

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
14TH JANUARY 2021

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

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council

M3851 APOLOGIES

Councillor B Counsell – Council accepted his apologies due to illness
Councillor M Beattie
Councillor K Swift

M3852 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 |
| Councillor P Dalton | Caerwent Football Club | Football Coach |

M3853 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair announced that we had received notification from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales of a complaint against a sitting Councillor. At this time we are prohibited from releasing any information due to the investigation.

M3854 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 10th DECEMBER 2020

To note that these had been confirmed remotely

Council noted.

M3855 POLICE REPORT

To note

Council noted report received.

Councillor Dalton raised the issue of the Your Voice Update and queried if this has been promoted within our community – the Clerk advised that they do normally seek Council's views but she will check on this and also any information on their website.

M3856 PLANNING

2020/01746 49 Ash Tree Road, Caerwent

Convert single garage to home workshop/gym

*This Council recommends **Approval***

2020/01779 Wroth Cottage, Carrow Hill

Demolish conservatory and rebuild a sun room. Rear two storey extension.

*This Council recommends **Approval***

2020/01756 Merrils Cottage, Carrow Hill

Proposed agricultural and garden machinery store to replace existing timber building.

*This Council recommends **Approval***

2020/01755 Merrils Garage, Carrow Hill

Proposed extension to existing garage to accommodate relocated vehicle lift.

*This Council recommends **Approval***

To consider any planning applications received after despatch of agenda

Notification of a planning application was received today regarding Lingfield Cottage, Five Lanes. It was agreed to request more time in order to determine effectively.

To note monthly enforcement list from MCC

Council noted.

Councillor Dalton proposed that the Replacement Local Development Plan consultation information be posted on social media. Clerk will post.

M3857 VILLAGE HALL – PROPOSED ALTERATIONS BY THE FOOTBALL CLUB FOR CHANGING ROOMS

Council to report on meeting held with CPFA

Following the meeting the Chair had circulated a draft letter to be sent to the Football Club – comments had been received from the CPFA. Agreed to now send queries to Football Club.

Councillor Murphy had written to Planning to seek advice.

M3858 ROGIET SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

Council to appoint a minor authority representative

Council agreed that Mr B Harris continue as our representative until the AGM and that he report to us following any meetings held.

M3859 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

CLERK'S REPORT

Councillor Vacancy - Caerwent Ward

MCC have advertised this vacancy. There had been no call for an election so we are now able to advertise ourselves and co-opt. The Clerk to arrange.

Highmoor Hill Phone Box

Councillor Beattie checking on the possibility of turning it 90 degrees.

Embrace Nature Caerwent

Following a meeting with Embrace Nature Caerwent, Cadw Officer confirmed that he would be recommending to Cadw that a sum of £2,500 be provided to support their Strategy for both the 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years and also confirm that at present a figure up to this amount could also be provided in further years but subject to further dialogue regarding ongoing progress of the project.

This would be core funding paid upfront and as long as the items in the strategy are implemented within each financial year this will allow the next year's payment to be released. There would also be the potential for additional sums to be made available on a case by case basis when looking at implementing some of the specific projects identified but this would be with Cadw as a last resort funder and they would expect ENC to source other funds from the community to implement these projects.

In relation to fencing obligations, Cadw will replace the fence along the Post Office boundary but would then expect ENC to maintain this and the other existing fences on the boundaries of the areas of land going forward.

Cadw will also be able to provide in-kind support in relation to Scheduled Monument Consent etc when implementing projects so external fees would not be necessary.

Manor Farm Adoption

No progress.

Trees

Councillor Murphy had met with Spitalfields and shown them the locations where trees are to be planted. The Clerk reported that four had been planted at Caerwent Playing Fields today. Councillor Murphy will check on the Merton Green/Llanvair sites.

Report from MCC on the tree at Caerwent Playing Fields perimeter boundary which was missing from their latest survey:

“MCC had inspected and in its current state it scores in the acceptable risk range at less than 1:1m for risk of harm. The tree will drop minor debris but they could not detect anything that would meet the criteria to warrant pruning. With regard to overall safety, there is no indication at this time that the tree has a high probability of failure of any sizeable branch. That said, the resident has tied a swing to the tree and this is constricting growth and adds weight and unnatural movement to the limb to which it is attached and may lead to future failure and we recommend that the swing is removed. The tree is an ash tree and according to the initial risk assessment is part of group 1 that indicates Ash Dieback is present in this group. It was not possible to confirm diagnosis for this individual tree as the tree was not in leaf and my inspection of twigs in the ground was inconclusive.

For information, Ash Dieback is rapidly affecting trees in the county. Latest information is that the infection is seasonal and trees can recover although multiple infections can lead to safety issues. NRW recommend close monitoring of ash trees and to remove any trees with 50% dieback in the canopy. Sadly, we have seen ash trees decline rapidly within a growing season and are expecting circa 80-90% of ash trees to die from this disease. Given this issue, we would recommend that the tree is looked at again when in full leaf to assess the extent of the disease.”

Council agreed to have this ash and any others within that group re-surveyed when in full leaf. The Clerk confirmed that the resident had offered to remove the swing from the branch.

