

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
12TH SEPTEMBER 2019

Present: Councillors:
P Murphy (Chair)
K Haddow
B Harris
A Gittings
K Swift

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council
6 members of the public

M4874 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Councillor Beattie (Chairman) had presented his apologies due to illness. The Clerk therefore called for nominations for the Chair position for this meeting. Councillor Haddow nominated Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Swift. There being no other nominations Councillor Murphy was appointed Chair.

M4875 APOLOGIES

Received from Councillors Beattie, Counsell, Evans, George and Lewis.

M4876 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillor P Murphy	Caerwent Community Centre	Trustee
Councillor P Murphy	All planning applications	Member of MCC Planning Committee

M4877 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Residents were extremely concerned about alleged drug dealing taking place from one of the properties on their street, exacerbated by speeding vehicles, driving under the influence, intimidation, movements during the early hours and a lack of respect for the home the alleged dealers live in, ie rats and mess present. Alleged dealing is taking place in the village and residents had repeatedly reported this to the police and to Monmouthshire Housing Association. Councillor Murphy advised that he had also contacted senior officers at MHA and the current situation is that the police are building up evidence for a case to be brought. Councillor Murphy, as County Councillor, is on several committees regarding the police and stated that he would raise this with them and with the Police and Crime Commissioner. Council agreed that action needs to be taken to improve the quality of life of residents on the street as the situation has escalated beyond the police action currently taken. Councillor Murphy requested that residents continue to report incidents/evidence but obviously taking their own safety into account. He will keep in touch with residents.

Residents were concerned about the speed of traffic on the Caldicot Road with one resident suggesting a petition to MCC. The Clerk advised that a new Speed Watch scheme has just been established and anyone interested should get in touch with her. Councillor Murphy requested that they write to him re this issue and he will take it up with Highways.

M4878 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Clerk advised that Councillor George had resigned from the Council. She was asked to write to him to express our thanks for his work within the community and to wish him well.

M4879 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 12th JULY 2019 and ASSETS TRANSFER WORKING GROUP MINUTES 24th JULY 2019

These were agreed as true records.

M4880 PLANNING

2019/01367 1 Llanvair Road, Caerwent

Removal of timber shed and construction of new steel framed timber/steel clad outbuilding and relocation of steel container inside the new outbuilding

This Council recommends **Approval**

**2019/01070 Brookside, Llanvair Discoed
New Vehicle Access (re-consultation)**

Assuming that the amended access plan lodged on 2nd September 2019 now meet the concerns and requirements of the County Highways Department in their note 26.7.2019 (and their recommendation at that time of deferral pending satisfaction) this Council recommends **Approval**.

To note planning applications considered during August:

2019/01124 Romanesque, Burton Villas, Caerwent

Single Storey Side Extension

This Council recommended **Approval**

**2019/01048 Witchwood, Llanvair Discoed
Single Storey Extension**

This Council recommended **Approval**

**2019/01039 Walnut Tree Barn, Five Lanes, Caerwent
Single Storey Oak Framed Extension to Side**

This Council recommended **Approval**

Comment – query why the new extension does not align with the existing footprint of the property

**2019/01246 The Old School, Caerwent
Variation of Condition**

This Council recommended **Approval**

**2019/01297 The Laurels, Llanvair Discoed
New Carport & Replace Existing Garden Shed**

This Council recommended **Approval** with the caveat that Highways should visit and assess.

Councillor Swift queried if MCC could inform us of any planning applications which are still within our villages but outside of our Community Council area. It was felt that this would be difficult for MCC but that we keep a vigilant eye and comment individually as necessary.

To note monthly enforcement lists

Council noted

Councillor Murphy had circulated the latest information regarding the LDP which Council noted.

M4881 TO RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CHAIRMAN ON THE TRANSFER OF THE VILLAGE HALL/PLAYING FIELDS AND LEASE TO THE CPFA

The Clerk advised that we are still awaiting comments from the CPFA Committee.

She had enquired if MCC could provide an up to date map but this did not seem possible. Councillor Beattie had volunteered to draw this up and send to our Solicitor.

M4882 TO CONSIDER REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN ON MEETING HE ATTENDED REGARDING DOG FOULING

The Clerk reported that our Chairman had attended a meeting between MCC Officers and Town/Community Councils regarding the fact that there is only one option available for contracting dog waste collection and disposal, and the risk that this entails. The meeting was called to explore how the service could be delivered in the future and to make sure that there is a Plan B should one be needed. MCC reassured those present that if the current provider was unable to continue to provide a service then MCC would step in.

