

2298 REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ANN WEBB

There was no formal report but Councillor Webb answered general questions throughout the meeting to contribute to the discussion.

2299 ACCOUNTS**a) To review the current bank balance and approve schedule of accounts**

The overall true balance of accounts at 25th November 2015 was £12594.89 and is made up of:

i) HSBC Balance

Account No. 70724513	£ 690.10
+ Account No. 41440942	£8495.42
+ Monmouthshire Building Society	£ 4059.90

ii) Minus £ p, comprising:

To whom	Reference to Work Done/Expenses/salary etc.	Cheque Number	Value £
MCC	Outstanding to MCC for clerk's salary		640.53
Judith Bolton	Flowers for retiring councillor	101018	10.00
		total	650.53

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	Grounds maintenance	101022	172.00
Judith Bolton	3 hours web site work £27.62 Basic salary November £239.38 Contracted Expenses £37.50	Paid thru MCC	304.50
Merlin waste	Dog Bin emptying	101023	27.12
EAA	Tree pruning	101024	315.00
Tintern plumbing	Fountain repair	101025	115.00
MCC	a) Grass Cutting (inc.£122.70 VAT) £736.19 b) Zip Wire repair (inc £22.18 VAT) £133.06	101026	869.25
Councillor Davies	Bulbs for Memorial Hall Verge LOST RECEIPT	101027	13.00
Councillor Bolton	Travel Expenses to County Hall	101028	13.50
St Arvans Village Trust	Hall Hire	101029	60.85
			1890.22

c) Payments to the Council

- i. Memorial Hall Committee, for grounds maintenance £120.00
- ii. Garden City Football Club, for grass cutting £100.00
- iii. HMRC, VAT Refund £478.35

The accounts were accepted, proposed by Councillor Kennedy seconded by Councillor Howell. All agreed.

2300 CO-OPTION TO THE COUNCIL

It was agreed unanimously that Mrs. Sheena Banfield be co-opted.

2301 FINANCE GROUP MEETING, including report on MCC Budget Meeting

The draft budget was presented for discussion. It included a provisional figure for funding of specific works which would hitherto have been financed directly by MCC but which are in danger of not being completed because of MCC's austerity measures. This could include minor road repairs & gulley emptying. The suggested provision resulted from a meeting held by MCC at County Hall on Dec 3rd when officers from the authority outlined its budget deficit to Community & Town Councils.

The final budget will be presented at the January meeting when:

- a) MCC will know the funding it will receive from the WG and
- b) The Council will decide whether to adopt the principle of spending on projects such as those described above.

2302 HIGHWAYS GROUP REPORT

Councillor Howells presented the report;

a) E-mail response from MCC to SACC Highways Queries.

- i. **Double white lines on A466:** MCC said this was not justified.
- ii. **Re-design of A466 junction with Devauden Road:** It was concluded that MCC cost estimate for this work would rule this out in the present financial climate.
- iii. **Provision of a pedestrian crossing over the A466 to the village shop and Memorial Hall:** MCC response was that, due to the absence of significant pedestrian use and relatively limited traffic, it was not deemed necessary and the existing uncontrolled crossing with central refuge was considered the safest option. It was pointed out that a crossing could possibly give pedestrians a false sense of security and this could prove a danger as it would be close to the bend. The point was also made that a crossing had been installed at the Racecourse for the same traffic flow and with much more intermittent use.
- iv. **Rumble strips on A466:** MCC have agreed to refresh these, but it was unlikely to be done this financial year. They will continue to monitor their condition.
- v. **Illumination of the Racecourse Pedestrian Crossing:** MCC position is that originally street lighting was not included in the scheme and subsequent reviews had not identified any specific problems with the crossing. However, they accepted that SACC did have issues with the crossing. It was agreed to discuss the operation of the crossing with Racecourse staff.
- vi. **Extension of A466 Footpath opposite Mistletoe Cottage:** MCC had nothing further to add on this subject. Nothing had been heard from the group working on the project, and it was agreed that in order to clarify the situation, SACC should request a quotation for the work from MCC.
- vii. **Traffic Speed on Devauden Road:** MCC stated that extensive traffic surveys carried out this year clearly demonstrated that the majority of vehicles travelling on the route were adhering to the posted speed limit and it was therefore not felt necessary to consider the introduction of formal traffic calming measures. Councillor Howells said that he would further review the MCC data.
- viii. **Grange Road Traffic Speed:** MCC said that the 30mph extends to the limits of the street lighting, and thereafter the National Speed Limit applies. Their data collection indicated that the number of vehicles travelling in excess of 30mph was very limited, but they would provide terminal speed limit signage when funding was available. This was not acceptable to the Council which agreed to request MCC to provide a 30mph limit along the whole road, and ask them for an indication of the cost involved in doing this.
- ix. **Pedal Cyclists reported to be riding down Devauden Road at high speed.:** MCC said that this matter should be directed at the Gwent Police. The Council to investigate appropriate signage to advise cyclists.
- x. **Extension of 30mph on Devauden Road beyond Hill Farm:** MCC do not consider this extension of the limit to be appropriate at the moment.

