

ST ARVANS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF ST ARVANS COMMUNITY COUNCIL held at THE MEETING ROOMS, ST ARVANS on TUESDAY 14th JULY 2015 at 7.15 pm

Present: **Chairman:** **A. Bolton**
 Councillors: B. Howells
 M. Davies
 V. Kennedy
 J. Richards
 S. Gilbey

In Attendance:

Judith Bolton: Clerk
County Councillor Ann Webb
Mr. Tony Newman
Mrs. Avril Branch

Pre-Meeting Notes

1. Mr Tony Newman addressed councillors on the following subjects:

- a) Advertising at the Racecourse, number of signs and the length of time displayed
- b) New posts erected at the racecourse for further advertising in the AONB
- c) Lack of response from MCC to residents queries
- d) Overhanging shrubbery

2. Avril Branch reported on the judging of the hanging basket and front garden. The chairman and councillors thanked her for the work she had done.

a) Best Garden: 1, Manor View. Judged to be beautiful, inviting and colourful
Highly Commended: The Finney

b) Best Hanging Basket: 12. Grange Park. Use of nasturtiums most unusual
Highly Commended, 37, Laurel Park.

2229 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor Gilbey proposed Councillor Bolton, Councillor Howells seconded. He was elected unanimously.

There followed an election for vice-chairman. Councillor Davies proposed Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Richards

Councillor Howell had expressed his agreement to the nomination in advance of the meeting.

2230 APOLOGIES

Councillor Howell.

2231 REPORT FROM COMMUNITY POLICE

Report from Community Police 7/6/15 to 13/7/15. CSO Andrew Jones gave the report.

7/6/15 – Report of a handbag containing a mobile phone taken from a tent at an event at Chepstow Racecourse.

7/6/15 – Report of a garage broken into on Devauden road in St Arvans village. Bolt cutters were used to gain entry but nothing was taken.

9/6/15 – Two Reports of mobile phones stolen from a festival at Chepstow Racecourse .

14/6/15 – Report of a handbag taken which contained a purse, glasses, mobile phone etc. from an event at Chepstow racecourse .

16/6/15 – Report of the theft of a spray gun taken off a hosepipe that is used to water flower boxes at the Memorial Hall in St. Arvans .

20/6/15 – Report of the theft of a dog litter bin near to Rogerstone Grange in St Arvans .

10/7/15 – Report of inadequate marshalling on the roads outside Chepstow Racecourse at an event. Clerk to email Dave Matthews, Highways Safety Officer of Gwent Police to confirm Council's concern about the inadequate marshalling.

11/7/15 – Report of a male cyclist knocked off his bike at the roundabout near Chepstow Racecourse entrance. The male sustained facial injuries and was taken to hospital.

The chairman thanked CSO Jones for his contribution

2232 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were none

2233 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9th JUNE 2015

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

2234 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 12th MAY 2015 (for information only)

- a) Ref. 2218 a) The paperwork for the new mandate is with HSBC. This is now invalid due to the resignation of Dr. Vickers who was chairman at the time of authorisation of the documents. See item 2237d) below.
- b) Ref. Item 2220. Councillor Davies attended the Proclamation Ceremony for the Eisteddfod
- c) Ref 2223g) the verge on the A466 has been cut. Councillor Webb was thanked for her action.
- d) Ref. 2221ii) System of payment of clerk's salary now in place.

2235 PLANNING MATTERS

- a) Considered by Planning Group since the last meeting:
None
- b) Planning Applications Decided by MCC Planning Dept. Since last Council Meeting:
None
- c) To note planning applications/decisions received since the preparation of this agenda
None
- d) It was decided that the Planning Group should be given the authority to make decisions on any urgent planning notices during the August recess.

2236 REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ANN WEBB

- a) MCC considering outsourcing provision of salary payment and other services.
- b) MCC considering investing in a solar farm, 25 acres near Shirenewton.
- c) Councillor Bolton commented on the problems of telephone communication with MCC

2237 ACCOUNTS

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

The overall true balance of accounts at 25th June 2015 was £12973.39 and is made up of

i) HSBC Balance

Account No. 70724513	£233.92
Account No. 41440942	£8780.57

Monmouthshire Building Society	£4059.90p
--------------------------------	-----------

ii) Outstanding Cheque, value £50. Reference Minute 2221a).
Other Outstanding cheque:

	Reference to Work Done/Expenses/salary etc.	Cheque Number	Value £
Catriona Matthews	Insurance for big Lunch event to be organised by residents group	100993	51.00

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 £
Judith Bolton	Clerk's salary £239.38 1.5 hours web site work £13.81	To be paid through MCC system	253.19
Judith Bolton	Postage to Mazars £2.05 Book of stamps £7.56	101000	£9.61
Nigel Hoskins	Grounds maintenance	101001	153.00
Merlin waste	Dog Bin emptying	101002	27.12
Society Council Clerks	membership	101003	77.00
St Arvans trust	Hire of hall for meetings	101004	36.19
		Total	556.11

The accounts were accepted, proposed by Councillor Davies, seconded by Councillor Howells. All agreed.

c) New Bank Mandate agreed because of resignation of councillor.

