

## **MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019**

Present: Councillors  
K Evans (Chair)  
B Counsell  
S George  
P Lewis  
P Murphy  
K Swift

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

### **M4773 APOLOGIES**

Received from Councillors Beattie, Haddow and Harris.

### **M4774 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

### **M4775 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Members of the public were in attendance to express concern following the announcement of Candidate Sites in Monmouthshire for the next Local Development Plan. They feared that huge development, potentially in Five Lanes, Highmoor Hill, Carrow Hill and other sites in Caerwent could wipe out large areas of forestry, have a massive impact on the environment and impact on their quiet enjoyment of their land and properties. Some of the proposed sites even included land belonging to them. There is a lot of strength of opinion even at this early stage and they queried when the public consultation will take place so that they can voice their opinions and concerns.

Councillor Murphy informed the meeting that this was the first call for Candidate Sites which is standard procedure when a Local Development Plan is being prepared. There will be another call for site proposals within the next two/three months. Once they have all been received they will be considered by Planners who will go through them to consider if they meet the criteria. Many will fail following scrutiny, e.g. development on flood plains, new builds in the countryside, Sites of Scientific Special Interest etc. During the last LDP exercise five sites from our area were taken out. Following this, public consultation will take place, probably in two/three years time.

Monmouthshire have a shortage of statutory land supply - they are 500 houses short - basically because builders have not been building. There is currently pressure from the Welsh Government as lately they have been overturning decisions that MCC have taken.

Councillor Murphy assured the residents that they will be informed of future developments in the newsletter, on social media and through their local Councillors.

A resident queried why a newt survey was carried out recently at Ifton Quarry. Councillor Murphy advised that all sorts of ecological surveys are carried out (newt, bats, slowworms, flora/fauna) when a development is proposed but he was unaware of this actual survey.

#### **M4776 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

#### **M4777 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 14<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2019**

These were agreed as a true record.

#### **M4778 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT**

Not received.

#### **M4779 PLANNING**

**2019/00327 5 Court House Road, Llanfair Discoed**

**Proposed Detached Double Garage with study above and new driveway entrance gates.**

This Council recommends *Approval*

**To consider any planning applications received after despatch of agenda:**

**2019/00333 Canon Lane**

**Retrospective Application for the erection of a fence**

Agreed to seek more time due to the fact that website information lacking – no photos and plan not clear re site location. Query height before and after.

Council were informed that the appeal re the Chillies Restaurant site on the A48 had been approved by the Inspector. The neighbour had been informed.

#### **Monmouthshire Replacement Local Development Plan – Candidate Sites Council**

**To consider**

This had been discussed under Public Participation. Agreed that we keep a watching brief and keep residents informed at all times. Agreed that it would be helpful to view a larger map on the website which takes in all developments on one page. Councillor Murphy will suggest this to MCC.

**To note monthly enforcement lists**

Two closed cases noted.

#### **M4780 CAERWENT LITTER CHAMPIONS**

**Councillor Harris to report on progress**

This will be reported on next month.

#### **M4781 LLANFAIR DISCOED NOTICE BOARD**

**To consider installing a framed varnished cork or magnetic board backing**

Agreed to arrange to install a new cork board

#### **M4782 ROMAN WALLS DOGS ON LEADS SIGNAGE**

**To consider recent instances of dogs off leads and whether Cadw signage is adequate.**

A number of complaints had been received regarding dogs off leads around the roman wall including verbal confrontation towards visitors to the site who had raised this issue. Council agreed that they were appalled by such behaviour and agreed to mention this in the next newsletter. Agreed to contact Cadw to query if they believe that their signage is adequate and also possible enforcement action of the site. Councillor Counsell proposed that the fences be taken down so that the dog problem is not concentrated on the wall. The Chair was concerned that the fields would then not be grazed and would lead to different problems. Councillor Murphy will in the meantime check with MCC who actually rent the fields.

