

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held Monday 28th April 2024 7.15pm, Hood Memorial Hall, Devauden

Councilor's Present: J Williams (Chair)

A Kitson-Smith

P Kenington

J Lucas

M Powell

A Williams

H Turner

In Attendance: J McLagan (Clerk to the Council),

1. Apologies Rachel Buckler Ward Cllr

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

Cllr J Williams declared an interest in item (I) Clerks report - Well lane Management Co.

1. 3. Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting.

Minutes of the previous meeting held 24th March 2024 were amended and approved (A Williams was present in March and A Kitson Smith sent apologies)

4. Public participation 15 minutes – Mr D Maddox wished to express that parking had changed this year. there is a proposal (from the hall committee) for the showers to be relocated to the camping field. Mr Maddox raised the issue of Dirty water disposal. The council noted that they have no role in the organisation of the Devauden Music Festival and advised Mr Maddox to seek guidance from the hall committee.

5. Police Report

Nothing received

6. Matters Arising

- I) **Cllr Vacancy** – DCC welcomed new Cllr H Turner to the meeting and thanked her for joining.
- II) **Website Quotes** – It was agreed to contact the Spangles website maker and request a mock-up of the website as stated. A logo will be required for the site. Cllrs to check if there any stock photos of the area for the website.
- III) **Devauden Hall – Play committee – Clerk** to investigate £2,700 sum allocated to Devauden by MHA.
- IV) **Wesley Statue** – DCC to discuss survey/inspection of statue and Dowry for upkeep, whilst discussions around taking it over continue, it is noted that Devauden CC have no funds to manage insure or maintain the statue. **Chair**
- V) **Play Equipment** – It has been confirmed that VAT would need to be paid first before it can be refunded and that DCC does not have the cashflow to accommodate.
- VI) **Cllr Allowances** – it was agreed to adopt the OVW recommendation of Cllrs reclaiming costs. Cllrs need to opt out by email if they do not wish to receive either of the two amounts.
- VII) **Meetings Attended** – Racecourse meeting was attended by the Chair, this was well attended by locals who discussed issues around the Racecourse during events including local walks. OVW was also attended by the Chair and Cllr Powell – Cost of living crisis and Clerks contracts were topics.
- VIII) **Zurich Insurance** – Price similar to last year, **Clerk to check** policy & cover.
- IX) **Itton Gateway Sign** – Cllrs of Itton to leaflet drop to residents for consultation on sign prior to installation. **Clerk** to feedback upgrading to a non reflective sign (one that can be read when headlights shine on it at night).

7. Clerks Report

- (a) **Grounds Maintenance**, - Acknowledged email awaiting reply. - will keep chasing as mowing has started
- (b) **Asset register** - Chair to confirm up to date.
- (c) **Allotments** – (Invoices paid x 2) 1 outstanding
- (d) **Extra hours** – 15.5 hours on accounts and audit preparation to date.
- (e) **Policies** – review adopt any for the AGM – awaiting confirmation
- (f) **4th Quarter** reconciled accounts - Signed and approved .
- (g) **Mobile Phone & Case update:** purchased and working.
- (h) **Tree Cutting:** Clive Lewis £1675 & VAT update. Waiting to hear back from Mr Lewis. Still no response from tree Sculptors regarding quotes.
- (i) **Bus price increases** had been mentioned an email regarding prices, Clerk unable to confirm how much increase in cost.
- (j) **MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL TRAFFIC REGULATION, SPEED LIMITS AND PARKING REGULATIONS CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2019 (AMENDMENT ORDER NO 14) 2024** –Reference to new road traffic orders relating to Itton and Devauden.

Drawing 2133 relates to **30 and 40 mph extensions on the B4293 and Itton Common**; drawing 2138 **extension of 30 mph B4293 and R83; 2151 introducing 40 mph St Arvan's to Tintern.**

- (k) **Defibrillators:** 2 Defibrillators and one cabinet, ready for installation. 1 to be fitted in Devauden and the other Llanvihangle - Awaiting confirmation of site to fit. Itton requires one. The Cot now has a defibrillator and cabinet supplied by NHS . **Clerk** to seek quotes to service/install @ telephone boxes.
- (l) **Well Lane Management Co** – Enquired about a contact for our insurance company, for the Community Orchard. During a later discussion, it was stated by WLM, that the community orchard is for the use of 6 local houses only.

