

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD 14TH APRIL 2011

Present: P Murphy (Chairman) D Hedley
B Counsell P Lewis
G Cousins K Swift
K Evans D Vosloo

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council

Members of

Public: Mr T Meredith, New Cottages, Caerwent
Mrs B Thomas, Green Lane House, Caerwent
Mrs Edwards, New Cottages, Caerwent
Mr W Edwards, Yew Tree Farm, Llanvair Discoed

M3557 APOLOGIES

Received from Councillor Kidger

M3558 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman announced the sad passing of Councillor Nettleship after a long illness. He will be missed for his vast historical and community knowledge. Council's condolences go to his wife and family.

Councillor Swift proposed that there be some mark of recognition within the community for him. There were various suggestions - it was agreed that the Clerk discuss with his wife the most appropriate way forward.

M3559 15 MINUTES PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs Edwards queried why the toilets are not currently open. The Chairman informed the meeting that there are various repairs to carry out before we are officially handed over the keys.

M3560 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 19TH MARCH 2011

These were agreed as a true record.

M3561 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Murphy	Caerwent Community Centre Cttee (Old Gym)
Councillor Cousins	Merton Green Action Group

M3562 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

The Clerk announced that our new Police Officer is Pc Lauren Underhill. She had contacted the Clerk with a report which was read out. The Chairman agreed to mention in the newsletter the alarms which are available from the police.

M3563 MATTERS ARISING

Merton Green

The Chairman and Councillor Cousins will be meeting with new Site Manager of Barratts, Paul Ellis, on a monthly basis – first meeting Friday 15th April. It was agreed to mention to him the fact that lights are still not working on Ash Tree Road, that no notice is given of road closures on the development and to query what is happening with the footpath opposite Northgate Inn.

Proposed Closure of School Lane

The Chairman reported that a meeting took place this week with the Cabinet Member, Highways Engineer and the Traffic Manager. Two options had been put forward – to carry out an 18 month trial period or to hold a Public Enquiry - the Chairman sought Council's views on this.

Councillor Counsell felt that an 18 month trial would not be comparing like with like as in 18 months time most of the Merton Green development will then be occupied. It was agreed that this Council would prefer to go to Public Enquiry.

It was also agreed to push for some form of traffic calming in Caerwent village and strategically placed build-ups, as in Church Road, Caldicot, had been suggested to Highways by the Chairman. Council also suggested a weight limit and a 20 mph limit, especially in view of the newly established use of the Old School in the village.

Section 106

“Plan for Caerwent” email sent by Kellie Beirne. It was agreed that we arrange a meeting with Kellie Beirne, Mike Moran, MoD and possibly Cadw to discuss uses of the Section 106 monies.

Old Gym

Mike Moran will be meeting with us shortly.

Bradbury Farm, Crick (Play Area/Allotments)

No progress.

Provision of Allotments

Reply from Christian Lowe, Development Engineer, re access of proposed site on A48 stating that the site is not considered suitable in terms of highway safety based on its proposed position along the A48, directly opposite the existing Roman Road junction and does not meet the minimum junction spacing requirement. The speed limit at this section of the A48 is 50 mph and there are concerns that the level of traffic generated by the proposal would be detrimental to highway safety by conflicting with the high volume of high speed traffic. Councillor Counsell proposed that he discuss this with Mr Lowe at a site meeting.

Reply from Charles de Winton, MoD, re land on A48 stating that the said piece of land is not going to be sold off as it affords road frontage onto the A48. They will however consider leasing it after we have looked into clearing the scrub.

County Farms is currently being re-organised – Chairman will inform us of new staffing structure shortly.

Councillor Swift proposed that field to rear of toilets in Caerwent be put forward as an allotment/picnic site – it was agreed that this site be mentioned to Mike Moran.

Proposed Bridleway around MoD Site

No further progress.

Caerwent House

Chairman will be reporting on this at the end of the meeting.

Footpath/Land Attached to Great House Farm

No further progress.

Cwrt Morgan Adoption

Site meeting arranged between Chairman, Councillors Evans, Counsell and Christian Lowe, Highways Engineer, for 19th April.

Provision of Public Conveniences in Monmouthshire

Transfer of toilets took place on 31st March - Solicitor now dealing with the land registry requirement. Transfer conditional on:

- (a) Keeping the toilets open for a minimum of 200 days per year or the land must be transferred back to the County Council
- (b) In the event that the County Council waives its right to repurchase and the land is sold for redevelopment the Community Council will give the County Council 50% of the redevelopment value.

Final water and electricity meter readings have been taken. Toilets currently locked whilst repairs are made. Clerk has asked local electrician to provide a quote for a sensor. Awaiting quote from Coach & Horses landlord re cleaning.

It was agreed to set up a sub-committee to progress this matter. A meeting was arranged for Tuesday 19th April.

