

**MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**HELD 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2020**

Present: Via Remote Attendance  
Councillors:  
K Evans (Chair)  
A Gittings  
K Haddow  
P Murphy  
K Swift

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council

**M4926 APOLOGIES**

Received from Councillor Counsell - Council accepted his apologies during this Covid 19 period. Apologies also received from Councillors Beattie and Harris.

**M4927 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 Kevins	Caerwent Historic Trust	Trustee

**M4928 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair advised Council that Councillor Phelps had resigned from his position of Councillor for the St Brides Netherwent ward. Councillors expressed thanks to him for his time on the Council and wished him well in the future.

**M4929 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 10<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**

**To note that these had been confirmed remotely**

**M4930 POLICE REPORT**

A speed operation had taken place in the Caerwent area off the A48 where the average speed was 29.45 mph and the highest speed recorded was 42 mph. They will continue to conduct speed checks in the area and patrol potential areas for people to breach Covid. A lot of the anti-social behaviour calls have been Covid-19 related and they are warning, educating and issuing fixed penalties where appropriate, as well as off road bikes in the Wentwood Area.

**M4931 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE SUNDAY – 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020**

**To consider any arrangements to be made**

Council agreed that in view of the current Covid 19 restrictions and concern for the safety of residents that this be scaled back and that the Vicar is asked to just provide a prayer/a few words and the wreaths laid by the dignatories/various organisations. The Clerk to contact the usual eight wreath layers to confirm this.

Council agreed that no road closure would be required, nor bugler. Also agreed that the names will not be read out but they will be posted on our Facebook page on the day and that the poem from the pupil of Shirenewton School will not be read out this year. Residents will be asked to pay their respects at 11.00 a.m. on the day at their own front door.

The Clerk confirmed that large poppies will be placed at the usual places.

Councillor Swift proposed purchasing some large metal poppies to be placed at the War Memorial – she was asked to provide more information.

#### **M4932 PLANNING**

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

##### **2020/00169 Upper Shirefield Cottage, Five Lanes, Caerwent** (amended plans)

Double driveway gates. Erection of a shed to keep tractor safe.

This Council recommends **Refusal**

These amended plans do not alter our previous recommendation of Refusal:

Metal gates not in keeping with area

Unauthorised access onto lane

Loss of hedgerow has still not been addressed

Incorrect address being used

Recommend that the Planning Committee carry out a site visit

##### **2020/01382 The Old School, Caerwent**

Removal of all tarmac hard surfacing from around the building (forming the playground to the school house) and new soft and hard landscaping scheme to form residential garden/amenity space. Raise roof height and conversion of existing outbuilding (toilet block) to store.

This Council recommends **Approval**

##### **To note monthly enforcement list from MCC**

Council noted.

A concern had been received regarding a property on Vernon Grove where building materials had been delivered to the front drive of the property some 2/3 years ago but had been left and no work carried out. Councillor Murphy will make some enquiries.

#### **M4933 A48 BENCH DUALCARRIAGEWAY EAST**

##### **To consider removing and replacing current bench with new recycled bench at a cost of £585.**

Council agreed. Also agreed to providing small plaques on benches with “Caerwent Community Council” engraved.

#### **M4934 TREE SURVEYS**

##### **To consider the Trewen Play Area Tree Survey**

Council noted.

##### **To consider quote of £330 from MCC to carry out works recommended in the recent risk assessment/surveys carried out at Caerwent Playing Fields and Trewen Play Area**

Council agreed

#### **M4935 PHONE BOX, HIGHMOOR HILL**

##### **To consider responses from owners/landlords of land**

Response from Highways regarding siting outside toilets is that this would not be possible due to it also being opposite a bus stop which would then reduce footway width and conflict with the bus stop platform.

Response from Cadw regarding the Barns site was not favourable.

Positive response from Vicar regarding the Gaer land but this would have to go to the PCC.

No reply as yet from the owner of the land at the Post Office.

Agreed to await the response from the Post Office but in the meantime consider for the next meeting if there are any other areas where it could be sited.

### **M4936 CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **Future Provision of Waste Household Recycling Centres and the Garden Waste Service survey**

The decision on this had been made by MCC on 8<sup>th</sup> October:

Usk Centre to be closed.

Opening times will be shortened at all centres to 8.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

Five Lanes will be closed on another day, as well as the current Thursday closure.

The booking system will stay in place.

There will be enhanced encouragement of kerb side collections.

The Garden Waste decision was adjourned until 22<sup>nd</sup> October pending receipt of further responses.

### **M4937 TO RECEIVE REPORTS**

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

##### **Llanvair Discoed Councillor Vacancy**

MCC have advertised this. If no election is called by 13<sup>th</sup> October we can then advertise ourselves and co-opt. Clerk will make the arrangements.

##### **St Brides Councillor Vacancy**

MCC have advertised this. If no election is called by 23<sup>rd</sup> October we can then advertise ourselves and co-opt. Clerk will make the arrangements.

##### **Playing Fields**

20 loads of chippings had now been delivered and spread. The job is now complete. Clerk to chase the MCC Officer she met on site regarding the edging.

##### **Embrace Nature Caerwent**

Agreement received from Cadw that funding be received.

ENC drawn up a new constitution.

ENC held a successful meeting with Emyr John of Cadw recently.

Council approved the condition report. The Clerk was asked to also send this to Nigel Leaworthy of MCC.

Regarding the suggestion that one of the fields be grazed with sheep and the gates be locked, in view of the fact that there are no public rights of way Council approved this and the closing of gates.

##### **New Website Accessibility Regulations**

New website launched. This is accessible on all types of equipment. Councillors were asked to let the Chair know of any other links that are required. The Book of Remembrance has been transferred over to the Caerwent Historic Trust website. More photographs will be added gradually.

