

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
9TH JANUARY 2020

Present: Councillors:
M Beattie (Chairman)
B Counsell
K Haddow
B Harris
P Lewis
P Murphy
K Swift

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

M4914 APOLOGIES

Received from Councillors Evans, Gittings and Phelps.

M4915 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillor P Murphy	Caerwent Community Centre	Trustee
Councillor P Murphy	All planning applications	Member of MCC Planning Committee

M4916 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Residents were concerned about the removal of a hedgerow and installation of a high metal gate at a field in Shirefield Lane. Councillor Murphy advised that he had already reported this to Planning Enforcement who had visited the site this week. MCC had noted that the gate was over one metre so requires permission and they will therefore contact the owner. The Clerk advised that there is a badger set in this area. Council will monitor the situation and asked the residents if they would also.

M4917 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

M4918 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 12TH DECEMBER 2019

These were agreed as a true record.

M4919 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

Police report not received yet.

M4920 PLANNING

There were no planning applications to consider

To consider any planning applications received after despatch of agenda

None received

To note monthly enforcement list

Noted that none were in our area.

Welsh Government Changes to Planning and Related Application Fees

Council noted.

M4921 EMBRACE NATURE CAERWENT PROJECT

To consider Cadw response

Council considered and agreed that they be granted a licence from Cadw for five years at a peppercorn rent. This will allow the Community Council to grant sub licences to individual owners/organisations who will use the land/contribute to furthering wellbeing initiatives for the community of Caerwent. Council noted that they can terminate the agreement by giving 3 months written notice but this will need to be on the condition that all the user agreements have also been terminated beforehand. Cadw would also be able to terminate the agreement but only on the condition that the land is not being adequately maintained or is being used for uses falling outside wellbeing initiatives. Council agreed to the clauses proposed by Cadw and agreed to ask Embrace Nature Caerwent for a management plan which could then be incorporated into the sub licence.

Agreed to contact Cadw to seek advice and examples of sub-licences.

Request received from Chairman of Embrace Nature Caerwent to commence mowing now. Council agreed that they could not officially agree to this before the paperwork was signed but would have no objection if Cadw agreed to it.

M4922 TO CONSIDER COMPLAINT REGARDING LITTER WITHIN OUR AREA

Council noted the litter problem throughout the lanes and the photographs which had been circulated. Councillor Murphy had contacted MCC to raise these concerns and they acknowledged that litter picking is not carried out as frequently as it used to be. They agreed to monitor the area and advised that there is the Community Improvement Team who can help in situations such as these.

Councillor Harris agreed to arrange a definite date for a litter pick in April, probably on a Sunday when there is no church service, to meet at the Village Hall with refreshments provided afterwards. He was advised that Keep Wales Tidy could possibly help with this. The Chairman will mention this in the next newsletter.

M4923 TO CONSIDER ANY UNAUTHORISED PARKING ON THE PLAYING FIELDS AREA

The Clerk was asked to report any abandoned cars/vehicles to Environmental Health Department.

M4924 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

CLERK'S REPORT

Dog Fouling

New bin installed at Caerwent Playing Fields - confirmed with dog waste contractor.

The Clerk advised that it is increasingly difficult to obtain supplies of free bags from MCC now and as soon as supplies are put out they very quickly go down - we can not keep up with demand. Agreed that we will fill the containers with the limited supply we now have and then not supply. Council noted that they pay for the actual bins and the emptying of them on a weekly basis and due to the cost implications agreed to not finance the supply of dog bags. Agreed to mention in the newsletter that this service will be withdrawn. Should we ever in the future obtain free bags there is a possibility that they could be provided to the Post Office with the approval of Councillor Gittings.

Defibrillator, Caerwent Village Hall

Ordered green outside cabinet. SRS will install when arrived. Councillor Haddow will arrange for training in Village Hall.

