

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Thursday 10th March 2022

Present: via video conferencing
Councillors:

P Murphy (Chair)
P Dalton
K Evans
G Foxall
M John
AM Spooner
K Swift

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council

M3969 APOLOGIES

Councillor B Counsell – Council accepted his apologies due to illness.
Councillor K Haddow

M3970 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillor P Murphy	All planning applications	Member of MCC Planning Committee
Councillor P Murphy	Trustee	Caerwent Community Centre
Councillor K Evans	Trustee	Caerwent Historic Trust
Councillor K Evans	Booking Clerk	Caerwent Community Centre
Councillor P Dalton	Football Coach	Caerwent Football Club
Councillor AM Spooner	Committee Member	Caerwent Playing Fields Assoc

M3971 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair formally announced that the Clerk had decided that she will be retiring at the end of September. Agreed that Council advertise the post in the months after the election as it will be the incoming Council who will appoint a new Clerk.

M3972 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 10th FEBRUARY 2022

To note that these had been agreed remotely for accuracy and posted on the Council website

Council noted.

M3973 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

M3974 POLICE REPORT

Not yet received.

The Chair has a meeting with the Police Inspector next week in his role as County Councillor.

M3975 PLANNING

M2022/00279 Erection of an eco toilet to the rear of the church, St Bridgets Church, St Brides Netherwent

The site is currently occupied by a derelict shed which would be demolished.

Access path for disabled access would also be required from the porch to the rear of the church following the external church wall.

This Council recommends **Approval** in principle but wish to raise the following:

Query width and materials of path
Query protection of badger sets which are present
Tree survey requested not included within the application
No dimensions mentioned
Assume that the Diocese have agreed a Faculty for this work

To consider any planning applications received following despatch of the agenda.

There are no further applications.

To note monthly enforcement list from MCC

Council noted.

To note Monmouthshire Replacement Local Development Plan 2018-2033 Replacement Local Development Plan Update and Second Call for Candidate Sites Register

Council noted.

Public consultation will be at a later date.

M3976 ONE VOICE WALES – SURVEY ON MULTI LOCATION MEETINGS

To note results of this survey and consider any actions

The Chair had contacted the Community Centre Committee regarding the provision of Wifi in the building. They are looking into this.

Councillor Evans advised that there is a room in the Community Centre which would be ideal for Council meetings, subject to Wifi availability. He also advised that a TV connected to a central microphone and a camera is required.

The Clerk informed the Council that One Voice Wales are negotiating with Welsh Government regarding possible grants towards equipment.

Council agreed to await the installation of Wifi into the building and then to trial a couple of systems.

M3977 LOCAL GOVERNMENT WALES ACT 2021

To consider content of our Annual Report to be published in April with regard to Council's priorities, activities and achievements over the previous year.

Council agreed to record our identified priorities from the beginning of the year. Issues suggested were funding the new flooring at the Community Centre, maintaining open spaces by paying for extra grass cutting, facilitating new and replacement play equipment, mentioning the groups that we support and how they spend their money, ie CWEP who won the Green Flag Award, CAB, Football Club etc, supporting the Historic Trust in their grant bid for Llanmelin Hill Fort excavations.

Agreed that the Clerk will compile a list for circulation and comment, to then be forwarded to the Chair and agreed at next meeting. This will then go on our website in April.

M3878 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

To note

CLERK'S REPORT

Highmoor Hill Phone Box

Due to commitments the group will be in touch with us at the end of March.

School Bus Pick Up/Drop Offs (Crick)

Councillor Swift had heard from the police who advised that the bus company had been out to have a look at the proposed new route and found it was not a viable option. As a result they have since started dropping the children off at the Crick bus stop located on the west bound side of the A48.

The bus then crosses the road and turns right into Crick Road to follow the same route back as usual. This will provide better visibility for all the road users and especially for the safety of the children. The parents can wait in the bus stop area, as already happens in the morning, to pick up their children.

Highways will be contacting the police regarding parking in Old Shirenewton Road and on the verge outside the Garage with a view to possibly issuing penalty notices.

Time Capsule plaques, War Memorial

Councillor Evans will be ordering these.

Steps Cottage, Caerwent

No information locally regarding ownership of house/land.

Paws on Patrol

Councillor Evans has now added contact details of the scheme to our website. Clerk posted on Facebook and put posters in noticeboards regarding recruiting volunteers.

The group held their inaugural meeting on 7th March with the police and the Chair/Clerk present. Four volunteers were in attendance but they have received queries from several other possible volunteers. Richard Winfield who is heading up the scheme has yet to hear back from Neighbourhood Watch. There was a suggestion that they go it alone without NW involvement. The police advised that this was possible but they would have to be called something else rather than Paws on Patrol and would not be able to apply for the grants available. The Clerk advised that they contact Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations to seek advice on setting up a constituted group. The group agreed that email contact would be preferable, that issues are reported to Richard who in turn will report to the various agencies. The police advised that they will help in any way they can and possibly involve the police cadets.

Crick Bus Stop

Councillor Swift had ascertained that the wall does not belong to Highways. She will ask locally regarding fixing the loose stones. CWEP group will clear the dogwood and hopefully MCC will clear the cuttings.

Football Club proposed alterations to Village Hall

The Chair had mentioned to the Football Club Manager that we are awaiting amended plans. He promised to provide these soon.

Playing Fields Wooden Edging

Clerk will arrange Working Group date in March to clear the edging.

Community Survey

Councillor Evans and the Chair will meet up to consider this.

