

**MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

Present: Via Remote Attendance  
Councillors:  
P Murphy (Chair)  
P Dalton  
K Evans  
M John  
AM Spooner  
K Swift

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council

**M3923 APOLOGIES**

Councillor B Counsell – Council accepted his apologies due to illness.  
Councillor K Haddow  
Councillor G Foxall

**M3924 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
Councillor P Dalton	Caerwent Football Club	Football Coach
Councillor AM Spooner	Caerwent Playing Fields Assoc	Member of Committee
Councillor M John	Save The Woodlands Tavern	Member

**M3925 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair announced that Council were very saddened to hear of the tragic passing of Jackie Williams, Chair of the Community Centre and a previous Community Councillor. Condolences go to her family. The Clerk will advise on funeral arrangements.

**M3926 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2021**

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

**M3927 15 MINUTES PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

**M3928 POLICE REPORT**

Council noted the latest report which was very Caldicot centred. Councillor Dalton was concerned that there are public safety matters mentioned in the report but no detail to pass onto our residents.

The Chair advised that he and Councillor Swift had attended a Teams meeting with the new Inspector Nikkie Hughes recently which was very useful. He felt that this is probably the best way to raise issues with the police. He will raise the issue of the content of the police reports with her at the next meeting. Councillor John informed the Council that he had received a positive response from the police regarding support of possible future use of the Woodlands Tavern.

## **M3929 PLANNING**

### **2021/01845 Dover Court, Crick**

Extension and Alterations

**This Council recommends *Approval***

### **2021/01832 Dewstow Manor**

Change of Use from Former Golf Club Building into a Dwelling

**This Council recommends *Approval***

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

There were no other applications to consider.

**To note monthly enforcement list from MCC**

Council noted.

For information Councillor John informed the meeting that the Save the Woodlands Tavern Campaign had received a letter of support from Councillor Richard John, Leader of the County Council, who was pleased to be able to endorse the initiative of the campaign group. The Chair advised that Councillor Richard John is able to give this support at this time as he is not a planning consultee and not involved in the planning process. Councillor John advised that the Communities Opportunities form is ready to be submitted.

## **M3930 COMMUNITY SURVEY**

**To receive any verbal report from the Working Group**

Councillor Evans reported that he had now collated all of the information received from the Working Group. Members of the group had agreed on the proposed structure of the survey going forward. He advised that collection of personal information could be covered by anonymity.

He suggested that we approach MCC for some broad demographical information for us to determine the results when we get them, ie to see how Caerwent fits into the Severnside area. Councillor John has information on the local demographic which he will send over to Councillor Evans.

Need to use the information collated and actions or plans should be made to address any issues. Areas to cover in the survey identified were traffic/parking, dog fouling/litter, community halls/events, health and safety of roman walls, pavements and access, bus shelters, toilets and in particular a specific section aimed at younger residents to gauge their expectations. Also a general question for any particular concerns and also positive aspects of the community to be included. Important not to raise expectations. Proposal that a three year plan be drawn up following the results.

Proposed next step is to draw up a draft survey which will be forwarded to the Working Group for any amendments/suggestions and then for this to be put to full Council in probably February or March 2022. Delivery and access to the survey to be discussed at a later date.

### **M3931 DOG BIN EMPTYING DRAFT CONTRACT**

#### **To consider draft documents and make any recommendations**

The Clerk advised that under the new proposed contract, which is for a maximum period of 36 months, MCC would be responsible for the administering of payments, the contractor would have to provide a weekly report to us and we would be responsible for carrying out safety inspections on the bins twice a year.

Council agreed to the proposal contract in principle but also to enquire what other neighbouring authorities (Torfaen, Gloucester, Hereford, Blaneau Gwent and Newport) arrangements have in place in relation to dog waste contractors.

### **M3932 CAERWENT PLAYING FIELDS WOODEN EDGING**

#### **Council to consider forming a Working Group to remove the edging**

Councillor Evans reported that he and the Chair had met with MCC Officer, Nigel Leaworthy, on site. He had advised that to repair/replace edging would be a very costly task so he suggested that any protruding pieces of timber edging be removed and then to let the path go into a natural edge. Councillor Evans stated that a maximum of twelve pieces of timber require removal. It was agreed that a Working Group of the Chair, Councillor Evans, Councillor Dalton and Councillor Spooner meet up in March when the weather has improved. Some sections have already been removed by the Chair/Councillor Evans.

Councillor Swift advised on a device which burns away encroaching grass. Agreed that this could possibly be used in the future but is not currently required.

Councillor Dalton queried if we could make enquiries regarding obtaining extra free bark for the fields, possibly from NRW. Councillor John will make enquiries.

### **M3933 TO RECEIVE REPORTS**

#### **CLERK'S REPORT**

##### **Play Areas**

New seesaw for Caerwent still on order.

Post for Llanfair Discoed still on order.

Wooden beam at Caerwent repaired.

##### **Phone Box**

Residents will form an association. Council will in the meantime have to produce a licence. The Clerk will circulate the agreement we were sent ten years ago from BT which could be used as a template.

##### **Defibrillator, Coach & Horses**

Relocated to the rear of the building. Informed The Circuit.

