

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY 12th January 2023

Present: (via video conferencing)
Councillors:
K Evans (Chair)
P Murphy
M John
P Dalton
K Swift
J Guscott

Also Present AM Spooner, Clerk to the Council

M4024 APOLOGIES

None received

M4025 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation in this meeting

M4026 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was no Chair Announcement

M4027 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 8th DECEMBER 2022

Council to note that these have been approved remotely and posted on the website.

Council noted

M4028 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillor P Murphy	Caerwent Community Centre	Trustee
Councillor P Murphy	MCC Planning Committee	Chairperson
Councillor K Evans	Caerwent Historic Trust	Trustee
Councillor K Evans	Caerwent Village Hall	Booking Clerk
Councillor K Evans	Caerwent Community Centre	Booking Clerk
Councillor P Dalton	Caerwent Football Club	Football Coach

M4029 POLLINATOR POLICY

To remain on the Agenda

M4030 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

Clerk received a telephone call followed up by a Police Report which was circulated to councillors.

There were 4 incidents on the report relating to theft, shoplifting and a dog bite. There was a report on the speed checking at St Tathans.

Council strongly feels this should also be carried out on Roman Rd at Eastgate as this is where the public have many concerns.

Also it was noted that in the Report we need to know about all incidents in all areas that we cover. Clerk to email CSO.

Clerk has notified CSO of dates of future meetings.

M4031 PLANNING

RECONSULTATION DM/2022/01834

**Gray House Farm
Kemeys Road
Llanvair Discoed
Chepstow
NP166LZ**

Previous Comments Still Stand

To consider any planning applications received after despatch of the agenda

**DM/2022/01834
25, MERTON GREEN
CAERWENT
CALDICOT
MONMOUTHSHIRE
NP255AT**

**PROPOSED GARAGE CONVERSION AND BIFOLDING DOORS
COUNCIL RECOMMENDS APPROVAL**

There then followed a general discussion on the LDP and proposed housing developments at Crick.

Concerns were

- * number of houses proposed for Crick and Portskewett
- * loss of identity for Crick village
- * impact of more traffic on the road leading from Portskewett to A48
- * dangerous for pedestrians as there is no pavement along that road

M4032 To Note Monthly Enforcement List From MCC

Council noted

M4033

UPDATES ON TRAFFIC CONCERNS RAISED BY RESIDENTS AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL

There was a site meeting with MP David Davies and Councillors Murphy and Dalton in December.

Police Enforcement of 20mph is to take place in the near future
20mph signs to be resited.

New Yellow Road Markings have been painted on the road on sides of bus stops
Volume of traffic and parked cars remain a concern although the parked cars are helping to slow traffic down

The lack of visibility is mainly due to bend in field and hedge growth, but if the hedge is cut this may encourage drivers to go faster.

Councillors concerned at the actual position of the Bus Stop for Chepstow..could it be reinstated in a safer place due to the number of pupils now using it?

Councillor Murphy to consult Richard Cook MCC regarding hedge and bus stop.
Clerk to consult Graham Kinsella about signage in that area.

M4034 DISCUSS FURTHER PROGRESS ON THE UPKEEP OF CAERWENT PLAYING FIELDS TRAIL

CPFA have agreed to hold a weed pulling event alongside an Easter Egg Hunt in April.

CPFA wondered whether suitable shrubs could be planted on barked area of the trail. Caerwent Meadows and Crick Wildlife Group to be contacted for advice.

Councillor Swift and Guscott to meet at the trail before next meeting to look at possibilities.

There has been some improvement to the unkempt border on the edge of the trail on St Tathan's side.

Clerk has also received a message from another resident who is in the process of clearing a lot of overgrowth on their fence bordering the trail.

M4035 TO NOTE ANY UPDATES ON FACE TO FACE MEETINGS AT CAERWENT COMMUNITY CENTRE

Councillor Murphy said there was no further progress, but this will stay on the agenda

M4036 CONSIDER HOW WE MAY ENGAGE IN A FULLY FUNDED EV CHARGING POINT SCHEME

Councillor Murphy has taken advice on the matter and although there was some work being done with CCR and Kerb Connected, Caerwent village would not be a viable candidate at present due to not having a suitable Car Park.

M4037 TO OBSERVE THE ENVIRONMENT WALES ACT 2016 CONCERNING BIODIVERSITY AND RESILIENCE OF ECOSYSTEMS

Councillor Swift informed council that reporting on this is a statutory requirement.

A new working group needs to be convened to discuss how we might implement this.

Clerk to circulate an email regarding setting up a new working group.

M4038 AGREE TO ADOPT THE FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE TOOLKIT FOR COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS

Clerk suggested a rationale as to why we should adopt this model.

Clerk to look further into this and arrange a Finance Meeting to discuss more fully and possibly implement.

M4039 DOG FOULING

There have been several complaints about dog fouling in Caerwent and on an area in Shirefield.

Council felt that the resident at Shirefield was quite justified in putting up a sign on their property near to the road.

Clerk to put further notices on Social Media.

Hopefully new signs being put on bins will help.

Councillors encouraged to challenge residents if they are seen to be not picking up dog excrement.

