

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
HELD 9TH JULY 2020

Present: Via Remote Attendance:
Councillors:
K Evans (Chair)
M Beattie
A Gittings
K Haddow
P Murphy
A Phelps
K Swift

M4891 APOLOGIES

Councillor Counsell – Council approved his apologies during this Covid 19 period.
Councillor B Harris

M4892 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 Murphy	Caldicot Music Theatre Society	MCC Cabinet Member LDP
Councillor A Phelps	Barbed Wire Report from MCC	Land Owner
Councillor A Phelps	Provision of Allotments	Land Owner

M4893 CHAIR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

M4894 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 11th JUNE 2020

Council noted that these had been confirmed as a true record remotely.

M4895 POLICE REPORT

Off-road bike operation in Wentwood.

Covid 19 related anti-social behaviour calls – warning, educating and issuing fixed penalties where appropriate. Visited all local shops/supermarkets to ensure all measures are followed.

M4896 PLANNING

To consider any planning applications received

2020/00169 Upper Shirefield Cottage, Shirefield

Double driveway gates (10 ft wide x 7ft high) 3 mtrs from road. Erection of a shed to keep tractor safe (12 ft x 16ft long and 8 ft high)

This Council recommends Refusal

Recommend that the Planning Committee carry out a site visit.

Incorrect address – land adjacent is Upper Shirefield Cottage.

No planning application document, very poor not to scale drawings.

Gates not in keeping with area.

Unauthorised access onto lane.

Hedgerow removal should be included within the application.

2020/00639 Grey Hill Court, Caerwent

Two Storey Side Extension and Conversion

This Council recommends Approval

2020/00537 Rear Barn, Manor Farm, St Brides Netherwent

Two Storey Domestic Extension

This Council recommends Approval

To consider any planning applications received after despatch of agenda

There were no further planning applications

Update on Local Development Plan

Councillor Murphy advised that MCC are now at the stage of a second call for candidate sites. No preferred sites have been identified as yet. The Welsh Government Spatial Strategy currently being developed could affect our area and prevent development.

M4897 VILLAGE HALL, CAERWENT

To consider any required repairs to the building

The CPFA had recently carried out the following improvements:

Fire exit signage all upgraded to LED

Extension walls and ceiling painted

Boiler condense tank replaced

They had reported that the toilets keep blocking and have purchased rods. Agreed to advise them to use the rods when the building is open up again. Councillor Beattie expressed concern that the situation could be exacerbated when the new shower rooms are installed. Agreed to factor into the precept for the future the issue of drainage/sewage.

Agreed to seek a quote for damaged gutterings and downpipes.

M4898 PHONE BOX, HIGHMOOR HILL

To consider groundwork safety at the site

Councillors Beattie and Phelps had provided photographs of the site and reported that yet another panel had been broken. Agreed that the ground level is not conducive to easy access. Agreed to look into the possibility of relocating to another part of the community where it would be used more and would be less susceptible to constant vandalism. Agreed to look into providing leaflets/books/DVDs inside. Agreed to consult on Facebook.

M4899 DOG WASTE BIN

To consider the provision of an additional bin on the A48 east opposite the Welfare Centre.

Agreed to contact MCC to establish if a bin could be provided from their budget.

Failing that to ask them to provide a general waste bin.

M4900 ANNUAL ASSETS INSPECTION

To delegate duties

Inspection duties were allocated to Councillors. Reports to be provided for the September meeting.

M4901 PLACE PLAN REQUEST FROM PORTSKEWETT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Councillors Swift reported that she had contacted a Councillor from Portskewett who is very keen to establish a Place Plan with other Community Councils as this would have more impact. Councillor Swift agreed to circulate information so that Councillors can understand the process.

M4902 CORRESPONDENCE

Request from Caldicot Music Theatre Society for a letter to support their application for new premises.

Council agreed to provide a letter of support.

M4903 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

CLERKS REPORT

Playing Fields

Five loads of chippings delivered and spread. Gave permission for a total of 15 loads at £100 per load as agreed. The Chairman reported that some of the timber border of the pathway had been damaged. Clerk will contact MCC re assessment/quote.

Embrace Nature Caerwent

Our licence signed by Chairman and emailed to Cadw. Permission received today to now provide a sub-licence. Council agreed to look again at the Sub-Licence.

Cadw had given permission for a container at the Barns site – probably would need planning permission. ENC had suggested a garage at St Tathan's.

Re the clause regarding seeding, ENC response is that they are collecting native species from gardens involving residents.

In line with our other organisations, agreed to appoint Councillor Gittings as our representative to the Embrace Nature at Caerwent Committee. As we have been asked to hold this licence, and also asked by Cadw to take ownership of any assets, agreed that we ask for a five year Plan/Strategy from the group. The Clerk advised that she had previously asked for this but had received no reply.

Council agreed that the proposed purchase of tools to the amount of approximately £15,000 requires review in relation to maintenance/insurance/regularity of use/cost of training re usage/storage. Agreed to look into an alternative approach to contract out the services of grass cutting/tree surgery.

