

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD
THURSDAY 8TH APRIL 2021

Present: Via Remote Attendance:
Councillors:
K Evans (Chair)
M Beattie
G Foxall
P Murphy
AM Spooner
K Swift
(Councillor Dalton had notified that he would be late in arriving)

M3876 APOLOGIES

Councillor B Counsell – Council accepted his apologies due to ill health.
Councillor M John

M3877 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

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

M3878 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair welcomed Gavin Foxall as Councillor for the Dinham ward and Council looked forward to working with him.

M3879 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 11th MARCH 2021

To note that these had been confirmed remotely
Council noted.

M3880 POLICE REPORT

To note

Police report not received as yet.

Council noted that PC Damian Waite had been promoted and left his position of Neighbourhood Sergeant – he has been replaced by PC Chris Butt.

(Councillor Dalton joined the meeting)

M3881 PLANNING

To consider any planning applications received after despatch of agenda

2020/00883 Sunnybank, A48, Crick

Modification of condition 4 of planning consent

Council agreed that the term “associated dependants” is open to interpretation and required clarification. Councillor Swift will draft a response for circulation and approval.

Field at Shirefield

Council had been advised of development occurring in a field at Shirefield with a static caravan now on site, together with delivery of a cesspit. The Enforcement Officer of MCC had already visited the site and advised that a planning application would be required. The owner of the land had assured him that an application would be sent

in. Council noted that a public footpath had been blocked on the site. A meeting of concerned parties had been arranged for Friday 10th April.

To note monthly enforcement list from MCC

Not received as yet.

M3882 KEY PROVISIONS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021 FOR THE COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCIL SECTOR

Council to note new requirements and consider implementation

Council noted that the following apply to Community Councils:

The voting system for community council elections remains First Past the Post.

Council staff can stand for their own Council provided that they resign their paid employment.

General Power of Competence w.e.f. 5th May 2022, ie moving away from a position whereby we have to identify a specific power to undertake a particular activity.

Conditions:

Two-thirds of the total number of members of the council have been elected.

The Clerk to the Council holds such qualification as may be specified by the Welsh Ministers (consultation on this will take place).

The Council satisfies the audit condition.

The Well-Being Power of Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 will be repealed.

Permanent provision for remote meetings.

Permanent provision for electronic publication of documents, ie agendas, minutes.

Public participation should be encouraged from May 2022.

From April 2022 we have a duty to prepare and publish a report about the Council's priorities, activities and achievements. The first report must relate to the financial April 2021 – March 2022 year and be published soon after April 2022.

Training – our first training plan should be published by November 2022.

M3883 PROPOSED COMMUNITY SURVEY

Council to consider whether to carry out a community survey

It was agreed to carry out a community survey which will be particularly relevant when preparing the new Report for Welsh Government.

Councillor Swift advised that a community led plan for our area commenced in 2014 whereby a questionnaire and two public meetings were held but this was abandoned due to lack of funds and support. It was agreed that this information, together with our previous questionnaire from 2007 and examples from Shirenewton Community Council could form the basis for compiling a new survey.

It was agreed to form a Working Group. Councillors Evans, Dalton, Foxall, Spooner and Swift were appointed to this. The Clerk will arrange a meeting.

M3884 DOG WASTE BIN (NORTHGATE ENTRANCE TO EMBRACE NATURE FIELD)

Council to approve location of bin following consultation with neighbouring resident.

Council approved the location as per photograph provided by the Chair. The Clerk will seek to acquire a free bin but if these are not available will order one through MCC.

M3885 CHESTNUT TREE, CAERWENT PLAYING FIELDS

Council to consider, in conjunction with advice received from MCC Officer, and Councillor Counsell, a request from a resident regarding pruning.

Council agreed that at the current time, and following the MCC tree policy, there is no action required on the tree in question. The Clerk will liaise with the Chair regarding a reply.

M3886 TREE POLICY

Council to consider adopting our own policy

Council agreed to adopt a policy very similar to the MCC Policy. The Chair and Clerk will prepare in readiness for approval next month.

M3887 VILLAGE HALL/COMMUNITY CENTRE

To consider installing CCTV cameras at both sites in order to deter crime within the area. (K Evans)

Following research the Chair advised that in view of costs, maintenance, licences and monitoring this is not a valid option. Council agreed not to take this any further.

M3888 CCTV FOR CAERWENT VILLAGE

Council to consider request from resident of installation of CCTV in Caerwent village

Following research the Chair advised that in view of costs, maintenance, licences and monitoring this is not a valid option. Council agreed not to take this any further.

M3889 STREET WATCH

Council to consider any information received on this scheme

Information not yet received. The Clerk will contact the police for advice on this scheme.

M3890 TREE FELLING ON GRAY HILL

Council to consider latest situation and if any response is required

Councillor Murphy had contacted NRW to report excessive tree felling on Gray Hill. NRW had visited the site and agreed that the brief had been overstepped. They will take action.

M3891 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

CLERK'S REPORT

Councillor Vacancy – Dinham Ward

No call for an election. Gavin Foxall co-opted.

Manor Farm Adoption

Councillor Murphy to report on any progress.

Play Area Repairs

Adventure Trail repair now carried out. The Caerwent Playing Fields Committee had offered to pay for this. Subsequently received a report that part of the rope had broken – Clerk had put a “Do Not Use” notice on and informed MCC – they have now taken it away for repair.

