

ST ARVANS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF ST ARVANS COMMUNITY COUNCIL held at THE MEETING ROOMS, ST ARVANS on TUESDAY 13th OCTOBER 2015 at 7.15 pm

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

In Attendance:

Judith Bolton: Clerk
County Councillor Ann Webb
Mrs. Rita Edwards
CSO Andy Jones.

The chairman has received a letter of resignation from Sue Gilbey. Councillors would like to thank her for all the work she has done whilst a councillor.

2260 APOLOGIES

There were none

2261 REPORT FROM COMMUNITY POLICE

No crime reported in the previous month

CSO Andrew Jones answered questions concerning:

- a) Road traffic accident on Devauden Road.
- b) Speed limit on Grange Road
- c) Road traffic accident on A466

He did not have any information about the road sign which has been knocked down at the Racecourse 'Lion' Roundabout

The chairman thanked him for his attendance and the work he had done during the month in response to queries from the clerk.

2262 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were none

2263 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8th SEPTEMBER 2015

These were approved, proposed by Councillor Davies and seconded by Councillor Howells.
All agreed.

2264 MATTER ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 8th SEPTEMBER 2015 (for information only)

- i) Ref. 2248 HSBC has prepared paperwork for the new mandate.
- ii) Planning Aid Training meeting organised by MCC was attended by Councillor Howells, Councillor Bolton and Councillor Howell. Future developments in Planning procedures that could affect St. Arvans & Monmouthshire generally were reported.

2265 PLANNING MATTERS

- a) Considered by Planning Group since the last meeting:
DC/2015/00725, erection of detached dwelling, including garage, adjacent to Constantia, Devauden Road, NP16 6EY. All agreed that approval be recommended but that a note be added that the design should take into account the requirements of the conservation area as it was effectively embedded in the area.
- b) Planning Applications Decided by MCC Planning Dept. Since last Council meeting:
DC/2015/00819, 8, Manor View; Installation of Roof Lights. Approved

To note planning applications/decisions received since the preparation of this agenda
None

- c) Planning applications received since the agenda
- d) MCC Report on Conservation Areas

The consultants employed by MCC to consider all conservation areas in the County recommended 3 changes for St Arvans. These changes involved removing a small number of modern properties not felt to be in keeping with the conservation area. MCC's own recommendation was that only one of the changes be accepted but that additional land surrounding the conservation area be added.

The Council agreed to recommend that the MCC recommendations be actioned. In addition, the Council agreed to recommend that the land belonging to the property, 'Constantia' be included

2266 REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ANN WEBB

a) Suggestion that planting part of verge of A466 with wild flowers be considered. £2 per square metre. The clerk added that the Community Led Plan Steering Group has informed the Council that it is applying for funding for this project. The group will know the decision in February. The council will consider this again when it knows the result of the CLP application.

- b) Roger Hoggins hopes to attend a meeting to discuss financial contribution from Community Councils
- c) Lower Wye Area Committee Meeting not well attended

Councillor Webb answered questions on the possibility of a move of MCC staff from the Magor Office to Usk, budget considerations and funding of defibrillators.

The chairman thanked Councillor Webb for her report

2267 ACCOUNTS

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

The overall true balance of accounts at 25th September 2015 was £13,989.86 and is made up of:

i) HSBC Balance

Account No. 70724513	£ 639.53
+ Account No. 41440942	£10096.70
+ 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 As per minute ref. 2237a) ii. Basic Payment for August Payment for September + extra hrs in August and ¼ ly expenses		253.19 239.38 313.70
		total	806.27

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 £203.00 Hardware for KGV gate £ 83.47	101012	£286.47
Judith Bolton	4 hours web site work £36.82 Basic salary October £239.38	Paid thru MCC	276.20
Merlin waste	Dog Bin emptying	101013	27.12
A Bolton	a) £200 inc. £33.33 VAT. Zip wire trolley £200 b) Travel to training £ 18	101014	218.00

Mazars LLP	Audit fee, including £35 VAT.	101015	210.00
		Total	1017.79

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

2268 CO-OPTION TO THE COUNCIL

- i. All agreed that Mrs. Rita Edwards should be co-opted.
- ii. Reference: resignation of Sue Gilbey. All agreed that the current application of a second resident be considered, along with any others when the due process of advertising this current vacancy has been completed.

