

2388 REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ANN WEBB

Councillor Webb reported;

- a) The A466 is to be closed for a period of time while the landslide near Livox is being temporarily repaired. Councillor Webb had received no specific details but promised that she would inform the Council and as many people who would be affected as soon as she was told..
- b) 'The Future of Local Government' is still being discussed and a decision should be made before the end of the summer

2389 MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

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

The overall true balance of accounts at 25th May 2016 was £13744.24

and is made up of:

- i) HSBC Balance

HSBC, Account Number 70724513 4148.00p (Precept of £3896 paid)

HSBC, Account Number 41440942 £ 6277.35p

Monmouthshire Building Society Account £4084.26p

- ii) Minus £ p, comprising outstanding cheques etc.

To whom	Reference to Work Done/Expenses/salary etc.	Cheque Number	Value £
MCC	Owing to MCC ref. Clerk's salary and expenses	Paid by MCC	544.87
Nigel Hoskins	Grounds maintenance	101053	200.50
Margot Davies	Christmas Gifts for Contractors	101057	20.00
		Total	765.37

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 £
i)Nigel Hoskins	Grounds maintenance	101058	209.00
ii)Judith Bolton	1 hour web site work £9.20 Basic salary (Work done in May) £239.38	Paid thru MCC	248.58
iii)Merlin waste	Dog Bin emptying	101059	27,12
iv) St Arvans Church	A grant to assist in maintenance of the New Church Graveyard	101060	100.00
		total	584.70

An application had been received from St. Arvans Church for a grant to help maintain the new Church Graveyard, see item iv) above. The chairman proposed that the Council grant £100 towards this work, Councillor Howells proposed that all other items for payment be agreed, Councillor Edwards seconded and all agreed.

b) The clerk has reported the 2015-16 councillor's expenses and allowances to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales

2390 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The annual accounts have been audited by the internal auditor. No risk areas were identified.

a) To Receive and Approve the Annual Governance Statement

These were approved, proposed by Councillor Davies, seconded by Councillor Howell and all agreed

b) To Receive and Approve the End of Year Accounts

These were approved, proposed by Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Davies and all agreed

The chairman thanked the clerk for her work.

2391 POSITION OF CLERK

The clerk has submitted her resignation, her notice period starting from June 16th.

It was decided that the vacancy would be notified to the Society of Local Clerks, One Voice Wales and local community council clerks. It will be advertised via the distribution email system in the local community and posted on notice boards and the web site.

The chairman and councillor Richards will draw up a contract of employment.

2392 HIGHWAYS GROUP REPORT

Councillor Howells presented the report.

a) Report on meeting with Steve Lane(SL) of MCC Highways Department

- i. **Pavement on A466 North from village to opposite Mistletoe Cottage:** MCC said this had been scored and prioritised but did not qualify for a programme of work. It will be kept safe by undertaking local repairs once they are reported through inspections etc.
- ii. **Potholes along Penterry Lane:** MCC has done some potholing since the meeting with SL and will do more repairs when working at Rogerstone Grange. It will be 'Hot-Pot-Holed' along the 3 segments of the lane.
- iii. **Grange Road Edges and Surface Repairs near Grange Farm:** The adopted road, Grange Road, is single track width and it's boundary at the junction. Is unclear. MCC does not accept responsibility for repairs to un-adopted roads. SL said that the cost would need to be met by adjacent landowners and/or the Community Council and he considered a 12m section along Grange Road to be at risk. However, MCC would repair a further 46m section if a funding contribution was provided. MCC estimates that to undertake a 58 metre section, approximately 1.5m wide, would cost £2380. However given a future need to maintain the section, MCC is prepared to undertake the full 58m of 1.5m wide patching and the 8sqm of the junction in one visit providing a single contribution, of £1,190 is made. They could anticipate doing the work in the Autumn. Councillors decided that the situation needed much further clarification before any decisions could be taken.
- iv. **Banners and Roadside Advertising at Lion roundabout:** SL understands that Planning Permission should be sought through MCC Planning Department and MCC Highways Department will remove any advertising that is requested by Planning. Temporary banners are

removed in a monthly sweep along A466, A48, B4245, B4235 when resources permit. This is likely to be done in the next two weeks