Dog Waste Bins (Roman Wall)

Confirmation from Cadw that Inspector had approved bins and location – outside Cadw car park and near the Tump. Clerk to confirm to Merlin Waste and Cadw.

Welcome to Caerwent booklet

Councillor Lewis reported that a reply had still not been received from the Chapel. It was agreed that he enquire if it would be preferable for the Council to take the lead and write to all parties.

Crick Village Enhancement Scheme

Community work days planned for afternoons of Sunday 10th and Saturday 16th April.

Crick east Bus Stop land

Llanvair Landscapes had tidied up the area of the land to the rear of the bus stop.

Crick lighting

Signed petitions from residents and businesses in Crick along with letter sent to Street Lighting Manager - 80% in favour of lights, 9% not, 11% unable to contact.

Five Lanes Waste Site - Virador Lorries

The Chairman had written to Rachel Jowett, Waste Strategy & Resources Manager, re lorries spewing waste even with nets on. She had written to Virador suggesting a site meeting and requested that lorries have at least 2ft clear to make sure the material is contained. If there are any further problems Time, Date and Registration would be required. The Chairman was asked to report the state of the lay bye and the entrance.

Councillor Swift reported a recent incident when a resident was verbally abused by a member of staff at the site – she was advised to contact Rachel Jowett.

Village Signs

Councillor Counsell suggested that a village sign be placed in the proximity of the Northgate Inn. Councillor Swift proposed that signs also be provided for the other villages – it was agreed to consider this when costs are known. The Chairman advised that a new MCC signage policy is being drawn up for the whole of the community and it was therefore agreed to await the results of this.

“Low Bridge” Signs at Crick

Have now been installed but residents feel that there should also be a sign on the A48 to give advance warning – written to Highways again.

M3564 PLANNING

2011/00086 Land Adjacent to Old Sunday School, St Brides Netherwent

Retention and Completion of Hard Surface Track to Stables

This Council recommends site meeting

Local concerns:

exact nature of hardcore being used, ie is it environmentally suitable?

noise pollution from generator

further development, ie business

optimum position of "muck heap"

improvement could be made visually by the removal of the old semi-derelict sheds/outbuildings

2011/00297 Nanny Goat Cottage, St Brides Netherwent

Partial Demolition & Alterations to Existing Dwelling to Provide A Two-Storey Extension

This Council recommends Approval

2011/00252 13 Court House Road, Llanfair Discoed

Erect Single Storey Side Extension to Existing Dwelling

This Council recommends Approval

M3565 TO CONSIDER PROPOSAL TO SET UP SOCIAL NETWORKING

Councillor Swift put a proposal that we set up social networking within the community. It was felt that it would be useful for her to talk with Councillor Vosloo who has an emailing list for her village which works extremely well.

M3566 FINANCE

Council noted and agreed the following payments and income as per Finance Schedule for April 2011:

Payments	£4428.78
Income	£11,833.00

M3567 CORRESPONDENCE

1. KELLIE BEIRNE, CHIEF OFFICER, MCC

Review Findings and the Way Forward for Tourist Information Centre Provision in Monmouthshire.

2. JENNY LEWIS, CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

Copy of Charter agreed between MCC and Community & Town Councils

3. GWENT ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Gwent Best Kept Village Competition 2011. Closing Date 16th May.
Llanvair Discoed have entered – Crick will consider entering.

Councillors Vosloo and Swift requested funds towards planting.
It was agreed to donate £100 to each village.

4. SHIRLEY WIGGAM, SENIOR STRATEGY & POLICY OFFICER, MCC

Build Your Own Affordable Home: Single Plot Exception Sites.

5. ONE VOICE WALES

2011 Conference & AGM – 8TH October Ceredigion

6. MINUTES/PUBLICATIONS

Severnside Area Minutes

Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council Minutes

M3568 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

Brockwells – numerous lorries entering site – Chairman had already informed Environmental Health and Planning Enforcement.

Five Lanes to Llanvair Discoed has been put on resurfacing list.

Bench on A48 east on dualcarriageway – attempted theft but still in situ. Clerk to check safety.

A48 opposite Cwrt Morgan – illuminated bollard been knocked again.

Damaged wall at St Brides church – Councillor Counsell to arrange for local stonemason to repair for £20.

M3569 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Councillor Counsell reported that the Caldicot Citizens Advice Bureau had successfully bid for £5,000 from Monmouthshire Housing Association.

M3570 TO CONSIDER EXCLUDING THE PRESS AND PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEM OF BUSINESS ON THE GROUNDS THAT PUBLICITY WOULD BE PREJUDICIAL TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST BY REASON OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED RELATING TO LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

This was agreed.

M3571 CAERWENT HOUSE

The Chairman updated the Council on legal proceedings.

Chairman Date