

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
HELD 11TH MARCH 2021

Present: Via Remote Attendance
Councillors:
K Evans (Chair)
M Beattie
P Dalton
K Haddow
M John
P Murphy
AM Spooner

M3860 APOLOGIES

Councillor B Counsell – Council accepted his apologies due to ill health.
Councillor K Swift – Council accepted her apologies due to caring responsibilities.
Councillor P Murphy had advised that he would probably be late in arriving.

M3861 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillor K Evans	Caerwent Historic Trust	Trustee
Councillor P Dalton	Caerwent Football Club	Coach
Councillor AM Spooner	Caerwent Playing Fields Assoc	Committee Member

M3862 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

M3863 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 11th FEBRUARY 2021

To note that these had been confirmed remotely

Council noted.

M3864 POLICE REPORT

To note

There was concern that the crime figures did not correlate to the map. Agreed, when we are able, to invite the new Inspector to a Council meeting to query this.

Your Voice consultation received – posted on our Facebook page. Council noted reply from police confirming that the crimes reported are specific to our community.

M3865 PLANNING

2020/00179 Maybury, Roman Road, new vehicle access

This Council recommends ***Approval***

To consider any planning applications received after despatch of agenda

There were no further planning application to consider.

To note monthly enforcement list from MCC

Council noted.

Report of a very visible light green caravan which had recently appeared at Rodge Farm. Councillor Haddow will enquire of the owner as to its usage if she is able to see him.

M3866 PROPOSED PLACE PLAN

To report on recent Place Plan training event and whether to go forward with the proposal that we join with neighbouring Community Councils in creating a Place Plan.

Council agreed not to join Portskewett and Rogiet Community Councils in creating a Place Plan. They agreed that the timing is not right as Place Plans have to be adopted by the local authority and sit under the current Local Development Plan. Any Place Plan commencing now would be out of date in that, by the time it was completed, there would be a new LDP and it would be irrelevant. Agreed that it would be very time consuming and expensive.

It was suggested that we instead look into opting for the Community Plan route and possibly carry out a questionnaire/survey. Agreed that this would be useful data in terms of any grant applications. The Chair agreed to seek out the previous electronic questionnaire results from 2007 and will circulate. Agreed to agenda this item for next month.

M3867 DOG WASTE BIN (NORTHGATE ENTRANCE TO EMBRACE NATURE FIELD)

Due to increased fouling in the Basilica and Post Office field, to consider the provision of a dog waste bin at a cost of £250 for bin and £208 annual emptying costs. (Councillor K Evans)

Council broadly agreed but before committing to this agreed that Councillor Spooner approach the neighbour for their approval. In the meantime to consider the exact location in view of the contractor pick up and land ownership. Clerk will enquire re the bins which can be provided by Merlin Waste.

M3868 REPLACEMENT SEESAW, CAERWENT PLAYING FIELDS

To consider six quotes received.

Council agreed that the Dragonfly seesaw at a cost of £2645 would be the most suitable and were pleased to note that it is an inclusive piece of equipment. Clerk to query previous bump stop issue from MCC and if removal of current equipment is included.

M3869 VILLAGE HALL/COMMUNITY CENTRE

To consider researching the installation and use of CCTV cameras at both sites in order to deter crime within the area. (Councillor K Evans)

Council agreed that the Chair commence research into CCTV cameras which record onto the cloud.

M3870 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

CLERK'S REPORT

Councillor Vacancy – Dinham Ward

MCC have advertised this vacancy. If by 16th March a request to fill the vacancy is made by ten electors an election will be held, otherwise the vacancy will be filled by

co-option. If co-option is permitted the candidate who was runner up at the latest interviews will be invited to join the Council.

Manor Farm Adoption

No progress.

Dog Waste Bin – Dualcarriageway west A48

Now in place. Informed dog waste contractor.

Large lorries travelling through Caerwent

Still sending information to MCC. Much larger signage will now be erected.

Trees

Large diseased tree overhanging picnic benches due to be removed 11/12 March has been postponed to 18/19 March due to inclement weather. Picnic bench area has been cordoned off in the meantime. Play area will be cordoned off during works. Jim Keech, Tree Officer MCC, aware. Chippings will be spread around – Clerk will enquire if some can be spread under the tired play equipment.

Councillor Murphy had informed Spitalfields of the locations of the extra three trees – one at Highfield, two at eastgate junction with A48.

(Councillor Murphy joined the meeting)

Caerwent Playing Fields query – tree rear of 3 Cadoc Close. Survey carried out July 2020 with recommendation that some trees in this area be monitored for advancement of ash dieback. The survey does not indicate which actual trees are affected. There was no recommendation that any other works would be required. The Chair will visit the site to establish which actual tree this is. The next survey will be carried out approximately January 2022.

Litter Picking Equipment

Any residents requiring this equipment had been referred to Sue Parkinson, MCC Officer, but she has for the time being halted the handing out of equipment due to lack of staff.

Rogiet School Minor Authority Representative

Resident accepted our invitation to represent us. Informed Governor Services.

Toilets

Ladies toilets blocked and closed for a day. Under our emergency regulations of up to £500 expenditure this was approved by the Chair and the toilets unblocked the next day.

Senedd Elections

It is the policy of the Welsh Government to hold the election on 6th May as intended unless the pandemic presents such a serious threat to public health that it is not safe to hold the election at that time. Electoral administrators have been asked to continue preparing for the election on 6th May. If postponed it will be a date no later than 5th November 2021.

