

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD
8TH MARCH 2018

Present: Councillors:
P Murphy (Chairman)
B Counsell
G Cousins
K Evans
S George
K Haddow
P Lewis
K Swift

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

M4619 APOLOGIES

Councillor B Dawson

M4620 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 K Swift	Ballan Cottage, Crick	CWEP Member

M4621 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

M4622 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident from Sandy Lane thanked the Chairman and the Community Council for pushing to get a new sign erected on his lane. He confirmed that the illegal Barrier Services sign has now been removed. He advised that the owner of the business had initially asked their staff to slow down on the lane and this had indeed happened for a while but speeding is now again occurring. The Chairman stated that he will contact the owner regarding this.

The resident also queried why the owner had suggested digging out existing verges to create more passing places. The Chairman confirmed that MCC could not see the justification for it and there would be irreparable damage to the root structure of the trees on the lane. The Chairman had suggested that they consider some private land further up the lane and he is very happy to attend any meeting necessary to discuss with residents and Barrier Services.

M4623 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 8th FEBRUARY 2018

Council approved these with the following amendment:

2nd para should read:

“This will not lead to effectiveive and convenient local government”

M4624 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

Councillor Dawson to report on recent meeting with Inspector

Councillor Dawson had sent his apologies but had sent a report from his meeting with the Inspector. Agreed to discuss next month.

M4625 PLANNING

2018/00014 Siting of Static Caravan, Rock Cottage, Sandy Lane

This Council recommends **Refusal**

Request that this goes before Committee

2018/00207 Change of Use of Vacant Agricultural Land to provide an extension to Caldicot Cemetery, Land Adjacent to Caldicot Cemetery, Dewstow Road.

This Council recommends **Approval**

DPS Pyrolysis Permit Application

To consider further information

This Council again recommends **Refusal**

Concern that these extra reports are being produced by representatives of the company. An independent opinion is required to verify the accuracy of these in relation to the data and conclusions that have been reached about the safety of the plant. Concern about emissions from plant and the affects on the local area in terms of health. Close to community buildings, waterways, residential areas and schools. Detrimental visual impact, eyesore close to the historical area of Caldicot Castle.

To consider any planning applications received after despatch of agenda:

2018/00123 48 Merton Green - Proposed Two Storey Extension to the rear and part side of the property

This Council recommends **Refusal**

Extension appears to be greater than 50% of the original and if so is probably counter to the local plan. It extends to the rear boundary of the property which leaves no room for construction/scaffolding on the applicant's land. It will be necessary to erect scaffolding on the land owned by Barratts to which access is currently in dispute.

Query how the applicants are going in the future to maintain the property with no access to the building from their land or is there an assumption that they will be able to purchase additional land from Barratts to accommodate this.

Congestion of construction traffic on the narrow road will be unsafe.
Noise and disturbance issues for neighbouring properties.

Councillor Swift requested that we be consulted on any planning application which will affect the traffic into our area, ie the new housing development behind Mitel at Portskewett.

M4626 WORLD WAR I CENTENARY COMMEMORATIONS

To consider any further progress

Shirenewton School had confirmed that they are happy to participate. The Clerk was asked to chase Rogiet School.

War Memorial

To consider arranging a site meeting regarding replacement slabs

The Clerk to circulate some possible dates.

M4627 TO CONSIDER THE CONSIDERABLE DOG FOULING TAKING PLACE, THE IMPLICATIONS THIS HAS FOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES ON THE CAERWENT PLAYING FIELDS AND THE PROVISION OF SIGNAGE

It was agreed that we require some definitive information re legalities. The Chairman will contact MCC re any advice that Fields in Trust and the Countryside Section could possibly give. The Chairman will mention this concern in the newsletter.

M4628 HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY

To consider and adopt

Council agreed to adopt.

M4629 CAERWENT PLAYING FIELDS

To consider manhole cover in centre of field

Councillor Counsell had noticed a slightly raised manhole cover four yards away from the football pitch on the field. Agreed that as this is a possible danger to children/sports teams/machinery we ask Welsh Water to examine this.

M4630 CAERWENT PUBLIC TOILETS

To consider quote re painting works

Agreed to accept quote for £460.

Agreed to paint external/internal doors red, except internal interior doors to be black, ceiling white.

Provisional date for roofing - 3rd/4th April weather permitting.

Faulty light in gents – Clerk to report.

The Chairman had provided a booklet of official forms “Control of Contractors Permits” which contractors can sign to say they are aware of the asbestos present.

Councillor Swift had supplied a copy of the Asbestos Survey to the roofing company. Councillor Swift informed the Council that we must adhere to the Health & Safety Executive guidelines. Council agreed that once contractors had acknowledged sight of the Asbestos Survey and had signed the appropriate form then it was their responsibility to ensure safe working conditions.

M4631 GDPR AWARENESS

Councillors to report on recent MCC seminar

Councillors reported that this seminar was most unhelpful and felt it was aimed mainly at larger councils.

