

MARSHFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on 11 July 2011 at Marshfield Village Hall, Wellfield Road, Marshfield commencing at 7:35 p.m.

Present:

Mrs S Burke (Chairperson)
Mr S Tilley
Mr K Bennett
Mr C Hemmings
Mr G Kemp-Philp
Mrs S Hood

Apologies: Mr G Ham (meeting) Mrs R Bashi (holiday)

In attendance: City Councillors R White & T Suller, PC A Walters (Gwent Police), 2 members of public, G C Thomas (Clerk)

The minutes of the monthly Council meeting held on 13 June were agreed to be a true record and signed by the Chairperson.

➤ = Letter to be Written

POLICE MATTERS

46. Update

- PC Walters told the Council that overall crime was down by 29.5% and anti-social behaviour was down by 41.7% compared to the same period last year. However, there has been a dramatic rise of scrap metals in the whole of Gwent. The Old School House had been stripped of lead during the day and PC Walters urged members of public to contact the police immediately if anything suspicious is seen. Police staff are on a rolling 24 hour rota to deal with the problem.
- Neighbourhood Watch is operating well with PCSO Joanne Lewis' assistance.
- Police are liaising with Newport City Council over fly tipping on the coast road. This, along with speeding on the coast road are the new priorities decided at the PACT meeting.
- Consultation about local police stations has ended and if Castleton Station is closed Neighbourhood Officers will be looking to set up a base in the area.
- A cannabis factory has been located in the area and people involved are due in court.
- PCSO Lewis has been in contact with the police traffic management section about traffic management at Marshfield Primary School. Councillor White said that Newport City Council's Scrutiny Committee is looking at similar problems throughout Newport. The Mini PCSO Scheme will begin in September.
- Councillor Burke asked about damage to a tree in The Meadows that had been stripped of its bark. PC Walters said this may be criminal damage.

47. NEWPORT CITY WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- A planning appeal has been received by Newport City Council in connection with the decision at The Paddocks, Coal Pit Lane.
- The pot hole noted by the community council in St Mellons Road has received attention. Councillor Hood had recently checked the area and noted a sunken drain cover.
- A review of the bus time tables posted in bus shelters will be reviewed after the Veolia issue is sorted out.
- A planning application has been received for a development in a field above Station House, just over the railway line in Coedkernew, to include places for four touring caravans, six chalets, bird watching platform and caretakers residence. The application can be inspected on line if interested.

HIGHWAY MATTERS

48. St Mellons Road Bridge

Newport City Council's Head of Streetscene wrote on 22 June to advise that further consideration will be given to the traffic management situation on the approaches to the bridge.

Councillor White said that Newport City Council had now found that signage is properly in place and feel that it is up to drivers to take due care and attention when using the bridge.

49. Electronic Speed Indicator Signs

Newport City Council's Head of Streetscene wrote on 22 June to advise that a recent inspection had found a defect only in the sign serving northbound vehicles that displayed incomplete characters, but a further inspection will be arranged and the necessary maintenance work arranged in the normal manner.

50. Parking Outside Marshfield Primary School

Councillor White said he had consulted the Head of Streetscene about suggested changes to Marshfield Road that may help with problems being encountered. Taking away the footpath opposite the school is not seen as a viable option. Statutory undertaker's equipment is sited under the footpath and the footpath on the opposite side is narrow. Part-time traffic signals outside the school is not seen to be practical.

MATTERS ARISING

51. Grit Bin St David's Court (Min 32)

Charter Housing wrote stating that they are able to install a grit bin, subject to agreement from the tenants, which would be solely for the use of tenants. The cost for the bin and the rock salt would be charged back to the tenants.

- The Council wished to put forward the suggestion that Newport City Council could be willing to top-up the grit bin with rock salt.

52. Marshfield Primary School Governor (Min 33)

The Clerk for the Governing Body stated that there is nothing to prevent the appointment of a governor who is related to a member of staff. If the governors discussed issues that may directly affect the related member of staff he should declare an interest and refrain from taking part.

53. Marshfield Primary School Asbestos (Min 34 &36)

The proposed meeting with Newport City Council was cancelled as a convenient date was not available.