Dog Waste Contract

Clerk has now placed numbered stickers on bins. Any future complaints/issues should include these numbers.

Work on the tender documentation continues by MCC. It is necessary to have a full register of all dog bins, and their locations in order for companies tendering for the contract to provide an accurate price. Most bin lists have been received by MCC, and those that have not been received have been reminded.

Defibrillator – Coach & Horses

Directional signage has been delivered to the Coach for them to place.

Defibrillator – Village Hall

This had been used three times over the weekend 5/6 March. Clerk had decommissioned it at The Circuit – awaiting advice from the Ambulance Service regarding resetting.

Fields in Trust – Caerwent Playing Fields

Mike Moran of MCC still investigating.

Bus Stops Eastgate - road markings

This has been put on the list to do by MCC. Road markings are predominantly done in the drier months as they must be put on a dry road surface.

Annual VAT Refund Claim

Submitted claim form for £904.68 for 2020/21 to HMRC.

Training Courses

Councillor Swift attended Responding to Planning Applications Advanced on 7th March. She will circulate the slides/questions from the course. Council noted the MCC Scheme of Delegation – no objections dealt with by Planning Officers, 2/3 objections (possibly controversial) goes to Delegated Panel and 5 objections plus or an MCC application goes to Committee.

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

Youth Club not currently using the Community Centre. They will return at some point – they had to find an alternative venue when the flooring was installed.

Faulty street lights – all been reported by Chair and Clerk.

Help for Ukraine information from Caldicot Town Team.

PLAY AREAS INSPECTION REPORT

Should be received soon.

M3879 FINANCE

To consider balances/payments and approval as per finance schedule dated March 2022

To note that there will be an increase of 25p to £6.50 per bin emptied w.e.f. 6th April 2022 from Merlin Environmental Services

Council noted.

To note that a 1.75% pay increase has been notified by the National Association of Local Councils for Local Council Clerks backdated to 1st April 2021. To note that the Clerk will be on Scale LC2 Scale Point 23 with effect from that date.

Council noted.

To approveBalances as at 28th February:

Business Money Manager	£10,123.35
Charitable Bank	£12,775.90
Petty Cash	£37.55

Clerk's Salary, Backpay to 1.4.21., Allowances, Mileage (26)	as per NALC scales
Inland Revenue	£292.02
Torfaen Pension Fund	(employee) £89.63
	(employer) £301.48
Planning Aid Wales (training course)	£30.00
One Voice Wales (annual subscription)	£326.00
MCC (play area repairs)	£430.01
British Gas (toilets)	£19.20
Merlin Environmental Services (note new name)	£390.00
Aardvarc Cleaning (toilets)	£323.00
S Roderick (inspections)	£51.52

Council approved and agreed the above payments.

M3880 CORRESPONDENCE**To note**

MCC – Establishment of an all through (3-19) school in Abergavenny

NRW – Countryside Code, Advice for Land Managers

Welsh Government Apprenticeship Schemes

MCC – Fairtrade Fortnight

MCC – Election 2022 Nomination Forms – the Clerk advised that nomination forms can be accepted by MCC from the 17th March and must be received by 4pm on the 5th April

MCC – Minutes of Dog Fouling Group

MCC – Improvement of Chepstow Leisure Centre

MCC – Budget setting

MoD – notice of noisy activity

Drill Hall events

MCC newsletter

FOI – British Muslims

MCC – grants from Levelling Up Fund

MCC – Abergavenny Borough Theatre future partnership with MCC

One Voice Wales – Auditor General's Work Programme

Woodland Trust campaign My Tree Our Forest – Councillors noted that various trees had been planted in our area recently via Spitalfields.

National Forest of Wales campaign My Tree Our Forest – online interactive map.

Council noted all of the above.

(Councillor Dalton left the meeting)

To consider any correspondence received after despatch of the agenda which requires a response

Leader, MCC – The Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust is currently engaged in a national roster review, which is due to be implemented in September 2022. The proposal is to remove the Rapid Response Vehicles based at Monmouth and Parkwall

(between Caldicot and Chepstow) stations. This would halve the number of vehicles at these two sites and severely impede the ability of paramedics to respond to emergency calls.

He believes that these changes will put the lives of Monmouthshire residents at risk and calls on WAST and the Welsh Government's Health Minister to put a stop to them. Asking Town/Community Councils for support in objecting to these proposals by writing to WAST and also by raising awareness.

Council agreed to object to this loss of cover and write to WAST and the Welsh Government as well as raising awareness within the community.

M3881 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

To note any verbal reports

Councillor Evans reported on the Historic Trust. The grant bid for Llanmelin Hill Fort exploratory excavations has been successful. They will shortly be asking for volunteers to help out with regards to the dig. This will be a community project which will involve the schools. The MoD, Cadw and the farmers have all approved this project.

M3882 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

Councillors to report any issues

Chair – the A48 will be resurfaced at some point if funding allows.

Chair - road markings have been refreshed on the A48 at the east junction into Caerwent and on the Cas Troggy Road.

Councillor Spooner – old fencing left in corner of Playing Fields and plastic patio plastic patio set encroaching onto the track. Councillor Dalton agreed to check if it is still there and report to Council.

To consider any proposals regarding the parking situation around the area of the Post Office and report to Highways

Councillor Spooner reported that vehicles are parked for hours on end from the early morning on the Roman Road making visibility and accessibility very difficult at times, especially when larger vehicles are involved. The Chair agreed to enquire of the Postmistress if she is aware of the owners of these vehicles.

M3882 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Councillors to inform the Clerk

Chair Date