

## 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> SEPTEMBER 2015 at 7.15 pm

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

**In Attendance:**

Judith Bolton: Clerk  
County Councillor Ann Webb  
Mr and Mrs J. Morgan  
Mr and Mrs. M. Britton  
Mrs. S. Glynn-Jones  
Mrs. D. Ward  
Mr. M. Leeming  
Mrs. D. Stephens

#### Pre-Meeting Notes.

- 1) The chairman of the Council and of the Environment Group presented awards to the winners of the competitions. Congratulations to all who won their categories and the runners up. A photograph and report will be posted on the web site.
- 2) Mrs Jones commented on the speed of pedal cyclists down Devauden Road. Mrs Ward, Mr Squires and Mrs. Stephens all confirmed the concerns. The chairman explained that the police and MCC Highways department will be informed of their comments and both organisations will be asked to reply as soon as possible.
- 3) Mr Squires asked if the 30mph speed limit could be extended to the drive of Mr Beverley Jones where there is a street light. MCC to be informed of request.

#### **2244 APOLOGIES**

Councillor Gilbey and Councillor Howell

#### **2245 REPORT FROM COMMUNITY POLICE**

There was no police report or attendance. Please see Appendix for report received on September 10<sup>th</sup> 2015

#### **2246 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were none

#### **2247 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>th</sup> JULY 2015**

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

#### **2248 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 14<sup>th</sup> JULY 2015 ( for information only)**

Ref. 2237 c) The paperwork for the new mandate is still with HSBC. No communication has been received by the clerk. Clerk will continue to pursue.

#### **2249 PLANNING MATTERS**

- a) Considered by Planning Group since the last meeting: DC/2015/00819, Manor View; Installation of Roof Lights.  
The Planning Group considered this application during the August recess (ref; Minute 2235 d) & recommended to other councillors by email that the Council advise MCC that the application be approved .It was agreed and the clerk has informed MCC

- 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 None
- d) Reference: Correspondence on Conservation Area Consultation Day organised by MCC Planning Department, see Minute 2256a)iii. below. The chairman and clerk attended. 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 be added. The subject will be on the agenda for the next Council meeting allowing councillors to study the subject further before to allow a Council response before the deadline of October 31<sup>st</sup>.

**2250 REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ANN WEBB**

- a) MCC Lower Wye Area Committee, 9/9/15.
- b) MCC Budget Consultation starting soon.
- c) Suggestion that planting part of verge of A466 with wild flowers be considered. Ann to discuss with Council and MCC.
- d) 7 Afghanistan interpreters who had been working with our forces have taken up the offer of accommodation within Monmouthshire.

**2251 ACCOUNTS**

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

**The overall true balance of accounts at 25<sup>th</sup> August 2015 was £11,902.91 and is made up of:**

- i) HSBC Balance
 

Account No. 70724513	£655.08
+ Account No. 41440942	£7811.18
+ Monmouthshire Building Society	£4059.90p

Ref. Cheque, value £50. Reference Minute 2237a)ii. This cheque is no longer outstanding. Payee will not be presenting it for payment as the planned project is delayed.

ii) Minus £623.25 p, comprising:

To Whom	Reference to Work Done/Expenses/salary etc.	Cheque Number	Value £
Merlin waste	Dog Bin emptying (3 calls) Paid during August recess & outstanding	101006	40.68
MCC	Playground inspection (inc £15 VAT) Paid during August recess & outstanding	101007	90.00
MCC	Outstanding to MCC for clerk's salary As per minute ref. 2237a) ii.		253.19
	Basic Payment for August		239.38

**b) Invoices/Expenses and Salary Costs presented for Authorisation and Signature of cheques, including bill paid in August recess**

To Whom	Reference to Work Done/Expenses/salary etc.	Cheque Number	Value £
Nigel Hoskins	Grounds maintenance (Paid in August & cleared)	101005	195.00
Judith Bolton	4 hours web site work £36.82 Quarterly Office Expenses £37.50 Basic salary September £239.38	<b>Paid thru MCC</b>	313.70

Judith Bolton	Postage for residents' survey	£7.56	101008	34.67
	Postage for parcel (playground spare)	£3.30		
	Engraving costs	£13.00		
	Stationary, Inc £1.52 VAT	£9.11		
	Envelopes inc 28p VAT	£1.70		
Nigel Hoskins	Grounds maintenance		<b>101009</b>	153.00
Merlin waste	Dog Bin emptying		101010	27.12
Tayman Fencing	Erection of fence at Playing Field VAT not applicable		101011	£815.00
			Total	1538.49

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

**c) Report on Audit of Annual Accounts**

The auditor, Mazars, has returned the audit with no recommendations.

**2252 TO APPOINT A CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMUNICATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP**

To be deferred to the next meeting.

**2253 HIGHWAYS GROUP REPORT**

Councillor Howells presented the report

- a) **MCC.** A number of questions, including definition of the Grange Road speed limit, are awaiting a response from MCC. As these have been outstanding for some considerable time, it was felt that the clerk should be asked to write to MCC to say that if no response was received within 7 days then the matter would have to be referred to higher level of management. Councillor Webb to progress.
- b) **Racecourse**
  - i. Following a meeting with the Racecourse on 7<sup>th</sup> August when the problem of brambles growing over the wall onto the footpath was addressed, they have been cleared.
  - ii. Traffic control during major events has been of concern and the Racecourse are very aware of this and are looking into some alternative arrangements. However, some delays and disruption are inevitable during these events.
  - iii. Use of the pedestrian crossing during minor events was also a problem, and this requires discussions with MCC. Councillor Webb to discuss
  - iv. Broken glass outside the racecourse entrance has been cleared.
- c) **Piccadilly Lane traffic.**
  - i. MCC have now provided road markings on the entrance to Wyndcliffe Court.
  - ii. Request to MCC for width of vehicle signs has been refused
- d) **Advertising Signs on A466.**  
Council has received information from MCC. Community Councils not formally engaged before decisions made. Clerk to write to express concern & ask that it be kept in touch ref. the uptake.
- e) **Speedwatch**  
This matter is proceeding in clearing volunteers' paperwork. There is a requirement to have 6 to 8 members to enable teams of 3 to be deployed.
- f) **Hedge obstructions to road signs.**  
The hedge near the 30MPH flashing signs on the A466 near the Piercefield has been cut back. The foliage obstructing the sign above Memorial Hall has also been cut.
- g) **Property on Tintern Rd.**  
Complaint from resident about vegetation obscuring view to the Penterry Lane/A466 road junction. Clerk to inform MCC Highways.