Many of the rural community councils have not experienced issues with their current service provider. They generally have less bins that are less heavily used than those in towns however the risks associated with having only one provider are relevant. The replacement of dog bins with litter bins would require more litter bins in rural areas particularly.

If more than one service delivery option becomes available, it should be noted that if councils chose different service providers there may not be enough work to make either service viable, hence the desire for all to work collaboratively

There are areas requiring clarification re current operation of the service. Community & Town Councils have a duty of care to ensure that the waste is being disposed of correctly.

Using litter bins to collect dog waste will prevent any litter from being recycled. Dog bins have the advantage over litter bins of being lidded, preventing smells and flies, however litter bins are emptied more often than dog bins.

The weight of dog waste will be counted as waste disposed of by Monmouthshire CC, so will adversely affect the recycling & waste statistics.

In the longer term MCC indicated that there are benefits in phasing out dog bins and use litter bins instead for dog waste. There is currently duplication of effort where there is a litter bin next to a dog bin. Collecting dog waste with litter will enable it to be incinerated along with household waste.

It is not currently known if the waste collected by Merlin is incinerated or put in landfill. Councils were asked to provide copies of contracts with Merlin if they have one.

Councillor Swift reminded Council that dog waste can be double bagged and deposited in general waste bins. Agreed that we could remind residents of this in the newsletter. The Clerk reported that a dog bin had been ordered for the Playing Fields through MCC but they have to wait for further orders to obtain a decent price. Still waiting for supplies of dog bags. One "No Dogs" sign removed already from the Playing Fields. There are three more which require removal. Illustration of new signage circulated. Agreed to order four for the Playing Fields.

M4883 TO CONSIDER INVITATION FROM SPITALFIELDS TO VISIT CAERWENT HOUSE DURING SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2019

Councillors agreed to accept this invitation. Councillor Murphy will liaise with Spitalfields.

M4884 TO CONSIDER CONSULTATION RECEIVED FROM MCC REGARDING REMOVAL OF THREE BT TELEPHONE BOXES IN OUR AREA

In view of usage Council agreed to the removal of the three BT boxes located at Five Lanes, Trewen and Caerwent Brook.

M4885 WILDFLOWER PLANTING

To consider any other areas for planting

Areas suggested were – both entrances to Llanfair Discoed, opposite Penhein (triangle), Caerwent brook opposite Dewstow Road, outside Visitor Centre, middle of A48.

Clerk to enquire when the best planting time is.

M4886 CREATION OF ORCHARD

To consider suggestion of the creation of an orchard in the land between the Post Office and the Roman Temple remains

Agreed in the first instance to contact Cadw to seek their views, especially with regard to archaeological surveys which would probably be required.

M4887 TELEPHONE BOX, HIGHMOOR HILL

To consider any future uses

Agreed to defer until the next meeting when Councillor Lewis would be present.

M4888 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

CLERK'S REPORT

War Memorial Improvements

Painter/paver are now liaising with each other re start dates. Paver requires the capsules before work starts.

Time Capsules

Councillors Haddow and Swift will ensure that the capsules are handed over to the paver.

Bench/Planters, War Memorial

Councillor Beattie will be ordering these.

Defibrillator, Caerwent Village Hall

Councillor Haddow is progressing.

Defibrillator, Coach & Horses Pub (re-siting)

Councillor Haddow is progressing.

Missing Post Box, Highmoor Hill

The latest from Royal Mail is that there is a health & safety issue now, presumably due to proximity to road and on the bank. A new position has to be planned but all utilities have to be consulted first before a decision is made as to the new location. This procedure will take a minimum of 26 weeks.

Village Hall Drainage Survey

Received second report/video which had been circulated. Clerk had requested on numerous occasions a quote for the required works. Councillor Murphy will chase this.

Caerwent Litter Pick

Keep Wales Tidy application has now been confirmed. Councillor Harris is currently agreeing on a date with the volunteers. First litter pick will be held in September.

Sport Wales Grant Application – Caerwent Community Centre

Application unsuccessful.

