

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2024

Present: **Councillors- M John (Chair)**
 P Murphy
 K Evans
 K Swift
 P Dalton
 E Sherwood
 J Guscott

Also Present Mrs AM Spooner Clerk

M4390 APOLOGIES

Councillor Guscott apologised for being a little late to the meeting.

M4391 DECLARATION 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 M John	Standards Committee MCC	Member

M4392 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair explained that in discussion with the clerk, it was decided to change the format of the agenda so that Finance and Reports appeared higher up the agenda than in previous ones. This would enable a better flow to the meeting and the minutes thereof.

There was a discussion about minute numbers should continue to tally with agenda items.

It was also felt that the Police Report should stay as a separate agenda item and it was agreed that this would revert back to its original place for the next meeting.

M4393 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 13th JUNE 2024

These had been approved remotely and to be published on the website.

M4394 15 MINUTES PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation

M4395 PLANNING

There were no planning applications received this month.

M4396 FINANCE

To consider balances/payments approval as per financial schedule dated September 2024

These were approved

Bills September 2024

Account Balances August 31st

Charitable £ 30,200.14

Business £ 7,650.96

	as per NACL Scales
Clerk	
HMRC	£221.20
Handyman Visual Inspections	£73.44
Llanvair Landscapes (grass cutting July)	£1296.00
Llanvair Landscapes (grass cutting August)	£864.00
British Gas	£19.91
Audit Fees for 2021/22	£275.00
Website (to pay councillor Evans)	£403.20
Go Daddy (to pay councillor Evans)	£22.79
Merlin Environmental	£604.80
Petty Cash (printer paper)	£7.99
Bank Charges	£5.00
Annual Donations :	
Caerwent Playing Fields	£1500.00
Crick Wildlife Trust	£200.00
Caerwent Meadows	£200.00
Caerwent Football Club	£200.00
Monmouthshire CAB	£2500.00
Newsletter	£500.00
Caerwent Historic Trust	£200.00
Churchyard maintenance: (Churches at Caerwent and Llanvair Discoed and Caerwent Chapel)	£760.00
Church Flood lighting	£150.00

To note that balances and payments were approved remotely for August 2024

Noted

To agree quarterly budget sheet for April to June 2024 (with added information

Councillor Swift commented that we already have an overspend on general maintenance. Councillor Murphy thought this would balance out with new arrangements being put in place for the Autumn/Winter period.

To note and approve new CADW grant for Caerwent Meadows. The amount suggested is £1869.50

Noted and Approved

To discuss the received quote for the Christmas Tree Lights

The quote for £840 plus vat was agreed

M4397 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

i) **Clerks Report**

Clerk's Report August/September 2024

Finance

Clerk took paperwork required for full audit to Welsh Audit Office. It was explained that it would take several months to complete.

Training

Clerk received training on how to provide an induction programme for new councillors. Agenda Item

Noise Report

Received for this month as follows:

For the period Monday 5th Aug 2024 to Sunday 01st Sep 2024.

The level of Gun fire and Noise Activity will be as follows:

Monday 5th Aug 2024 to Sunday 11th Aug 2024. Low.

Monday 12th Aug to Sunday 18th Aug 2024. Low.

Monday 19th Aug to Sunday 25th Aug 2024. Medium

Monday 26th Aug to Sunday 1st Sep 2024. Medium

There will be Helicopter use throughout the whole month.

There was no Noise Report received as yet for September. Clerk has enquired.

Police

Clerk received email from local CPSO regarding possible use of speed guns at the Northgate Crossing where residents are complaining of speeding issues.

We also received an invite from the new Police Commissioner for Gwent to answer a survey on what was generally thought about policing in our area. This was put on social media.

Potholes

Sinkhole at Caerwent Crossroads reported to MCC. This has been attended to.

Defibrillators

Village Hall checked as per circuit

We are still enquiring as to whether we can site a defibrillator at Crick

Trees

Concerns raised about trees? leaning over/possibly diseased in track between St Tathans Place and Vicarage Gardens. Clerk to ascertain in which land the trees are situated.

