

MINUTES OF CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD
12TH MARCH 2020

Present: Councillors:
K Evans (Chair for this meeting)
B Counsell
A Gittings
B Harris
P Murphy
P Lewis
A Phelps
K Swift

In attendance: W Smith, Inspector of Ancient Monuments & Archaeology,
Cadw
Neighbourhood Sergeant D Waite
L McKeon, Clerk to the Council

M4846 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THIS MEETING

Councillor Beattie had sent his apologies that he may be late in arrival to the meeting. Councillor Evans, Vice Chair, in line with our Standing Orders therefore took the Chair.

M4847 APOLOGIES

Councillor Haddow

M4848 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

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

M4849 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident queried if there is any further progress regarding the unauthorised removal of the hedgerow and erection of a building at a field in Shirefield. She was advised that MCC are still awaiting a valid planning application and that Planning Enforcement had advised the owner of the land to cease building. The resident informed the Council that building is carrying on there, a lot of hedgerow has been removed and a new fence has been erected. Council agreed to inform Enforcement again.

The resident queried when the land at Dewstow Manor would be tidied up and was particularly concerned regarding a pile of manure and where it was sited. Councillor Phelps, owner of the land, advised that it was an agricultural holding where farm work was undertaken and the manure would be spread soon. The resident cited the planning permission granted at Dewstow Manor, ie safeguarding the appearance of the area. The Chairman advised that this appeared to be relating to the actual dwelling and not the land so there is therefore no encroachment.

(Councillor M Beattie joined the meeting).

M4850 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Clerk had sought advice from the Society of Local Council Clerks regarding the Covid-19 Virus. The following emergency resolution was put forward:

To consider extending the delegation of Council decisions to the Clerk during any period of restricted activity declared by the Government in respect of the Covid-19 virus. Such delegation to enable the Council to fulfil its responsibilities to its residents. Council agreed.

M4851 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 13th FEBRUARY 2020

These were agreed as true record.

M4852 WILL DAVIES, INSPECTOR OF ANCIENT MONUMENTS & ARCHAEOLOGY, CADW

The Chairman welcomed Mr Davies to the meeting. Mr Davies wanted to make the community aware of an escalating problem in and around the village of illegal metal detecting. Cadw have been working closely with the Rural Crime team at Gwent Police to follow up multiple reports over the last year. These have predominantly been across the southern and western ends of the Roman City, some on Cadw's estate, some on privately owned plots and even within the churchyard. They suspect that the perpetrators are travelling in from elsewhere

Cadw are becoming increasingly concerned about the scale and frequency of the problem in Caerwent, whoever is travelling in to do this is clearly having some success and will be aware that this is illegal as they are doing so at night in more secluded areas. Cadw have looked into installing cameras on their own estate but there are prohibitive legal issues (GDPR etc) surrounding this. The police have carried out at least one door-to-door enquiry.

Mr Davies asked if we could raise awareness within our area as our residents may have seen something but are probably not aware that metal detecting on a Scheduled Monument is illegal, or what to do about it. He had provided a poster regarding the new Heritage Crime Watch initiative which tackles a range of issues including detecting, as well as detecting, theft, vandalism, off-roading etc and how to report it. He hoped that we could display in our area and on social media. Council agreed to mention this in the next newsletter. Cadw will also be looking at some local press and possibly a leaflet drop.

The Chairman, although aware that it was not Mr Davies' remit, raised the issue of the licence which had been sent to us regarding the Embrace Nature Caerwent field and the fact that the organiser of this group is urgently looking to acquire funds. Mr Davies informed the meeting that he had today sent details to the organiser of Cadw grants available and he saw no problem in providing any amount up to £5,000. Regarding the licence, Council agreed to discuss this at the April meeting.

On other matters Mr Davies advised that there had been some problems at Caerwent House where the roman Forum wall foundations had been hit so work had stopped. Welsh Water had been extremely helpful in remedying this.

Mr Davies informed the meeting that Estates had received a request for a pop up café at The Barns.

M4853 MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

The Chairman welcomed Sgt Damian Waite to the meeting.

Sgt Waite went through the latest police report for our area. Regarding the recent burglary on the Canon Lane estate an investigation is ongoing but he urged villagers to keep their doors locked at all times. Regarding speeding he reported that the speed camera van will be present more often, drugs investigation is still ongoing, the police are working with MCC Planning re the future with regards to flooding and there is a new Twitter page <https://twitter.com/GPMonmouthshire>.

Our Ward Manager is now Phillip Williams and he would be willing to attend council meetings if required. A new Inspector will be appointed shortly. The rural crime team only has four staff and are extremely over stretched.

The following issues were raised with the Sergeant:

New format of the monthly police report – first month was sparse with information but this month's much improved.

Drug taking at St Tathan's – investigation still ongoing but no intelligence since November. Councillor Murphy will advise the residents.

