

ST ARVANS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF ST ARVANS COMMUNITY COUNCIL held at THE MEETING ROOMS, ST ARVANS on TUESDAY 10th June 2014 at 7.15 pm

Present:	Chairman:	T. Vickers
	Councillors:	B. Howells
		A. Bolton
		A. Jarrett
		V. Kennedy
In Attendance:		J. Bolton (clerk)
		Mr. Garry Brown, Facilities Manager, Chepstow Racecourse
		Mr. Will Hockey
		Mr. Jim Mitchell
		CO70 Andy Jones
		Councillor Ann Webb

Pre-Meeting Presentations

a) Mr. Garry Brown spoke about his role at the Racecourse and said that one of his main aims was to maintain good relations and communication with the Community Council and residents. He addressed the concerns of residents, in particular traffic problems arising from events, and would be doing his best to manage these situations so as to minimise any problems. The chairman thanked him for coming and for his open approach and welcomed further meetings in the future. Mr Brown stayed for the whole Council meeting.

b) Mr. Mitchell asked councillors to consider the formation of a speed-watch' team to train in the use vehicle speed tracking equipment .A community-led scheme, the first one started in Llanvair Kilgeddin, and is intended to educate drivers about the dangers of speeding. The system operates on roads with speed limits of 40mph or below and works in close conjunction with Gwent Police. Drivers who are above the speed limit receive a letter explaining the dangers. The subject will be on the agenda at the next Council meeting and the chairman will ensure that the idea is passed to the facilitator Of the planned Community Plan Steering Group in St Arvans

c) Mr. Will Hockey answered questions on his Planning Application to build a bio-mass boiler, housed in a building on Portcasseg Farm. Source material would be grown on the farm but wood chip would be brought in for 2 years until the crop was ready to use. Mr Hockey stayed to observe discussion on the application.

2035 APOLOGIES

Apologies from Councillors Howell, Davies and Gilbey

2036 REPORT FROM PC LOUISE THORPE

St Arvans and Howick incidents between 7th May and 10th June 2014;

09/06 – Reports of an incident of online fraud amounting to £4000 via Match.com from someone purporting to be a soldier in Afghanistan. The victim was advised to contact Action Fraud.

06/06 – Reports of sheep in the road on the B4235. Police attended but no sheep found.

02/06 – Reports of two suspicious people in a blue Yaris parked in a car park on Devauden Road. Police attended but vehicle had moved on.

01/06 – Laptop stolen from a caravan at the Sunrise Festival (Piercefield Park). No forced entry to caravan, no CCTV and no witnesses.

01/06 and 31/5 Complaint of noise from the Sunrise Festival. Caller advised to contact Environmental Health as they had licenced the event.

30/05 - £180 taken from purse overnight, whilst victim was sleeping in a tent at the Sunrise Festival.

29/05 – A suspicious black Ford Transit was seen in Devauden Road. The driver said he was a council worker, who was evaluating council tax in the area. He then asked where another local address was, before leaving. Observations were passed for the vehicle.

28/05 – A white van was parked up for an hour at the end of a lane in Howick. Police attended, and found the vehicle to be broken down and arrangements made for collection the following day.

28/05 – Black bin bags full of clothes, books and jewellery were found in a lane near Upper

Wyndcliffe. Police attended and found the contents to be general rubbish, so the council were contacted to collect.

24/05 – Abandoned vehicle blocking the street in Fordwich Close. Owner contacted and moved vehicle.

The chairman thanked CO Jones for his attendance and the report and asked that the latest figures for village traffic speeds collected by the Camera Unit.

2037 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were none.

2038 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6th MAY 2014

These were approved, proposed by Councillor Jarrett and seconded by Councillor Kennedy. All agreed.

2039 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 6TH MAY 2014 (for information only)

Ref. Minute 2028h) the Enforcement Officer at MCC has informed the clerk that the fence is under investigation.