Dinham Ward

Skip has been removed from frontage on 19 Ash Tree Road

Environmental Health

Officers have visited a home in Caerwent where there is a lot of undergrowth.

CAB

We have received a report from CAB which highlights how they have helped our community over the last few months.

Highways

Temporary Road Closure at junction of Pound lane and Caerwent Road for "Poling Works" on 30th August 2024

Clerk alerted Highways several times in regard to tree obscuring the traffic light at the Northgate Crossing. This has now been attended to.

Resurfacing to begin on A48. Information posted on our FB page

Litter Bin Crick

Clerk has enquired as to whether a litter bin can be sited in Crick. MCC officer will enquire.

ii) **Social Media**

Dog Fouling Awareness Day..some people complained about the short notice, which was beyond our control. Report to follow.

Concerns about dogs running loose on Caerwent Playing Fields

Church and Chapel Notices

Missing Dogs

Concerns about low flying drone

Mon Life Connect Article

Caerwent Show

Lost keys

iii) **Play Inspections**

Visual Inspections carried out on 28th July, 4th, 11th 17th 24th August

Another bolt missing from the Gullwing Seesaw at Caerwent

Agenda Item

iv) **Monthly Police Report**

This had been circulated

There were three reported incidents in August 2024

1 Violence Without Injury

1 Public Disorder Offence

1 Vehicle Crime

The public order offence is usually for minor things such as shouting and swearing in the street or threatening behaviour or empty threats. This particular record incident relates to a malicious communication. Suspect has been identified and appropriate safeguarding advice has been given.

There are some other calls on the system however they have not been recorded as they are within the Non crime category E.G. a lost and found purse, drone flights, minor road traffic collisions and military training exercises. This is a positive month for Caerwent.

The reported vehicle crime is a stolen vehicle from the Newport area that had been dumped on a local farm. The Farm owners had spotted this and called it in for concerning reasons and it had turned out to have been stolen the day before. The vehicle has been recovered and returned to the rightful owner and one male suspect has been arrested for this.

There had been some concerns for speeding along the A48 outside the Nursery.

A speed monitoring operation to gauge the average speed of the road and the road users was undertaken. This had worked well and was a great deterrent and the parents who were collecting their child were happy to see the officer.

Looking at the data recorded the average speed of the road for both directions of traffic was 27mph and the highest speeder of the day was clocked at 37mph.

This data will be kept on file and submitted to the GO Safe team for awareness.

This was a positive day and the police will be looking to complete again in the near future.

v) **Training Reports**

Councillor Swift had recently been on Placemaking with People 2024 - Making Communities Liveable For All. This was delivered by TPAS Cymru.

This could help inform any planning/questionnaires we pursue in the future.

vi) Representative Reports

Councillor Evans announced the date of the AGM for the Caerwent Historic Trust. It is to be held on the 16th October 2024 7pm at the CADW BARNS

vii) **Receive and note report from Caerwent Community Centre.**

This had been circulated and noted by councillors

viii) **Working party reports**

The Task and Finish Group had met over the Summer to further progress on the Community Questionnaire. Council are to review the questionnaire by the next meeting and also decide how and when it will be presented to the community.

M4398 TO DISCUSS REPAIRS AND REFURBISHMENTS NEEDED TO BE COMPLETED BY HANDYMAN FOR AUTUMN CYCLE

To include repairs and work at play areas.

A general discussion was had about the recent reports from MCC, ROSPA and our Handyman Visual Inspections.

There are repairs required on the Agility Trim Trails (Long and Short) at Caerwent Playing Fields. The Posts are becoming more unstable. Clerk to ask MCC to attend to this.

The Handyman has agreed to attend to the finger/head entrapment issues at Caerwent Playing Fields.(The slide and playframe)

Clerk to contact Insurance Company as to the rules for Visual Inspections. Also to contact the clerk at Portskewett Community Council where a Handyman is employed to perform visual inspections on play equipment there.

This will be an agenda item for next meeting to establish who/how visual inspections will be carried out in the future

With regard to the maintenance programme for the next few months, we will need to ask a local person to carry out these duties as our current Handyman will no longer be available to perform these tasks. Some suggestions were made as to who might be able to do this.

Agenda Item for next meeting.