M4040 TREWEN PLAY AREA

Following the recent dog bite at the Play Area which was reported and dealt with police, council felt that a letter should be sent to the resident in Trewen who has the gate opening onto the field, requesting that they close this entrance to prevent any further occurrences.

Clerk to send letter

M4041 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

There were no representative reports for the meeting.

M4042 CLERK'S REPORT

Clerks Report January 2023

Time Capsule plaques, War Memorial

No further updates

Community Survey

Councillor Evans to report

Police Report

Clerk contacted by CSO Michael Martin of Caldicot Police in response to enquiries.

He apologised for lack of police reports in the last few months due to staff changes. He will reinstate them from January onwards. CSO explained that it would probably not be possible to attend meetings personally, but for us to contact himself with any issues.

We had a discussion about the 20mph speed limit in Caerwent being enforced. This will be taking place shortly and will involve drivers who are just over the speed limit being invited to watch a video about speeding and those in excess of 26mph will likely be fined.

Details to follow in report.

Update

Police Report has been received and dates for future meetings have been forwarded to CSO Martin

Handy Man Reports

Visual inspections have been carried out x 4 on the Playing Fields. Council to note that Handyman was unable to enter Trewen on two occasions due to the risk of dog entering the field via the open garden gate of the owner (this was following the dog bite received by our handyman)

Update from handyman: Police have interviewed dog owner who has apologised.

MCC Playground Inspection Reports

There were some moderate risk items on the reports for Caerwent Playing Fields. Clerk has requested quotes for remedial work required.

Update:

Jonathan Wassal has come back to the clerk and said that work has been carried out now.

Highmoor Hill Phone Box

No further progress

Clerk to contact residents at Highmoor Hill.

Training

Councillor Guscott to attend training on Code of Conduct in January

Christmas Tree

There have been numerous comments about the state of the lights on the Christmas Tree in Caerwent. Clerk has sent a number of emails to the company City Illuminations. They have suggested that we are given a credit of 50%

Lights have been removed. Llanvair Landscapes informed.

Finance

Council has received annual grant of £1200 for toilets

Clerk completed quarterly returns

Caerwent Playing Field

Awaiting meeting date with CPFA to discuss arranging opportunities to improve the upkeep of the trail on the field.

Christmas Parties

Childrens and Over 60s parties were held in the village hall. Clerk has added donations of £400 were added to January Bills for approval

Dog Fouling

There continue to be a number reports of dog fouling in the village and other areas.

Clerk to attach dog fouling notices on our bins. Also shared on our social media page.

Progressing with this, but wet weather has slowed things up

Complaint made by resident about dog fouling at the entrance to Shetland Pony field. Lots of people walk there and bring their dogs. Dog Fouling is a frequent event

Highways

Large potholes on Roman Road (near Centurions Court) and on Caldicot Road (near Caerwent's Brook) Both Reported via My Monmouthshire.

20mph sign slightly obscured by trees as reported by CSO Michael Martin.

Clerk has checked and no longer the case, but recommend to keep a check with new enforcements of speed limit.

Social Media Report

Posts about Christmas Tree

Query over criminal activity on Five Lanes. (Clerk has received two messages regarding this)

Comments were turned off

Information sharing on local events

Dog fouling

Queries over OGI broadband company

Some reactions to Chair Report in regard to 20mph. Concerns about car parking when dropping children off and the visibility on that road.

Toilets

We received an email from Welsh Water regarding a leak in the toilets at Roman Temple. It is a sizeable leak which requires attention.360 litres /hour. Clerk to investigate

Defibrillators

Woodlands Tavern showing red cross.Welsh Ambulance officer thinks it's a battery problem and will get back to the clerk.

We discussed having training for maintenance and use. To go on next agenda

M4043 FINANCE

Clerk has completed quarterly budget figures for October to December. To present at next Financial Meeting

We have received annual toilet grant of £1200 from MCC

FINANCE/INVOICES TO BE PAID JANUARY 2023

Balances as at 31st December 2022

Charitable Bank Account	£7,461.03
Business Bank Account	£20,888.97
Clerks Salary	As NACL Scales
HRMC	£196.80
Clerks Membership of SLCC	£73.00
Merlin Environmental	£546.00
City Illuminations (Christmas Tree)	£888.00
50% reduction has been offered	(£444.00)
Handy Man	£51.52
CPFA Christmas Parties	£400.00
British Gas	£18.48
Aardvark	£247.00
Any invoices received after despatch of agenda	

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(Chair)

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(Date)

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(Councillor)

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(Date)

M4044 CORRESPONDENCE

Enforcement notice

One Voice Wales Local Representation Elections

Training Safety Officer (TSO) Caerwent

MCC Grounds Maintenance Contract 2023/24

Traffic Regulation Orders

City Illuminations

Electoral Registration Details for Caerwent Area

Play Inspection Reports from MCC

Appointment of a Community Councillor to the Standards

Committee

Training Opportunities One Voice Wales

Reports From Handyman

M4045 HIGHWAYS /RIGHTS OF WAY

Discussion about state of roads in general.

Some repair work currently being carried out on A48 between Crick and Caerwent

Trees have been removed at the bottom end of school lane

Large machines used to clear Ash Die Back

It is an area for planting alternative species

M4046 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Defibrillator Training

Face to Face Meetings

Pollinator Policy

Toilets

Training