

## ST ARVANS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING OF ST ARVANS COMMUNITY COUNCIL held at THE MEETING ROOMS, ST ARVANS on TUESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2014 at 7.15 pm

**Present:** Chairman T. Vickers  
Councillors B. Howell  
B. Howells  
A. Bolton  
A. Jarrett  
M. Davies  
S. Gilbey

**In Attendance** Judith Bolton (clerk)  
County Councillor Ann Webb  
Mrs Naomi Leeming

In the 7pm pre-meeting Mrs Leeming gave a short presentation in which she outlined the case for a widening of the narrow verge between the stile and the start of the lane leading to the top Wyndcliffe car park on the A466. This would involve removal of the present hedge and replacement with one further back off the road. The Chairman thanked Mrs. Leeming for attending.

#### 1999 APOLOGIES

Councillor Kennedy sent apologies

#### 2000 REPORT FROM PC LOUISE THORPE

Email received from PC Thorpe reporting St Arvans and Howick incidents between 11<sup>th</sup> March and 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

12/03 – Household in Howick reported to Western Power for lighting a fire in their garden next to a transformer.

21/03 – Report of a car driving at excessive speed on the A466 through St Arvans towards Monmouth. The keeper of the vehicle is shown as local to St Arvans.

24/03 – Suspicious vehicle seen parked up in St Arvans – police officers spoke to occupants who had just finished smoking cannabis. Details taken for intelligence report.

27/03 – Suspicious incident reported at cottages on the A466, St Arvans, whereby the front door lock appears to have been tampered with.

29/03 – report of two thefts at the racecourse during the Motorhome and caravan show.

30/03 – report of a blue Fiesta trying to run a cyclist off the road on the A466.

Councillor Vickers will discuss attendance at Community Council meetings with PC Thorpe.

#### 2001 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were none

#### 2002 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014

These were approved, proposed by Councillor Bolton and seconded by Councillor Howell. All agreed.

#### 2003 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014 (for information only)

a) Ref. 1992 j) The BT manhole cover was finally repaired on 31/3/14, 6 weeks after the damage was first reported by the police.

#### 2004 PLANNING MATTERS

a. Considered by Planning Group since the last meeting:

i. DC/2014/00308 Telecommunications Notification for information only.

Installation of 600mm dish on radio aerial at Gaer Hill. The Council did not wish to raise any objection.

- ii. DC/2013/00253 Erection of detached house at Glasserton on Grange Road. Outline Planning Permission sought. These are amendments to previous plans. Although the house and access positions have changed slightly it does not alter the position of the Council, i.e. that the Council has no objection to a building on the site but:

- the proposed house is larger than the original in the application of March 2013,
- there is no provision for a garage
- construction would appear to be impossible without encroaching on the area of protection around the walnut tree.

The Council recommends refusal.

Councillor Webb said that she will make a request that this application be considered by the Planning Committee.

- iii. DC/2014/00257. Erection of fence, 1.8m high and approx. 16.9 meters long on eastern boundary of 36 Laurel Park. The Council recommends approval as there are already some precedents established.

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

There were none

- c. To note planning applications/decisions received since the preparation of this agenda
- d. To note decision by MCC on notice of intent on behalf of a property owner in St. Arvans to remove a multi – stemmed Maple tree from the front garden. .

The MCC tree officer decided that the tree was not unsafe but was unworthy of saving. The officer had written to the house owner to say that she had permission to cut it down should she so wish. Should she do so she will replace it with a smaller one.

**2005 REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ANN WEBB**

- a) Chepstow Police station open 9-5pm
- b) Fewer verges are being cut by MCC in the coming months in view of the need to conserve some pollinating material for bees
- c) LDP on verge of being finally accepted

**2006 ACCOUNTS**

**a) Overall True Balance of Accounts at 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014 is £11,151.78 and is made up of:**

- i) HSBC Balance
  - Money Manager Account £ 481.28p
  - Community Account £ 6684.74
- ii) Monmouthshire Building Society £4015.76p

iii) One cheque was authorised by the Chairman, Vice-chairman & clerk since March meeting.

