

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
14TH OCTOBER 2021

Present: Via Remote Attendance
Councillors
P Murphy (Chair)
M Beattie
K Evans
G Foxall
M John
AM Spooner
K Swift

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council
2 residents from Highmoor Hill

M3882 APOLOGIES

Councillor B Counsell (Council accepted his apologies due to illness)
Councillor P Dalton
Councillor K Haddow

M3883 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
Councillor K Evans	Caerwent Historic Trust	Trustee

M3884 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

M3885 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 9th SEPTEMBER 2021

To note that these had been agreed remotely for accuracy and posted on the Council website

Council noted

M3886 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Two residents from Highmoor Hill were in attendance in support of retaining the Phone Box in its current position and queried why there were thoughts on it being moved to a different location. A further letter from another resident of Highmoor Hill expressing the same views had been circulated.

Councillor Beattie confirmed that the reason for possible relocation was that there had been instances of vandalism over the years and it was felt that relocating it to a more prominent position would possibly reduce this risk.

Councillor Evans informed the meeting that this Council had funded most of the maintenance since the adoption and the promise from the local residents to maintain it had fallen by the wayside. He also advised that there is a steep drop from the door which requires investigation (a warning sign had recently been installed but had been removed). The Clerk confirmed that the box had been adopted by this Council ten years ago and that there had been recent consultation via the newsletter and Facebook regarding possible relocation. Many suggestions had been put forward but

on approaching the landowners, permission had not been granted. The Playing Fields Association had recently approached this Council offering to relocate to their site and were in the process of determining if it could actually be removed safely.

The residents present offered to look after it in conjunction with the Community Council and will set up a working group. The Chairman asked them to write to the Community Council via the Clerk with their proposals and they agreed. He thanked them for making the time to attend our meeting.

Councillor John suggested that some kind of signage within the box re ownership could be appropriate.

M3886 POLICE REPORT

To note

Council noted

M3887 PLANNING

To consider planning applications:

2021/00738 Proposed equestrian use including an 8 stable block, tack room, hay room, menage and temporary siting of caravan, land north west of Holly Lodge, Five Lanes, Caerwent (amended plans).

This Council recommends **Refusal**

Further over-development.

Structures now changed and increased.

Cesspit now shown (no approval).

This is now edging towards commercialisation.

To consider any planning applications received following despatch of the agenda.

There were no other applications.

To note monthly enforcement list from MCC

Council noted.

To note new planning policy advice from Welsh Government in the form of Technical Advice Note 15: Development, flooding and coastal erosion

Council noted.

M3888 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE – SUNDAY 14TH NOVEMBER

To consider any relevant Covid guidelines and note preliminary arrangements made.

Council agreed that there are currently no guidelines which would prevent us from holding the usual Remembrance Service.

The Clerk advised that she had ordered a road closure. She will order 'road closed' signage. Agreed to ask if Councillors Haddow and Dalton will be able to assist on the day regarding placing these at the appropriate time.

Wreaths had been ordered. Rev Kay Denly will lead the service. Philippe Schartz will play the bugle and Deputy Lieutenant Laura Kelway-Bamber will be in attendance.

Agreed that Councillor Beattie lay our wreath.

Agreed to ask Councillor Counsell if he wishes to read the names, to check with the parents re the displaying and reading of the poem and to make enquiries regarding videoing the service.

Councillor Foxall had been approached regarding including the Welsh anthem. He was advised that consultation had been carried out within the community regarding this and the consensus was that it should not be included.

M3889 WAR MEMORIAL – TIME CAPSULE PLAQUES

To consider purchasing two brass plaques at a cost of £62.92 total

Council agreed to purchasing these

To consider final wording for the plaques

Councillor Evans will circulate a final draft.

To consider installation of said plaques

These 2mm thick plaques will be placed on the flagstones. Councillor Swift will contact our paving contractor to obtain a quote and ascertain the actual location of the time capsules.

Councillor Beattie had raised previously the provision of plaques for the planters at the war memorial. He will advise Councillor Evans of the sizes required in order to obtain a quote.

M3890 COMMUNITY SURVEY

To receive any verbal report from the Working Group

Councillor Evans has now received suggestions from all members of the Working Group which he will collate for the next meeting.

M3891 CAERWENT COMMUNITY CENTRE

To note recent survey carried out and to confirm previously agreed contribution of £500

Council confirmed.

To note that the new floor had to have a damp proof membrane put down before the new floor was laid at a cost of £3672 including VAT. To consider funding this totally or making a contribution.

As owners of the building Council agreed to pay the full amount of £3672.

M3892 KEEP WALES TIDY WEBINAR

Councillor Swift to report on this in relation to any information that may be helpful to this Council, ie - adopting a highway, litter free zones, single use plastics, community and business engagement, dog fouling.

Councillor Swift advised on schemes available. She agreed to put an exact proposal to the next meeting in liaison with Councillor Spooner.

M3893 FOOTBALL CLUB PROPOSED ALTERATIONS TO VILLAGE HALL

Chair and Vice Chair to give a verbal report on their recent meeting with the Football Club

The Chair reported that suggestions re alterations to the plans were accepted and The Football Club will re-draw the plans and send to Council for consideration.

M3894 STEPS COTTAGE, CAERWENT

To consider again reporting this as Unsightly Land to MCC

Council agreed to write to the Head of Planning due to the dilapidated and overgrown state of the house and garden.

