

ST ARVANS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF ST ARVANS COMMUNITY COUNCIL held at THE MEETING ROOMS, ST ARVANS on TUESDAY 13th March 2012 at 7.15 pm

Present: Chairman A. Bolton
Councillors B. Moar
B. Howells
M. Davies
A. Vickers
A. Jarratt

In Attendance Mr Hatcher
Mrs Hatcher
Judith Bolton (clerk)
Councillor A Webb

1607 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Ann Jarrett signed the declaration of office and the chairman welcomed her to the Council

1608 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Kellar and Stokoe, Davies and PC Thorpe had sent apologies.

1609 REPORT FROM PC THORPE

a) PC Louise Thorpe has been on compassionate leave but reported, by e mail, the following incidents in and near St Arvans between 11th February and 12th March 2012

- i. 21/02 – attempted theft of waste oil from the rear of The Piercefield Hotel the week before – an old, battered, white, long wheel base, transit van was seen at the time and two males asked about taking waste.
- ii. 21/02 – a speeding vehicle was seen on the A466 going through the 30mph outside the racecourse, overtaking another vehicle going towards Devauden.
- iii. 25/02 – a male fell from the climbing cliff at Wyndcliffe causing himself some injuries, but not life threatening.
- iv. 10/03 – a battery for an electric fence was stolen from a local farm during the afternoon – nothing seen or heard.
- v. 11/03 – a motorcyclist lost control on the A466 outside the racecourse, at the entrance to the car park for disabled people. He was reported to have ‘braked too hard’

b) The chairman reported that a resident had contacted the clerk to say that she was concerned about the spot where the motorcycle accident occurred on 11/3 as motorists leaving the car park could have restricted views of the road because of trees. The chairman pointed out that this did not appear to be a reason for the accident on Sunday but proposed discussion with the manager at the racecourse.

1610 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were none

1611 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14th February 2012

These were agreed as a true record.

1612 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 14th February 2012 (for information only)

- a) Ref. Minute 1590: Speeding Motorists. The chairman said that prosecutions had not resulted because it is not practice to prosecute drivers who are shown to be speeding between 35-40mph unless they are caught by the van.
- b) Ref. Minute 1605 The clerk had contacted a member of the LDP team at MCC and had been informed that it was unlikely that the result of the inspectors’ reports on additional sites would be published before the end of the year.

1613 PLANNING MATTERS

a. Under Consideration
DC/2012/00132, Application for the erection of a two storey side extension at 9, Wyndcliffe View. It was proposed by Councillor Moar and seconded by Councillor Vickers

that it be recommended to MCC for approval. All were in favour

b). Planning Decisions.

At the Planning Committee meeting on the afternoon of the 13th March, the planning application for removal of condition 2 of previous application DC/2010/00120 at Mistletoe Cottage was deferred for refusal

1614 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR A. WEBB

- a) Councillor Webb reported that the Welsh Church Fund had grants available for help towards those communities organising events for the Diamond Jubilee. The clerk will write for further information
- b) The project for a proposed toilet at the Bus Station is now in progress.

1615 ACCOUNTS

- a. To review the current bank balance
- b. To approve the schedule of accounts

a) Overall True Balance of Accounts at 25th February is £ 16229.83 and is made up of:

- i) HSBC Balance
 - Money Manager Account £ 515.72
 - Community Account £ 10283.74
- ii) Monmouthshire Building Society £5430.37(inc £1450 KGV Playing Field Fund of which £450 grant for rugby posts)
- iii) There are no uncleared cheques

Overall True Balance of £16,229.83

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

i.