Boundary Review for Community/Town Councils in Monmouthshire

Update from John Pearson, Local Democracy Manager, MCC:

Until Welsh Government create an order for these proposals, they will not take effect, and then they will only take effect at the next set of ordinary elections due to take place in 2022. Its hopeful the order will be made asap as the Commission then need to undertake a review of the County Council ward boundaries and have this completed prior to the 2022 elections so that boundaries for the communities and counties are aligned for that election.

Commemorative Plaques

Received by Councillor Evans

Training Courses

Councillor Beattie attended Making Effective Grant Applications 19th July.

Lease – Caerwent Community Centre

Approved by our Asset Transfer Committee. One minor comment that Clerk's address could change over time so this point should be included somewhere in the lease. Community Centre Committee concerned about mention of rent review on pages 9 and 10. Agreed that this is standard to cover both parties but ask the Solicitor if this could be worded differently.

Overgrown Gate Area, Shirefield

Councillor Lewis had cleared this area although there was very little growth.

Village Hall Works Quotes

Two quotes received so far. One other quote has been requested via the Chairman. Councillor Swift agreed to seek an additional quote. Agreed to defer until next month when three quotes are received.

Green Flag Awards

Crick Wildlife & Environment Project had again been awarded.
Hedge laying training will take place in December.

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

646 members

Issues raised:

Poor service from green bag collection

Broken box by MCC workers

Lack of contact with Councillors – Chairman had replied. Councillor Harris meeting with one resident.

Three footpaths into playing fields overgrown – reported. MCC reply that hedge owners had been served notices to cut.

Old play area not looked after, re brambles – reported.

PLAY AREA INSPECTION REPORT

Council Noted

ANNUAL INSPECTION OF ASSETS

Council noted and agreed to recommendations

Councillor Swift had completed the Asbestos Register for the toilets

M4889 CORRESPONDENCE

One Voice Wales – training courses available

One Voice Wales - Free App for Community Councils to Survey Hedgerows

Concessionary Bus Passes in Wales

Proposed Closure of Mounton House School

M4890 FINANCE

To consider balances/payments and approval as per finance schedule dated September 2019

Balances as at 31st August:

Moneymaster Account	£13,074.80
Community Account	£29,078.30
Petty Cash	£141.67

Clerk's Salary, Allowances, Mileage (48) as per NALC scales

Inland Revenue £87.24

Torfaen Pension Fund (employee) £58.14

(employer) £211.43

Merlin Waste £187.50

Go Daddy (domain renewal) £19.32

Llanvair Landscapes £400.00

Aardvarc Cleaning £266.00

Annual Donations:

Caerwent Community Centre £2000.00

Community Newsletter £500.00

Crick Wildlife & Environment Project £200.00

Mons County Citizens Advice Bureau £2500.00

Shirenewton Primary School (annual prize) £125.00

Rogiet Primary School (annual prize) £125.00

Caldicot Junior Football Club £500.00

Churchyard maintenance:

Caerwent Parish Church £280.00

Caerwent Parish Church (floodlighting) £150.00

Caerwent Baptist Chapel £240.00

Llanfair Church £240.00

St Brides Church £240.00

Llanvaches Utd Reformed Church £80.00

Payments August 2019

Signomatic (commemorative plaques) £223.12

British Gas £9.53

MCC (rates) £59.00

S Roderick (repairs) £6.40

Llanvair Landscapes (mowing) £400.00

Aardvarc Cleaning (toilets)	£280.00
Merlin Waste (dog bins)	£150.00
One Voice Wales (training course)	£40.00
L McKeon (salary)	as per NALC scales
Inland Revenue	£76.86
Torfaen Pension Fund	£259.31
S Roderick (repairs)	£37.76
Drainrod	£372.00
Feakes & Co	£500.00
MCC (rates)	£59.00

It was agreed to pay the above accounts

To note that Councillor Gittings had approved and verified bank reconciliations for the period April – June 2019 as per Financial Regulations.

Council noted.

M4891 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

To note temporary road closure Llanvair Discoed 19/20 September

Council noted

To report any issues

Lane adjacent to the launderette has barbed wire in situ. Councillor Murphy will report.

Councillor Murphy was pleased to report that the road surface at Court House Road has been renewed.

Councillor Swift had been advised that the current “Crick” highways signs do not meet the current requirements. Councillor Murphy requested that she write to him regarding this.

M4892 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

To appoint a Councillor to the MCC Dog Fouling Group

Councillor Harris was appointed as our representative.

M4893 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Crick signage.

Chairman Date