

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY 8th December 2022

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

M4003 APOLOGIES

Received from Councillor Foxhall

M4004 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation in this meeting

M4005 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was no Chair Announcement

M4006 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 10th November 2022

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

Council noted

M4007 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

M4008 POLLINATOR POLICY

To remain on the Agenda

M4009 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

Clerk has emailed Gwent Police on several occasions to request Police Report to no avail.

Councillor Guscott will visit police station to ascertain who is now our contact officer and attempt to reinstate the monthly report.

If this is not successful, we will write formally to the Chief Inspector. Council agreed that the Police Report was really important to the meetings for a number of reasons.
M4010 PLANNING

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 APPEAL UNDER SECTION 78
AGAINST REFUSAL OF A HOUSEHOLDER/MINOR COMMERCIAL
APPLICATION**

**DM/2022/00696
AROSFA
LLANVAIR DISCOED
MONMOUTHSHIRE
NP16B6L**

Council Noted

**DM/2022/01684
Householder Erection of a single storey building to be used as a
domestic hobby/storage building as an alternative to that approved by
permission**

DM/2021/01992

**Gales Cottage Highmoor Hill Road,
Highmoor Hill,
Caerwent, Caldicot, Monmouthshire NP26FPF**

Council Recommends Approval

**Previous comments still stand including height
Query if the size is appropriate.**

**No indication in the application or the drawings in regard to what
materials are being used so this makes it difficult to make a realistic
judgement. Query if the windows on the north side infringe on the next
door property**

**DM/2022/01714
GRAY HOUSE FARM,
LLANVAIR DISCOED**

Council Recommends Approval

Subject to Approval of Permeable Surface and Drainage Destination

M4011 To Note Monthly Enforcement List From MCC

Council noted

**M4012 Updates on M3956 Caerwent Playing Fields Security Bollards
Council approved the new bollards and pleased how quickly and
efficiently they were installed. To keep a watching brief on gates as to
whether they are high enough to prevent lorries from entering.
Councillor Guscott explained there were 6 keys to ensure gates are
secured. Two have been given to Grass Cutter foreman, three to the
Playing Fields Committee and Councillor Guscott has a spare key.
Caerwent Playing Fields are to pay for materials and installation**

M4013 CAERWENT PLAYING FIELDS PLAY EQUIPMENT

MCC have completed restoration work to the wooden adventure trail at no cost to the council this time. Council were shown photographs of all restoration work. Swing will be replaced when work completed. Visual Inspections continue to be made weekly by our handyman.

M4014 CAERWENT PLAYING FIELDS TRAIL

A resident has sent photographs of parts of the trail which are overgrown and also of the state of the right-hand corner at the bottom of the field. The fence is broken and items of garden waste have spilled over. However, the area in question is owned privately and it is therefore the owners responsibility to repair the fence and keep the area tidy. Councillor Murphy will speak to officers at MCC if there is anymore that can be done.

The clerk will raise the concern of the trail with the Playing Fields Committee to see if a community event could be held encouraging locals to come and help weed the overgrown areas. The Football Club will also be contacted.

M4015 TRAFFIC CONCERNS ON ROMAN ROAD AND CALDICOT ROAD

Following a report on our Community Face Book page highlighting potential risks to school children at the East Gate bus stop due to the view being obscured and the volume of traffic now coming through prompted a discussion within the community council .It was strongly felt that the speed limit needs enforcing. David Davies MP is due to hold a site meeting with a resident on the Caldicot Road and members of the community council. He will also be asked to look at the East Gate situation.

There has also been a concern posted on social media about the blinding light to drivers from the speed warning sign. It was noted that the light is only activated when drivers exceed the speed limit.

M4016 TRAINING PLAN UPDATE

The clerk drew attention to our commitment to training where appropriate and the importance of skilling up councillors. The clerk will forward new training opportunities in the New Year and specifically where there may be some gaps in individual training. Councillor Guscott has recently been on a Planning Course with Planning Aid Wales.