2269 TO APPOINT A CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMUNICATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP

Councillor Howells agreed to take up the position.

2270 HIGHWAYS GROUP REPORT

Councillor Howells presented the report

- a) Questions awaiting a response from MCC
 - i. With the exception of the clarification of the Grange Road speed limit nothing had been received from MCC after several emails. Councillor Webb has written to Paul Matthews, CEO of MCC. Awaiting response from him. If no result in two weeks, chairman to write to him explaining that Community Councils cannot work without information from MCC departments.
 - ii. The Grange Road speed limit from the KGV onwards to Grange Farm is the National Speed Limit (60mph). Speed data received from MCC has been partially examined. This indicates that traffic along Grange Road was not exceeding 30mph, leading to the comment from MCC that no change in limit was necessary. However, the Gwent Police Safety Officer has visited the site and has stated that the Highways department of MCC should see the site and formalise the signage. Clerk to write to MCC Highways asking that a traffic order be raised to lower the speed limit to 30mph for the whole road and that consideration be given to a 20mph limit as the road passes a children's playground (on a sharp bend) and two 'blind' alleyways. The development of the Grange Farm complex has resulted in far more traffic along a road which is also used by walkers. The Council agreed that, without a footpath or even 'escape' verge at some points of the road, the NSL is totally inappropriate. Clerk to write to MCC.
 - iii. Speed monitoring had also been undertaken to examine speeds along Devauden Road to look at traffic calming possibilities. Further examination of the data is needed before discussing this with MCC.
- b) Advertising Signs.

Only one of the new signs in the authority has attracted local business. The project has attracted considerable criticism from residents, Community Council and some members. MCC has informed the Council that it is temporarily suspending the project until the sites have been visited by a team from MCC including Planning Officers. A press release has been prepared by MCC.
- c) Police Matters

Speedwatch –Latest information was that to date the police had only received 5 applications whereas they would require a minimum of 6 to 8 members to instigate Speedwatch in the area.

- d) Hedge obstruction A466
A response has been received from MCC on the hedge opposite the junction of Penterry Lane and the A466. Martyn Evans of MCC to attend a site meeting.
- e) Speeding Cyclists
The police have replied to the SACC query report of residents' concerns by saying that it was a concern for them too. The email stated 'some of the riders seem to be oblivious to the dangers they put themselves and others in when riding at speed through villages. We will continue to monitor it and deal with anything that occurs in front of us and advice will be given. We will however, seek advice in how best to approach this'.

The chairman thanked Councillor Howells and the group.

2271 FINANCE GROUP REPORT & PRESENTATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET PROPOSAL

The chairman presented the report, stating that the Council had incurred more costs than expected in the first half of the financial year, including the purchase of a dog bin, which was subsequently stolen and is being replaced, unplanned repairs to the gate and zip-wire in the KGV. Also the fence at the Playing Field required complete, not partial, replacement as planned. A recommendation was made to draw on reserves and a supplementary budget was presented. Proposed by Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Richards. All agreed. The budget sheet is appended to these minutes.

2272 ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION GROUP (ERAG)

Councillor Davies presented the report:

a) Dog Litter Issues

- i. Awaiting delivery date from Merlin for new bin.
- ii. Bin opposite village shop cleared of hedge growth. Large battery fly-tipped at the site and has been removed by MCC.

b) Playing Field .

- i. Old fencing removed and recycled..
- ii. Agreed that 1 sack of mixed daffodil bulbs be bought, at a cost of up to £15 to be planted on bund near entrance gate. Also agreed to consider planting shrubs in the Spring on grass verge of car park. This may deter drivers parking on the grass verge.

c) KGV

- i. Discussion on method of grass cutting which leaves the mulch lying, standard practice for MCC when cutting large areas such as sports fields. Question to be raised with MCC as to whether they have the equipment to grind the grass finer for easier dispersal. **Clerk**
- ii. Appropriate tree to be planted in place of the recently felled sycamore. Exact location to be decided **. JR/MD**
- iii. Zip wire has been repaired by MCC. Thanks to the Councillors Bolton, Howells and Richards for organisation and assistance.
- iv. New gate in process of being fitted.
- v. Councillor Bolton has done weekly insurance checks

d) CLP update for information

- i. Ceilidh going ahead on November 14th.