To whom	Reference to Work Done/Expenses/salary etc.	Cheque Number	Value £
One Voice Wales	Fee for training	100927	£30.00

iv) Two cheques outstanding

To Whom	Reference to Work Done/Expenses/salary etc.	Cheque Number	Value £
One Voice Wales	Fee for training	100927	£30.00
Tony Vickers	Sand for treatment of Playground Surface	100925	£33.98
		Total	£63.98

b) Cheque received from A. Vickers, value £33.98

c) 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	100928	£128.00
Judith Bolton	Clerks salary, SCP 18 £151.28 + 5.0 hrs. work on web site £45.04	100929	£196.32
Merlin Waste	Dog Bin emptying	100930	£20.34
Tony Vickers	Sand for treatment of Playground Surface £72 inc. £12 VAT	100931	£72.00
One Voice Wales	Annual membership	100932	£89.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>£505.66</b>

The chairman explained that, on advice from Chepstow Leisure Centre, the sand purchased for the playground surface treatment last month was considered to be too sharp and could result in premature deterioration of the surface, A replacement batch had been purchased and the chairman has reimbursed the Council for the cost of the original.

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

## 2007 COMMUNICATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ( C & CE) GROUP REPORT

The chairman presented the report.

a) New Resident Welcome Postcard:

Councillor Gilbey has designed a welcome postcard for new residents. Councillors are listed for information. Council agreed to print a draft for approval.

b) Email Circulation List:

Progress will continue to be reviewed at each meeting.

c) Web Site Review:

The site continues to receive good reviews. 41% of site visitors in March were new visitors

d) News and News Gathering:

Councillors are reminded about their allocated topics;

- i. Schools and Sporting Matters: - Councillor Kennedy
- ii. Racecourse, The Piercefield and U3A Information: - Councillor Gilbey
- iii. Gardening, Gardening Club and Environmental Matters: - Councillors Howell and Davies
- iv. Church, Births, Marriages, Deaths and The Meeting Rooms News: - Councillor Howells
- v. Events/Stories: - Councillor Jarrett
- vi. Walking (monthly walk route) and Outdoor Activities: - Councillor Bolton
- vii. Memorial Hall News: - The clerk

viii. Food and Drink Information: - Tony Vickers

e) Introduction of 'Swap/Want to Sell or Buy' Pages:

Visionict has confirmed that it did not support this activity with a 'log in' service for visitors but have suggested that such pages could be included if they were updated manually. Clerk and Peter Taylor investigate. It was agreed that, for the time being at least, the Council should not be seeking advertising revenue.

f) Possible Development Of a Community Plan:

It was agreed to circulate the questionnaires used by a Midlands community to all councillors for information. Clerk and Councillors Vickers and Gilbey to meet with representative from Adventa to discuss the service it can provide

) Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held at 11.30am on May 1st at 14 Grange Park

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

## 2008 HIGHWAYS GROUP REPORT

The group chairman presented the report

### a) Update of the previous site meeting agreements with Steve Lane of MCC

Steve Lane has said that the various tasks had been included in an overall 16 week MCC programme which should be completed by mid-summer.

### b) A466 Footpath Extension.

At present the footpath out of the village on the A466 northbound ends at a stile after which it crosses a field. The provision of the extension of this footpath along the A466 to the junction with Penterry Lane would allow pedestrians to stay off the carriageway of the main road. This was discussed with MCC (Steve Lane) and the landowner with the following outcome:

- i. MCC are willing to provide a footpath if the pathway is cleared by the removal of the hedge to provide sufficient width for pedestrians.
- ii. If the hedge were removed he said that the width of footpath should be 1.8m.
- iii. MCC said there should be no legal costs involved as there would be no transfer of land.
- iv. The landowner is happy to consent to the removal of the hedge and the provision of a replacement hedge but would not be involved in the work.
- v. Prior to any work, the landowner would like a meeting on site with relevant parties.

The Council was in favour of providing an extension to the footpath, but available Council funding is limited to a small miscellaneous fund. MCC had provided a plan of work showing the extent of the changes needed on a bend in the A466. Heavy machinery would be needed and probably also the provision of temporary lights. It was agreed that an estimate of the cost of the proposal should be obtained from MCC. Feedback from this inquiry would then be provided to all interested parties.

### c) Racecourse Liaison.

The Chairman had spoken to Keith Ottesen, clerk of the course, who informed him that:

- i. There were a number of important events on the racecourse in the near future, apart from normal race meetings. There was Family Day on Easter Monday and concerts with Jools Holland on 13<sup>th</sup> June and Tom Jones on 11<sup>th</sup> July.