## **M4783 MCC LOCAL TOILETS STRATEGY CONSULTATION**

### **To consider**

Council were pleased to note that our recent toilets inspection came out top in a survey carried out on toilets owned by Town/Community Councils. The only issue mentioned was that entry was by steps. Council agreed that there was insufficient room to install a ramp but that signage is present to direct to the disabled toilets at the Cadw barns.

## **M4784 MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS**

### **To consider approval for 2019/20**

MCC Grass Cutting + Additional Cuts	£961.06 per annum
MCC Monthly Playground Inspections (Llanfair Discoed, Trewen)	£692.43 per annum
MCC Monthly Playground Inspection (Caerwent Playing Fields and Outdoor Trail)	£524.09 per annum
Llanvair Landscapes grasscutting	£220 per cut
Aardvarc toilets cleaning	£17 per clean
Merlin Waste	£3.75 per dog bin empty

Council agreed to the above continuing contracts.

## **M4785 TO RECEIVE REPORTS**

### **CLERK'S REPORT**

#### **Dog Fouling**

Bags should arrive within next two weeks.

#### **War Memorial Improvements**

Permission received from the church to store our four planter boxes safely behind their wall. Contractor informed us of poor condition of planters – our handyman will be contacted re possible fixing. Our handyman will be contacted regarding a quote to paint the railings in hammerite black with gold on the finials. Will be informing paving contractor that cleaning has commenced and also mention the time capsules with measurements.

#### **Time Capsules**

Had arrived. Will arrange for engraving: "Caerwent Community Council - (school)- Life as a Child in 2019". Shirenewton very happy with project. Will inform Rogiet School that they are being engraved and we will then deliver them. Suggestions for contents include - photos of the actual school, school emblem, writing, artefacts etc.

#### **Grant – Broadband Infrastructure**

No further progress.

#### **Fencing, 3 Canon Lane**

Highways have no objections. Planning had requested that an application be submitted.

#### **New Defibrillator, Caerwent Village Hall**

Councillor Haddow progressing.

#### **Re-Siting of Defibrillator, Coach & Horses Public House**

Councillor Haddow progressing.

### **Defibrillator Training, Caerwent Community Centre**

To take place Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April, 7.00 p.m., in the Centre. Take up for this is very low at the moment. Will advertise again.

### **Education Award**

Most entries have been judged by Councillors Beattie/Harris. Clerk will obtain results from them. Councillor George took away the essay type entries for judging.

Council will be more specific in future years regarding projects.

Rogiet School had requested that future projects be in line with the curriculum.

### **Dinham Ward Vacancy**

No applicants as yet. Clerk had contacted a previous applicant but he now lives outside our area. Councillor Murphy had asked around regarding any interested applicants. The Chair will mention this in the newsletter

### **Balance Log, Caerwent Playing Fields**

There was a delay in the supply of the log. Should be installed within two weeks.

### **Inspections of Trail, Caerwent Playing Fields**

Queried with MCC why we have not received any inspection reports although we agreed to add them onto contract in November 2018.

### **Drainage Survey**

Requested clarification and costs. No reply as yet. Check again.

### **Large Poppy Wreaths**

Ordered 50.

### **Grass Verge – A48/Five Lanes Junction**

Councillor Swift had been in contact with Nigel Leeworthy of MCC who had informed her that a few years ago the site lines had been amended due to highways visibility and have been taken back to seven metres. The posts will be re-installed.

Councillor Swift had also reported the parked cars on the verge.

### **New Play Equipment, Caerwent Playing Fields**

Ordered and CPFA informed. The siting of the equipment had been discussed and Councillors will make a site visit and report back to Clerk.

### **Historic Trust Survey**

They have received £400 from the church fund so will not require any further financial aid from us.

### **Loneliness & Social Isolation – Activities within Caerwent**

Clerk had compiled list and sent to MCC.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT**

519 members

Issues raised:

Bus Service 75 (runs 5 x per day) – MCC still searching for funds to keep it going.