To Whom	Reference to Work Done/Expenses/salary etc	Cheque Number	Value £
Mon Building Society	£500 is transferred every year from current account to Mon Building Soc. and ring fenced for the repair of play equipment but £450 is to be transferred from Mon Building Soc to current account towards cost of rugby posts, this being a grant from MCC for sports equipment , see minute 1253a)iv) April 2010 Balance is £50	100811	£50.00
Nigel Hoskins	Monthly Grounds maintenance £127.50 Felling of trees. Ref Minute1597d)i £1200.00 Remove stumps Ref Minute 1597d)ii £250.00	100812	1577.50
Judith Bolton	Clerks salary, SCP 18, £149.76 (No tax to be paid) Contracted office expenses £37.50	100813	£ 187.26
		TOTAL	£1814.76

- ii. It was resolved that the above 3 cheques be authorised.
- iii. The signatories on the Monmouthshire Building Society Account will be the chairman and vice chairman (unchanged) and Councillor Vickers
- iv. The Council is owed £59.80p from HMRC ref. tax refunded to the clerk (cheque100784) The clerk will submit a P35 when the HMRC website has been updated to allow for end of year submissions to be made.
- v. It was proposed by Councillor Moar and seconded by Councillor Vickers that Howard Nash be requested to audit the accounts

1616 FINANCE GROUP REPORT

Councillor Bolton presented the report

a) Insurance.

The clerk had compared costs and investigated alternative insurance provision **Came and Company Parish Council Insurance** was identified as a possible alternative through recommendation: they are agents for Aviva Insurance. The indicative price from Came & Company for payment in June was £473 pa or £450 pa if committed for 3 years. This compares with £675pa last year from AON. It offered several advantages over Aon. It was proposed by Councillor Vickers and seconded by Councillor Moar that Came and Company become the Council's insurers for the next 3 years as long as the actual price in June is close to the indicative present price, All were in favour

b. Contractors Hourly rate.

The contractor's rate of pay was set at £7.50 an hour, 2 years ago. An increase of 50p per hour would take into account inflation over the past 2 years. It was proposed by Councillor Vickers and seconded by Councillor Bolton that the Council increase the rate of pay to £8.00 an hour from the start of the new financial year with a review in 2 years time. All were in favour

c. Tree Lopping Costs.

The total cost including the grubbing out of the stumps was £1450. This brings the estimated total year's spend close to the 2011/12 budget. It will appear on the spread sheet as a single item in the general maintenance column.

d. Anticipated Further Expenditure for 2012/13

The removal of the trees at the KGV has exposed some unsightly fencing/hedging. The Group therefore anticipates that ERAG will recommend some further expenditure for tidying up this area in the forthcoming Financial year.

e. Clerk's Salary Review.

This will take place early in the new financial year and will be conducted by members of the Finance Group, excluding Councillor Bolton who declared an interest. The clerk has worked a considerable number of extra unpaid hours in this financial year.

1617 ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION GROUP (ERAG) REPORT

Councillor Vickers presented the report

- a) **The Big Lunch** – Interest appears to be growing in the village. One resident has expressed an interest in organising some childrens' races. Another has said he might organise a scratch badminton competition.
- b) **The Beacon.** This event has been formally cancelled because of the organisational difficulties
- c) **King George V Playground**– Sadolin treatment on the train is still outstanding and will be completed when the weather improves and the contractor has completed the work on the trees.
- d) **New Equipment in KGV Playground.** The 'Power Climber' has been ordered. Installation should begin week commencing Mar 19th. Martin Wood of LarsLaj to e-mail details of installation e.g. whether area needs roping off, exact location etc. He visited site on 29th February with the chairman.
- e) **Zip Wire** Problems have reported. It is not running freely. AB has lubricated the carriage, but it seems that the wire itself needs greasing. It was resolved to ask Nigel Hoskins to wire brush and grease the wire..
- f) **Allotments** – The clerk has written to the owner of the land which used to be St Arvans nursery in Fordwich Close to ascertain whether he is interested in the land being used for allotments. Awaiting a reply
- g) **Tree Removal** – Work is complete and satisfactory. The clerk to write and thank the contractor. The work has exposed a degree of untidiness of fence/hedge, and this will need to be addressed at a later date
- h) **Village Planters** –Tony Newman, who resigned from the Council last year, has volunteered to plant the containers near the fountain this year. The clerk will write to thank

him

- i) **Hanging basket and Front Garden Competitions** 2 experienced gardeners have kindly volunteered to judge the competitions following the retirement of Pauline Widdows.
- j) **St Johns Nursery**. The nursery has been very pro-active in tidying up it's front area with a new sign, screen for the bins and weeding of the wall.
- k) Next Meeting: 3rd April 10am @ Church House

The report was accepted and the chairman thanked the Erag group for its report

Clerk, Group

1618 HIGHWAYS ADVISORY GROUP REPORT

There had been no meeting this month but Councillor Moar presented a verbal report on immediate issues. Some of these have already been reported to Paul Keeble of MCC Highways.