2040 PLANNING MATTERS

a) Considered by Planning Group since last meeting

DC/2014/00586 erection of biomass storage barn with biomass boiler & hard standing at Porthcasseg Farm NP16 6EJ. The Council decided that it would recommend approval of the application. Proposed by Councillor Kennedy and seconded by Councillor Howells

b) Planning Applications Decided by MCC Planning Dept. Since last Council meeting:

DC/2014/00438 Loft conversion with the provision of 6 velux roof windows. Court Cottage, Grange Rd. NP16 6EJ. This was approved on 21/5/14

c) To note planning applications/decisions received since the preparation of this agenda

There were none.

2041 REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ANN WEBB

Councillor Webb congratulated the chairman on his appointment, reported that the decision on proposed boundary changes is unlikely to be made until 2015 and said that she would look into the problem of MCC documents, sent for publication on notice boards, being difficult for residents to understand.

2042 ACCOUNTS

a) To review the current bank balance and approve the schedule of accounts

The overall true balance of accounts at 25th May 2014 is £12,843.52

and is made up of:

i) HSBC Balance

Money Manager Account £ 86.82
Community Account £ 8721.02

ii) Monmouthshire Building Society £4035.68p

iii) 2 cheques authorised between meetings reference Minutes 2025c) and 2030d) and both cleared

To Whom	Reference to Work Done/Expenses/salary etc.	Cheque Number	Value £
St Arvans AllSorts	Toddlers Group Treasure Hunt	100938	£50
Nigel Hoskins	Grounds maintenance	100939	£144.50

- iv) No cheques outstanding
- v) £3090 precept received

vi) Invoices/Expenses and Salary Costs presented for Authorisation and Signature of cheques

To Whom	Reference to Work Done/Expenses/salary etc.	Cheque Number	Value £
Nigel Hoskins	Grounds maintenance (includes £20 purchase of moss killer)	100940	185.75
Judith Bolton	Clerks salary, SCP 18 £151.28 + 5 hrs website work + 3 hrs ref. CLP £72.07	100941	223.35
Merlin Waste	Dog Bin emptying	100942	30.51
		Total	439.61

It was agreed that the above accounts be accepted and payments made, proposed by Councillor Kennedy and seconded by Councillor Bolton. All agreed.

b) To receive & approve statements for end of year accounts 2013-14

The chairman asked that the clerk write to express the thanks of the Council to Howard Nash who has audited the accounts again this year. He pointed out that the accounts had been approved by the audit process but that the auditor had asked that, in the future, the cheque procedure be tightened.

The Council was presented with the final accounts and they were approved. Proposed by Councillor Howells and seconded by Councillor Jarrett. All agreed.

c) To receive and approve annual governance statement, year-end 31/3/14

The annual governance statement was presented, all questions positively answered and the statement was unanimously approved

2043 COMMUNICATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (C & CE) GROUP REPORT

The chairman presented the report

a) The Community Led Plan

The first public meeting was very well attended. Since then, Adventa has organised a further meeting with interested volunteers and a third meeting is being planned.

b) Web Site

It was agreed that the web site should trial a system of linking residents who have items to sell or swap. Clerk to organise.

CLERK, GROUP

2044 HIGHWAYS GROUP REPORT

Councillor Howells presented the report

a) Penterry Lane Drainage Works

Steve Lane has confirmed that it is intended to close Penterry Lane between 18th and 20th June to carry out drainage work. He also confirmed that other work previously identified. in the village would be done at the same time. An email has gone out to all residents on the distribution list and notices are on the boards.

b) Footpath on A466

A small team of residents has approached MCC with a proposal that a footpath be created on the inside of the hedge on the A466 opposite Mistletoe Cottage to avoid the narrow verge on the main road. The clerk has informed the group about links to MCC departments involved and possible sources of funding.

c) Racecourse Liaison

Councillors Howells and Bolton attended a meeting with racecourse on Thursday 15th May to discuss various issues with the recently appointed Facilities Manager, Garry Brown. It was confirmed that the successful traffic arrangements for the 2013 Welsh Grand National would be used for future major events.