- v. **Junction of Cockshoot Lane(owned by Natural resources Wales) and the B4293:**
It was agreed that work was needed to prevent loose material migrating from the Lane and blocking drains on the main road. SACC to formally write to MCC in order to clarify the problem with Natural Resources Wales. MCC will programme the clearance of the gullies near to Brick Cottage, on the B4293 at Fryth Wood.
 - vi. **Degradation of street signs:** Clerk to contact Graham. Kinsella at MCC.The 'Slippery Road' signs are not required and will be removed by MCC.
 - vii. **Drain Clearance:** SL said that MCC responds to reports of problems, including blockages, and will clear all those in nearby location, street or village depending on work load. This means that the few resources it has are deployed by need, reducing undue travelling costs and checking unreported gullies in the same area.
 - viii. **Piccadilly Lane** - provision of Sat-Nav signs : Clerk to expedite
- b) Councillor Richard's response to the email from Mark Davies, ref. traffic speed on Grange Rd. is being prepared.
- c) Dorset Traffic in Villages document was discussed. It was felt that the document raised questions on whether there were other methods of reducing traffic speed in the community in addition to those already proposed. These included changes in road surfaces and picket fences to define entrances to the village.
- d) Correspondence Received from Resident ref. 'Removal of Safe Parking Area' on Cockshoot Lane. Councillor Edwards to email Natural resources Wales to clarify the situation.

The report was accepted and the chairman thanked Councillor Howells and group members

2393 ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION GROUP REPORT

Councillor Davies presented the report.

- a) KGV
 - i. Annual Inspection: Tim Bradfield of MCC promised a decision on the date by 18th June
 - ii. Permanent BBQ: Clerk invited 2 quotes for hard-standing. None received to date but clerk met with one contractor on site to discuss feasibility. Councillor Howell outlined problems. in the Forest of Dean with public BBQs, e.g. residual rubbish including broken glass bottles resulting in the need for regular cleaning by the authorities. It was decided that the Council could not risk the Health and Safety of members of the public , especially children, and that a BBQ should not be provided
 - iii. Shrubbery: This is in need of pruning again. Councillor Bolton
 - iv. Insurance Checks: Councillor Bolton has done regular checks.
 - v. Willow Structure: The clerk and Councillor Bolton have trimmed and woven the willow structure but it will need more attention in the near future.
- b) Defibrillator: Councillor Howells said that the Chepstow branch of the Lions organisation were in talks with the British Heart Foundation and application forms would be sent in the next two weeks. The Lions group is prepared to support the venture financially.

c) Gwent Best Kept Village Competition.

- i. Memorial Hall has been weeded and boxes planted with bedding plants.
- ii. Bus shelters have been cleaned
- iii. Suggestion made to Meeting Rooms to plant up area in front of carpark.
- iv. Robin Nursery has made an excellent response in planning up their frontage and clearing the wall.
- v. Tony Newman has kindly planted the boxes at the fountain.

d) Wye Valley Woodland Project.

No further contact from Andrew Nixon or his successor.

e) Gardens and Hanging Basket Competition.

Recommended that the results of the judging be presented by Avril Branch to the SACC meeting on 12th July. Preliminary judging by Council Members to be completed by the last week in June and these results posted to Councillor Davies by June 30th.

g) Proposal to Consider Village Boundary Gates: 3 required if space allows i.e. North & South on the A466 and at the top the hill on Devauden Rd.

Clerk to contact MCC Highways on the protocols.

h) Correspondence Received from Resident Ref. Noise at Racecourse Festival

Clerk will pass email on to the Racecourse and has advised resident to contact the racecourse himself and also MCC Environmental Health

i) Correspondence Received from resident Ref. Japanese Knotweed: The clerk has informed MCC. If it is on MCC owned land, the authority will continue to treat the plant. If it is not MCC land, it is the responsibility of the landowner.

The report was accepted and the group thanked for its work.

2394 CORRESPONDENCE

To note and consider correspondence received since the previous meeting,

a) Circulated by e mail and originating from;

- i. MCC. Invitation to Town and Community Council Event, Ref. Communication and Changes , June 20th at Usk
- ii. Google Analytics: 317 visits to SACC web site in May with 242 users recorded
- iii. Memorial Hall Committee: Annual Accounts
- iv. Planning Aid Wales: Ref. Training. This was very short notice.
- v. PC. Louise Thorpe, saying that CC reports will be attachments to emails in the future
- vi. Wye Valley Area Committee papers for meeting on Wed. June 15th at Shirenewton.

2395 ITEMS FOR PARISH MAGAZINE

- a) Web Site.
- b) Clerk's resignation
- c) Garden/Village Competitions

2396 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none

2397 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm
Signed: Clerk

Signed: Chairman

Date

Date

APPENDIX Notes on Pre- Meeting

Mr. Newman spoke before the meeting about the proposed development at the Racecourse to be discussed in item number 2387 on the agenda.

It was his opinion that:

- the new building would be very visual from the road as it would be higher than the present one, closer to the turnstiles and twice as large as the present one.
- the Racecourse is a rural business and it is moving away from its core business if it joins with the Kennel Club to occupy this building.
- residents in Fordwich Close suffer from the noise from concerts etc.
- the A466 could take no more traffic

He commented that he considered traffic/pedestrian control was ineffective at the last race/concert evening.

The chairman thanked Mr. Newman for his comments.