

MARSHFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on 12 December 2011 at Marshfield Village Hall, Wellfield Road, Marshfield commencing at 7:35 p.m.

Present:

Mrs R Bashi (Chairperson)
Mrs K Evans
Mr G Ham
Mr C Hemmings
Mr K Bennett
Mr G Kemp-Philp

Apologies: Mrs S Burke (family matters) Mrs S Hood (ill) Sgt John Davies (Gwent Police)

In attendance: City Councillors R White & T Suller, Mat Sykes (Village Hall Management Committee), Alexa Hinnem and Karen Brown (Three Counties Community Play), G C Thomas (Clerk)

The minutes of the monthly Council meeting held on 14th November were agreed to be a true record and signed by the Chairperson subject to the following changes: Min 114 (paragraph one) ... thrown out. *FIVE* sites have been shortlisted.....Min 117 The Chairperson noted that a recent *Marshfield Community Council* article about the Bonfire Night event.....

➤ = Letter to be Written

136. Three Counties Community Play

The Council welcomed Alexa Hinnem (Play Project Co-ordinator) and Karen Brown (Community Play Worker) for Three Counties Communities Play project that works across Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen. The overarching aim of the project is to establish and sustain a Voluntary Sector Play Association that meets the needs of its membership. The project aims to establish a cross county Play Association, facilitate a Play Network in each county of Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen, carry out an annual audit of provision which includes parks/open spaces, childcare for school age children, community and local authority provision, uniformed groups and community centres and represent the members of the Networks at a strategic level, getting their views to the decision makers. The project is funded for four years and has just finished its first year. The Council was told that Marshfield was identified in an audit as needing more opportunities for play and the project is seeking to work with volunteers to support play for children and youths. They can support existing groups e.g. Brownies but can't provide specific training or give money, but can provide funding contacts. The project relies on donations of materials to be used in play events.

The project team will continue to communicate with the Village Hall Management Committee through Mat Sykes to assist with developing Village Hall based opportunities. The Community Council stated its support for the project.

137. Police Matters

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter dated 30th November from Superintendent David Johnson, Head of Local Policing for Newport. He has met with all Neighbourhood Team Sergeants in Newport and agreed with them that police representatives will attend Community Council meetings in person at least once in any three month period to coincide with the priority setting for that area. For meetings where the team do not attend in person, a written report on progress in dealing with

local policing priorities will be provided. Outside these arrangements staff will attend meetings on invitation to discuss specific issues of concern that Members may have.

The Council received a letter date 24th November from Inspector Neil Muirhead, Newport West, who explained that cuts in the police budget means that they are not currently recruiting police officers and have reviewed the provision of a whole range of services including police stations. Marshfield police outstation has been closed and Tredegar Park is in the process of being refurbished as a one-stop shop for a number of agencies including the police and will provide enhanced access to the officers covering the Tredegar Park and Marshfield city council wards. Since losing Neighbourhood Officers at short notice, Inspector Muirhead has been able to redeploy PC 2063 Jones from Malpas to Marshfield and has been successful in bidding for two additional PCSO's for the Newport West Neighbourhood Team. After training, a suitable candidate will be allocated to the Marshfield Ward but presently, two PCSO's from other wards have been allocated to provide cover at Marshfield and are regularly tasked to patrol outside Marshfield Primary School. Inspector Muirhead is not currently in a position to provide support to the mini-PCSO scheme. He noted that Marshfield remains one of the safest places in Newport to live with reductions this year in crime (down by 25.6%) and anti-social behaviour (down by 32%).

Councillor Suller told the Council that PC Nigel Jones has been appointed as the new Neighbourhood PC and is currently being trained.

