

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Thursday 10th February 2022

Present: (via video conferencing)
Councillors:
P Murphy (Chair)
M Beattie
P Dalton
M John
AM Spooner
K Swift

In attendance: L McKeon, Clerk to the Council
Two residents

M3955 APOLOGIES

Councillor B Counsell – Council accepted his apologies due to illness
Councillor K Evans
Councillor G Foxall
Councillor K Haddow

M3956 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 P Dalton	Caerwent Football Club	Coach
Councillor AM Spooner	Caerwent Playing Fields	Committee Member

M3957 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

M3958 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 13th JANUARY 2022

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

M3959 15 MINUTES PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

M3960 POLICE REPORT

Council noted report received today.

No crimes.

Councillor Dalton raised the fact that public safety issues have been mentioned again but no details. He would also like to see positive police engagement with youths. In view of the fact that there has again been personnel changes within the police, agreed to invite them to attend a Community Council meeting, probably in the early part of the next Council.

M3961 PLANNING

To consider

2021/02086 Zephyrus, Old Shirenewton Road, Crick

New roof with dormers to part of the bungalow, rear single storey extension and replace garage with garage and room above.

This Council recommends Approval

2021/00738, Land North of Holly Lodge, Five Lanes (re-consultation)

Proposed equestrian use including an 8 stable block, tack room, hay room, menage and temporary siting of caravan.

This Council recommends Refusal

Our previous comments from October 2021 still stand:

Over development.

Structures now changed and increased

Cesspit now shown (no approval)

This is now edging towards commercialisation

Additional comments:

Over development on the brow of the hill, very imposing.

Halogen light on at night intermittently very obtrusive and can be seen for miles.

Against policies LC1 and LC5.

Council noted that supportive comments for the application are not local and agreed that we as a Community Council should be supporting our local community.

Quality of the actual planning application is very poor.

Appears to be no adherence from the applicant regarding the pre-application advice given by Planning Officer, Helen Hinton.

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

There were no further applications to consider.

To note monthly enforcement list from MCC.

Council noted.

M3962 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

CLERK'S REPORT

Play Areas

New seesaw for Caerwent will be installed on 12th February.

New piece of play equipment installed at Trewen.

Safety surfacing repaired and wooden post now replaced at Llanvair Discoed.

Highmoor Hill Phone Box

Clerk contacted Rob Kenny who informed her that he now has 14 local residents who are committed to being involved with the maintenance of the telephone box, physically and/or financially, with the possibility of a further six.

One of the ideas they have is to level up the ground in front of the door to remove the potential hazard of the slope. This would involve building some kind of barrier, probably a dry-stone wall, on the road edge to retain the soil etc. used to fill the void in front of the door. Querying if this needs MCC consent.

He has prepared a draft constitution with very limited objectives and intends to convene a meeting of interested local residents to discuss/approve a constitution. Once at that stage he will forward a copy for consideration by the Council. Councillor Beattie's contact not able to provide any solicitor recommendations.

Clerk requested a quote from a solicitor to prepare a licence: £350-£500 + VAT. To be discussed at a later date once the constituted group has been formed.

School Bus Pick Up/Drop Offs (Crick)

Councillor Swift has chased this up and an alternative route had been suggested by the bus company which would mean that they would drop off in Caldicot first then cut back by Caldicot Castle and approach Crick from the opposite direction. They would then drop the students at the bus stop on the A48 east opposite the Nursing Home. Agreed to support the period of the trial.

Time Capsule plaques, War Memorial

Councillor Evans will be ordering these.

Steps Cottage, Caerwent

Reminded Head of Planning about our concern. Reply from Enforcement Officer that the property is still unregistered so it is difficult for them to take any further action at this time. The Chair had requested further information.

Paws on Patrol

Online Teams meeting held 19th January. Notes had been circulated. Agreed to invite Richard Winfield, who will be leading the group, to our next meeting.

Crick Bus Stop

Councillor Swift had queried wall ownership with the neighbour and was informed that it did not belong to them. She will be contacting Graham Kinsella in Highways.

Football Club proposed alterations to Village Hall

Awaiting amended plans from Football Club.

Playing Fields Wooden Edging

Working Group will meet up in March.

Community Survey

Councillor Evans will be providing first draft to Working Group.

Councillor Murphy had completed his own survey for the election and so far had received a good response – traffic, speeding, road safety, fly tipping/litter, bus services and Caldicot re-generation had all been mentioned. He will pass the appropriate information on to the Working Group.

Dog Waste Contract

Clerk had provided location details of all dog bins to MCC including adding numbers CW1-CW14 to the form which will aid in identification for the eventual contractor. Will purchase the actual numbered stickers from Caldicot Printing.

Defibrillator – Coach & Horses

Councillor Haddow has re-set the defibrillator and it is now “emergency ready”. Clerk informed The Circuit. Landlady confirmed that we can purchase new signage.

