

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
HELD 12TH NOVEMBER 2020

Present: Via Remote Attendance:
Councillors:
K Evans (Chair)
M Beattie
K Haddow
B Harris
P Murphy
K Swift

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council

M4926 APOLOGIES

Councillor B Counsell – Council accepted his apologies due to ill health.
Councillor A Gittings.

M4927 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillor K Evans	Caerwent Historic Trust	Trustee
Councillor P Murphy	Caerwent Community Centre	Trustee
Councillor P Murphy	All planning applications	Member of MCC Planning Committee

M4928 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair reported that the scaled down Remembrance Service at the War Memorial went well. The only issue was that if we did this again a road closure should be requested. The videoing was successful and the Clerk had thanked resident Michael Thomas for this.

M4929 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 8th OCTOBER 2020

To note that these had been approved remotely for accuracy.

M4930 POLICE REPORT

Two arrests for theft from Dragon Waste, they have been charged with fourteen offences. No police calls to Dragon Waste since this arrest.

Off road bike operations in Wentwood.

Speeding exercise on A48.

Covid advice given out to residents.

Residents had been signed up to the Herbert Protocol which helps to safeguard people with dementia.

M4931 PLANNING

2020/01496 44 St Tathan's Place Caerwent

Excavate the front garden at 44 St. Tathans, to be converted into a driveway. Grass and soft landscaping removed to allow for driveway to be laid as hard surface i.e. tarmac/paving or similar, designed to adequate falls for surface water drainage.

*This Council recommends **Approval***

To consider any planning applications received after despatch of agenda

There were no other planning applications to consider

2020/00537 Two storey domestic extension, Rear Barn, Manor Farm, St Brides Road

To note that the applicant has appealed against the decision of refusal by MCC.

Council noted

APP/E6840/A/20/3255619 Myrtle Cottage, Caerwent (Appeal)

Notification from the Planning Inspector that the appeal had been refused

Council noted.

To note monthly enforcement list from MCC

Council noted

To Note Monmouthshire Replacement Local Development Plan Revised Delivery Agreement, October 2020

Council noted that Welsh Government had agreed to a new timetable

M4932 PLACE PLAN PROPOSAL TRAINING

To consider information from Planning Aid Wales

Council noted. The Clerk will reply to Portskewett Community Council with email addresses of interested Councillors.

M4933 STONE WALL REPAIR, LLANVAIR DISCOED

To consider quote of £1,250.

Council noted that a further quote of £450 had been received. It was agreed to accept this quote.

M4934 FIRE AT CAERWENT TRAINING AREA

To consider response from MoD

Council were pleased with the swift response and action taken by the Training Safety Officer.

M4835 OAK TREES (P Murphy)

To consider offer from Spitalfields to plant six oak trees in our area and to suggest any locations

Council agreed to ask for five to be planted at the Playing Fields and one at Cwrt House Road where a dead tree was removed earlier this year. Agreed that plaques be placed "Date - planted by Spitalfields during their renovation of Caerwent House". Councillor Murphy will advise Spitalfields. Exact locations on the Fields to be determined.

M4836 PROPOSED STANDING ORDERS 1B AND 2B AMENDMENT (B Harris)

Current 1b Order:

The Council shall appoint a Councillor to Chair provided that they have been adjudged by Council to have completed at least three years of competent and Code of Conduct compliant service on the Community Council. The Chair will undertake to complete the Charing Skills and Code of Conduct training courses.

Proposed 1b Order:

The Council shall appoint a Councillor as Chair provided, they carry the confidence of the majority of Councillors and have completed at least two years of service on the Community Council. The Chair will undertake to complete the Charing Skills course provided by One Voice Wales or equivalent and completion of the Code of Conduct courses.

A vote was taken on this proposal with the result 2 For, 3 Against. This was therefore rejected.

Current 2b Order:

The Council shall appoint a Councillor to Vice Chair provided they have been adjudged by Council to have completed at least two years of competent and Code of Conduct compliant service on the Community Council. The Vice Chair will undertake to complete the Charing Skills and Code of Conduct training courses.

Proposed 2b Order:

The Council shall appoint a Councillor as Vice-Chair provided, they carry the confidence of the majority of Councillors and have completed at least two years of service on the Community Council. The Vice-Chair will undertake to complete the Charing Skills course provided by One Voice Wales or equivalent and completion of Code of Conduct courses.

A vote was taken on this proposal with the result 2 For, 3 Against. This was therefore rejected.

**M3847 TO RECEIVE REPORTS
CLERK'S REPORT****Councillor Vacancies (Llanvair Discoed and St Brides Netherwent wards)**

Four expressions of interest received. The Clerk will arrange online interviews once the closing date has closed.

Highmoor Hill Phone Box

Still no reply from Post Office. Agreed to write again to the owner of the land. A resident from Highmoor Hill had recently replaced the broken glass.

Embrace Nature Caerwent

Sub-Licence now signed by CCC and ENC.