M3895 CRICK VILLAGE

To consider investigating the provision of larger “Crick” signage

Agreed to write to Highways requesting more substantial signage on the A48 suggesting that this be incorporated with the new speed limit signage, ie Welcome to Crick, Please Drive Carefully, 40 mph.

Also agreed to request Crick signs on the Shirenewton and Crick Roads.

M3896 CAERWENT PLAYING FIELDS

Working Group to report on condition of edging surrounding the field and make any recommendations

Councillor Evans reported that he had made a site visit and it is a particular issue in the Canon Lane/Cadoc Close area. Agreed to arrange a site visit of the Working Group and report back to Council. The Clerk reminded Council that a previous quote in 2020 from MCC was £60 per 4.8m treated length.

M3897 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

CLERK’S REPORT

Play Areas

Seesaw for Caerwent still on order – MCC checked with supplier and it looks likely that it will be December. Following lots of reminders MCC will remove the old seesaw week commencing 18th October.

Post for Llanfair Discoed still on order.

MCC have allocated funding for a new uniplay unit at Trewen Play Area.

Overhanging Branches – Toilets

Permission received from owner. Councillor Beattie dealing with this.

General Waste Bin, Cadw Barns

No further progress.

Paws on Patrol Scheme

Received response from police. CSO Brown will support us with this, the overall running of the project will be via the community. We will be the first Paws on Patrol team within Gwent for a very long time, the previous scheme was extremely successful and they also took part in community events, dog shows, group walks, clean up initiatives etc.

Invited a representative from the police to join our meeting but no one available at the moment. Leigh MacFarlane, Intervention & Prevention Department, Gwent Police, will be happy to join a separate meeting.

Recycling Proposal for Caerwent Playing Fields

No progress.

Defibrillator, Coach & Horses

New outside case and pads have been delivered to the Clerk. Councillor Haddow had notified that the Landlord had asked for this to be re-sited to outside near the hotel entrance to the pub. The Clerk will contact the electrician.

School Bus Pick Up/Drop Offs

Following complaints the school bus is now dropping off at the actual bus shelter near the toilets in Caerwent rather than at the cenotaph.

Councillor Swift had contacted the Passenger Transport Unit at MCC with school details. She will circulate their response to Council.

Planning Application 2021/01304 Penylan Farm, St Brides Road, St Brides Netherwent - Excavation of dirty water pond adjacent to existing

No recommendation sent in as yet. Still awaiting any responses arising from the Landscape Officer's concerns.

Microsoft Business Account

Councillor Evans had reported that a new business account has been set up which incorporates Teams and gives more email storage. There is also a shared workplace facility which will be set up.

Highways Updates

Reported to Cadw ivy encroaching onto noticeboard from wall at Caerwent church. Asked Caerwent Meadows to keep an eye on ivy encroaching onto pavement near the Post Office.

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

Information exchange mainly

PLAY AREAS INSPECTION REPORT

Council noted. Still awaiting quote re rotten log on walking trail and advice on top platform of slide which is starting to rot.

M3898 FINANCE

To consider balances/payments and approval as per finance schedule dated October 2021

Balances as at 30th September:

Community Account	£12,030.97
Moneymaster Account	£12,123.05
Petty Cash	£232.93

Clerk's Salary, Allowances, Overtime, Mileage (20)	as per NALC scales
Inland Revenue	£199.90
Torfaen Pension Fund	(employee) £58.59
	(employer) £197.10
Aardvarc Cleaning	£216.00
Merlin Waste	£325.00
British Gas	£28.21
MCC (annual rent for field at Crick)	£15.00
Llanvair Landscapes (grasscutting)	£600.00
Defib Store (cabinet and new pads)	£645.72
S Roderick (play inspections)	£51.25

Council approved payment.

To consider quarterly budget figures for 2021/22

Council noted.

M3899 CORRESPONDENCE

MoD – notice of noisy activity

Monmouthshire Meadows newsletter

Chepstow Transport Study

MCC – consultation on polling stations

MCC – Active Travel Department re cycling confidence sessions

M3900 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

To note any verbal reports

Councillor Swift will be meeting up with Councillor AM Spooner and hopefully ex Councillor Lewis regarding a Wellbeing Project with The Ramblers.

M3901 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

Council to consider condition of pavement from The Court House to Tigh na Darag in Llanvair Discoed

Clerk to re-report to MCC

Council to re-consider condition of bus stop area in Crick (east) and recommendation from Handyperson that the weed membrane be doubled up, an additional stone layer put on top and tidy up of the wooden edge.

Councillor Swift felt that the weeds are not growing through the membrane, they are growing on top. She agreed to contact her volunteer group who previously cleared the area for their thoughts on the recommendation from the Handyperson and report back. She will also research the provision of a planter in that area.

Councillors to report any other issues

Roman Road – dangerous parking on a bend in the vicinity of Eastgate Crescent.

School children dropping masks on Roman Road after exiting the Chepstow school bus at Eastgate Crescent bus shelter. Clerk to write to the school expressing our concerns.

Dangerous car donuting taking place from the Shirenewton Road/Crick Road junctions onto the A48 in the evening. Clerk to report to police to ask for increased patrols.

Very pleasing display of flowering planters in the Eastgate Crescent area.

M3902 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Brass plaques for benches

Keep Wales Tidy possible schemes

Planter at Crick bus stop

Chair Date