An e-mail from Sergeant John Davies of the Newport West Neighbourhood Policing Team, dated 7th December, gave apologies for not being able to attend the Council meeting and provided an update:

- Crime and antisocial behaviour rates remain low in the Marshfield ward with 55 less reported crimes and 92 less incidents of antisocial behaviour which is encouraging.
 - There has been a large amount of targeting of the individuals responsible for the majority of this crime and ASB in Marshfield which has proved the most efficient way of dealing with the issues.
 - We are now getting increased crime in the more outlying parts of the ward and farms which we are looking at with several local and cross border police operations.
 - I am looking at trying to improve communication with the community and would be grateful for any suggestions you may have in working toward this.
 - We are currently promoting the OWL system (Online watch link) this allows us to keep people updated with relevant information to the area they live and also for a two way exchange of information between the police and the community. More information on this can be located at www.owl.co.uk
 - We are currently working with the school and the parking issues.
 - Marshfield will have a new PCSO starting in January once they come out of training and I am sure she will introduce herself at the nearest available meeting to that time.
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- The Council agreed to write to Superintendent Johnson to ask where the Marshfield Council area stands in the priority ladder. Councillor White pointed out that Marshfield ward has one of the lowest crime rates so is likely to be a lower priority. Councillor Suller suggested that the community councils in Marshfield ward should get together to arrange a base for police in the ward.
 - The Council agreed to write to Inspector Muirhead to ask how the newly trained PCSO's will travel to Marshfield and where will they be based. Inspector Muirhead should contact Mat Sykes of the Marshfield Village Hall Management Committee as they are willing to investigate the use of a room in the Village Hall for police. Also, what has happened to the Castleton Police Station, could this be used as a base for the PCSO's.

- Councillor Suller gave details of two scams involving false details of attempted parcel delivery to encourage people to phone or e-mail the hoaxer.

138. City Councillors Report

- Councillor White told the Council that a bus stop at the bottom end of Marshfield Road had been moved to a new location following complaints from nearby residents but the new location was also causing complaints. Another location is being trialled.

The Clerk reported an e-mail to the community council from Mr Garnett, living opposite the original bus stop site. Councillor White understood that Newport Transport is in touch with the resident to try to find a suitable remedy to the problem, including the potential resiting of the bus stop.

➤ The Council asked the Clerk to update Mr Garnett.

- A planning application for an incinerator at Llanwern has been received by Newport City Council.
- The planning application for the proposed Gypsy and Travellers site at Pound Hill, Coedkernew will take some time to prepare. All proposed sites will be considered at the same planning meeting so this will happen only when all sites have made an application.
- 20 MPH speed limits are enforceable by Traffic Order but the law does not allow speed signs in a 20 MPH area. Speed humps indicate the speed limit. Councillor Evans asked about widening part of Marshfield Road to assist traffic flow. Councillor White said this would be too expensive.
- Following discussion, the Council agreed to write to Newport City Council to ask what utilities are under the pavement and what is seen as the options and costings of removing a section of pavement. Also, who is pursuing a 20 MPH zone as this has not been asked for by the school or the community council.
- Councillor Bashi asked if a planning application had been submitted in connection with dumping that was occurring just inside the Wentloog area. Councillor White said that retrospective planning permission for a track and barn buildings had been granted by Newport City Council.
- The electronic speed signs on Marshfield Road were reported as faulty. Councillor White agreed to look into this but advised that telephoning the Newport CC call centre on 656656 for a quick response.
- Councillor Suller reported that he had reported the pot holes in Church Lane.
- The Council agreed to write to Newport CC to request attention to the road surface in Church Lane and for the 30 MPH speed signs to be properly erected.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

139. Zig-Zag Twister Repair (Min 115)

Councillor Ham said the zig-zag twister and the gate had been repaired.

140. Erection of Posts at Groes Corner to Prevent Parking on Land Owned by the Community Council (Min 1018)

The Council examined plans to erect posts closer together at an estimated cost of £865. A slight amendment to the positioning of the posts was agreed and the possibility of a 'No Parking' sign was considered.

The Council agreed to install the posts and to ask for a site meeting to agree the positioning before going ahead. Councillor Evans agreed to obtain a price for a 'No Parking' sign.