M4399 TO CONSIDER HAVING A MORE STRUCTURED PROGRAMME FOR NEW COUNCILLORS

Clerk has been on recent training concerning the induction of new councillors

Clerk had circulated various documents which could be used in an induction pack. It was also agreed that when a new councillor is appointed, it would be a good idea for a meeting to be held with the Clerk and Chair to give pertinent information and advice about the role. Support could also be given by way of a mentor.

M4400 Meeting was extended for 15 minutes according to our Standing Orders

M4401 TO NOTE THE OWNERSHIP OF PARCELS OF LAND AT DINHAM WARD

Council to note and discuss progress made on issues that have arisen

Councillor Sherwood has been actively involved in ascertaining which areas in Dinham belong to which agencies.

Clerk to circulate annotated map of areas at Ash Tree Road.

Progress has been made on removal of a large skip on the frontage at Ash Tree Road. Also, contractors for Barrat Homes have been cutting down some of the dead trees in the Quiet Areas For Enjoyment.

The blocks of flats in Ash Tree Road have been cleaned and look much better.

However the issues regarding mowing, street furniture and parking still remain.

Clerk to contact Legal Department regarding the content of the covenants for the Quiet Areas For Enjoyment which may help in dealing with further issues that may arise.

M4402 TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE ACTIONS ARISING FROM RECENT TREE SURVEY

In a recent tree survey it showed trees being overgrown and one with Ash Die Back which needs monitoring.

Clerk to ask MCC for a quote for the necessary works to be carried out

M4403 TO NOTE UPDATED RECORD OF TRAINING CARRIED OUT BY COUNCILLORS AND CLERK

An up-to-date record of training has been compiled and this will go on the website alongside the Training Plan.

M4404 CORRESPONDENCE

Woodstock Way Active Travel Plan

Email regarding Fly Tipping

Bus Service Update

Agenda for Severnside Forum Meeting

Weekly News Bursts

Audit Wales Presentation

Monmouthshire Roads Works Reports

Police Report August

Powers and Policies OVW

CAB Invitation

M4405 . HIGHWAYS

To include information on speed data received via illuminated signs at East Gate Caerwent.

There was a general discussion about the repeater 20mph signs being removed.

MCC replied to our queries on this

“Prior to the introduction of the 20mph National Speed Limit in September 2023, Caerwent was part of a pilot program and 20mph by order, it therefore required 20mph repeater signs to comply with regulations. However, once the National Speed Limit took effect, the 20mph by order designation for Caerwent was revoked, making it a 20mph default road. To align with signing legislation, the repeater signs were removed, allowing the streetlighting to indicate the 20mph speed limit.

If the repeater signs were still present, it would imply that the area has a 20mph speed limit by order, not by default. This could potentially lead to legal complications when Gwent Police reference the order during enforcement proceedings.”

We continue to receive data from the Illuminated signs which not only shows average speeds, but the volume of traffic which is very high.

Councillor Dalton asked if we could receive similar data on Caldicot Road as this is also an area of concern for speeding.

Clerk to contact MCC

Councillor Swift asked if there was any more development on the illuminated signs for Crick.

Clerk had asked Mr Touhig of MCC who said he would look into the matter.

Councillor Evans had received a request for using the parking bays near the village Hall for employees to use. A recent search on the Land Registry showed these to belong to MCC.

It was suggested a better option might be the Cadw Barns car park.

Councillor Murphy discussed the issue regarding Home School Transport as it is planned for Caerwent pupils attending Caldicot Comprehensive School to have their school bus withdrawn under new proposals.

There is to be a special meeting next week with County Councillor Murphy and other County Councillors to discuss the potential dangers of pupils walking to Caldicot as there are no safe walking routes.

Councillor Dalton asked if MCC could be contacted about reinstating the hedge at the East Gate bus stop which had been previously removed when improvements were made to provide a safe stop for school pupils and other users.

Clerk to contact Mcc

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

M4406 . ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Remembrance Service Arrangements

Community Questionnaire

Handy Man

Play Equipment and Visual Inspections

Energy Grant

Defibrillator at Crick

Dinham Ward

AMSpooner clerk@caerwentcc.com