New Website Accessibility Regulations

Effective from 22nd September. Councillor Evans working on this.

Provision of Allotments

Councillor Phelps had drawn up a rough plan and advised that one and a half acres could be available. Hardstanding would need to be provided and a gated access from the lane. Councillor Murphy agreed to seek information on any buildings (sheds/greenhouses) allowed.

St Brides Netherwent Councillor Vacancy

Confirmation from MCC that there has been no call for an election so we are now able to co-opt. Agreed to advertise but currently any interviews may have to be held online.

Barbed Wire/Signage - Dewstow Manor Farm

Councillor Haddow had walked the footpath to inspect wire/signs and reported no concerns.

Report from Footpaths Enforcement Officer that he had meet with the landowner of the land. The path is generously wide compared to the majority he inspects. It follows the course of a waymarked route that people have been using for several years. This may

not be the exact definitive line but MCC would have to undertake a full survey to identify where that is. Ideally MCC would not like to see strands of barbed wire on fencing beside footpaths but as this one has a minimum width of approximately 3 metres along the majority of its length it is not considered to be a particular safety concern. He will be in contact with the landowner to look at resolving some of the routing issues. He will be overseeing the removal of an unsafe tree.

Crick Flooding

Problems continue on A48 and at Manor Farm. MCC Officer attended and gully cleaning in operation on 29th June and 9th July. Councillor Swift asked Councillor Murphy to assist in the status of road adoption regarding Manor Farm and will send him all the information.

Tree, Playing Fields

Urgent request to Chairman for large branches to be removed as they had fallen into a neighbouring garden. Our contractor removed.

Tree Surveys (Playing Fields and Community Centre)

Will be carried out within the next two weeks.

Toilets Signage

No response from Environmental Health. Contacted Roger Hoggins of MCC who will provide the same signage they are putting into MCC toilets.

Bus Stop Infrastructure

Sent request to be added to their future review.

Complaint - Planning Application 2019/01480 Land Adjacent to Sunnybrook, Crick

Complaint received via Chairman against Councillor Murphy from the applicant of the above planning application. Allegation of racism and harassment against the traveller community during a Planning Committee meeting held on 4th February 2020. Video of meeting had been studied by Council and we can see no justification whatsoever in escalating this complaint. The Head of Legal at MCC and Monitoring Officer had been informed and was satisfied that we had followed our normal complaints process. We have been informed that complaints against other one other County Councillor and an Officer had also been submitted.

Complaints had been received from residents regarding posters placed within our noticeboard in Caerwent regarding the above. These had been removed.

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT JUNE 2020

874 members

Caerwent Baptist Chapel - complimentary items advertised

Wentwood Ministry – virtual summer celebration

Dog fouling – Ash Tree Road

Photos of War Memorial planting posted up

Missing pets

Information posted from ENC

Slade Woods warning re rope tied to trees

Information on Hebridean sheep kept on the roman wall

Recycling lorries leaving debris following pick up

M4904 FINANCE

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

Balances as at 30th June:

Community Account	£18,558.04
Moneymaster Account	£12,121.55
Petty Cash	£45.34
Clerk's Salary, Allowances, Mileage (6 to Chairman)	as per NALC scales
Inland Revenue	£188.94
Torfaen Pension Fund	(employee) £57.05
	(employer) £191.91
British Gas	£24.42
S Roderick (bus shelter work)	£93.04
Merlin Waste	£171.60
L McKeon (John Lewis – laptop)	£549.00
L McKeon (Software - from 2019)	£59.99
Llanvair Landscapes (grasscutting/branch removal)	£400.00
Petty Cash	£200.00
Aardvarc Cleaning	£295.00
Henry Burton Almshouse Charity	£7.00

To consider funding application from Severn Area Rescue Association

Council agreed to donate £200.

To note quarterly budget figures

Council agreed that figures are as expected.

M4905 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

Clerk updated on previous issues:

War Memorial light on constantly – now fixed.

Overgrown hedges Canon Lane estate and Dewstow Road – some cut, some owners contacted by MCC.

Damaged street name plates (Roman Road, Crick) – MCC have added the details to their works programme. They have a limited budget for replacement street nameplates and tend to replace them twice yearly when they are likely to have sufficient numbers to achieve a reasonable unit cost.

Reported again 20 mph signage on Roman Road not working.

To report any new issues

1 St Tathan's overhanging vegetation.

Overgrown vegetation onto pavement at 9 Canon Lane

Cas Troggy Road overhanging vegetation.

End of Old Shirenewton Road/A48 fir tree growing on pavement requires trimming

Shirenewton Road 30 mph signage covered in vegetation

Overgrown brambles onto pavement and highway at westgate

War Memorial area – refuse lorries and other vehicles always using the paved area to manoeuvre.

M4906 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Councillors to inform Clerk.

Chair Date