The chairman thanked Councillor Howells and the group.

## **2254 FINANCE GROUP**

No report. The group will meet before the October Council meeting

## **2255 ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION GROUP (ERAG)**

Councillor Davies presented the report:

### **a) Dog Litter Issues**

13 questionnaires had been delivered to residents in the Rogerstone Grange area, with SAE's enclosed. 6 replies received. All wished for the bin to be replaced with a preference for it to be sited a little further down the lane. New bin at cost of £280, proposed by Councillor Richards & seconded by Councillor Howells. All agreed. Councillor Richardson to confirm with residents.

### **b) Playing Field**

- i. Consensus that Tayman did a good job and that the fence is a great improvement. Redundant palisaded fence has been removed.
- ii. Willow structures: no decision to remove at this stage.
- iii. Mathern Football Club has requested the use of the field for 8 -10 adult football games per season on Saturday afternoons. Recommended that the request be met with conditions concerning the state of the pitch, parking and water supply if needed. £50 to be charged towards cutting of grass. All agreed.

### **c) KGV**

MCC Inspection items to be addressed:

- i. Train. Plywood under the stringers on boiler of engine to be reinforced with clear epoxy Nigel Hoskins to be consulted.
- ii. New gate required. Recommended that new gate be purchased/fitted to a budget of about £200. Clerk to source. Proposed by Councillor Howells and Seconded by Councillor Richardson
- iii. Councillor Bolton to level turf alongside train.
- iv. Recommended that Councillor Bolton discuss the fitting of a new carriage to the zip wire with the spares provider. New one to be purchased at a cost of £166 if discussions prove positive. Proposed by Councillor Howells and seconded by Councillor Richardson
- v. Owner of house with condemned sycamore tree is donating a replacement to be planted in the playground.
- vi. Councillor Bolton has done weekly insurance checks

### **d) CLP update for information**

- i. Litter picking team in place. Grant of £396 awarded from Keep Wales Tidy. A466, Wyndcliffe car parks and out-lying areas to be prioritised.
- ii. Community Garden. No progress as land at Piercefield not available.
- iii. 2016 Fete planned. Preferred date is July 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- iv. Speedwatch Team in place. Awaiting some DBS approvals, but could be up and running in about.3 months.

### **e) Fountain Area**

- a) Plumber not as yet re-instated water supply to one cherub. Will be reminded again, but if no response will need to approach an alternative plumber. **AB**
- b) Tree still scheduled to be pruned in November. Will need lights removing. MD has kept John Pattison informed. Final choice of pruning to be discussed with tree surgeon nearer the time.

**f) Defibrillator**

No progress so far. Councillor Kennedy has spoken with the manager of the Piercefield who is waiting on a decision from the owners, Brains.

**g) Overhanging hedges on Devauden Road**

Some residents have pruned their hedges back from the pavements. Any remaining perceived to be a problem, Councillor Bolton to contact. Meanwhile all Councillors to report back to him if they consider any hedges to be blocking pavements in the village.

**DONM**

October 6<sup>th</sup> @ 9.45am at Church House.

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

**2256 CORRESPONDENCE**

To note and consider correspondence received since the previous meeting,

a) Circulated by e mail and originating from;

- i. MCC. Ref: Lower Wye Area Committee, Mathern Village Hall, 9/9/15
- ii. MCC. Static Advertising
- iii. MCC Ref. Public Consultation on Conservation Areas
- iv. One Voice Wales ref. Training
- v. Residents ref. Interest in Co-option
- vi. Gwent Police ref. Invitation to Consultation Evening
- vii. From resident ref. fallen fruit on pavement
- viii. From resident ref. hedge obscuring drivers' vision.
- ix. Planning Aid Wales, ref. Training.
- x. Shirenewton Girl Guides. Invitation to presentation ceremony

b) Discussion with clerk: resident interested in co-option

**2257 ITEMS FOR PARISH MAGAZINE**

For next edition in October.

- a) Dog Bin
- b) Zip Wire
- c) Mathern Football Club
- d) Award picture

**2258 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was none.

**2259 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Council meeting will be on Tuesday October 13th at 7.15 pm in the Meeting Rooms.

The meeting closed at 8.48 pm

Signed: Clerk

Date

Signed: Chairman

Date

**APPENDIX**

**Police report received Wednesday September 9<sup>th</sup> 2015**

18/7/15 – Report of two garden strimmers stolen from Chepstow Racecourse.

23/7/15 – Numerous reports of unlocked vehicles entered in the St Arvans area. Some items were taken.

23/8/15 - Report of a property entered via forcing a back window in Grange Park. Keys to a silver BMW 3 series were taken and the vehicle was stolen. The keys to an Audi were taken but not the vehicle. BMW was located later that day in Caldicot along with the keys. Enquiries are on-going.

27/8/15 – Report of a vehicle being burnt out sometime overnight in the car park of St Arvans garage.