Possible drug taking at Caerwent toilets – patrols have been ongoing but no sitings as yet. St Waite queried why the toilets are open 24 hours as he felt that this is open to abuse. Council agreed to discuss this in the future. Crick east gate entrance to the Mod land – cars gathering, possible drug taking –
- St Waite advised to report this to the Ward Manager.

Silver Kia Car (LT03 WZW) parked outside Burton Homes for over 4 years. Clerk and residents had reported this on numerous occasions. Advised to contact the DVLA. Councillor Murphy will also contact Highways.

Speeding A48, Caldicot Road, A48 to Eastgate. Strips will be placed across roads to monitor speed.

Cars double parked at Merton Green making possible access for emergency vehicles very difficult. Sgt Waite will investigate.

Dashcam footage feedback, discouraging to report if there is no feedback. Councillor Beattie will email Sgt Waite regarding this.

Caerwent Show 22nd August and possible police representation. Councillor Evans will email St Waite.

M4854 PLANNING

To consider any planning applications received after despatch of agenda

There were no planning applications to consider.

To note monthly enforcement list

Council noted.

To consider amending Standing Orders as follows:

Planning Applications – all planning applications should be determined at ordinary Community Council meetings or if this is not possible by three

Councillors. Council agreed.

Query received from Portskewett Community Council regarding us joining them and other community councils in a collaborative approach regarding a Place Plan and if we would be interested in attending training sessions. Council agreed that some Councillors initially attend the Cluster Meeting on 31st March to glean information and then possibly attend training sessions.

Preferred Strategy for the Replacement Local Development Plan 2018-2033 - consultation dates had been circulated to all Councillors and on social media.

M4855 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

CLERK'S REPORT

Defibrillator, Caerwent Village Hall

Councillor Haddow had arranged training for 20th April. Clerk to book a room and then advertise. Concern expressed that the Burton Homes Hall would be too small.

Defibrillator Checks

Clerk still awaiting information from Woodlands Tavern before she registers all sites with The Circuit.

Lease – Caerwent Community Centre

Awaiting registration at Land Registry.

Village Hall/Playing Fields Lease

Awaiting registration at Land Registry.

Training Courses

Councillor Harris attending Chairing Skills 27th April
Councillors Harris/Phelps attending Code of Conduct 27th July

Highmoor Hill Phone Box

Shelving has been installed. Noticeboard will be installed next. Councillor Lewis confirmed that property owners were happy to be included on the map.

Toilets

MCC Surveyor had re-visited our toilets and noted that some works have been carried out and that the building is in a reasonable condition. He has also stated that he feels that the building will require refurbishing in approximately 5 years. Councillor Murphy will enquire exactly what refurbishments they believe will be required.

Embrace Nature Caerwent

Sent Chairman of ENC details of grants.

Cycle Lane, A48

Chasing report from Highways via the Health & Safety Manager. Councillor Murphy will chase Highways if Clerk receives no response.

Spring Litter Pick

Arranged for Sunday 26th April, meet at 2.00 p.m. Caerwent Village Hall (3.00 p.m. for refreshments). No further volunteers have come forward but there could be some support from Llanvair residents. Councillor Harris updating insurance and risk assessment. Councillor Harris advised that the insurance would be £75.85 for up to 16 people and agreed to circulate this and the new risk assessment for approval.

Poem

Requested copy of original from Sienna's parents – yet to hear back. Had researched frames.

Balloon Launch

Written to balloonist informing him of trial period April – July, resident concerns and Council's preference for the MoD site. He had replied, will use the MoD site but will trial the field.

Tree, Playing Fields

Report of tree at risk of falling onto a resident fence, roots visible. Chairman inspected and agreed that felling was necessary. Llanvair Landscapes removed the same day. Resident (although sad to see any tree felled was very grateful).

Play Area Inspections

Awaiting clarification re bump stops.

Crick Care Home – Snoozelen Sensory Unit

Thank you email from Activities Co-ordinator for our pledge of £200 towards the above. They are getting close to their target and will keep us posted.

Handyman

Queried why he now has to quote. Chair suggested that he provide a ball park figure and if it goes above 10% then we should be informed. Council agreed. Councillor Swift wanted to record that she does not agree with this decision and would prefer that he quote for each job.

St Brides Road Bank Falling into Brook

Reported to MCC. They have passed this over to NRW. In the meantime warning signage will be in place.

Laburnam Steps

A resident requested our help in tidying this area up before the Open Gardens event in May. Clerk had informed her that grasscutting will commence in March/April. Agreed that weeding would not be required.

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

743 members. Issues raised:

Power cut

Flooding, road closures, trees down.

New Recycling Trial – sent in all comments to MCC

Speeding A48 to eastgate

Burglary Canon Lane

Information exchange

PLAY AREA INSPECTION REPORT

Awaiting reply to query about bump stops.

