

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD 10TH JANUARY 2019

Present:

Councillors:

K Evans (Chair)
M Beattie
B Counsell
S George
K Haddow
B Harris
P Lewis
P Murphy
K Swift

In attendance:

L McKeon, Clerk to the Council
1 Member of the Public

M4755 APOLOGIES

Councillor Cousins had sent his apologies and had also tendered his resignation due to his and his wife's health conditions. Agreed to write to him to express our thanks for his work on the Council over the last six years.

M4756 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

M4757 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident queried if there was any further information regarding the future ownership of Barrier Services. Councillor Murphy confirmed that the company had been sold, will be under new ownership and they are going to continue to trade from the existing site. Once the new management arrive Councillor Murphy will meet up with them to discuss the problems of traffic on the lanes. They may have to re-apply for an Operator's Licence – Councillor Murphy will check who would be informed if an application is submitted.

M4758 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

There were no announcements.

M4759 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 13TH DECEMBER 2018

These were agreed as a true record.

M4760 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

Report received – numerous theft and criminal damage reports from the Amenity Site at Five Lanes.

M4761 ANDY SMITH, STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND FUNDING MANAGER, MCC

Mr Smith was not in attendance. The Clerk had invited him to either this meeting or our March one but had not received any confirmation.

M4762 PLANNING

2018/01973 7 Vernon Grove, Caerwent

Second storey extension over existing detached garage and connecting back to the main house

This Council recommends Approval with observations:

Query if roof line is higher

Aesthetically unpleasing dormer window

2018/02016 Hill View, Five Lanes, Llanfair Discoed

Two storey side and rear extensions

This Council recommends Approval with observations:

Query if MCC policy allows for balconies on stilts

Address incorrect on planning application

To consider any planning applications received after despatch of agenda

There were no further applications

To note monthly enforcement lists

Council noted the relevant properties. Councillor Murphy will pay a site visit to 1 Trewen where it is alleged that part of our playing field land has been encroached.

To note that from January 2019, all new developments of more than 1 dwelling house or where the construction area is 100 square meters or more, must be designed and built in accordance with SuDS standards (Sustainable Drainage Systems)

Council noted.

Councillor Murphy reported that new tarpaulin will be placed on Caerwent House very shortly and work will commence on site within the next ten days.

Councillor Beattie reported that he had attended the MCC Planning Committee this week regarding the application for Brookside in Llanfair Discoed. He had queried the roof height which led to a discussion on the dimensions of the property. The outcome was that the height will not be any more than 8 metres rather than 12 and that Reserved Matters will pay particular attention to highways concerns and the foul cesspit.

M4763 CAERWENT PLAYING FIELDS PLAY AREA

To consider any quotes received regarding equipment and surfacing.

Two quotes regarding disabled equipment - £10,200 and £14,200. Clerk chasing further quotes regarding the two items chosen by the CPFA.

Councillor Haddow will check if the balance beam has been replaced in the Caerwent Play Area yet and report back to the Clerk.

M4764 TRANSFER/LEASE OF VILLAGE HALL

To consider any other surveys received after despatch of agenda

Clerk had chased the Asbestos and Drainage Surveys, no reply as yet.

M4765 WAR MEMORIAL IMPROVEMENTS

To consider any further quotes received

Council considered all three quotes in detail and agreed to accept Mossfords Memorial Sculptors at a price of £4153.

To consider the removal or lowering of the railings

Public consultation had taken place and there was overwhelming support to keep the railings. Council agreed to keep them and to have them re-painted in black.

Council agreed to consider the wattage of the bulb in the lamp at a later date and in consultation with neighbours.

M4766 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

CLERK'S REPORT

Dog Fouling

MCC Public Protection have been involved in engaging Town and Community Councils in relation to dog fouling, successfully, through their 'Give Dog Fouling the Red Card'. The issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices requires legal authorisation so it will not be possible for us to appoint volunteers. Police Community Safety Officers have been trained (between 20 and 30), but they have yet to serve a FPN for fouling or littering.

'Civil enforcement', ie. the traffic warden service, transfers to MCC from the Police in April and MCC are looking at extending their powers beyond static vehicle enforcement. This will provide an opportunity to have more Officers on the ground able to serve FPN's for littering and fouling. They do however wish to encourage volunteers, noting their capacity limitations, and will get back to us with advice on exactly what would be helpful.