##### **Provision of Allotments**

Previous suggested site not now possible.

##### **Crick Flooding**

Councillor Swift reported that the resurfacing of the A48 had taken place recently and she had been advised that quality tarmac had been used to deter break up and future

potholes. Channels had been dug and dredging of the brook had been carried out recently.

### **Manor Farm Adoption**

Councillor Murphy had received confirmation from MCC that this was adopted on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2003. Councillor Swift will contact the Officer regarding the way forward.

### **Trees**

Dead tree which belonged to MHA at entrance of the car park at the Playing Fields has been removed.

Concern received from a resident that some trees on the Playing Fields are too large and he has a letter from an MCC Officer indicating that they should never have been planted – he had provided the letters. The Clerk had advised him of the recent tree survey where it stated that the trees were in good condition which he acknowledged. Clerk will write to MCC to enquire if the siting of trees is actually included in the survey results.

Written to 2 Vicarage Gardens regarding overhanging branches onto picnic tables at the Playing Fields.

A resident has some sapling trees in her garden which we are welcome to if we ever need any for the field.

Councillor Swift advised that the CPFA had mentioned in their annual accounts report of 2018 that they would contribute towards tree works costs.

### **Dog Waste Bin – Dualcarriageway west A48**

Councillor Murphy still progressing the provision of a litter bin and has provided site details to MCC. Agreed that if he does not receive a positive response that we instead purchase a dog bin through MCC at a cost of £179.

### **Place Plan Proposal from Portskewett Community Council**

Councillor Swift had confirmed with Portskewett that we would be agreeable to attending a training session run by Planning Aid Wales at a cost of £200. She advised that this would probably be virtual training.

### **Assets Inspections**

Outstanding:

Asbestos Reports (toilets)

Village Hall

Community Centre

### **Goal Posts x 3**

Report from Handyman that the Trewen posts are in a poor state of neglect with heavy surface rust. Llanvair is a little better and Caerwent has the least problems. Details of recommended works had been received. Council agreed to defer this decision until probably the Spring and to precept for this.

### **Llanvair Discoed Play Area Wall**

Report from Handyman that part of the wall is unsafe and unsightly. Details of recommended works had been received. Council agreed to defer this decision and Councillor Haddow will seek contact details of a stonemason.

### **Llanvair/Trewen Play Areas Hedging**

This is done annually by Llanvair Landscapes. The last cut was 23 September 2020.

### **Shirenewton School Minor Authority Governor**

Governor Services made a mistake in informing Councillor Harris that he was the representative. The minor authority rep is a Councillor from Shirenewton Community Council.

### **Highways Issues**

White lining and STOP notice had been re-painted at the crossroads.

Large fir tree at Crick had been trimmed.

Footpath from Caldicot Road to Playing Fields had been cleared.

Notices had been served on properties at 1 and 4 St Tathan's and on Caldicot Road to remove their vegetation.

### **PLAY AREAS INSPECTION REPORT**

MCC had taken down some unsafe roping at Caerwent Playing Fields. Awaiting quote for replacement.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT**

912 members

Issues raised:

Speed checks on A48

Halloween suggestion of placing drawings/pumpkins in windows

NHS Covid 19 App

Gratitude to residents from Caerwent and Crick who regularly litter pick in our area

Information exchange

Wasps Nest

Hedge Cutting Notice

Lost Drone

### **M4938 FINANCE**

#### **To consider balances/payment and approval as per finance schedule dated October 2020**

Balances as at 30<sup>th</sup> September:

Community Account	£15,357.77
Moneymaster Account	£12,121.85
Petty Cash	£230.34

It was agreed to pay the following accounts:

	as per NALC scales
Clerk's Salary, Allowances, Mileage (20)	
Inland Revenue	£198.02
Torfaen Pension Fund	(employee) £58.59
	(employer) £197.10
MCC (lease Crick field)	£15.00
M Beattie (plants – War Memorial)	£57.08
British Gas	£25.41
Merlin Waste	£171.60
Llanvair Landscapes (mowing)	£600.00
MCC (collect signs, inspect Play Areas and install Covid signage)	£230.40
MCC (tree survey – Trewen Play Area)	£72.00
MCC (tree survey – Caerwent Playing Fields)	£352.80
Aardvarc Cleaning	£270.00
S Roderick (bench repairs)	£26.92

**To note quarterly budget figures**

Council noted and agreed that they were as expected apart from tree works overspend.

**M4939 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY**

**To consider providing bollards/planters in the cenotaph area to deter larger vehicles turning**

Councillor Murphy agreed to seek availability and costs information.

Councillor Haddow agreed to consult with the neighbours.

**To report any issues**

Councillor Swift advised of fly tipping on A48 west near Crick sign.

Councillor Haddow informed the Council of an email received from a resident regarding motorists ignoring the speed limit along the Roman Road and large articulated lorries using our roads. The bus stops used by school children are particularly concerning as there is no place to cross.

Councillor Murphy will check re correct routes regarding Barratts lorries.

20 mph advisory warning lights still not working. Clerk will again report the defective signage.

**M4940 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

The Chair had received a query from the Football Club regarding them using the disabled toilets at the Village Hall. Council confirmed that the Village Hall is shut currently due to Covid 19 and therefore there should be no access to the toilet facilities either.

The Chair had noticed that the Football Club are storing their equipment in the unfinished changing rooms of the Village Hall. He agreed to check with the Chair of the CPFA to see if permission had been granted. It was noted that this was third party equipment and would not be insured.

The Clerk queried the Education Grant this year. It was agreed that this be cancelled due to obvious pressures on schools during the pandemic.

**M4941 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Councillors to inform Clerk.

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