Caerwent Playing Fields

Councillor Evans had been informed that Western Power need to do work on the high voltage overhead lines in the corner of the playing fields. They intend to commence this work on 15th February which will involve the installation of a generator on the fields to maintain the power supply whilst the work is completed. This will mean

transporting the generator to the location on the field and they explained they will take every care not to damage the ground but any damage will be restored to normal if needed. This is essential work which is been undertaken in conjunction with work on the sub station at Highfields.

They will be sending through a transfer document so that the Wayleave payment for some high voltage cables which are buried on the playing fields is paid to the Community Council instead of MCC who were the previous owners of the fields. The amount will be £8.12 per annum.

Fields in Trust Plaque – Caerwent Playing Fields

Caerwent Playing Field was designated as a QE11 Field in 2012 to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth 11 – the QE11 Fields in Trust reference number is 1624.

Mike Moran, MCC Officer, will try to locate our plaque but if not he does have a contact at Fields in Trust who deals with plaque suppliers.

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

Traffic light and LED warning sign queries – Clerk reported.

PLAY AREAS INSPECTION REPORT

All repairs now up to date.

CAERWENT MEADOWS REPORT

Council noted that a bench was recently bought with our annual donation to them.

M3963 FINANCE

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

Balances as at 31st January:

Business Money Manager	£10,123.35
Charitable Bank Account	£15,002.63
Petty Cash	£91.54

Clerk's Salary, Allowances, Mileage (21)

as per NALC scales

Inland Revenue		£216.01
Torfaen Pension Fund	(employee)	£58.59
	(employer)	£197.10
British Gas (electricity, Toilets)		£19.20
S Roderick (play area inspections)		£51.52
Merlin Environmental Services Ltd		£390.00
Aardvarc Cleaning Services		£247.00
MCC (play schemes)		£450.00

Council approved payment of the above invoices.

External Audit 2020/2021

To note that Audit Wales have completed our 2020/21 audit and have given an Unqualified opinion that the information reported in the Annual Return has:

- been prepared in accordance with proper practices;
- that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have been met;
- is consistent with the Council's/Committee's governance arrangements;
- that the Council does have proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Other matters and recommendations from Audit Wales:

There are no further matters that they wish to draw to the Council's attention.

Council noted.

M3964 TRANSPORT FOR WALES – SEVERN TUNNEL JUNCTION CONSULTATION

Verbal report from Councillor Dalton regarding options which aim to improve access to the rail network and surrounding transport connections. Proposal to encourage resident awareness and feed into the consultation exercise.

Councillor Dalton explained the three options available (available on the website). He had raised his concerns about unintended consequences, ie how will it all impact on smaller road networks like ours. He is keen for as many people as possible to engage with this consultation. The closing date for the consultation is 11th March.

The Clerk advised that she had posted this twice on our Facebook page but will do so again. The Chair will mention this in the monthly newsletter and Councillor Swift will share to all residents in Crick via her email list.

M3965 CORRESPONDENCE

To note

One Voice Wales – newsletter
MCC Budget Proposals 2022-23
Gwent Police – 'Style it Out' campaign
MCC – 'Nature Isn't Neat' campaign
MCC – new walking and cycling route proposals
Monmouthshire Meadows training sessions
One Voice Wales – local election procedures
Monmouthshire Meadows – online sessions available on managing meadows
MCC – You Decide Monmouthshire

M3966 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

To note any verbal reports

Councillor Foxall had advised the Clerk that Rogiet Primary School has commenced the MCC consultation process. The forecast budget for future years shows a deficit if the current staffing levels remain. The Chair advised that, if appropriate, MCC can step in with a recovery plan but a large amount of funding has been allocated to schools.

Councillor Swift reported on the Sustrans proposals (all available on their website). She advised that there could be a problem with Route 2 in that it might not meet the Active Travel Route criteria. Consultation ends on 18th February, Sustrans have asked for it to be pushed again.

M3967 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

Councillors to report any issues

Councillor Dalton: Roman Road opposite Eastgate Crescent - bus stop markings have disappeared, so cars are parking there making it difficult for buses.

Councillor John: All along the A48 white lining and marker signs no longer visible, cats eyes very dim. Dual-carriageway markings non-existent at night.

Councillor John: Tree felling on Cas Troggy Road – some resident complaints re how the area now looks. Agreed that it will take some time to re-establish but no branches will now fall on cars/walkers.

Councillor Swift: A48 Crick lack of lighting at junction of Crick Road. Agreed that when the new traffic order comes the situation could improve.

To note Traffic Regulation regarding Crick village

Council noted this and resident’s comments regarding where it should commence – these have already been acknowledged by Highways.

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

Agreed to agenda this for next month due to sound difficulties at this meeting.

M3968 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Councillors to inform the Clerk.

Chair Date