

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD 13TH DECEMBER 2018

Present: Councillors:
K Evans (Chair)
M Beattie
B Counsell
S George
B Harris
P Lewis
P Murphy
K Swift

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

M4737 APOLOGIES

Received from Councillor Haddow.

M4738 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillor K Evans	Caerwent Historic Trust	Trustee
Councillor P Murphy	Caerwent Community Centre	Trustee
Councillor P Murphy	All planning applications	Member of MCC Planning Committee

M4739 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident queried if it was factual that Barrier Services had sold their business. Council were not aware of this but the Chair advised that if this was the case they would have to change their Operators Licence. Councillor Murphy agreed to query this and if so to get agreement with them early re traffic on the lanes.

A query was also raised regarding the poor state of Caerwent House. Councillor Murphy advised that this is now owned by Spitalfields Historic Trust who are planning to convert the building into two semi-detached properties. Their plant will be moved on site before Christmas and they will start work in January. It had been reported to them on a few occasions that the tarpaulin had come off in the high winds – the MCC Conservation Officer is dealing with this.

M4740 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair thanked the Clerk for her continued support of the Council during a difficult time in her personal life and particularly for organising the very successful Remembrance Service which had record attendance.

M4741 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 8TH NOVEMBER 2018

These were agreed as a true record.

M4742 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

No report had been received.

M4743 PLANNING

2018/01762 Glenview Farm, Llanfair Discoed

Change of Use of Redundant Barn to Holiday Let

This Council recommends Approval

Condition that the building only be used as holiday let

To consider complaint received regarding the recent installation of a garden fence in the front garden of 3 Canon Lane, in particular with regard to road safety and the obstruction of the road ahead in both directions.

Councillor Murphy advised that he had contacted Highways who had informed him that the fence is not illegal, does not encroach onto the highway and may well act as a deterrent to slow traffic down. Council were concerned that this will set a precedent and queried if the original planning permission stated that the front gardens should be open plan. Councillor Murphy will check with Planning Enforcement. Possibility in deeds of a covenant preventing any fencing being installed. Agreed to mention this in the newsletter but to check on the planning view first.

To consider any planning applications received after despatch of agenda

There were no further applications

To note monthly enforcement lists

Not received as yet.

M4744 CAERWENT PLAYING FIELDS PLAY AREA

To consider the provision of new play equipment in the Play Area

The Clerk circulated details of the play equipment suggested by the CPFA. She had asked MCC for a quote for installing plus safety surfacing.

Councillor George proposed that Council also look at providing some equipment for disabled children. He was informed that one of the pieces suggested does come under that category. He was asked to send details of his proposal to the Clerk/Councillor Murphy.

M4745 CAERWENT PLAYING FIELDS TREES

To consider tree survey received and recommend any action

Council noted that the survey identified no issues that warranted pruning or felling. There is one tree that should be monitored in the summer when in full leaf to ensure the assessment is correct and inspections at least on an 18 month basis will allow assessment of change and when the trees can be seen in and out of leaf. The Surveyor reported that the concerns raised by residents have been considered and the risk of harm is extremely low. The process they use quantifies that risk and the risk of harm is in the region of 1/1m or less. The Health and Safety Executive require the landowner to ensure that trees are managed to reduce risk to as low as reasonably practicable. In this case, no reasonable action can reduce the risk further.

Trees provide significant public benefit and MCC would not commit public resources to deliver work for private benefit. MCC advised that we study their Tree Policy.

Agreed to mention this in the newsletter once we have established the guidelines regarding planting distance from properties.

Agreed that Councillors also take a look at the trees. Agreed to have the nails removed from the trees and ask the CPFA to note that this is not best practice. Agreed to arrange for 18 month surveys in the future.

M4746 TRANSFER/LEASE OF VILLAGE HALL

To consider Condition Survey

Council noted condition of Hall. Councillor Murphy will ask Property Services to give an estimate of costs involved.

To consider any other surveys received

Asbestos Survey document will be received shortly.
Drainage Survey had been carried out this week.

M4747 COMMUNITY COUNCIL EDUCATION AWARD

Councillor George to report

Councillor George had been in discussions with the Deputy Head of Rogiet School regarding a recycling project/competition. He is awaiting confirmation of the actual subject. Agreed to send a letter of thanks to the outgoing Head of Rogiet School, Kath Evans.

M4748 WAR MEMORIAL

To consider any further quotes received regarding cleaning/repainting inscription/repainting

Quotes received so far - £4237, £5672. Two more have been requested.

Clerk querying brass lamp cleaning.

A proposal was put by Councillor Counsell that the fencing be removed or lowered. Agreed to agenda this for the next meeting.

M4749 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

CLERK'S REPORT

Collapsed Drain, Ballan Cottage, Crick

Councillor Murphy had met with CWEP on site. They will fill in the holes and are now happy that the concern has been resolved.