M4017 CLERK'S REPORT

Clerks Report December 2022

Time Capsule plaques, War Memorial

No further updates

Crick A48

We have had an update from Phaedra Cleary, assistant engineer to Graham Kinsella who responded to clerk's email on the speed limit in Crick. A contractor has been appointed and the contract has been issued and the

works to begin to install the signs /lines and posts contract at the several towns and villages will commence on 21st November 2022.

The works to install new posts shall commence in Chepstow and then the Contractor will undertake the posts works at Crick and at the several other locations which form part of the overall Contract awarded to them.

No precise date at this moment in time as to precisely when all the works will be completed in Crick . The contractor will be commencing by installing the new posts initially and then follow on with new signs erection and then the road markings etc at the numerous towns and villages which formed part of his Contract.

Football Club

No further updates

Community Survey

Councillor Evans to report

Police Report

No further updates

Clerk has again contacted Gwent Police

Handy Man Reports

Visual Inspections completed on 7th,12th 20th and 26th November
Poppies put up and removed. Council to approve payments for.

Dog Bin Contract

Following the failure to award a contract to either of the two bidders for the dog bin emptying contract, feedback from some councils expressed a preference for each council having its own contract with Merlin ES Ltd. This will stabilise the service, put some quality standards in place and probably most important from our perspective provide a guaranteed price. It will also help Merlin ES to have some certainty too, so that they have the confidence to invest in vehicles etc or whatever is needed to provide a more resilient and reliable service.

Draft Contract has been circulated

Comments are being made by various cc

Highmoor Hill Phone Box

No further progress. Resident assuming responsibility has been contacted.

Toilets

Aardvark Cleaning company reported that the toilets had been sprayed with red graffiti and one of the toilet seats had been ripped off. Company to clean walls with some regrouting and to replace toilet seat.

Remembrance Service

Shaun reports that plastic poppies are becoming worn..can we replace them for next year?

Clerk has taken service sheets back to printers as there were several spelling errors.

Tree Inspection

Mark Cleaver MCC has advised that we arrange for a tree survey in early summer when the leaves on trees. Clerk to contact Daniel Sainsbury nearer the time to arrange.

Christmas Tree

Tree has been put up by Llanvair Landscapes

Lights have also been put up.

A number of comments from villagers saying they were disappointed in tree display.

Clerk emailed City Illuminations to express the disappointments.

City Illuminations have agreed to rearrange the tree lights

Christmas Wreath bought and placed at the cenotaph

Caerwent Playing Fields

We were alerted by a member of the public of the “fly tipping” continuing in the bottom right corner of the field.

Also the state of the trail in some areas on the field..weeds etc.

Photographs were attached.

Agenda Item

Camper In The Field

There have been quite a few concerns regarding the camper and his proximity to the play park. This seems to have been resolved by the individual and his support worker.

Finance Committee

Meeting rescheduled for 24th November 2022

See minutes

Invoice sent to MCC for Annual Toilet Grant for £1200

Agenda Item

Social Media Report

Several comments made by the public regarding traffic issues in Caerwent and specifically the potential dangers to pupils at the Eastgate bus stop due to poor visibility.

Comments made regarding

*more road markings and signs

*hedge cutting

*speeding cars

There have also been posts on Caldicot Community Page re speed light blinding drivers on the East Entrance to Caerwent off the A48.

Agenda Item

There have been concerns by Dog owners re Noise Levels at Dinham Camp

We no longer have alerts from MOD. Clerk has emailed William Pike to see if they need to be reinstated. Response was they will be reinstated at the end of January 2023. Clerk to formally write to Camp officer so that we can begin meetings again.