Upon checking previous Planning minutes regarding the Community Orchard, it states “Indeed the development would make efficient use of the land whilst making a contribution to improve the housing shortage and providing a community orchard for the village to enjoy.” (*Democratic Services report (panning committee meeting) 2nd April 2018 Agenda item 6.12*) [DM-2018-01741.pdf \(monmouthshire.gov.uk\)](#)

- (m) **Portrait of HRH King Charles** – this has arrived, consideration required for siting.
- (n) **Audit and Accounts** – Accounts dropped to local auditor. Wales audit and preparation of accounts progressing. Audit report for last year received, **Clerk to seek clarification** on presenting audited/ unaudited accounts.

8. Finance

Approved finances as per schedule below

PAYEE	REASON FOR EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT £	VAT £	TOTAL £	PAYMENT METHOD
Clerk	Salary	479.88		479.88	BACS
Clerk Expenses	April	50.10		50.10	BACS
A Williams	Microsoft	44.10	8.82	52.92	BACS
Beverley & Williams ACC	Pension regulator	100	20	120.00	BACS
Zurich Insurance	Annual insurance	328.01		328.01	BACS (hold)
Clerk	New phone case 50%	6.91	1.38	8.29	BACs

Defibrillators	2 x units and one cabinet 1000242346	2310	462	2772.00	BACS
2 x Claims @ £208 pp	Reimbursements	416.00		416.00	BACS
Mobile Phone	50% cost	48.91	9.79	58.70	BACS
Amazon	Inks	18.55	3.71	22.26	BACS
HSBC	Bank charges 26/03/24-25/04/24	5.00	0	5.00	HSBC

Balances Current account - **£527.66** & saving account **£14,934.65**

9. Correspondence:

Emails: Please see attached

10. Planning: The following notices were considered by Councillors.

Consultee Letter for Householder DM/2023/00358 - no objections

Consultee Letter for Householder DM/2024/00276 - no objections

11. County Councilor's Report - Unable to attend

12. My Mon APP Outstanding Reports: None

13. One Voice Wales – As above Item 6 vii

14. Ward Reports

Cllr P Kenington – No issues to report

Cllr J Lucas – Local group formed looking at working with new owners of the Local pub. Potholes still an issue, need to be reported on Mon app.

Cllr M Powell – Reported Potholes being filled and Issue with Phone box unable to open. - **Clerk** to seek a repair .

Cllr A Kitson-Smith – Kilgwrrwg – a lorry hit low branches, damage to lorry and unsure who owns tree – reporting on MON App. Potholes still an issue and need to be reported on My Mon .

Cllr A Williams – Discussed funding for Broadband in rural areas, no funding for Mobile or Fibre, however there is limited funding for Satellite broadband in the region of £2-300 - CRB looking at hotspots/finding

Cllr H Turner – No issues to report (new to post).

Cllr J Williams – Hedge report ripped out near Cobblers Plain during nesting season - **Clerk to report on Mon app**. Bus stop still overgrown, **Clerk to report on Mon App and Chase Cllr Buckley**. DCC noticeboard has been cleaned up.

AOB

Locals have requested to **litter pick** when out on walks, discussed purchasing pickers & acquiring orange bags to put in the phone boxes for public use. **Clerk to enquire**. Cllr Lucas suggested a local litter pick.

Free Cherry Trees available via the Sakura Cherry Tree project – **Cllrs to look at possible sites** and feedback at next meeting.

Cllr Training Bursary – Claim up to £100 (50% of cost)

15. Items and date for next meeting

Monday 20th May AGM 7.14 - 7.45 and Monthly meeting @ 7.45 - 9.45pm

Meeting closed at 9.45pm

Clerk, J McLagan

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