Dog Fouling

Councillor George had researched alternative metal containers to attach to the bins. Agreed that these will probably rust and that we continue with the plastic ones. The Chair proposed enquiring if there is any merit in looking at getting community champions to patrol the area re fouling in order to challenge and prosecute. Councillor Murphy agreed to contact the Community Protection team.

Grant – Broadband Infrastructure

No further progress.

Wedding Booking – 24th August 2019

No further progress. Awaiting transfer to confirm.

Trail, Caerwent Playing Fields

Has now been added onto our inspection contract.

Replacement Balance Beam, Caerwent Playing Fields

On order – should be installed by Christmas.

Street Lighting, Merton Green

Councillor Murphy reported that it has been very difficult getting a response from Barratts but he will keep persevering. He agreed to talk to Estates about this. When we get a definite response the Chair will mention this in the newsletter.

Junction of Ash Tree Road/Dinham Road

MCC Highways have agreed to put a "Give Way" sign at the Junction of Ash Tree Road and Dinham Road - it will be installed in the next financial year.

Caerwent Toilets

Central Government October Budget – owners will no longer have to pay business rates. (We currently pay £1128 p.a.).

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

478 members

Lamp blew off in wind at Coach & Horses pub -reported twice

More highways complaints re the A48

Information exchange

Survey carried out online by Councillor Harris – 25 replies. Hoping to set up a litter picking group – Clerk to write to Keep Wales Tidy for advice. Councillor Harris proposed that we keep in mind using Probation Services for any required works.

PLAY AREA INSPECTION REPORT

Not yet received.

M4749 CORRESPONDENCE

Arts Council for Wales Consultation

One Voice Wales – Loneliness Talk, 17th January, Usk

M4750 FINANCE

To consider balances/payment and approval as per finance schedule dated December 2018

Balances as at 30th November:

Moneymaster Account	£13,077.28
Community Account	£9,335.94
Petty Cash	£3.63

Clerk's Salary, Allowances, Mileage	as per NALC scales
Inland Revenue	£22.92
Torfaen Pension Fund	£247.89

Printer	£99.99
Set cartridges	£49.99
One Voice Wales (training)	£40.00
MCC Grasscutting contract (Highways Act 1980, s96)	£947.62
MCC Playgrounds Inspection contract (LD and Trewen)	£675.54
Playground Inspection contract (Caerwent and Outdoor Trail) (Local Government Act 1972, Sch 14, Para 27)	£511.30
Defib Store (cabinet for defibrillator) (Local Government Act 1972, s.133)	£478.80
Merlin Waste (dog bins) (Litter Act 1983, ss 5.6)	£187.50
Wales Audit Office (audit of accounts) (Local Government Act 1972, s.15)	£255.90
KWL Consulting Structural Engineer (Local Government Act 1972, s.133)	£780.00
Council repairs	£127.04
Council repairs (Local Government Act 1972, Sch 14, para 27)	£23.68
Aardvarc Cleaning (Public Health Act 1936, s.87)	£293.00
Petty Cash	£250.00

Council noted new salary scales from NALC for Clerks w.e.f. 1st April 2019.

Councillor Beattie reported that he had attended a very useful Finance course recently where the provision of grants was mentioned. Councillor Murphy agreed to ask the Strategic Investment and Funding Manager to attend one of our future meetings. Councillor Swift would welcome any grant available for new “Crick” signs on the A48.

The Clerk advised that Community Councils may make payments to their members in respect of travel costs for attending approved duties outside the area of the council. Such payments must be the actual costs of travel by public transport or the HMRC mileage allowance (currently 45p per mile).

Council noted that the appropriate sum for the purposes of section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 (the 1972 Act) for Community and Town Councils in Wales for 2019-20 is £8.12.

To consider precept document for 2019/20 and make recommendations

Council agreed in view of works required on the War Memorial and Village Hall/Community Centre to precept for £56,000. Council agreed that any shortfall should be taken out of reserves.

Agreed not to precept for the Independent Remuneration for Councillors.

M4751 AGREED TO EXTEND STANDING ORDERS FOR 30 MINUTES

M4752 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

Council to consider the condition of the stream/bank in the village of Llanfair Discoed and request that Highways repair the damage to the roadside bank.

Council noted that MCC had arranged for the stream to be cleaned out which is flowing now and Highways Engineers are checking out the roadside bank.

To report any highways/rights of way issues

Councillor Beattie advised of two lamp posts which are continually on in Llanfair Discoed – the Clerk requested the numbers.

Councillor Swift raised a concern from 2016 regarding trees. She agreed to send all the information to the Clerk.

Councillor Swift raised a concern regarding Little Ballan Lane and postcode problems. She was asked to send the information to Councillor Murphy.

Councillor Swift had attended a very useful speed workshop. She will be informed about any speed restriction for Crick before Christmas. Lining improvements will be made on the Shirenewton and Crick Road. Agreed to put this on the next agenda.

M4753 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The Community Centre had drawn up a Safeguarding Policy which had been circulated.

M4754 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Removal of Railings – War Memorial
Crick speed limit

Chair Date