

## ST ARVANS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING OF ST ARVANS COMMUNITY COUNCIL held at THE MEETING ROOMS, ST ARVANS on TUESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2014 at 7.15 pm

**Present:** Chairman T. Vickers  
Councillors B. Howell  
B. Howells  
V. Kennedy  
A. Bolton  
A. Jarrett

**In Attendance** Judith Bolton (clerk)

#### 1982 APOLOGIES

Councillors Davies and Gilbey and County Councillor Webb sent apologies

#### 1983 REPORT FROM PC LOUISE THORPE

Email received from PC Thorpe reporting incidents between 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014 and 11<sup>th</sup> March for St Arvans and Howick.

St Arvans and Howick incidents between 11<sup>th</sup> February and 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

- a) 15/02 – a large tree was reported across the A466, between St Arvans and the quarry – the Council were informed.
- b) 16/02 – a report was received about a hole in the pavement, near to the BT box, near the village shop – BT made aware.
- c) 28/02 – a call was received about a possible bogus caller at an address in St Arvans – they were asking to read the solar panel meter. Enquiries have been made and it is believed that the caller was genuine.
- d) 09/03 – a resident of St Arvans was woken in the early hours by a neighbour's car alarm (they were away) – the caller checked and could see nothing amiss.
- e) 10/03 – a call was received about sheep in the middle of Devauden Road, between St Arvans and Devauden late at night. Upon the officers' arrival they had gone.

#### 1984 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were none

#### 1985 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>th</sup> February 2014

These were amended to show Councillor Kennedy's membership of the Planning Group and Erag. They were then agreed as a true record. Councillor Howell proposed and Councillor Howells seconded

#### 1986 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 11<sup>th</sup> February 2014 ( for information only)

There were none.

#### 1987 PLANNING MATTERS

- a. Considered by Planning Group since the last meeting:  
There were none.
- b. Planning Applications Decided by MCC Planning Dept. Since last Council meeting:  
There were none.
- c. To note receipt of planning applications/permissions received since the preparation of this agenda  
There were none.

- d. To consider a request from MCC to comment on notice of intent on behalf of a property owner in St. Arvans to remove a multi – stemmed Maple tree from the front garden. Recommended that a letter be sent to Jim Keech of MCC that the Council would have no objection to felling. Should he make that decision, the Council would request a suitable tree be chosen for replacement.

**1988 REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ANN WEBB**

Clerk to request clarification of MCC verge cutting policy for 2014-5

**1989 ACCOUNTS**

**a) Overall True Balance of Accounts at 25<sup>th</sup> February 2014 is £11,700.24 and is made up of:**

- i) HSBC Balance
  - Money Manager Account £ 406.15p
  - Community Account £ 7278.33p
- ii) Monmouthshire Building Society £4015.76p
- iii) No un-cleared cheques

**b) 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	Monthly Grounds maintenance	100922	£128.00
Judith Bolton	Clerks salary, SCP 18 £151.28 +* 4.5 hrs. work on web site £40.54 + *2.5 hrs training Cwmbran £22.52 + *1.5 hrs Boundary meeting at Usk £13.51 +travel to training £19.80 *(at £9.009p per hr) + contracted office expenses £112.50	100923	£360.15
Merlin Waste	Dog Bin emptying	100924	£30.51
Tony Vickers	Sand for treatment of Playground Surface	100925	£33.98
		<b>Total</b>	<b>552.64</b>

It was agreed that the above payments be made, proposed by Councillor Kennedy , and seconded by Councillor Howells

**1990 REVIEW OF COMMUNITIES AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS: DRAFT PROPOSALS**

Final response from Community Council to MCC Working Party was sent before 28/2/14. 21 responses from residents of St Arvans have been posted on the MCC website to date. The Elections Office have stated that it has since received 11 more.

**1991 COMMUNICATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ( C & CE) GROUP REPORT**

The chairman presented the report.

a) Liz Harkins:

Due to outside commitments, Liz has resigned from the Group. The Chairman has thanked her for her service and invited her to comment in the future on progress on the Community Engagement initiative.

b) New Resident Welcome Pack:

Postcards were recommended and it is anticipated that they be produced by the Council when required. Councillor Gilbey agreed to complete the design for agreement at the next meeting and for approval at the April Council Meeting

c) Email Circulation List:

The response so far has been disappointing. It was recommended that it be advertised again on the web site and in "Fiveways" and that progress be reviewed at the next two meetings.

d) Web Site Review:

The site continues to receive good reviews. A report from Visionict showed that there had been 141 visits to the site in the previous month and that 35% of these had been new visitors. Further recommendations

i. Photo Gallery

It was recommended that residents be asked to submit photographs of the village, surrounding area and residents' special occasions to provide a Picture Gallery.

ii. News and News Gathering:

It was proposed that all members of the Council take on a specific news area and be responsible for providing a regular flow of happenings to the clerk:

iii. Introduction of Classified Ads Pages

There is agreement that such an initiative would add much to the web site. It was recommended that Peter Taylor be asked to follow up this issue with the clerk to review options and advise on the way ahead.

iv. Further resident Involvement:

The group advised that both the web site and parish magazine should request standby volunteers to become engaged in future development initiatives.

i) Development Of a Village Plan:

Councillor Gilbey has been involved in such a project in the Midlands. The group will readdress this at the next meeting. The clerk to enquire if MCC could analyse the results of such an exercise

The report was accepted, proposed by Councillor Howell seconded by Councillor Jarrett.

