

ARVANS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF ST ARVANS COMMUNITY COUNCIL held at THE MEETING ROOMS, ST ARVANS on TUESDAY 14th OCTOBER 2014 at 7.15 pm

Present: **Chairman:** **T. Vickers**
 Councillors: **B. Howells**
 A. Bolton
 V. Kennedy
 M. Davies
 B. Howell

In Attendance:

Judith Bolton: Clerk
Councillor Ann Webb
Mr. and Mrs. A. Keeley
Mr. D. Finlay

Pre-meeting:

1. For a second year in succession, the award for the best pub in the medium-size village category of the GAVO Best Kept Village Competition 2014 was presented to Mr and Mrs Keeley, managers of The Piercefield. Councillors congratulated them, saying that their flower displays had been really lovely throughout the summer, making a really welcoming sight for residents, visitors and drivers simply passing through the village..

2) Mr David Finlay of 2, Rogerstone Cottages spoke to the Council with reference to the inappropriate use of dog bins and made suggestions as to moving one to a more appropriate position.

2079 APOLOGIES

Apologies from Councillors Gilbey and Jarrett, also Police Inspector Giles who was due to address the pre-meeting

2080 REPORT FROM PC LOUISE THORPE

Police report for the area, sent by email and covering the period: 9th September to 14th October 2014. No officer attended.

13/10 – Two sheep on the road between the Racecourse and St Arvans.

07/10 – Three 4x4 vehicles were seen driving through the forest off Penterry Lane. Vehicles were located, stopped and checked and given words of advice before being moved on their way.

29/09 – Tree blocking the lane on the road between St Arvans and Devauden. Highways dept. of MCC were contacted and staff dealt with the problem.

28/09 – People sleeping in their car in the rear car park at the Piercefield pub. All in order; they had friends staying in the B/B.

12/09 – Poor driving was reported in St Arvans. No complaint forthcoming.

The chairman expressed disappointment in their being no police presence at the meeting.

2081 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were none.

2082 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9TH SEPTEMBER 2014

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

2083 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 9TH SEPTEMBER 2014 (for information only)

a) Ref. Minute 2058b: and Minute 2068. Ref. StArbay trading post on website. Request for donations had not been forthcoming.

b) Ref. Minute 2074d) After consultation, 7 Councillors decided that a marquee should not be erected on the football field. The applicants were notified by letter.

- c) Ref Minute 2075a iii) ref. Resident's report on misuse of dog bin. The chairman visited the alleged driver of the car.
- d) Ref Minute 2075a) xviii) £30 has been received from the Wales Audit Office

2084 PLANNING MATTERS

- a) Considered by Planning Group since the last meeting:
DC/2014/01011 Replacement of roof on Wyndcliffe Court, Penterry Lane, Listed Planning Application. Council decided to recommend approval.
- 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.
There were none.
- d) Designated Landscapes Review in Wales. The group recommended that Councillors Bolton and Howell formulate a response to the Welsh Government reference this review before 5/11/14

2085 REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ANN WEBB

Councillor Webb reported on:

- a) The challenging situation facing MCC with the budget.
- b) Catchment Area Review.
- c) MCC officers, Tom James and Debbie MCarthy and Deb Hill-Howells want to talk to CCs about developing engagement and better communication.
- d) Speed limit throughout the authority to be discussed at a meeting in November.
- e) Councillor Webb had met with management of the racecourse. There will be 13 events leading up to Christmas.
- f) The chairman asked if the grass could be cut along the racecourse again before winter.

The chairman thanked Councillor Webb for her report.

2086 ACCOUNTS

a) To review the current bank balance

The overall true balance of accounts at 25th September 2014 is £13,945.78 and is made up of

- i) HSBC Balance
 - Money Manager Account £ 188.85
 - Community Account £ 9721.25
 - ii) Monmouthshire Building Society £4035.68p
- No cheques outstanding

b) To approve schedule of accounts

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 Includes repair of bollard at the fountain £45	100955	206.50
Judith Bolton	Clerks salary, SCP 18 £151.28 Stationary £8.80 4 hours web site work £36.04 ½ year contract office expenses £75.00	100956	271.12
Merlin Waste	Dog Bin emptying	100957	20.34
MCC	Treat Zip wire £91.82 (includes £15.30 total VAT)	100958	91.82
Mazars	Audit fee Includes £41.00 vat	100959	246.00
		Total	835.78

It was agreed that the above accounts be accepted and payments made. Proposed by Councillor Howells and seconded by Councillor Howell. All agreed.

2087 FINANCE GROUP REPORT

a) Review of Spend v Budget to date:

The current situation shows that spend has been £3502.05 compared with £3227.51 at the same time last year. The main additional spends are associated with Grounds Maintenance/Repairs and Maintenance of the Web Site; neither of which is unexpected.

b) Forecast Outturn at Financial Year End.