- i. There had been no further flooding of the A466 but there hasn't been any significant heavy rain.
- ii. There was no news on the matter of the legal status of the field adjacent to the Memorial Hall
- iii. Group members expressed concerns that sometimes stewards were not provided on the pedestrian crossing. Traffic was then delayed by race-goers leaving in small groups and having priority on the crossing. It appeared that this happens following less well attended meetings. It was agreed that a meeting be organised with Keith Ottesen and the new member of the management team.

**d) Roadside sign for St. Arvans on Devauden road.**

A resident on the Devauden road had requested that the sign for the village be moved towards Devauden above Pen y Parc as there were a number of properties on the road before the sign for the village. Councillor Bolton had investigated with MCC and been told that it was unlikely to be moved as it would be too far from the centre of the community for motorists to take action.

**e) Hedge Cutting Grange Road**

Councillor Bolton said that following an enquiry regarding hedge cutting on Grange Road, he had visited the site. It was the responsibility of the landowner to cut hedges. MCC will contact landowner when the period allowed for nesting of birds is over.

f) Councillor Gilbey reported loss of drainage cover on Penterry Lane near Pool Cottage. Clerk to inform MCC.

g) Sign in hedge on Devauden Road, opposite Grange Road.

This would appear to be redundant as there is signage on the A466. Clerk to ask MCC if it could be removed.

The chairman thanked the Highway Group for its work.

**2009 FINANCE GROUP REPORT:**

The group has not met.

**2010 ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION GROUP (ERAG)**

Councillor Bolton presented the report:

**a) Dog Litter Bins**

The use of the bins in the village will be monitored, prior to a recommendation in July, for the relocation of an existing one or provision of an additional one.

**b) KGV**

- i. Councillors Bolton and Howell will address the mole hill problem.
- ii. Sanding of the matting areas will be undertaken by Nigel Hoskins when weather permits.
- iii. Train to be treated with preservative.
- iv. Repair work has been carried out to the wigloo. Some main wands will need to be replaced owing to die-back.
- v. Temporary repairs have been made to the tyres on the zip ride to insure its continued use and safety. Replacement of the tyres will be necessary in due course.
- vi. The shrubs at the entrance to the area are very successful. Councillor Jarrett was thanked for weeding and general maintenance.

**c) Best Kept Village/ Garden Competitions**

- i. The results of Best Kept Village competition 2013 were reviewed.
- ii. Contact to be made with PCC concerning the overgrown areas of the churchyard/graveyard.
- iii. A decision was taken on which properties to be excluded from judging of the Best kept Village

**d) Village Treasure Hunt**

A resident who is an active member of the toddlers group has approached the Council for financial support from SACC for the organising of a village treasure hunt. The event is proposed for families

from the village. The funds have been requested for the production of 50 quiz sheets, 35 prizes for child participants and a float. The Council agreed to request a formal application for funding from the organiser.

**e) Footpaths**

Councillor Bolton will replace a number of way marks absent from some of the footpaths within the village.

**f) Website Update**

- i. Councillor Jarrett will prepare a summary of the Best Kept Village 2013 judges' comments.
- ii. Councillor Vickers will prepare an information piece to encourage participation in this year's BKV competition.

**g) General Inspection**

Councillor Bolton has done the general monthly inspection of the playground for insurance purposes. Points raised are noted above.

**Next Meeting**

Tuesday 29/04/2014 at 9.45 at Church House

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

**Clerk, Group**

**2011 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 19/4/14
- ii. Individual Members Decisions 26/3/14
- iii. Resident: Several emails ref. narrow footpath on A466
- iv. One Voice Wales; Training Schedule
- v. Resident; email ref. proposal for village treasure hunt
- vi. Resident : email ref. hedge on Grange Road

b) In person to the clerk

- i. Comment on inappropriate management of traffic at Racecourse on 5/4/14. Resident said he would be contacting the racecourse

**2012 ITEMS FOR PARISH MAGAZINE**

- a) Competitions
- b) Treasure Hunt
- c) A466 footpath
- d) Hole in BT Manhole cover
- e) Police Station
- f) Welcome postcard
- g) E mail address List

**Clerk,**

**2013 AOB**

There was none.

**2014 DATE OF NEXT MEETING, THE AGM**

This will be Tuesday May 6th 2014 at 7.15 pm in the Meeting Rooms.

The meeting closed at 9.09 pm

Signed: Clerk

Date

Signed: Chairman

Date