M4855 CORRESPONDENCE

MCC – newsletter

MCC – Invitation to Extra Cluster meeting to consult on next stage of Replacement LDP – 31st March, 7.00 p.m., Caldicot (Councillors Beattie, Murphy, Harris and Swift will attend).

MCC Tree Officer – notification that a blue cedar tree would be removed from Melin Homes land in Caerwent due to it outgrowing its space.

M4856 FINANCE

To consider balances/payments and approval as per finance schedule dated February 2020

Balances as at 29th February:

Moneymaster Account		£12,109.91
Community Account		£12,411.37
Petty Cash		£107.78
Clerk's Salary, Allowances, Mileage		as per NALC scales
Inland Revenue		£41.11
Torfaen Pension Fund	(employee)	£55.93
	(employer)	£203.38
Merlin Waste		£206.25
British Gas		£24.74
Wales Air Ambulance Charity (cheque)		£100.00
Aardvarc Cleaning		£216.00
Clerks & Councils Direct		£72.00

Council agreed to order a VE Wreath at a cost of £18.50.

Council agreed to donate £150 towards the Open Gardens event in Llanvair Discoed.

To note a price increase for dog bin emptying from 6th April 2020 of 15p to £3.90 per bin. New bins can be bought and fitted for £216.00 and existing bins can be refurbished and re-sprayed for £20. An emergency call out service is now available at £10 per bin for bins that become full before their normal collection date.

To consider Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report 2020
Council noted. Clerk to provide appropriate forms for the next financial year.

M4857 IT WAS AGREED TO EXTEND STANDING ORDERS FOR 15 MINUTES

M4858 HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

To consider recent flooding at Crick due to surface water running down from Shirenewton

Councillor Swift advised on this. It had been reported to Highways and a sweeper and drain unblocking was carried out in the area recently. Volume of water and

debris going into Manor Court is concerning. Councillor Murphy agreed to also report this.

To note road closure of Roman Road, Caerwent (from A48 to Centurion Court) 6th – 10th April, 9.30 a.m. - 3.30 p.m. for resurfacing.

To note road closure of Crick Road (from A48 to Walnut Grove) 20th April - 1st May, 9.30 a.m. - 3.30 p.m. for resurfacing.

To report any issues:

Councillor Swift advised on a meeting she had attended with Highways regarding the ongoing issue of the speed in Crick and the subsequent results of their recently commissioned study looking at the A48 between Highbeech roundabout Chepstow to the boundary with Newport CC. The study included:

- In-depth analysis of the collision history,
- Undertaking site visits/observations to get a better understanding of the area and vehicular patterns,
- Analysis of traffic data (recent speed surveys undertaken),
- Identification of any common collision patterns, and
- Recommendation of engineering remedial measures.

If funding is received from the Welsh Government the following measures that Highways would be looking to introduce in Crick and Caerwent would be:

Crick

40mph Speed Limit

Provision of VAS (Vehicle Activated Sign) junction sign/speed limit

Provision of ARAF/SLOW carriageway markings

Crick/Caerwent

Provision of speed limit signs on yellow backing boards

Provision of VAS junction sign

Provision of ARAF/SLOW carriageway markings

Approximate timelines:

April/May – Informed on the outcome of our bid by Welsh Government

May/June – Consider Speed Limits (signing and lining arrangements)

July/August – Begin Statutory Consultation procedures to reduce the speed limit(s) along the A48 to provide consistency with Newport City Council

October – Seek Cabinet approval to proceed with the proposed orders and arrange for the notice of making to be advertised and order to be signed and sealed

November – Provide signage/measures on site.

If funding is not received from the Welsh Government MCC will still be progressing with the reduced speed limit in Crick and they will look at what can be done with the gateway features on the approach to the village in terms of what signs and lines can be introduced. Highways advised that our proposal to provide signs be delayed until the project is confirmed.

Request received that the summer grass cutting at the A48/Cas Troggy junction be extended towards Caerwent to assist litter picking there. Councillor Murphy will enquire. The MoD have recently cleared heavier items which had been dumped on the Cas Troggy Road and are looking into putting up CCTV signs at the lay-by next to the water works/gas enclosure.

30 mph signs on Cas Troggy Road need resetting/corrected, have been semi-rotated. One sign now indicates 'No Speed Limit', the other is half way down the post and semi-concealed.

Graffiti on Shirefield lane – 'half way' point

St Brides Road potholes

Road to Gray Hill potholes

A48 at Trewen – two pieces of chipboard on cycle path.

A48 west on cycle path – two large pieces of timber.

M4857 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Harris had attended a Dog Fouling Working Group meeting. Discussions regarding the dog fouling contractor and proposals for the future. Illustration of gas and electric powered lanterns but very expensive to run. Protection orders on areas where dogs will not be allowed will go to the Stronger Communities Committee at MCC.

Councillor Swift reported that the hedge laying proposed for Crick had been cancelled.

M4859 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Cadw Licence for Embrace Nature Caerwent.

Chair Date