Electoral Services have advised that they will have all risk assessments in place. The Chair will complete our own risk assessment for the Village Hall.

Embrace Nature Caerwent

Clerk had spoken with Cadw who requested that we invoice them in April for the grant and we then send the funds on to Embrace Nature. This will be for an initial period of three years, to be reviewed thereafter. Cadw will be sending all the information in writing.

Phone Box (warning signage)

Councillor Beattie will check size of signage required and inform the Clerk.

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

972 members

Issues raised:

Consultations posted – Your Voice, School Places, Caldicot Town Centre.

Theft in Llanvair Discoed

Nature Isn't Neat post

Electric outage

Dog sickness warning

Information exchange

Tree Works at Caerwent Playing Fields

New Footpath from Portskewett to Caerwent along MoD railway line

Dogs to be on leads whilst lambing

New electric vehicle charge points in Mons

Warning of dogs digesting ketamine on their walks in the area

In view of the number of recent personal sales posts, agreed that the Social Media Working Group look into altering the "About" section of the Facebook page.

The Clerk will post onto Facebook a request from our Caerwent Community Centre Committee regarding the completion of a survey.

PLAY AREAS INSPECTION REPORT

Seesaw issue Caerwent– requires removal.

Adventure Trail Caerwent– agreed to this repair in November – following numerous reminders MCC have now put this near the top of their list.

Moss and algae on surface Caerwent – Clerk to obtain quote.

Gate post broken off at base – Clerk to contact our contractor.

EMBRACE NATURE REPORT

Council noted that the Committee have still not received their promised initial grant of £1450 from Cadw. Clerk had contacted Cadw.

M3871 FINANCE

To consider balances/payment and approval as per finance schedule dated March 2021

Balances as at 31st January:

Community Account	£13,888.13
Moneymaster Account	£12,122.15
Petty Cash	£154.37

Clerk's Salary, Allowances, Mileage (20)	as per NALC scales
Inland Revenue	£198.00
Torfaen Pension Fund	(employee) £58.59
	(employer) £197.10
British Gas (toilets)	£27.88
Merlin Waste (dog bins emptying)	£234.00
Aardvarc Cleaning (toilets cleaning)	£216.00
Planning Aid Wales (Place Plans training)	£168.75
One Voice Wales (training x 2) bursary applied	£30.00
Llanvair Landscapes (hedge cutting, xmas tree, tree works)	£1330.00
S Roderick (planter works)	£96.66

To note that the contractor cost of emptying dog waste bins will rise by 10p to £4.00 per bin w.e.f. 5th April 2021

Council agreed.

To note that the contractor cost of grass cutting will rise by £50 per cut w.e.f. April 2021

Council noted that the contractor had not increased their price for many years and that they are extremely reliable and efficient. Council agreed.

M3872 CORRESPONDENCE

Monmouthshire Meadows Newsletter

Caerwent Training Area noisy activity notice

One Voice Wales training courses

One Voice Wales newsletter

One Voice Wales coronavirus update

One Voice Wales – Summary of Key Provisions of the Local Government and Elections Act 2021 for Town/Community Councils

MCC – Census Information

M3873 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

To note any verbal reports

There were no reports.

M3874 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

Notification of 20 mph pilot scheme in Caerwent

Council were pleased to note this and, following our request, that a section of Caldicot Road from the crossroads to the junction at Canon Lane could possibly be included.

Public Right of Way query nr Wye Valley Archery in Crick

Councillor Murphy had contacted enforcement.

Councillors to report any issues

Bollards placed on Ysgubor Kemeys Road, Llanvair Discoed – awaiting repair.

Gate on footpath between Cadw and County Farms land in very poor condition – Councillor Haddow will provide photos to Councillor Murphy to establish ownership.

Gate outside Cadw car park in very poor condition and liable to collapse – Clerk to report to Cadw.

St Brides Road – road falling into the brook, bollards previously placed are now in the hedge. The Chair will provide photos to Councillor Murphy who will take it up with MCC.

St Brides Road flooding – manhole covers now bolted down. Councillor Murphy will enquire at MCC if they have any influence over this.

Court Morgan adoption had been queried by a resident. The Chair advised that this was previously investigated in 2011 but not enough residents came forward to go forward. The Chair will send a query to Councillor Murphy to enquire about this and also to determine which roads in our area are unadopted, including Centurion Court.

Well Lane stream – access to Hillside Bungalow is over the bridge but they are not the owners of the bridge. The land has been subsiding and the owners of the bungalow have filled the stream with sandbags very effectively. They are happy to continue to look after this but subsidence is occurring again. Councillor Murphy will check on who is legally responsible for this.

Highways matters update from last month

Grayhouse Farm to Tripp Farm, Llanvair Discoed, road breaking up – under review. The Mount to Hardwick Farm entrance, Highmoor Hill, numerous potholes – under review.

Cwrt Morgan – all street lights off – now working.

School Lane, Caerwent, dead trees re-reported – under review.

A48 Crick flytipping – passed to Cleansing Department – subsequent reply that this is on private land.

M3875 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Local Government and Elections Act 2021 for Town/Community Councils – procedures which will need implementing.

Possibility of undertaking a community survey and thereafter creating a Community Plan.

Chair Date