Bins in Llanfair Discoed and Crick appear to have not been emptied – Clerk will report.

Grant – Broadband Infrastructure

The full application will be completed next week and there will then be a three month period awaiting approval. An offer of a meeting with a partner had been received but it was agreed to defer this pending approval of our bid.

Wedding Booking – 24th August 2019

Agreed that the Clerk would check whether this query still stands.

Christmas Day Lunch -Village Hall

Thank you from the church for our donation. Numbers have doubled. Request that the CPFA improve the kitchen facilities for the future. The church have also written to the CPFA regarding this.

Fencing, 3 Canon Lane

Planning Enforcement are investigating.

Loneliness and Social Isolation

Rachel Rawlings/Joe Skidmore from the Community and Partnership Development Team of MCC will be attending our February meeting.

Defibrillator, Caerwent Community Centre

Has now been delivered. The Community Centre Committee will be arranging training sessions.

Education Award

Clerk had written to Rogiet and Shirenewton schools to confirm the project of Recycling in Wales. Deadline of 15th February given. Council to collect entries if possible and arrange a meeting to judge.

Local Litter Picking Group

Reply had been received from Keep Wales Tidy. Councillor Harris agreed to contact them with a view to setting up a group with the correct procedures in place. He will also contact the current litter pickers to add them into this group.

Trees -Playing Fields

Results of tree survey sent to complainant.

Councillor Harris wanted to record that he fully supported the results of the survey that we had commissioned and the rationale behind the conclusions. In particular he supported the fact that MCC will not carry out tree works to allow natural light or reduce shading in relation to a domestic property due to the fact that there is no statutory or common law right to light.

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

485 members

Issues raised:

War Memorial railings removal proposal – overwhelming support to retain the railings.

Lack of Street Lighting at Merton Green – Councillor Murphy had responded.

PLAY AREA INSPECTION REPORT

Not received.

M4767 CORRESPONDENCE

MCC Newsletter

Welsh Government – Community/Town Council update

Welsh Government – current consultations

MCC – Changes to Recycling

MCC Budget consultation

M4768 FINANCE

To consider balances/payment and approval as per finance schedule dated January 2019:

Balances as at 30TH January:

Moneymaster Account	£13,083.80
Community Account	£18,891.92
Petty Cash	£3.63

Clerk's Salary, Allowances, Mileage (16)	as per NALC scales
Inland Revenue	£76.32
Torfaen Pension Fund (employer and employee)	£254.44
Council Repairs	£29.76
Henry Burton (room hire)	£21.00
Society of Local Council Clerks (subscription)	£156.00
Aardvarc Cleaning (toilets)	£221.00
(Public Health Act 1936, s.87)	

Merlin Waste (dog bins)
(Litter Act 1983, ss 5.6)

£150.00

Council approved.

To consider quarterly review.

Council agreed that this was to plan.

M4769 AGREED TO EXTEND STANDING ORDERS FOR 20 MINUTES

M4770 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

To consider report from Councillor Swift regarding speed of traffic in Crick

Councillor Swift had met with an MCC Officer who had provided her with speed data for Crick. Surveys had been carried out in three areas with the highest speed recorded as 56. There is a possibility of a Vehicle Activated Speed sign being installed (as per Welsh Government guidance), a street light and lines on the Shirenewton and Crick Roads. An application has been put in to the Welsh Government for a grant for these works.

A further highways workshop will be held on 5th April and she will let the Council know the details. Agreed that she continue her dialogue with MCC.

To report any highways/rights of way issues

A48 opposite the west entrance to the base, two manhole lids off, in verge. Cones still there.

Pothole on Five Lanes near post box and phonebox.

Potholes all along Carrow Hill.

Councillor Lewis reported that a good job had been completed by Shaun Roderick to clear/repair stiles in Five Lanes.

Councillor Lewis intends to carry out a survey of footpaths in our area. Agreed that he contact MCC to request a copy of the Definitive Map.

Potholes repaired on Court House Road in Llanfair Discoed. This road will be considered for inclusion in the 2019/20 programme for resurfacing but will have to be reassessed and prioritised as the condition of roads throughout the County will have deteriorated since the last review. Gully emptying will be carried out soon.

Councillor Murphy advised that the white posts on the grass verge at the A48/Five Lanes junction will be re-instated by MCC in order to protect the wild flowers.

M4771 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no representative reports.

M4772 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Councillors to inform the Clerk

Chair Date