Meeting to be held on 24th November with Cadw - Councillors Evans and Murphy attending.

Manor Farm Adoption

Councillor Murphy will aim to obtain a definitive response from Highways.

Trees

No reply from 2 Vicarage Gardens regarding overhanging branches onto picnic tables at Playing Fields. Agreed to write again.

Reply from MCC re Playing Fields trees:

"Trees are important features in our landscape and those in our urban and semi urban areas provide very valuable, yet often intangible/unseen, benefits. Law and policy require us to look after existing trees and plant more to increase the benefits that they confer to us. Trees will grow to a size appropriate to their species over time

and there is no hard and fast rule over how close they should or should not be to buildings. In the case of the park, the trees are establishing and the Community Council is meeting its obligation to ensure that the risk the trees present is acceptable. The proximity to the fences is reasonable and as long as the trees are checked and managed for safety over the period of their lives, then size and proximity to the boundaries is an individual value judgement.”

The Chair advised that tree works from survey recommendations have started. The Clerk was asked to check progress as the works so far completed do not appear to represent the maintenance needed.

Dog Waste Bin – Dualcarriageway west A48

Ordered new dog bin.

Recycled Bench A48 east

Ordered bench.

Assets Inspections

Outstanding:

Asbestos Reports (toilets) – Councillor Beattie volunteered to carry this out.

Village Hall

Community Centre

Vernon Grove

Re materials left - rear Storey Extension approved June 2020. Agreed to review at a later date.

Edging, Playing Fields

Quote from MCC of approx. £60 per treated length (4.8m per length). Agreed to look at this again in a couple of years.

Caerwent Play Area Repairs

MCC response - the timber cross member material cost for a play spec timber radian round pole = £245.00. Labour to pre-drill and install the pole = £195.00. Council agreed.

MCC still trying to source parts for the seesaw but the item is no longer produced. May have to replace this piece of equipment.

Training Courses booked

Councillors Swift/Haddow

Councillor Harris

Planning Enforcement

The Council as an Employer/

Code of Conduct/Local Government

Finance

Clerk applied for One Voice Wales bursary.

Lorries turning at War Memorial

MCC had suggested 3 x 1 metre planters to deter lorries. Council agreed to review this again once the works at the Old School had finished. Council noted that any additional planters would require maintenance duties.

Large lorries travelling through Caerwent

Confirmation received that lorries from Barratts Church Road development site should not be travelling through Caerwent.

A breach of condition notice has been served on Barratts and they have been advised that they should not be travelling past any local schools or via Caerwent and need to keep to the routes prescribed in the Construction Management Plan (CTMP) which was agreed by Mark Davies in Highways.

The notice has 28 days before it becomes effective i.e. MCC cannot take further action, including legal action, until this time has passed. The date the notice becomes effective, and also the date for compliance, is 6 November 2020. MCC will need to know of any breaches that occur after this date as those are the ones that will be in breach of the served notice.

The Clerk will request a copy of the Construction Management Plan from Planning and then ask residents to report any instances of large lorries travelling through Caerwent.

Highways Issues Reported

Reported to Highways Agency fault at lights on A48.

Reported loose stones opposite Burton Homes to Cadw.

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

919 members

Issues raised:

Dog fouling at ENC fields

Wall damage opposite Burton Homes – reported to Cadw

Opening of Village Hall – both Hall committees are working on the legal paperwork required.

Fireworks late at night

Large lorries using the village

Information exchange

PLAY AREAS INSPECTION REPORT

Council noted

M3848 FINANCE

To consider balances/payment and approval as per finance schedule dated October 2020:

Balances as at 31st October:

Community Account	£12,007.43
Moneymaster Account	£12,121.85
Petty Cash	£226.84

Clerk's Salary, Allowances, Mileage (10) as per NALC scales

Inland Revenue	£198.02
Torfaen Pension Fund	(employee) £58.59
	(employer) £197.10

MCC grass cutting, playground inspections
(10 months invoiced) £2502.96

British Gas £24.83

Merlin Waste £214.50

L McKeon (Eventbrite Planning Course x 2) £60.00

L McKeon (Microsoft 365 subscription) £59.99

Caerwent Church Xmas Lunches £100.00

Llanvair Landscapes (supply/lay 20 loads woodchip)	£2000.00
Aardvarc Cleaning	£226.00
S Roderick	£86.26
L McKeon (cartridges)	£93.51
MCC (play schemes)	£450.00

To consider precept amount for 2021/22

Council agreed to hold a separate Finance Committee meeting with their recommendations ratified at the December full Council meeting.

M3849 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

To note temporary road closure on 24th – 26th November at Caerwent Brook in order for Welsh Water to install a new service connection.

Council noted.

To report any issues

Trade waste fly tipping again on the A48 Crick west near the Crick sign.

MCC cones left behind on the A48.

Llanvair Discoed requires road sweeping as the gullies are filling up with leaves.

M3850 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Councillors to inform Clerk of any issues.

Chair Date