Control of the pedestrian crossing or minor events was problematic because of the cost of the number of trained personnel needed.

d) Kerb on Devauden Road near BT Box

This will form part of MCC work on 18th, 19th and 20th June

e) Pavement at the junction of Devauden Road and Grange Road.

3 residents have requested that the Council consider the recommendation to MCC that the profile of the pavement at the junction of Devauden Road and Grange Road be reduced as traffic tends to take the present corner at speed. The residents consider that this would be more effective than signage to slow traffic making the turn. Councillor Howells to discuss this with Steve Lane when the MCC team is in the area on the 18th-20th June

f) Cow Parsley in Penterry Lane

Cow Parsley on the verges at junctions on Penterry Lane/Piccadilly Lane has been cut by members of the Council to provide better visibility for traffic.

e) The 30 mph signs on the A466 are both hidden by foliage

Clerk to inform Highways

The chairman thanked the Highways Group for the report.

CLERK, GROUP

2045

ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION GROUP (ERAG)

Councillor Jarrett presented the report:

a) Best Front Garden/ Hanging Basket Competition

Shortlisting will be completed by Monday June 30th.

b) Kept Village Competition

- i. The playgroup garden has recently been cleared by Terry Fisher and a group of volunteer from GCFC. Further work is planned to complete the renovation.
- ii. Councillor Davies to contact the nursery concerning some improvements to the forecourt.
- iii. The clerk to write to Tony Newman thanking him for the annual planting of the containers near the fountain.

c) KGV Playing Field

- i. The astro-turf areas have been treated with moss killer and the sand has been applied.
- ii. Clerk to ask MCC to provide a quotation on the replacement of bolts on some apparatus.
- iii. Nigel Hoskins has been detailed to paint the benches and the train.
- iv. Councillor Jarrett has weeded and generally tidied the shrubbery.

d) Hedges

It was agreed that the clerk post notices about overgrown hedges and shrubs on notice boards and on the web site.

e) Trees on A466

Clerk to inform MCC that 30mph signs are hidden by tree growth.

f) Speeding on Grange Road

Councillors expressed concern at the speed of some vehicles on Grange Road, especially when visibility is reduced because of verge growth. ERAG to consider any areas in the village that need more than one verge cut.

g) Hole in fence on KGV playground

Councillors have repaired a small hole in the fence of the playground .

e) Regular Equipment Checks.

These have been carried out by Councillors Bolton and Vickers

The report and recommendations were accepted. The chairman thanked the group for the report.

CLERK , GROUP

2046 CORRESPONDENCE

To note and consider correspondence received since the previous meeting,

a)Circulated by e mail and originating from;

- i.MCC Youth Road Show events
- ii.MCC: Lower Wye Valley Committee Meeting Papers : June 11th Caerwent Village Hall 10am
- iii.MCC Census Figures
- iv.Various residents: Enquiries about ground clearance of site behind Fordwich Close
- v.One Voice Wales Training Programme
- vi. MCC Orders for Road Closures during June for Cycle Event and drains works
- vii. Residents on edge of village; Thanks for enquiries made about position of village sign
- viii. Resident asking about damaged fence in KGV

b)In Hard Copy for circulation after meeting and originating from;
One Voice Wales Magazine

2047 ITEMS FOR PARISH MAGAZINE

- a) Garden Competitions
- b) Accounts
- c) Community Led Plan Progress
- d) Web Site
- e) Facilities Manager's Visit
- f) Hedges
- g) Online Watch Link

2048 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none

2049 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Council meeting will be on Tuesday July 8th at 7.15pm in the meeting Rooms

The meeting closed at 9.06 pm

Signed: Clerk

Date

Signed: Chairman

Date