

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY 13TH JANUARY 2022

Present: Via Remote Attendance:
Councillors
P Murphy (Chair)
M Beattie
K Evans
G Foxall
K Haddow
M John

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council

M3939 APOLOGIES

Councillor B Counsell – Council accepted his apologies due to illness.
Councillor P Dalton
Councillor AM Spooner
Councillor K Swift

M3940 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillor P Murphy	All planning applications	Member of MCC Planning Committee
Councillor P Murphy	Caerwent Community Centre	Trustee
Councillor K Evans	Caerwent Historic Trust	Trustee

M3941 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

M3942 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 9th DECEMBER 2021

To note that these had been agreed remotely for accuracy and posted on the Council website.

Council noted.

M3943 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation

M3944 POLICE REPORT

Council noted December report. Agreed to reply requesting more detail, particularly as there are public safety issues mentioned. The Chair advised that he had again brought this issue up at his monthly meetings with the new Inspector.

M3945 PLANNING

2021/01766 Mayfield, Caerwent Brook

New detached garage with associated works
This Council recommends ***Approval***

2021/01916 Yew Tree Lodge, Caerwent Gardens

Removal of UPVC conservatory. Construction of single storey extension to rear and associated internal reconfiguration works

This Council recommends ***Approval***

Subject to checking the distance between the habited rooms of adjacent properties.

2021/01979 4 Trewen Road, Trewen

Two storey side and single storey rear extensions to existing two storey, semi detached dwelling house. To provide additional living and bedroom accommodation and re-configured garage

This Council recommends no objections in principle but, together with the previous application from 2020, this does appear to significantly increase the footprint size. The quality of the plans are insufficient to determine distances and floor areas so it is difficult to make a judgement as to whether it exceeds the increase in size guidelines.

2021/01961 Chestnut Cottage, Five Lanes

Annexe

This Council recommends **Refusal**

Over development.

Appears out of scale with original construction.

Out of character with existing property and surrounding properties.

Bat assessment should be included in any application.

2021/01995 Strathmore, Five Lanes

Single storey side extension

This Council recommends **Approval** in principle

Query if the plot size is suitable for an extension of this size

2021/01992 Gales Cottage, Highmoor Hill

Erection of a single storey building to be used as a domestic hobby/storage Building

This Council recommends **Approval** in principle

Query if the size is appropriate.

No indication in the application or the drawings in regard to what materials are being used so this makes it difficult to make a realistic judgement.

Query if the windows on the north side infringe on the next door property.

2021/02000 Dewstow Manor (Agricultural Notification)

Agricultural shed, for the storage of animal feed and farm machinery

This Council recommends **Approval**

2021/01698 The Knoll, St Brides Road, St Brides Netherwent

Proposed alterations and extension

This Council recommends **Approval**

To consider any planning applications received following despatch of the agenda.

2021/02086 Zephyrus, Old Shirenewton Road, Crick

New roof with dormers to part of the bungalow, rear single storey extension and replace garage with garage and room above.

2021/00738, Land North of Holly Lodge, Five Lanes (re-consultation)

Proposed equestrian use including an 8 stable block, tack room, hay room, manege and temporary siting of caravan.

Council agreed to request more time on these two above planning applications.

To note monthly enforcement list from MCC

Council noted.

M3946 MCC GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT 2022/23

To approve:

Grass Cutting – Llanvair Discoed, Trewen, Caerwent and A48 to
Llanvair Discoed x 3 £1034.96

Playground Inspections – Llanvair Discoed & Trewen £745.67

Playground inspection – Caerwent & Outdoor Fitness
Trail £849.09

Total = £2629.72 (increase of £54.15 on 2021/22)

Council approved.

M3947 HIGHMOOR HILL PHONE BOX

To consider drawing up a maintenance agreement

Council agreed that, before we enlist in solicitor costs to draw up a licence, we check with the volunteers in Highmoor Hill on any progress they are making, ie establishing a constituted group and proposed work schedule. In the meantime Councillor Beattie will make some enquiries on recommended solicitors.

M3948 FIELDS IN TRUST (CAERWENT PLAYING FIELDS)

To consider making enquiries regarding obtaining a plaque

Council agreed to enquire of Mike Moran, MCC Officer, re the procedure for obtaining a plaque.

M3949 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

CLERK'S REPORT

Play Areas

New seesaw for Caerwent still on order.

School Bus Pick Up/Drop Offs (Crick)

Police and bus company will be having a site meeting.

Footpaths Working Group

Chair had asked again for volunteers in the newsletter/Facebook. Councillor Swift had reported that there are now six volunteers.

Time Capsule plaques, War Memorial

Councillor Evans will be ordering these along with plaques for the benches.

Steps Cottage, Caerwent

Clerk will contact Head of Planning regarding progress.

'Crick' Signage

Suggested new signage to Highways Manager due to current signage being an illegal size. He has agreed to four new signs.

Paws on Patrol

Online Teams meeting arranged for Monday 10th January with volunteers and Gwent Police had to be abandoned due to online problems. Has now been re-arranged for Wednesday 19th January.

Crick Bus Stop

Councillor Swift querying wall ownership with householders.

Football Club proposed alterations to Village Hall

Awaiting amended plans from Football Club

Playing Fields Wooden Edging

Working Group will meet up in March.