Signage “Do not Use – Out of Order” placed on the seesaw which will be replaced by MCC. New Dragonfly seesaw on order for Caerwent Playing Fields.

Awaiting quote re moss and algae removal at Caerwent.

Arranged for the swings at Caerwent to be oiled due to a complaint of a constant metal squealing noise.

Caerwent Football Club had been in contact with Rogiet Community Council regarding acquiring their surplus goal posts.

Llanvair Landscapes will carry out repair of broken fence post at Llanvair Play Area.

Play Area – Trewen

Request from resident via Councillor Murphy that improvements be made here. A meeting had taken place with residents, Councillor Murphy and Embrace Nature Caerwent. Their ambition is for updated play equipment for all ages, picnic bench, wildflower meadow with nesting boxes/bat boxes, planting of trees and painting of goal posts. Also a suggestion of a phone box outside the Play Area for use as a book share/defibrillator site. Councillor Swift offered to get in contact with the residents to share her experience of the Crick Wildlife & Environment Project and advise on the setting up of a constituted group, the MCC Nature Isn't Neat initiative and grants available. Councillor Murphy is arranging for Nigel Leaworthy of MCC to visit the site to meet with the residents regarding use of the land as it is currently designated a play area only.

Large lorries travelling through Caerwent

Larger signage erected at entrances to Caerwent village. Hanson lorries still using the village although it is not clear that they are heading to the housing site.

Trees

Large diseased tree overhanging picnic benches at Caerwent Playing Fields has been removed.

Senedd and Crime & Police Commissioner Elections

These will go ahead on 6th May. Information received by Chair from Electoral Office – passed to CPFA Committee Chair. Video from MCC regarding arrangements has been posted on our Facebook page.

Embrace Nature Caerwent

They have now received the original grant.

Phone Box, Highmoor Hill

Signage “deep drop behind” placed.

Annual Audit 2019/2020

Auditor General has delayed the new regulations/requirements (where much more information will be requested) for a year. Clerk will commence work on them and will be in contact with our internal auditor shortly.

Unadopted Roads in the Community Council area

Cwrt Morgan
Vicarage Gardens
Stephen's Close
Lawrence Court

Merton Green was adopted on 17th February 2021

Broken Gate – Cadw Barns

Reported to Cadw – this should be repaired within a couple of weeks. The site is currently closed.

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

978 members

Updated description of the page posted

1 business blocked for persistent posting

Welsh Blood service dates

Senedd & Police Commissioner elections – 6th May

Warnings regarding Royal Mail scams

Welsh Government rules updates

Census information

Bike/tool thefts – Caerwent village

Caerwent Community Centre Survey

Bernie Dawson – won Pride of Gwent award

Woodlands Tavern campaign

Drone query

PLAY AREAS INSPECTION REPORT

All issues in hand.

EMBRACE NATURE REPORT

(Report received and circulated after despatch of agenda)

Council noted

M3892 FINANCE

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

	as per NALC scales
Clerk's Salary, Allowances, Mileage (26)	
Inland Revenue	£199.93
Torfaen Pension Fund	(employee) £58.59
	(employer) £197.10
One Voice Wales (annual subscription)	£313.00
MCC (dog bin A48 & installation)	£214.80
MCC (tree work identified in surveys)	£396.00
Merlin Waste (dog bins emptying)	£192.00
Monmouthshire Meadows (annual subscription)	£10.00
British Gas	£25.47
Aardvarc (cleaning & clearing)	£464.00
S Roderick (clearing gutters)	£22.88

To receive quarterly budget figures for 2020/21

Council noted

To receive approved precept document for 2021/22 in order to work from this throughout the new financial year

Council noted.

Council agreed to consider increasing the amount for drainage of the Village Hall at the precept setting meeting for 2022/23. Council noted that in an emergency a Public Services Board loan could be available via the Welsh Government.

M3893 CORRESPONDENCE

Caerwent Training Area noisy activity notice
One Voice Wales training courses
MCC – Pre-Election Period Rules

M3894 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

To note any verbal reports

Councillor Foxall reported on his first Governing Body meeting for Rogiet Primary School. Their current focus is getting back to school following the pandemic. A survey had been carried out amongst parents regarding the online provision that they had provided and the response received was very supportive. He felt that it was a very positive meeting with a focus on well-being.

M3895 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

Councillors to report any issues

Large conifers from 1 St Tathan's Place overhanging pavement.
Rubbish still in layby on A48 west at Crick sign.
Boulders outside Woodlands Tavern, it was agreed that these are on private land.
Recent Grayhouse Farm to Tripp Farm repair at Llanvair Discoed already starting to break up.

Right of Way at Upper Shirefield Cottage moved with barbed wire installed.

Clerk will report all of the above.

Highways update from last month

Grayhouse Farm to Tripp Farm, Llanvair Discoed, road breaking up – work completed.

The Mount to Hardwick Farm entrance, Highmoor Hill, numerous potholes – work completed.

School Lane, Caerwent, dead trees – MCC will wait until later in spring so that any dead trees are easier to identify before removing.

Numerous posters from a Cardiff based company posted on railings and lampposts at Merton Green and Dinham Road – under review.

Vehicle Activated Speed sign, Roman Road – reported again with photograph as still not working and sign now appears to be bent.

M3896 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Traffic situation along the Roman Road in Caerwent from crossroads to War Memorial.

Chair Date