- xi. **One way Traffic System on Piccadilly Lane:** SACC had previously said that they were not in favour of this but would seek advice from MCC. MCC endorsed SACC view.

b) Racecourse Matters.

Problems had occurred on the A466 crossing following a recent race meeting. It was agreed to discuss this and other matters at the next planned meeting with the Racecourse

c) Speedwatch.

Councillor Howells reported that a meeting of the Speedwatch Group had taken place at St. Arvans Fountain on November 25th with six volunteers present. A number of speeding vehicles had been detected. Future meetings were being planned.

- d) **VAS sign** near the Piercefield is not working. This will be investigated and reported to MCC.

The chairman thanked Councillor Howells and the group for the report.

2303 ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION GROUP (ERAG)

Councillor Davies presented the report.

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a) Dog Bin Update

Tim Lane approved the siting of a bin near the big barn at Rogerstone Grange. Location emailed to Merlin who expect to fit it before next week.

b) KGV

- i. Zip Wire. The braking effect of the new tyres has been improved.
- ii. Bare root flowering Cherry tree has been ordered by a resident. Additional tree to be funded by SACC to create more impact. Up to a cost of £300
- iii. Play Train. Agreed that Caldicot Joinery to carry out repairs at a cost of around £300. Recommended that matting to be fitted under train.
- iv. Shrubs at entry need pruning. Working party to be organised. Residents living nearby to be informed

c) Fountain Area

- i. Tree Surgeon did an excellent job with a number of compliments from residents.
- ii. Plumber has turned off the water supply to fountain to prevent frost damage.

d) Notice Board at Howick

Discussion deferred until January meeting.

e) Nursery Waste Storage Area

A screen to hide the commercial waste bins at the nursery was erected at the request of the CC when the nursery opened a few years ago. The bins were an eyesore with their location at the entry to the village. The screen is now seriously wind-damaged and needs replacing. Clerk to write to Bursar of the new owners.

DONM January 5th @ 9.45am Church House.

The chairman thanked the Councillor Davies and group members for their efforts.

2304 CORRESPONDENCE

To note and consider correspondence received since the previous meeting,

a) Circulated by e mail and originating from;

- i. MCC
- ii. From (& To) MCC ref. flytipping in Fedw woods
- iii. One Voice Wales . Welsh Government guidance on Allotments and Community Led Growing Projects. This was passed to the Community Plan Steering Group for its comments.

iv. From resident; Complaint ref. clerk's use of council emails.

2305 ITEMS FOR PARISH MAGAZINE

The Parish Magazine is a December/January combined edition. Copy was submitted after the November meeting.

2306 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Council dinner be held on March 11th

2307 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Council meeting will be on Tuesday January 12th at 7.15 pm in the Meeting Rooms.

The meeting closed at 9.02 pm

Signed: Clerk

Date

Signed: Chairman

Date