- The Council noted the letters sent from Rosemary Butler AM including the details from Mr Bouvaird of Newport CC and agreed to draft a response to be sent to Newport City Council which would also ask for a meeting. A copy should be sent to Rosemary Butler.

CORRESPONDENCE

54. Resignation

A letter dated 13th June was received from Councillor Joanne Charlton who has moved out of the area and decided to resign from her seat on the council.

The Council declared a vacancy and asked for the necessary notices to be placed.

55. Castleton Playgroup

Castleton Playgroup wrote on 10th June stating that until they are able to conclude discussions about their lease within the school they are unable to commit to major expenditure on the building and will get back to the Community Council if they decide to proceed with the canopy project.

56. The Goods Yard, Marshfield

The Traffic Commissioner wrote on 14th June stating that the recent application for a goods vehicle operator's licence has now been finalised with conditions that vehicles exit onto Marshfield Road via a right turn only. Additional undertakings have been offered where vehicles shall exit Marshfield Road to the A48 via a left hand turn and, wherever possible, vehicles shall avoid travelling along Marshfield Road during the start and finish times of Marshfield J& I School.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

57. Society for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies

The Council agreed to donate £100 towards the work of the Society bearing in mind its role in the solution to the stray horse problems in the area.

58. Picnic Tables for the Village Hall area

The Council deferred this decision until more information is received from PC Walters about the possible anti-social behaviour that could result from siting the tables in the Village Hall grounds.

59. Refurbishment of Village Hall Meeting Room

Councillor Hemmings presented three quotes received by the VHMC to refurbish the larger meeting room. The Council studied the quotes and decided to recommend that the contractors are asked to make a deduction for any painting carried out by volunteers and for quotes to clarify if VAT is to be added to the final total. The agenda for the next meeting should include an item to consider the revised quotes.

60. Allotment Handbook

Councillor Kemp-Philp asked for reimbursement of £44.08 he had spent in publishing and printing 70 allotment handbooks. The Council agreed to reimburse this amount.

61. Castleton Baptist Church

The Church wrote on 16th June asking for a donation towards the upkeep of the Castleton Baptist Church graveyard. The Council agreed to donate £100.

62. Shelter Cymru

Shelter Cymru wrote asking for a donation towards its work. The Council agreed to give further consideration to this request and asked that the matter be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

63. Cheques

101155	G C Thomas – Clerk’s Salary June	£ 331.44
101156	G C Thomas – Internet Reimbursement June & July	£ 36.00
101157	G C Thomas – Clerk’s Salary July	£ 331.44
101158	G Kemp-Philp – Reimb. Allotmnt Handbook (Min 60)	£ 44.08
101159	SWHP Donation (Min 57)	£ 100.00
101160	Castleton Baptist Church Donation (Min 61)	£ 100.00

64. Painting of Galvanised Play Area Railings

The Council considered a request from the VHMC to paint the railings between the junior play area and the Village Hall car park. The Council decided that painting the galvanised railings for cosmetic reasons would result in long term maintenance issues and decided against painting.

Members noted that paint is flaking from part of the railings near car park entrance hedging at the toddler’s play area and asked the Councillor Ham check whether there are any safety issues resulting from this. The Clerk was asked to check if these railings are part of the work carried out by Wickstead Ltd.

65. Notice Board

- The Council considered the benefits of using metal posts to support a replacement notice board and decided to ask Newport City Council if they will install metal posts into the grass verge and the likely cost of doing this.

66. Planning Committee

The minutes of the Planning Committees held on 3rd June and 29th June 2011 were approved and adopted by the Council.

67. Report of Village Hall Management Committee

- The VHMC thanked the Council for its support in donating the hire of a bouncy slide to the Village Hall Fete.
- The quotes for the refurbishment of the meeting room had been dealt with above.
- Councillor Hemmings has installed an events calendar on the Marshfield Community Council website that can be used by the Village Hall Management Committee to include its forthcoming events.

68. Leisure Committee

Councillor Hemmings is waiting to arrange a meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

69. Wentloog Community Council

Councillors Julie Foster and Brian Mills of Wentloog Community Council had attended the meeting and introduced themselves to Members.

The meeting ended at 10.20 p.m.