Time Capsule plaques, War Memorial
No further updates

FINANCE/INVOICES TO BE PAID DECEMBER 2022

Balances as at 31 st November 2022	£7,452.22
Charitable Bank Account	£9,103.58
1.Clerk's Salary and Allowances	As Per Clerk Salary Scales
2.Inland Revenue	£332.00
3.Clerks(former) Back Pay	£677.95
4.MCC Grass Cutting x14	£1034.96
5.MCC Playground Inspections (Llanvair and Trewen)	£745.67
6.MCC Caerwent Playing Fields	£849.07
7.Handy Man	£58.51
8.British Gas	£19.20
9.Monmouthshire Meadows Annual Grant (this has not been paid prior to this)	£10.00
10.Welsh Water	£558.05
11.Merlin Environmental	
£436.80	
12.Aardvark	£325.00
Any invoices received after despatch of agenda	
.....	
SRoderick	£51.52
It was agreed to pay the above accounts:	

M4018 CORRESPONDENCE

- New Salary Scales for Clerks 2022/2023**
- Draft Dog Bin Contract**
- Standards Committee MCC**
- MCC Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) Preferred Strategy Consultation**
- City Illuminations**
- Funding Available - Reduce the funding gap Ev Uptake**

Updates on works on A48 at Crick

M4019 FINANCE

Minutes of the Financial Committee meeting were circulated and accepted by council.

There was a discussion about whether we are meeting legal obligations in our reporting of finances. It was agreed we are as at present we publish monthly figures in our minutes, annual precept information, annual returns and bank reconciliations.

Clerk to forward an email to councillors which gives guidance on budgeting for Community Councils. Budgeting will be an agenda item for next month.

The precept for 2023/24 was agreed upon and it was noted that we were able to make some reductions on last year's precept.

Council noted that in the present uncertain financial climate it is difficult to make any sensible three year forecasts as is normally carried out.

Councillor Murphy to contact Ian Hockham in regard to annual grant .

M4020 TO CONSIDER THE RETURN TO PUBLIC TO FACE COUNCIL MEETINGS

Councillor Murphy attended a Caerwent Community Centre Meeting when the possibility of returning to face-to-face meetings was discussed. Sound proofing work needs to be done before this can go ahead as there is the issue of echoing at present. This will remain on the agenda for next time as remedial work is likely to be done fairly soon thus allowing us to use the facility for our meetings.

M4021 TO AGREE CONTRACT FOR DOG BIN EMPTYING

We have been sent a draft contract for Merlin Environmental to carry on emptying our dog bins from April 2023. Council noted that the new contract will be fixed for twelve months at a cost of £7.00 per bin exclusive of VAT.

Councillor Swift requested more information on types of bins being used for both litter and dog waste. Clerk to contact One Voice Wales again.

There have been a number of reports again with regard to dog fouling in Caerwent and Five Lanes.

M4022 HIGHWAYS

There is a street light not working on Roman Road. Counsellor Guscott has recorded the number and will report it to MCC.

There have been two abandoned cars on Roman Road in the past few weeks which is concerning as this is a very busy stretch of road. This would be an ideal topic to discuss with the police if the monthly report/meeting could be reinstated.

Well Lane in Llanvair Discoed was recently closed for work being carried out by Welsh Water. It was noticed that the metal plates for covering the holes where work was being carried out were not in evidence. This could have caused issues if an ambulance or other emergency vehicle needed to use the road.

Clerk will make Welsh Water and Highways aware .

M4023 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Counsellor Swift attended an online Biodiversity Conference run by One Voice Wales. Council was informed that there is now a template we can use to comment on Biodiversity Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2026.

Councillor Swift explained that the template for reporting will also be very useful for when we are considering planning applications. Two local councils are already using it. Councillor Swift will circulate information and template. It will remain on the agenda for next time.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING 12th January 2023

Results of Traffic consultation with David Davies MP

Face To Face Meetings

Dog Fouling

Finance/Budgeting

Biodiversity Template

Monthly Police Report Further Update

Chair Date