

DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Clerk: J McLagan - clerk@devaudencc.org.uk

DRAFT MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

Held on Monday 20th May 2024 7.15pm

Councillors Present: J Williams, H Turner, M Powell P Kennington, A Kitson-Smith , A Williams

In attendance: J McLagan (Clerk to the Council)

Cllr J Williams thanked the councillors for their support over the past year and presented her report.

CHAIR'S REPORT MAY 2024

Thanks are expressed to all the Council members for their continued commitment to the work of the Community Council over the last twelve months.

The year started with a new Clerk who had been appointed in April 2023.

However, due to personal circumstances, the Clerk resigned in August and the Council was in the unfortunate position of being without a Clerk until November 2023. I undertook the role of the Clerk while the recruitment process took place to ensure that the work of the Council could continue.

The recruitment and retention of Community Council Clerks seems to be an ongoing problem throughout the County, and staff turnover is high. I am very grateful for the enthusiasm and efficiency shown by our current Clerk Jan McLagan.

It is important that the Council offers as much support as possible to Jan so that she can complete the statutory training and develop her role further. The year also started with problems with the Council laptop.

I am very grateful to John Davies who, with input from Cllr A Williams, solved the problem. I would like to express my thanks to Leighton Hazel-Smart who resigned as a Community Councillor. Leighton made a position contribution to the work of the Community Council. His good humour, legal skills and dedication to reducing speed issues in the village were much appreciated.

I am pleased to welcome Hannah Turner as the new Community Councillor for the Devauden Ward. It is very encouraging to see that younger members of the community are keen to become involved in the Community Council. I would like to thank Andy Williams and Jane Lucas who represent us on the Wye Valley Villages Group.

The next visible sign of the project moving forward will hopefully be the siting of new road signs in Itton village. I am pleased to report that OVW has held some face-to-face meetings which have been attended by myself and Malcolm Powell.

The issues we deal with remain the same as ever. The response time to issues raised by us with Monmouthshire County Council remains variable.

The use of MyMon and What Three Words apps has on occasion resulted in a speedy response to road surface problems. Other issues like restricted width of pavements towards the bus stops are still unresolved despite the efforts of County Councillor R Buckler. Many planning issues are dealt with through delegated powers at MCC, but the applications we receive are dealt with the benefit of local knowledge.

Although an infrequent visitor we are always pleased to see PCSO Andy Jones at our meeting and value his input.

Jacqueline Williams

1 . After discussion, re-election of Chair Cllr J Williams was proposed by Cllr Powell, seconded by Cllr Kitson-Smith. There were no further nominations and a show of hands resolved the appointment of Cllr J Williams as Chair.

2. Election of Vice Chair Cllr H Turner was proposed by Cllr J Williams and seconded by Cllr M Powell. There were no further nominations and a show of hands resolved the appointment of H Turner as Vice Chair.

3. The minutes of the AGM 23 May 2023 were approved and signed.

4. Apologies received from Cllr J Lucas.

5. There were no declarations interest.

6. The statutory Documents – Financial Regulations, Standing Orders and Code of Conduct were reviewed, approved and accepted.

7. The policies relating to Complaints, Information and Staffing were reviewed approved and accepted. The Policy for Biodiversity was presented and adopted in its current form, the policy still in evolving and will include clearly identified areas of SSSI, once received.

8. The Council Asset Register was reviewed and accepted.

9 The Council's Insurance Policy was reviewed and accepted.

10. **OVW:** Cllrs J Williams and M Powell continue as appointed representatives, Cllrs A Williams and A Kitson Smith were appointed as representatives of Wye Valley Project. Hall committee representatives continue on an - as required & subject to councillor availability basis.

Governing Body: No appointment as it is not DCC's turn to sit on the Governing Body.

11. Meetings will be held on the last Monday of the month except for August when no meeting will be held.

24 th June 2024
29 th July 2024
30 th September2024
28 th October2024
25 th November2024
23 rd December 2024
27 th January 2025
24 th February 2025
24 th March 2025
28 th April 2025
19 th May 2025 & AGM

It is recognised that alternative dates may need to be substituted in some instances.

Signed : _____ (Chair) _____ (Clerk