairman/Councillor Counsell will attend.
4. CHEPSTOW TOWN COUNCIL
Notice of training for new Councillors.
5. CHRISTOPHER WINWOOD, 3 VALLEYS CARAVAN CLUB
Suggestion that dogs be allowed on the Caerwent Playing Fields when Caravan Clubs visit. It was agreed to reply stating that we are governed by the bylaws of MCC which prohibit dogs.

M3739 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

Council discussed Notice of Public FootPath No. 66 (part) Diversion. No objections.

Councillor Counsell proposed that we request Tree Preservation Orders on the A48 (Llanvair Road to Dinham Road). The Clerk advised that Orders on these trees had come into force May 2006.

Stone stile overgrown near westgate. Clerk to report to County Farms.

The footpath Five Lanes to Civic Amenity Site will be sprayed with weedkiller in the better weather. Footpath Cadoc Close to Playing Fields overgrown.
2 tracks Five Lanes impassable – horizontal cutting required. Fly tipping at the School Lane narrowing was reported - Councillors to monitor.

Requested stiles at Five Lanes – it was agreed that we suggest to the Footpaths Officer that we fund the stiles if they install them.

Playing Fields – MCC not cutting whole area, avoiding edges. The Chairman and Councillor Hedley will discuss this with Mr O'Donovan of MCC in July.
The Chairman reported that MCC are now cutting 16 times per year as opposed to 14.

M3740 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

There were no representative reports.

The meeting was closed to public and press at this point.

M3741 CAERWENT WARD COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Council considered this vacancy and agreed on an appointment.

Chairman Date