- ii. Owing to the resignation of ex-Councillor Gilbey, there the Council now has no formal link with the CLP Steering Group. The chairman has written to the Group asking please for monthly update on projects to retain communication link.

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

Councillor Davies reported the winners of the competition as announced at the recent presentation. St Arvans was unsuccessful, but it was agreed to continue with the competition next year as it was a major focus in helping keep up the appearance of the village.

f) Fountain Area

- i. Plumber re-instated water supply to one cherub. Other cherub away for repair.
- ii. Site meeting has been arranged with tree surgeon to assess the pruning/pollarding options for the tree. Adjacent residents has been contacted for their thoughts. **AB**
- iii. MD to appraise John Pattison of the situation to decide if lights can be removed/replaced during the operation. Tree surgeon to be asked to re-fit the lights as he has the necessary safety equipment to work in the tree.

g) Defibrillator

Councillor Kennedy is in discussion with Brains ref. Piercefield about possible location.

h) November 3rd @ 9.45am Church House.

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

2273 CORRESPONDENCE

To note and consider correspondence received since the previous meeting,

a) Circulated by e mail and originating from;

- i. Police; Apologies for non-attendance at September meeting.
- ii. Sue Gilbey: resignation from the Council.
- iii. One Voice Wales ref. Training
- iv. 2 Funding Bodies: Information on funds available for 'green' projects. Passed to CLP Group

2274 ITEMS FOR PARISH MAGAZINE

For next edition in November.

- a) Resignation
- b) Co-option
- c) Zip wire
- d) Grange Rd speed
- e) Speed of cyclists

2275 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

2276 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Council meeting will be on Tuesday November 10th at 7.15 pm in the Meeting Rooms.

The meeting closed at 9.06 pm

Signed: Clerk

Date

Signed: Chairman

Date

APPENDIX

St Arvans Community Council

Supplementary Budget 2015-16: October 13 2015

Item	Budget 2014-15	2015-16	Additions	
Clerk's salary	£2200.00	£3000.00		
Office expenses	£250.00	£250.00		
Hire of halls	£150.00	£200.00		
Insurance premium	£500.00	£450.00		
General maintenance	£1500.00	£1500.00	£560	
Grounds & verge maintenance	£1800.00	£1500.00		
Recreation ground, repairs	£400.00	£600.00	£900	
Web Site – Visionict & Extras	£350.00	£350.00		
Web Site – Running/Updating Costs	£250.00	£300.00		
Electricity for Xmas lights /hall heating etc	£70.00	£40.00		
One Voice Wales & Clerks assn Subs	£150.00	£200.00		
Audit of accounts	£150.00	£250.00		
Chairman's allowance	£100.00	£100.00		
Donations	£100.00	£100.00		
Training for clerk/councillors	£100.00	£100.00		
Councillors' mileage allowance for attending meetings/training etc	£50.00	£50.00		
Reserve Fund	£1000.00	£0.00		
Miscellaneous	£150.00	£150.00		
Election Expenses	£0.00	£0.00		
Refurbishment of Fountain and Display Board	£0.00	£200.00		
Tree Surgery	£0.00	£500.00		
Replacement Xmas Lights	£0.00	£200.00	£300	
Reclamation of Playing Field Garden and Fencing	£0.00	£250.00	£565	
TOTALS	£9270.00	£10290.00		
New Budget			£12615	

Notes:

- 1) £560 has been added to General Maintenance for 2 new dog bins
- 2) £565 has been added to account for the difference in the cost of a new rather than re-furbished fence in the playing field.
- 3) £900 has been added to cover the cost of unbudgeted repairs to the zip wire (£700) and a new gate for the KGV.
- 4) £300 has been added to the Xmas lights budget to closer reflect the cost.

