

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
HELD 11TH FEBRUARY 2021

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

M3864 APOLOGIES

Councillor Counsell – Council accepted his apologies due to illness.
Councillor K Swift – Council accepted her apologies due to caring responsibilities.

M3865 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
Councillor P Dalton	Caerwent Football Club	Football Coach

M3866 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome new Councillor for Caerwent Ward

The Chair welcomed Anne-Marie Spooner to the meeting as the new Councillor for the Caerwent ward. He looked forward to working with her.

The Chair announced the resignation of Angelique Gittings as the Councillor for the Dinham ward. The Chair wanted to record his thanks to Angelique for her time on the Council and wished her well.

M3867 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 14th JANUARY 2021

To note that these had been confirmed remotely

Council noted.

M3848 POLICE REPORT

To note

Council noted report.

The Chair and Councillor Dalton queried if the crimes mentioned actually relate to our area rather than Severnside generally. The Clerk will enquire. Details of Your Voice consultation should be received shortly.

M3849 PLANNING

2020/01858 Lingfield, Five Lanes, Caerwent

Front and rear extensions with detached garage

This Council recommends **Refusal** and concurs with the Senior Development Management Officer's recommendations dated 11th February.

2020/01733 19 Highfield, Caerwent

Rear extension, full width single storey double storey one side

This Council is minded to recommend **Approval** pending a visit to the neighbouring properties by Councillor Spooner

To consider any planning applications received after despatch of agenda

The Clerk advised that **2020/00179 Maybury, Roman Road, New Vehicle Access** had just been received. Agreed to defer this until the next meeting in order to determine effectively.

To note monthly enforcement list from MCC

Council noted.

M3850 VILLAGE HALL – PROPOSED ALTERATIONS BY THE FOOTBALL CLUB FOR CHANGING ROOMS

Council to consider response from Football Club regarding queries

Councillor Murphy agreed to check with MCC regarding DDA compliancy in relation to the current approved planning application. Councillor Beattie raised concerns about the additional drainage for the toilets/showers on an already overloaded system and the consequent cost implications for this.

The Chair looked forward to receiving the revised plans as had been promised by the Football Club.

M3851 ROGIET SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

Council to appoint a minor authority representative

Council agreed to enquire if a recent Councillor applicant would be interested.

M3852 REPLACEMENT SEESAW, CAERWENT PLAYING FIELDS

To consider quote received from MCC

The Clerk informed the Council that she was still awaiting additional quotes from MCC. Agreed in the meantime to ask MCC to remove this piece of equipment.

M3853 MCC CONSULTATION - Proposals to increase the number of primary school places in Caldicot Town

Council agreed to respond with their concerns that additional places in already small schools will have an impact on the learning environment and affect the wellbeing of future generations.

Councillor John queried why there was no mention of increasing numbers at Welsh language schools. Councillor Murphy advised that an extension to the school in Sandy Lane Caldicot has just been approved.

M3854 HM Land Registry – Survey of Community and Town Councils in Wales

The Clerk advised that she had completed this to the best of her knowledge.

M3855 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

CLERK'S REPORT

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Highmoor Hill Phone Box

Councillor Beattie reported that it would be expensive to turn it and we do not own the land it is sited on. Council agreed to defer any decision on its future until probably the summer when Councillors will be able to visit the site and make recommendations. In the meantime a sign "Caution - Steep Drop Behind" to be placed.

Manor Farm Adoption

MCC Officer still waiting to check documentation at MCC offices. Will make it his priority when the offices are back up and running.

Trees

Spitalfields had advised that a further three trees are available to the community. Councillor Murphy had contacted MCC regarding permission. Councillor Spooner will make contact with the neighbours to consult with them on this.

Queries received regarding removal of chestnut tree growing in the Caerwent House site. Councillors Murphy/Haddow advised that branches were removed due to damage to the neighbouring property.

Dog Waste Bin – Dualcarriageway west A48

Still not in situ. Clerk will chase.

Recycled Bench A48 east

Now installed.

Training Courses booked

Place Plan training – 22nd February (evening). Awaiting further information.

Large lorries travelling through Caerwent

Continuing to send details through to MCC as provided by residents.

Queried weight limit criteria with Head of Highways. Reply received that MCC try to avoid introducing weights limits because they can cause problems for businesses and also place additional pressures on the police to enforce. They will however consider our request further.

Highways had contacted Councillor Murphy with proposed new diversionary signage for construction traffic – this had been circulated to Councillors and comments/suggestions re size and location submitted to Highways. Confirmation received from Highways that 50mm is the standard size lettering and the signs will be quite large. Signage will be placed in advance of junctions.

Litter Picking Equipment

Reminded Ben Harris about equipment but not received as yet. In the meantime our Handyman from Llanvair has asked if we have any equipment that the residents could use as they do regularly carry out litter picks. Councillor Murphy had advised the Llanvair residents on where to obtain equipment.

Llanmelin Outpost Project

Caerwent Historic Trust are applying for Heritage Lottery Funding for the project. The Community Council confirmed their support for this in writing.

Rogiet School Minor Authority Representative

Ben Harris had made contact to inform us that he no longer wanted to continue in this role due to other civic commitments. The governing body of the school and Governor Services have been informed.

Ombudsman Complaint against sitting Councillor

Notification from Ombudsman that no further evidence was received from the complainant to substantiate the complaint when requested so they will therefore not investigate further. Complainant has until 6th February to appeal.

Highways Matters

Condition of pavement in LD – under review.

Slippery pavement Caldicot Road nr St Tathan's – under review.

Vehicle Activated Speed sign on Roman Road intermittently still not working – reported again.

Potholes on Roman Road fixed.

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

953 members

Issues raised:

Shed breakins – Crick and Highmoor Hill

Missed rubbish collections – reported to MCC

Snow photos

Dogs theft warnings

Dewstow Road traffic

Information exchange

PLAY AREAS INSPECTION REPORT

Awaiting report.

EMBRACE NATURE REPORT

Council noted. Clerk reported that she had recently contacted Cadw to enquire if the grant funding had been approved and when it was likely to be received.

M3856 FINANCE

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

Balances as at 31st January:

Community Account	£15,952.51
Moneymaster Account	£12,121.85
Petty Cash	£154.37

Clerk's Salary, Allowances, Mileage (32)	as per NALC scales
Inland Revenue	£198.02
Torfaen Pension Fund	(employee) £58.59
	(employer) £197.10
British Gas (toilets)	£28.21
Merlin Waste (dog bins emptying)	£171.60
Aardvarc Cleaning (toilets cleaning)	£270.00
MCC (Llanvair Discoed Play Area – cleaning/repair surface)	£115.20
MCC Rates (toilets)	£60.00

M3857 CORRESPONDENCE

Electoral Register 2021

Monmouthshire Meadows newsletter

M3858 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

To note temporary road closure at Broadwell Lane, Crick for re-surfacing – 8th – 19th March.

Councillors to report any issues

Large potholes Highmoor Hill from Phone Box to Kennels.

A48 potholes near kennels.

Gray House Farm to Tripp Farm – road surface breaking up.

Fly tipping on A48 Crick west near Crick sign.

Councillor Murphy advised that £350,000 had just been approved in each of the next four years by MCC to deal with the problem of silted drains in the authority.

M3859 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The Clerk queried if the Senedd elections would actually take place in May and if so the Village Hall may be required as a polling station. In that case we would have to ensure that risk assessments and Covid precautions were in place. The Chair advised that the Election Office had already booked the hall but this was not for definite. A definitive announcement would be made by the Welsh Government shortly.

Chair Date