2338 HIGHWAYS GROUP REPORT

Councillor Howells presented the report.

a) A number of questions are awaiting a response from MCC

- i. A466 double white lines.
- ii. Crossing near the Memorial Hall and shop.
- iii. Increased height to rumble strips on A466.
- iv. Illumination of Racecourse crossing.
- v. Devauden Road speeding graphs have been passed to MCC.
- vi. Grange Road. Clarification of the speed limit is awaited from MCC.
- vii. The one stop shop has been approached to see if they can help to obtain a response.

Clerk to email MCC for a fourth time

b) Racecourse

A meeting with the racecourse has been organised for Friday 7th August. Discussions to include marshalling/traffic problems at events

c) Penterry Lane traffic.

- i. MCC agreed in April to provide road markings on the entrance to Wyndcliffe Court but it has not yet been carried out. Clerk to pursue.
- ii. Further incidents of problems on Piccadilly lane have been reported,
 - a pedestrian having to squeeze into the hedge when a 9' 8" wide vehicle was coming down clipping the hedge on both sides.
 - On the same day a similar vehicle going up the lane could not reverse and a resident had to reverse half way up the lane to the Wyncliffe junction

- Coaches going to Wyndcliffe Court having to turn around on Devauden Road after being directed through the village to the bottom of Piccadilly Lane and finding that it was unsuitable for coaches
Clerk to inform MCC Highways.

d) Static Advertising Signs on Highways: Part of 'Management of Commercial Obstructions on the Highway' policy

The posts erected on A466 near racecourse are a result of above policy. Sign locations, identified as safe by MCC, can be rented by businesses. Local companies will have the first opportunity to rent the space after which companies further afield. Any sign space that has been vacant for a time will be used to advertise local interest
MCC will be writing to all the CCs to confirm their intention to start using these sites.
Resolved that clerk write to MCC asking why concentration of signs on A466 is higher than anywhere else in County and why these were erected without apparent discussions with Racecourse and in the AONB.

e) Meeting with Police

- Updated traffic speed monitoring data awaited
- Sgt, Parsons from Safety Camera Unit met with volunteers interested in Speedwatch project. 6-8 volunteers are needed for teams of 3 to be deployed. Registration documents, CAB checks were explained.

f) Hedge Around 30mph sign on A466.

Councillor Bolton said that the hedge around the 30mph flashing signs on the A466 near the Piercefield had become overgrown and needed cutting back. It was agreed that Councillors Richards and Howells should carry out the work.

The chairman thanked Councillor Howells and the group.

2239 ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION GROUP (ERAG)

Councillor Davies presented the report:

a) Dog Litter Issues

- New dog waste bin on Rogerstone Grange end of Grange Road has been stolen. Advice from police is that it may have been discarded locally. Search parties have carried out rudimentary search of local area.
- Group to recommend to Council that the bin should not be replaced at this stage. Residents to be canvassed in the area about replacement, position etc.

b) Playing Field

- Fence to be erected Friday 17/7/15. Confirm with contractor that existing concrete posts be cut off at ground level.
- Willow structures have been re-shaped. Doubt expressed about maintaining them in the long term as they are now very large.

c) KGV

- Inspection carried out by Tim O'Donovan in the presence of Councillor Bolton. Tim O'Donovan generally very complimentary about the state of the equipment. Report awaited.
- It was decided to recommend that the fence remain for the present: It would incur removal expense and potentially allow playground activities right up to neighbours' walls.
- Choice of English Maple, to be planted in KGV near to existing fence and close to condemned Sycamore. Jim Keetch of MCC to be consulted.

Councillor Richards

d) Memorial Hall

Clerk has used photograph of Memorial Hall flower boxes on the web site home page, thanking hall committee and volunteers.

e) Best Kept Village Competition/Hanging Basket front Garden Competition

- i. Results of Hanging Basket and Garden Competition have been received.
- ii. Councillor Davies rang St Johns to request that they attend to their roadside wall. Manager very apologetic but new owners of St John's School still to organise maintenance team.

f) Fountain Area

- i. Plumber informed to reinstate water flow to one cherub only. Promise to action w/c 20/07
- ii. Recent painting of base of fountain not considered satisfactory. Site visit to be arranged to explore alternatives paints
Councillor Bolton

g) Defibrillator

Councillor Kennedy awaiting response from Brains ref. possible location and funding.

DONM: September 3rd 9.45am at Church House.

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

2240 CORRESPONDENCE

To note and consider correspondence received since the previous meeting,

a) Circulated by e mail and originating from;

- i. MCC. Ref: Cabinet meeting on 25th June.
- ii. MCC. Ref Gambling Policy Consultation
- iii. MCC Ref. Audit Committee meeting on 16/7/15
- iv. MCC ref. White Lines at Wyndcliffe Court
- v. MCC ref. Removal of two fruit trees in back garden of house
- vi. 2 Residents ref. removal of dog bin.
- vii. One Voice Wales ref. Nomination for Birthday Honours
- viii. 2 residents ref. Interest in Co-option
- ix. One Voice Wales: Notice of Area meeting, 9/7/15
- x. Application for use of Playing Field for two day event to promote a business venture. The Council resolved that this should be refused because of the noise intrusion and commercial nature of event.

b) Hard Copy

Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council 'Review of Falls in Gwent Hospitals

2241 ITEMS FOR PARISH MAGAZINE

For next combined edition.

- a) Vacancy on Council
- b) Dog Bin
- c) Results of Front Garden and Hanging Basket competitions

2242 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none

2243 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

The meeting closed at 8.58 pm

Signed: Clerk

Date

Signed: Chairman

Date