Request for financial support from Caerwent Community Centre regarding pollarding their two trees – Council agreed to cover this cost and any ongoing costs related to the trees at the site. Council noted that the ash tree will be inspected when in leaf in case it has picked up ash tree dieback in which case it will have to be removed.

Dog Waste Bin – Dualcarriageway west A48

Should be in place within two weeks.

Recycled Bench A48 east

On order.

Training Courses booked

Replacement Local Development Plan - Growth and Spatial Options (Microsoft Teams meeting – 21st January 1800 hours)

Councillors John/Dalton Code of Conduct 26th January

MCC Draft Budget Proposals 2021/22 – (online session 2nd February 1830 hours)

Place Plan training – 22nd February (evening)

Large lorries travelling through Caerwent

Residents have notified that it has started up again. Photos and details sent in to MCC. Clerk will also query again the criteria for a weight limit along Roman Road.

Wall Repair, Llanvair Discoed

Now completed.

Police Report – December

Queried definition of ‘Admin’ crime. This is where there is a duplicate of an incident, ie where more than one person reports an incident.

Toilets

Applied for annual grant of £1,200 from MCC.

New mirror erected in mens toilets – two/three weeks later has been vandalised/broken again. Taken down temporarily. Agreed not to replace for the time being.

Agreed to ask Handyman about painting the ladies’ toilet ceiling.

Cadw Barns

Contacted Cadw to enquire about future use for Community Council meetings. They are prepared to consider this favourably once the pandemic is over.

Litter Picking Equipment

At the request of Sue Parkinson (MCC) asked ex Councillor Harris if he could let us have the litter picking equipment he was provided with. He will arrange to get it delivered to the Clerk.

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT JANUARY 2021

938 members

Issues raised:

Dog Fouling – Roman Wall

Just Giving page for PPE equipment now closed

Car break in – Lawrence Crescent

Diesel leak from green Newport service bus

Request for local walks information – ENC are collating

Fallen tree – Shirefield Lane

Flooding within the community. Police and fire brigade in attendance on A48 in Crick (report of silted drains)

Census – commencing 21st March

Stranger danger awareness – had been reported to police

Information exchange

PLAY AREAS INSPECTION REPORT

Seesaw at Caerwent Play Area mentioned is in need of replacement. Clerk had requested a quote on a few occasions.

M3860 FINANCE

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

Balances as at 31st December:

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Community Account | £18,486.42 |
| Moneymaster Account | £12,121.85 |
| Petty Cash | £220.78 |

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Clerk's Salary, Allowances, Mileage (20) | as per NALC scales |
| Inland Revenue | £198.02 |
| Torfaen Pension Fund | (employee) £58.59 |
| | (employer) £197.10 |
| British Gas | £27.52 |
| Rob Moore Ltd (wall repair – LD) | £540.00 |
| Merlin Waste | £171.60 |
| M Beattie (Xmas wreath for War Memorial) | £10.00 |
| Aardvarc Cleaning (toilets cleaning/new mirror) | £369.00 |
| Audit Wales (accounts 2019/20) | £266.55 |
| Society of Local Council Clerks annual subscription | £166.00 |
| MCC (pre-opening safety inspections at our Play Areas) | £73.26 |

Council agreed to the pay the above accounts.

To consider quarterly budgets review

Council noted that overspend on general maintenance was the new chippings provided on the Caerwent Playing Fields at a cost of £2,000.

To approve Grounds Maintenance Contract with MCC 2021/22:

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Llanvair Discoed, Trewen & Behind Caerwent Village Hall (Grass Cutting) & A48 Junction to Llanvair (x 3 occasions per year additional cuts) | £1009.71 |
| Play Area Inspections (Llanvair Discoed/Trewen) monthly | £727.48 |
| Play Area/Outdoor Fitness Trail Inspection (Caerwent) monthly | £828.38 |
| Total | £2565.57 |

Council approved.

Clerk had completed and sent in VAT claim form for 2019/20 for £3,033.62.

M3861 CORRESPONDENCE

Mike Moran, MCC - funding for this year's Play Schemes.

Clerk had replied informing him of our agreed amount of £540.

One Voice Wales – NHS, Social Care & Frontline Workers Day 5th July 2021.

Council noted.

One Voice Wales – Review of the Future of Welsh Towns (survey)

Council noted.

Understanding Welsh Places – new website launched.

Council noted that our Chair had contributed an article for this.

M3862 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

Councillors to report any issues

Council agreed to write again to MCC regarding the criteria for a weight limit on the Roman Road.

Councillor John reported the poor condition and rough surface of the pavement in Llanvair Discoed on Cas Troggy Road from the crossroads to Tigh-Na-Darag. This was particularly difficult for the two wheelchair users in the village. Councillor Murphy had already reported this but the Clerk will also do so.

Councillor Gittings reported moss on pavement outside 1 St Tathan's Place and also at St Stephen's complex.

The Chair reported potholes on the Roman Road opposite Highfields and Vicarage Gardens.

M3863 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Councillors to inform Clerk

Chair Date