To note information received from One Voice Wales

Council noted that OVW had made representations to the Information Commissioner regarding the duties of smaller councils.

M4632 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

CLERK'S REPORT

Dates for Diaries

MoD meeting – Thursday 5th April, 11.00 a.m., Caerwent Training Area

Transfer of Village Hall

Our Solicitor has sent information to MCC. Clerk chased re document for lease.

Defibrillator

Excellent turn out for the training which took place on 27th February at the Woodlands Tavern in Llanfair Discoed.

Collapsed Drain, Ballan Cottage, Crick

CWEP have been in contact with the insurance company. A licence will have to be provided (Brian Williams of CWEP is in contact with MCC re this). The Chairman agreed to contact Estates re the cost of the licence.

Caerwent Community Council Education Award

Prizes given out on 15th February. Councillor Haddow will obtain copies of winning entries for our website.

Definitive Map Modification Order to record routes A and B as public byways open to all traffic, Minnets Lane

This will now be considered before MCC Committee on 24th April. Councillor Counsell queried if the MCC County Councillors who would be making this decision would be aware of the financial costs to their Highways Department if they voted to now use the tracks as a road open to all traffic. The Chairman agreed to query this.

Merton Green

This area has not been formally adopted, MCC awaiting further information from the developer to conclude the adoption. The Chairman reported that the triangle area may not now be adopted.

Village Hall Toilets

Drainrod attended – the underground pipes are all ok, the reason it keeps blocking is that the cisterns are not filling up in the toilets so there is not enough force to push the paper etc down so it builds up and blocks on the main bend underground. He made some adjustments and said to monitor for 4-8 weeks. Plumber yet to attend re other plumbing works.

Members Allowance

Advice from One Voice Wales - recommend that we use a form for members to complete signifying whether they wish to opt out of the allowance. There would be no need to report this to the Council as it is an individual choice as to whether a member receives the payment or opts out.

Agreed that we could re-visit this again in the future if Councillors did wish to claim re using the allowance for expenses, ie technology, printer, printer cartridges etc.

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

354 members

Issues raised:

Railings at Merton Green not been painted black – residents volunteered to carry this out themselves including the provision of the paint, Chairman had obtained permission from MCC for this to happen.

Speeding on A48 in 30 mph zone – Councillor Dawson had raised this with the Police Inspector – an option is to invigorate the speed watch training for local volunteers so we can carry out our own local targeted speed monitoring.

Dog fouling on Playing Fields – agreed to seek definitive advice due to the legalities.

Grit bin requests – Councillor Cousins will confirm to the Clerk exact locations.

MONTHLY PLAY AREA INSPECTION REPORT

Clerk had asked for quote re repairs

M4633 CORRESPONDENCE

MCC – Control of Goods Displayed on the Public Highway

MCC – Free Business Transport Event – 1st March

One Voice Wales – Independent Review Panel meeting dates

One Voice Wales – New Welsh Tax Proposals

One Voice Wales – monthly bulletin

**Welsh Government – Guidance for Principal Councils on the
Review of Communities**

M4634 FINANCE

To consider balances/payment and approval as per finance schedule dated March 2018.

Council noted balances and approved the following payments:

Balances as at 28th February:

Moneymaster Account	£13,070.06
Community Account	£16,141.16
Petty Cash	£171.52

Clerk's Salary, Allowances and mileage (50)	as per NALC scales
Inland Revenue	£49.23
Torfaen Pension Fund	(employee £47.89 (employer) £174.17)
One Voice Wales (annual subscription)	£274.00
MCC (extra verge cutting – Llanfair junction)	£221.40
MCC (Summer play schemes 2017)	£540.00
SRS Site Response Services Ltd (electrical inspection and test), Electrical Safety Certificate and repairs)	£180.00
Burton Homes (room hire)	£21.00
Aardvarc Cleaning (toilets)	£208.00
Merlin Waste (dog bins)	£135.60

M4635 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

To report any highways/rights of way issues

Mathern A48 at Killcrow Hill, five cones have been in place since before Xmas. 200 yds from Cas Troggy, Highways frame has been there for six months

Lamppost lights x 5 out on Ash Tree Road

Potholes A48 at Crick

Fly tipping at the Neddern, Caerwent side of the railway under the motorway bridge.

Drain blocked outside Minster Cottage, Highmoor Hill. All drains to be checked.

Salisbury Farm at St Brides – road collapsing into brook.

Clerk reported that the BT telegraph pole on Dewstow Road had been straightened, all blocked drainage issues will be programmed, “Roman Town” sign temporarily straightened up, littered verges referred to Waste & Street Services and potholes will be programmed.

Councillor Counsell reported on works he had requested during his tour of our area with the Chief Executive of MCC:

Litter on top near motorway bridge

Drain clearance

Cycle path on A48

Lack of road sweeper, centre of lanes growing grass in middle, will eventually break up road.

Urban litter in our area.

M4636 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

To note Cluster meeting notes from January 2018

Council noted.

M4637 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Councillors to inform Clerk.

Chair Date