The Clerk suggested some signage to locate the new position of the defibrillator. She will get in contact with the Landlord for his permission to purchase some.

##### **School Bus Pick Up/Drop Offs (Crick)**

Written to bus company suggesting a different route. Councillor Swift had raised this with Police Inspector Hughes who will be looking into this.

### **Footpaths Working Group**

Chair had asked for volunteers in the newsletter/Facebook. He had received an offer of help with paths north of Llanfair Discoed from a resident. Councillor Swift had received a reply from The Ramblers who will be able to help in the future. Councillor Swift and Councillor Spooner will meet up again to agree on an exact plan.

### **Planning Application 2021/01304 Penylan Farm, St Brides Road, St Brides Netherwent - Excavation of dirty water pond adjacent to existing**

Still awaiting any responses arising from the Landscape Officer's concerns.

### **Time Capsule Plaques, War Memorial**

Councillor Evans will be ordering these along with a plaque for the planters.

### **Steps Cottage, Caerwent**

No further progress.

### **'Crick' Signage**

Suggested new signage to Highways Manager due to current signage being an illegal size. He has agreed to four new signs. Reply received that this Council's suggested wording is probably too long and the Highways Manager will come back with an alternative.

### **Paws on Patrol**

Online Teams meeting arranged for Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January at 7.00 p.m. with all volunteers and two representatives from Gwent Police. One of the volunteers will need to be the main designated person to join Neighbourhood Watch. The group will then be able to receive support and grants going forward.

### **Crick Bus Stop east**

Councillor Swift will be querying wall ownership with householders. She had contacted Estates and the land was not on their system – she is continuing with her enquiries.

### **Football Club proposed alterations to Village Hall**

Awaiting amended plans from Football Club.

### **Xmas tree/lights (Caerwent village)**

Erected and lights on.

### **Xmas Lunches**

This year they will be in the form of hampers for families in need.

### **New Dog Waste Bin, Northgate**

Chased progress. MCC have to buy in bulk to get a good price. They now have enough requests so will put an order in soon.

### **Handyperson**

He has now completed the work programme for this year as documented. To avoid potential duplication of effort at the Crick bus stop he has taken this off his list. He will continue to deal with the noticeboard.

### **"We Don't Buy Crime" Police Initiative**

Sent doodle out for a presentation in the new year.

### **Nature Forum, One Voice Wales**

Councillor Swift is now a member of this and will be attending her first online session next week.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT**

Live stream of Remembrance Service.  
Information exchange

## **PLAY AREAS INSPECTION REPORT**

Clerk reported that all recommended repairs had been ordered.

## **M3934 FINANCE**

**To consider balances/payments and approval as per finance schedule dated December 2021**

Council noted and agreed to payments.

**To consider precept document for 2022/23 and recommendation from Finance Committee**

Council agreed to recommendation that £54,683 be precepted for 2022/23.

## **M3935 CORRESPONDENCE**

MCC Newsletter

One Voice Wales Newsletter

## **M3936 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS**

**To note any verbal reports**

Councillor Evans reported that the Historic Trust had their AGM recently. There are three major projects that they are looking at going forward with if Covid allows:

1. Llanmelin Hill Fort encampment – application gone in for funding for a full excavation.
2. Caerwent churchyard east wall – possible survey/excavation to date the wall – this could be a community project with possibly school children involved in the archaeology.
3. Holding an Open Day to look at their archives. Digitisation of records is currently taking place. Church records are stored in the vestry dating back to the 1700s.

Councillor Dalton queried possible archaeology damage to the MoD site in view of the recent announcement that troops would move into the Caerwent site at the end of the decade. Councillor Evans advised that the MoD are very conscious of what is on the site and it has been surveyed on a number of occasions. Councillor Swift advised that the CWEP group is involved in the MoD Conservation Group and at meetings MoD archaeologists are present. There are three SSSIs on site and they are very strict on any activity on site. Clerk to write to the Mod re future meetings.

The Clerk had received an update from Councillor Foxall regarding Rogiet School: He had attended a recent Governor meeting where he had heard from the school council representatives and eco committee. They shared the work they had been undertaking with the Governing Body. He had also attended a separate meeting to hear from the children of all age groups who had shared some of their project work in humanities. He found both meetings very positive.

The Chair has arranged a meeting with the Community Centre Committee to discuss recruiting more people to get involved on the Committee. Councillor Evans offered to help out in the short term re the co-ordination of the bookings of the hall.

**M3937 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY**

**Councillors to report any issues**

Councillor Dalton - lorries continuing to travel through Caerwent. The Chair will remind Highways about promised signage for Caerwent and Llanfair Discoed.

Councillor Evans – very large pothole on Caldicot Road in Caerwent in the vicinity of the bridge.

Councillor Swift - “Crick Road” sign still missing. Also “Old Shirenewton Road” sign requires repair.

Councillor Spooner - A48 west entrance very dark at night and easy to miss. She was informed that there is no suitable power supply nearby to provide lighting. Agreed to request that the white lining be refreshed and verge marker posts be provided.

**M3938 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Councillors to report to the Clerk.

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