## 1992 HIGHWAYS GROUP REPORT

Report on meeting with Steve Lane on 13/2/14

- a) Footpath on the A466 along from Parkfield Stores is in poor condition but will not be prioritised for replacement as it is not deemed unsafe.
- b) Narrow verge on A466 opposite Mistletoe Cottage cannot be widened to a proper footpath without removing the hedge .A narrower option is not legally possible so MCC are proposing to erect a suitable sign to warn motorists that there may be pedestrians on the highway
- c) Water spilling onto lane from near the Wyndcliffe Court cross-roads. MCC to install ditch in field with permission from landowner.
- d) Large pothole near Wyndcliffe Court crossroads has been added to the pothole list.
- e) Gulley near house drive on Piccadilly Lane will be jetted after other drainage issues have been addressed.
- f) Layby on hill at top of village. Concern had been expressed about parked cars protruding

into the carriageway at its narrowest point. MCC proposing no action as it would not be illegal for cars to be parked wholly on the carriageway itself.

- g) MCC will relay some edging kerbs, remove trip hazards, clean the footpath and renew a short length of path between the Woodlands and Laurel Park.
- h) The kerb at entrance to Trelawny on the A466. A drop kerb crossing point will be laid to allow easier access for mobility scooters etc. Tarmac will be re-laid in adjacent path and drive entrance. The Council has discussed the work with the residents affected.
- i) Flooding near the racecourse during the very wet weather appeared to be a combination of run off from the car park and a blocked gully in the south bound channel. MCC has added the clearing of the gully to its list of work and will discuss the run off with racecourse management.
- j) The clerk informed the meeting that the hole in the BT manhole cover on A466, by the village shop, had been reported to BT Open Reach at least 5 times by the police, the clerk herself, two residents and MCC Highways Department. The first report was made on 16/2/14. As no action was taken by 11/3/14 the clerk contacted BT Open Reach again. A representative there said that he could find no evidence of a previous report. Action was promised.

The chairman thanked the Highway Group for its work.

### **1993 FINANCE GROUP REPORT:**

The group has not met.

### **1994 ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION GROUP (ERAG)**

Councillor Bolton presented the report:

#### **a) MCC Recycling Workshop**

Councillors Bolton and Howell reported to the Group on their visit together with the clerk, to the recent Recycling Workshop. It was generally agreed that the current MCC system works extremely well and should not be changed. However the financial constraints on MCC together with pressure from the Welsh Government to adopt different systems means that the future shape of the service is uncertain.

#### **b) Dog Litter Bins**

A resident has requested that a bin be placed near to the entrance to the footpath adjacent to the KGV. Recommendation is a review of the siting of the existing 3 bins and their usage. The clerk will contact the company responsible for emptying them for their views. If it is shown that one of the bins is under-used, then SACC would consider moving one to the above location. It was noted that this site was originally seriously considered but rejected as being too close to residences.

#### **c) KGV Playground**

- i. Councillor Howell reported that he had made enquiries about sponsorship for the replacement/refurbishment of the Slide but with no success
- ii. Councillor Howell reported there was heavy mole activity. He and Councillor Bolton will rake them down.
- iii. Councillor Vickers to contact Nigel Hoskins to trigger work on the safety mats.
- iv. Councillor Bolton has checked the equipment weekly. He reported that there was some work to be done on the roof of the train and a tyre on the zip wire

#### **d) Best Kept Village/Garden Competition**

Concern was expressed about an unkempt property in a prominent position in the village.

#### **e) Footpaths**

For information, a resident had reported a large quantity of slurry stored alongside 4 Acre Grove. It does not impact on the footpath.

#### **f) Football Issues**

Screening of storage container in hand.

#### **g) Damage to Grass verge and kerb stones by BT vans**

Damage has been caused by BT vans parking on the verge adjacent to the distribution box

outside Fountain Cottage. Clerk to inform MCC.

**Date of next meeting** 9.45am on 1-04-14 @ 14 Grange Park .

The report and recommendations were accepted. The chairman thanked Councillor Bolton for the work of the Group

**Clerk, Group**

**1995 CORRESPONDENCE**

To note and consider correspondence received since the previous meeting

- a) Sent by e mail and originating from:
  - i. MCC: Papers for Cabinet Meeting on 5/3 /14
  - ii. Individual Members Decisions 13/2/14 and 12/3/14
  - iii. MCC LDP Inspectors Report
  - iv. Residents: Several emails ref. proposed boundary changes/councillor numbers
  - v. MCC: email ref. responses to Electoral Arrangements
  - vi. One Voice Wales; Training Schedule
  - vii. One Voice Wales Response to Positive Planning Survey
  - viii. MCC, Jim Keech: Tree in Conservation Area
  - ix. MCC: Alan Browne; Monmouthshire Tourist Ambassador Training
  - x. MCC: Alan Browne. MHA Funding Applications
  
- b) By Phone to the clerk
  - i. 2 requests to expedite repair of hole in BT manhole cover near Parkfield Stores
  - ii. Comment on work being done to clear undergrowth and trim trees on the A466.

**1996 ITEMS FOR PARISH MAGAZINE**

- a) Response to Boundaries
- b) Web Site
  - i. Email list
  - ii. Australian lady searched for family
  - iii. Picture gallery
  - iv. Events
- c) MCC workshop on waste
- d) Dog litter bins
- e) Hole in BT Manhole cover

**Clerk,**

**1997 AOB**

There was none.

**1998 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

This will be Tuesday April 8th 2014 at 7.15 pm in the Meeting Rooms.

The meeting closed at 8.59 pm

Signed: Clerk

Date

Signed: Chairman

Date