- a) The rumble strips on the A466 from Tintern appear to be less effective than those on the Chepstow side. Paul Keeble said that he would inspect them and ask the contractors to do any repairs needed when next in the area.
- b) On the 23rd April at 10.00am, there will be a follow up meeting of the Highways Group and Paul Keeble to review action taken on the roundabout at the racecourse and to discuss any further action.
- c) The question of lighting of the new roundabout is still in the process of being addressed. Councillor Webb reported that Councillor Bryan Jones had met with Paul Keeble that day. The latter had reported to the Council that there was a provision for lighting and that the racecourse had offered to provide low level lighting to highlight the roundabout. This will be discussed at the follow up meeting.
- d) The promised re-alignment of the kerb had not been completed and the Council considered that the provision of dotted lines was unsatisfactory
- e) It was resolved that the position of the 50/30mph speed signs appear to be too far away from the roundabout to be effective. Drivers seem to be accelerating well before the sign. This will be raised at the review meeting.
- f) The 'St Arvans' sign, on the A466 ,Chepstow side, has been removed by the contractors when the new speed signs were placed. Paul Keeble was informed and replied that the sign could be replaced with an identical one but that he had been considering different signage for villages in the AONB. This could mean some cost to the Council. The chairman has asked for more details.
- g) It was decided that the Highways group should invite the new manager of the racecourse to one of its meetings.

The chairman thanked Councillor Moar for her report .

Highways Group, Clerk

1619 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

a) Councillor Jarrett will attend the meeting of the Wye Valley Area Committee on March 21st at the Memorial Hall

b) No councillor was available for the Memorial Hall Committee meeting on Thursday 15th March. The clerk will be attending in her capacity as bookings secretary for the hall. The Council requested that she report to the next Council meeting any matters of special interest

1620 COMMUNITY WEB SITE

Councillor Howells reported that www.starvans.org.uk is now live and being populated. He reported on plans for the contents and asked all councillors to give feedback on the proposed structure

The chairman thanked Councillor Howells for the work he was doing.

1621 Correspondence Received between 11th February and 12th March 2012

- a) Correspondence sent by e mail.
 - i. 3 e mails ref. Cabinet Papers and Individual Member Decisions 6/3/12 and 22/2/12
 - ii. Broadband Survey from MCC
 - iii. 'Traffic in Villages', a handbook for rural communities. Sent by One Voice Wales
 - iv. M4 Corridor . consultation on traffic flow from Magor to Castleton. Forwarded by MCC
 - v. 'Tidy Towns Funding' from MCC
 - vi. 2 e mails ref.' The Charter', one explanation of cancellation of meetings and a 'Charter Summary' for comments

b) Last Month's Correspondence

Reference Minute 1601d) The clerk had responded to the Freedom of Information request. The recipients reported verbally to the meeting that they were not satisfied with the outcome. They did not think it was complete but would not specify the omissions. It was resolved that the clerk write to them requesting details. The recipients also asked the Council to write to the enforcement officer about the conditions of the Planning Application DC/2012/00027.

1622 ITEMS FOR PARISH MAGAZINE

- a) Big Lunch
- b) Thanks to residents helping with garden competitions & planting in the village
- c) Fencing in the KGV Playground
- d) Village sign

Clerk,

1623 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Election dates and procedures were discussed

1624 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This will be Tuesday April 10th 2012 at 7.15 pm in the Meeting Rooms.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm

Signed: Clerk

Date

Signed: Chairman

Date