Community Survey

Councillor Evans will be providing first draft to Working Group.

Dog Waste Contract

MCC had informed about all neighbouring authority arrangements and there is no opportunity to work with any of them.

MCC will go out to tender next week. We have been asked to complete a form detailing our bins – Clerk working on this.

MoD

Wrote to Billy Pike at the Caerwent Training Base re future meetings. He confirmed that he looks forward to resuming these meetings at the earliest opportunity however, the latest Covid restrictions prevent this from happening. He will continue to monitor the situation, in line with MOD policy and Welsh Government restrictions. Clerk will enquire if it is permissible for the MoD to engage on Teams.

Regarding the future plans for the base, it is at a preliminary stage currently and nothing has been completely confirmed - once he has further confirmation, he will pass it on.

Boundary Changes (some properties transferring from Magor to CCC)

Magor/Undy Community Council have advised that they do not hold any property, street furniture or other assets within the new area – therefore there is nothing to legally transfer across to this Council.

Trewen area will from May 2022 come under the St Brides Netherwent ward.

Annual Toilets Grant

Applied for this (£1,200).

Defibrillators

Sent example of arrow signage to the Landlord of Coach & Horses (awaiting reply). Councillor Haddow will chase this.

Red tick showing on the Coach & Horses defib which indicates a fault. Clerk contacted Ambulance Service and they advised to try different batteries – awaiting outcome from Landlord. In the meantime have had to decommission this defibrillator for now. Councillor Haddow will chase this.

Councillor Haddow had confirmed that the Village Hall defibrillator was “ready” on 9th January. Councillor John will check The Woodlands defibrillator status.

Five Lanes Site

Query re tree felling -MCC informed that Ash Die Back was present along the access road and on the A48. Electricity is being installed at the site shortly.

Local Government Wales Act 2021

Under this new Act CCC will have to prepare and publish on our website an Annual Report in April about the council's priorities, activities and achievements over the previous year.

Also the Act requires community councils to make and publish a plan about the training provision for its members and staff. The first training plan must be ready and published by 5 November 2022, six months after the duty comes into force. The training plan should reflect on, and address, whether the council collectively has the skills and knowledge it needs to deliver its plans effectively.

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

Query received from resident regarding increased frequency of posting from Women of Wentwood Walking Group. Council agreed that they will continue to accept postings from this group as our Facebook page is intended to get helpful messages out to the community as well as informing the community about council business.

PLAY AREAS INSPECTION REPORT

The Clerk asked if Councillors could check the situation re the post at Llanvair Discoed.

M3950 FINANCE

To consider balances/payments and approval as per finance schedule dated January 2022

Balances as at 31st December:

Business Money Manager (note new name)	£10,123.35
Charitable Bank Account (note new name)	£17,685.20
Petty Cash	£93.54

Clerk's Salary, Allowances, Mileage (10)	as per NALC scales
Inland Revenue	£215.81
Torfaen Pension Fund	(employee) £58.59
	(employer) £197.10
Merlin Environmental Services	£487.50
S Roderick (weekly inspections)	£51.52
MCC (War Memorial energy)	£48.97
British Gas (toilets)	£18.72
Aardvarc Cleaning	£315.00

To consider quarterly budget September – December 2021

Council noted.

M3951 CORRESPONDENCE

One Voice Wales – funding for nationally important heritage.

One Voice Wales – The Eligible Community Councils (General Power of Competence) (Qualification of Clerks (Wales) Regulations 2021 has been laid before the Senedd, with a coming into force date of 5 May 2022

One Voice Wales - Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021:
Community and Town Councils statutory guidance

One Voice Wales – Welsh Government “Shaping Wales’ Future”
MCC – Mons Museums Collections
Boundary Commission – Representations Published
Fields in Trust newsletter
Living Levels newsletter
Planning Aid Wales training courses
One Voice Wales training courses
MCC newsletter
MCC launches Alexa skill for recycling/waste information
Welsh Government – Draft Budget 2022/2023
Monmouthshire Meadows newsletter
MCC – climate change training

M3952 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

The Chair advised that the Community Centre are reinstating the path from the car park to the front door.

Councillor Evans is in communication with the Community Centre Committee regarding room hire booking arrangements.

The Chair advised that the Community Centre is being used during the daytime by MCC.

M3953 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

Highways Updates

Reminded Graham Kinsella of Highways about new signage in Caerwent, Llanvair Discoed and Crick. He proposes to do them all at the same time this year.

Stone wall over the brook in Llanvair Discoed – Highways are planning to have the wall stabilised by placing bagcrete into the spaces to make safe.

A48 west junction into Caerwent – Highways agreed to refresh faded white lines and provide some additional verge marker posts.

Councillors to report any Highways issues

Councillor Evans was pleased to report that the road sweeper had made a very good job of cleaning Caerwent. The Chair advised that MCC had invested in additional hi-tech equipment which will ultimately lead to savings on highways and drainage problems.

Councillor Beattie – queried if the cut elders behind the toilets had been removed by MCC. The Chair will chase.

Chair – trees from Rodge Wood overhanging Wern House on A48 – he has reported this.

M3954 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Councillors to inform Clerk.

Chair Date