The Grass Routes service is an alternative option.

Recycling queries due to missed collections – apology from MCC posted.

Mounton House closure – Additional Learning Needs consultation response provided by Councillor George.

## **PLAY AREA INSPECTION REPORT**

Not yet received

### **M4786 CORRESPONDENCE**

MCC Newsletter

Monmouthshire Meadows Newsletter

### **M4787 FINANCE**

#### **To consider balances/payment and approval as per finance schedule dated February 2019**

Balances as at 28<sup>th</sup> February:

Moneymaster Account	£13,089.82
Community Account	£13,548.57
Petty Cash	£42.44

Clerk's Salary, Allowances, Mileage (37)		as per NALC scales
Inland Revenue	NI employer/employee	£69.70
Torfaen Pension Fund	employer	£194.43
	employee	£53.46
Time Capsules		£132.81
Aardvarc Cleaning (toilets)		£204.00
Merlin Waste (dog bins)		£150.00
Council repairs (Caerwent notice board)		£51.40
Clerks & Councils subscription		£72.00
Petty Cash		£207.00
MCC (war memorial lighting contract)		£48.97
Council Minute Book + sheets x 2		£133.04

#### **Financial Regulations 2019 (Updated from 2013)**

##### **Council to consider adoption**

Council agreed to adopt

As per regulations Clerk handed to Chair sealed dated envelope containing computer/bank pin/passwords.

### **M4788 IT WAS AGREED TO EXTEND STANDING ORDERS BY FIFTEEN MINUTES**

### **M4789 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY**

#### **Crick Highways Signage**

To consider purchase of 3 new village signs for Crick  
(One replacement for the very small sign already located on the A48 east entrance to the village. Two new signs – one located on Crick Road entrance to village and the second located on entrance to village from Shirenewton)

Councillor Swift had been in contact with Highways. She was advised to contact Standard Signs in Newport to obtain firm quotes with installation for future consideration.

#### **To report any highways/rights of way issues**

Potholes:

In centre of carriageway A48 east, just before the Crick sign.

Five Lanes nr Five Lanes House, nr telephone box.

Highmoor Hill – all along the lane.

Cycle path on A48 - weed killing not thorough, needs spraying every year for several years.

Fallen oak tree on land off Highmoor Hill – between Hardwick Farm and Woodcock Cottage travelling west.

Councillor Lewis reported that he is meeting with the Footpaths Department very soon.

Back of bus shelter in Crick (east) – overgrown with brambles. To report to handyman.

Merton Green lights now all numbered and adopted.

Confirmation received that St Tathan’s and the Old Shirenewton Road are publically maintained highways. Their condition has been repeated again to the maintenance team. Report received that potholes will be filled and resurfacing considered for the future.

MCC had confirmed that they had recently submitted a bid to Welsh Government to undertake a route feasibility study on the A48 from Highbeeche Roundabout to the county boundary with Newport City Council. The reason for this is to further analyse the collision data recorded and develop appropriate schemes to address the causations of the casualties, with a view to implementing a road safety grant scheme in 2020-21 financial year, subject to additional funding being received from Welsh Government. Councillor Swift requested that we seek again to obtain the assessment check regarding speed reduction from the Pwyllmeyric survey so that we can understand if the situation differs from Crick.

**M4789 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Councillor Murphy advised that he had resigned as a Local Authority representative on the Shirenewton Governing Body due to regular diary clashes although he has informed them that he is very happy to aid them if required.

Councillor Swift reported that CWEP have offered to help the MCC Officers, Alison Howard and Mark Cleaver who are involved in the new ‘Nature isn’t Neat’ pilot project to raise awareness for the need of pollinators through its community wildflower meadow and nature reserve in Crick, by communicating with local residents and also with the other groups that have links with them.

**M4790 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Councillors to inform Clerk.

Chair ..... Date .....