Considering last year's second half spend and committed items for this year which were not incurred last year, there is a projected overspend of £1,000 above budget. Much of this projected overspend has been incurred on major refurbishment of the equipment in the KGV and, in particular, the slide. As a result of this work, the slide is now seen as having at least 5 years life and, therefore, it is proposed that the £1,000 item in the budget, intended to add to reserves to cover the cost of replacement of the slide, should be used to cover the projected shortfall. The total spend would then be very close to budget at £9250.

c) Items to be Considered for the 2014/2015 Budget:

In general discussion, the following items were raised as possible spend areas for 2015:

- i) Reclamation of the Playing Field Garden.
- ii) Tree surgery on the tree by the Fountain.
- iii) Maintenance of the Fountain and surroundings.
- iv) Delegated responsibilities from MCC.
- v) Enhanced verge maintenance.
- vi) Outcomes from the Community Led Plan Questionnaires.
- vii) Increased hours for the Clerk.
- viii) Increased costs of contractors and services.

d) All Advisory Groups are asked to consider what spend they will require for the next budget year and to report to the chairman by 15/11/14, with cost estimates and likely timescales.

e) Potential Future Capital Spend.

Whilst the slide replacement now has a lower priority the following items for spend are under consideration:

- i) Adult Fitness Equipment for installation in the KGV (c. £10k - £12k)
- ii) Another item of play equipment (currently not costed)

2088 COMMUNICATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (C & CE) GROUP INFORMATION

The group had not met but the chairman reported to the council that the group's work would develop when the results of the CLP questionnaire were announced.

2089 HIGHWAYS GROUP REPORT

Councillor Howells presented the report.

a) Street Lighting

Mr Roger Joy attended the meeting to provide information on the MCC policy of switching some street lighting at midnight. The cost involved in providing the facility is approx. £180/lamp. Because of the budget constraints, St. Arvans lighting would not be modified within this financial year. Mr Joy was thanked by members for providing them with much useful information.

b) Flyposting Guidelines

There has been no adverse feedback as a result of the issue of the guidelines. Posters are mainly being displayed in accordance with the guidelines and usually removed following events. This topic will be raised at the next meeting with the Racecourse management.

c) Devauden Road and Grange Road. Junction Pavement.

MCC officers have been informed.

d) Potholes.

i) Porthcasseg road work has been completed.

ii) Piccadilly Lane. A resident has requested that the potholes on this lane be filled. MCC has put this work onto its potholing list.

e) A466 Proposed Footpath.

Councillor Gilbey had reported that there was no further news on this subject and that funding was still being sought by the residents' action group.

f) Speed Limit on Grange Road.

Comments have been received from residents about inappropriate vehicle speed on Grange Road. As there are no derestriction signs, it is believed that the speed limit within the village of 30mph applied but this is to be confirmed with the police.

g) Speeding

i) Data from carriageway cable monitoring and cameras had been received and Councillor Howells presented a number of graphs based on this information.

ii) Since Inspector Roland had sent apologies, the Council decided that it should invite the community police, the traffic safety adviser to the police and an officer from MCC Highways to a Highways group meeting to share the latest statistics. Clerk to organise.

The report & recommendations were accepted and chairman thanked the Highways Group.

CLERK GROUP

2090 ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION GROUP (ERAG)

Councillor Davies presented the report:

a) GAVO Best Kept Village Competition.

Councillors Davies and Vickers represented SACC at The Best Kept Village Competition awards evening, at Chepstow Garden Centre on September 14th. The Best Kept Public House was awarded to The Piercefield for the second year in succession. Judges said that St. Arvans village was the most improved in its group. The residents were congratulated on the overall appearance. The judges' comments were mainly positive and that the few negatives should be rectified before next year's entry.

b) Dog Fouling and Misuse of Dog Bins.

These remain a cause for concern. The new dog litter bin has been ordered and it is recommended that it be erected on a post adjacent to the kissing gate on Grange Rd. Approval has been obtained for this site from Oak Grove Stud.

c) KGV

i) Repair work to the 'Wigloo' has been carried out. It is recommended that Nigel Hoskins trim the hedge area left uncut by the machine

ii) Regular equipment checks have been done for insurance purposes by Councillor Bolton

iii) Rubbish Bin at the KGV. Nigel Hoskins has been asked to repair.

d) Children's Garden Behind Memorial Hall.

The garden continues to be in an overgrown state. The football club is meeting next week to discuss the situation. Councillor Webb suggested talking to MCC about a working party to tidy up the area.

e) Notice Board at Rogerstone Grange.

Following discussion, the group recommended against purchase and installation but that a virtual noticeboard be set up on the web site. Proposed by Councillor Kennedy, seconded by Councillor Bolton, all agreed.

f) Prominent hedge with brambles. Councillor Bolton to action

Next meeting: Tuesday November 4th at 9.45am at Church House.

The chairman thanked the group for the report.

2091 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 15th October

ii. MCC. Ref: Economic & Development Committee Meeting on 16th October

iii. MCC. Ref: LDP Final Publication. Hard Back Copy subsequently received

iv Resident Ref: Verbal Abuse by Another Resident

iv. Resident Ref: Publication of Photo Book

v. One Voice Wales Ref: Training

vi. One Voice Wales Ref: Cancellation of Area Committee meeting

b) By Phone;

i. Resident Ref: Inappropriate storage of garden/food waste

2092 ITEMS FOR PARISH MAGAZINE

a) MCC Budget

b) GAVO Competition Judges Comments

c) LDP

2093 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none

2094 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Council meeting will be on Tuesday November 11th at 7.15pm in the Meeting Rooms.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm

Signed: Clerk

Date

Signed: Chairman

Date