Sought advice from supplier re regular checking procedures. The light should be illuminated, batteries should last approximately five years. Agreed to seek advice regarding drawing up a check list for each individual defibrillator with serial number, battery type, date installed, date batteries require replacement etc.

Lease - Caerwent Community Centre

Awaiting registration at Land Registry.

Village Hall/Playing Fields

Transfer completed and lease to CPFA signed. Insurance taken out for £400,000 value of hall.

Training Courses

Councillors Beattie, Harris, Phelps and Swift attending 'Responding to Planning Applications' 22nd January.

Highmoor Hill Phone Box

Councillor Lewis had met up with our Handyman to discuss the provision of shelving etc inside in order to accommodate a small library, a map of local houses and a box for lost property. He will ask him for a definite quote which we will circulate and if this is reasonable agreed that it could be approved. Councillor Lewis will look into the provision of a laminated sign.

Toilets

Awaiting report on re-survey.

St Tathan's Anti-Social Behaviour Complaint

Acknowledged by Councillor Gittings. Councillor Murphy had made enquiries.

Cycle Path, A48

Written to Health & Safety Manager requesting a site meeting with Councillor Counsell. Health & Safety Manager had written to Highways in the first instance.

Chairman's School Visits

Chairman will visit Shirenewton School on 10th January and Rogiet School on 14th January to hand over plaques and next year's cheques. Will also discuss the future of the award and the remembrance poem from a pupil at Shirenewton.

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

703 members

Issues raised:

Comments re MCC budget meeting

Councillor Murphy asked Councillors to encourage residents to attend the consultation meetings advertised.

Balloon launch request from Playing Fields

Many positive comments on social media and one email expressing concern. Clerk had contacted the Civil Aviation Authority and the MoD for advice.

Considering the advice received the Council agreed that provided risk assessment and insurance documents are supplied and approved they are not adverse to trialling and

then reviewing a balloon being launched from the Playing Fields but would have to stipulate that it be launched not before 7.00 a.m. and that a donation be made to the Playing Fields Association. We would also request that vehicles do not drive over the football pitch and that the launch is outside of the pitch. The Clerk had discussed this with the MoD and they are happy with this unless they had a major exercise. They also offered a launch site which could possibly be more available if it is suitable and it was agreed that the Clerk provide contact details to the balloonist to also consider this option.

PLAY AREA INSPECTION REPORT

Still waiting for reply re their latest report.

M4925 CORRESPONDENCE

MCC Newsletter

One Voice Wales – invitation to enter draw for Chairman to attend Buckingham Palace

M4926 FINANCE

To consider balances/payments and approval as per finance schedule dated January 2020

Balances as at 31st December:

Moneymaster Account	£12,109.91
Community Account	£19,849.37
Petty Cash	£150.89

Clerk's Salary, Allowances, Mileage (62)	as per NALC scales
Inland Revenue	(employee/employer) £76.86
Torfaen Pension Fund	(employee) £55.93
	(employer) £203.38
M Beattie (xmas wreath)	£10.00
Aardvarc Cleaning	£261.00
Merlin Waste	£176.25
British Gas	£23.52
Society of Local Council Clerks membership	£161.00
Defib Store (cabinet)	£573.60
BHIB Insurance (Village Hall)	£200.74
Caerwent Playing Fields Association annual donation	£1800.00
MCC (rates)	£59.00
Shaun Roderick (fencing at Trewen Play Area)	£186.08
Aardvarc Cleaning	£382.00
MCC (Play area repairs)	£98.40

To consider quarterly budget figures

Council noted

Thank you letter received from Patsy Lewis for the donation of £100 towards the Christmas Meals served on Christmas Day. She reported that 54 meals had been served, mainly to people who lived in the village and it was a very successful and enjoyable day.

M4927 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

To report any issues

Large pothole on the A48 in the vicinity of the speed camera.
Potholes all along the Cas Trogy Road, Llanfair Discoed

M4928 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports.

M4929 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Councillors to inform Clerk

Chair Date