141. Allotment Committee Minutes (Min 129)

Councillor Hemmings said that the Allotment Committee minutes had been added to the Council's web site..

142. Hedge Cutting (Min 131)

Councillor Bashi noted that the hedges had been cut, as requested.

143. Village Hall Management Committee Representative Report (Min 132)

- Councillor Ham reported that the graffiti had been removed
- Councillor Hemmings told the Council that the Village Hall Management Committee is obtaining quotes for painting the iron railings at the entrance of the car park, around the toddler's play area.

CORRESPONDENCE

144. Village Hall Management Committee

Mr Mat Sykes, Chairman of the VHMC wrote to thank the Council for funding the refurbishment of the meeting room and the donation towards the fireworks display.

145. Royal British Legion

Mr Tony Boswell, Hon Secretary of the Marshfield & District Royal British Legion wrote on 12 November to thank the Council for its donation towards the Poppy Appeal.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

146. Precept & Concurrent Functions 2012/13

Newport City Council requested the Council's requirements for a precept for 2012/13 based on a tax base of 1459. The Clerk presented a report of the accounts to Members. The Council discussed its requirements and agreed by majority to maintain the precept at £15 to raise an amount of £21885.

Expenditure on concurrent functions relating to grass/hedge cutting of open space/play areas has increased because Newport City Council is now levying a specific charge for work previously included in centrally costed grounds maintenance.

- The Council agreed to include amounts of £14,000 for the maintenance and upkeep of community halls, £2,700 for grass/hedge cutting of open spaces/play areas and £5,000 for allotments and to write to the Head of Finance to ask that the additional grass/hedge cutting costs be taken into account to increase the amounts that would otherwise be allocated to Marshfield Community Council.

147. Donation

The request for a financial donation towards the National Eisteddfod to be held in the Vale of Glamorgan in 2012 was noted by the Council.

148. Annual Return 2010/11

The Clerk presented the Annual Return that had been examined by Mazars, the appointed external auditors. Mazars had written to report that no matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern that the relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

The Annual Return was approved by the Council and certified by the Chairperson and the Clerk for sending to Mazars for completion.

149. Wicksteed Invoice

An invoice dated 17th November detailed costs for parts and labour to repair the safety gate in the junior play area at the Village Hall, amounting to £348+VAT.

Councillor Ham told Members that the engineer's comments had led him to believe that the fault could be due to an inherent defect in part of the hydraulic system and not arising from wear & tear or misuse.

- The Council agreed not to pay the invoice but to write to Wicksteed regarding the situation.

150. Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod

A request for a donation was placed in circulation for Members to be considered at the next meeting.

151. Cheques

101180	Cancelled	
101181	Mr R Carrie - Allotment shed & key deposit refund	£ 40.00
101182	Mrs V Walker – Allotment key deposit refund	£ 12.00
101183	Pending (Min 149)	
101184	G C Thomas – Clerk's Salary, November	£ 331.44
101185	G C Thomas – Internet Reimbursement, November	£ 18.00

152. Review of Communications with Newport City Council about Asbestos in Marshfield Primary School

The Chairperson noted a letter from the community council written to Rosemary Butler AM with copies to Mr Neil Lewis, HR Manager and Mr A Bovaird, Corporate Director, Young People and Performance for Newport City Council. The letter was produced following agreement in the July 2011 Council meeting (Min 53). The Council agreed to circulate a copy of the letter to all Members.

153. Planning Committee Report

There had been no recent Planning Committee meetings but the Council agreed to consider the following planning application:

PROPOSAL: REBUILD OF EXISTING SEMI-DETACHED COTTAGE AFFECTING PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY 399/38

SITE: TYN Y NANT COTTAGE, CARDIFF ROAD, NEWPORT, NP10 8UF

Conex: 11/1242/Full

MCC Ref: 667

Observations: *As Newport City Council Planning Officers have asked the applicant to provide a tree survey to accompany the plans, which we cannot see, we are unable to comment on the application until we have seen the tree survey.*

154. Village Hall Management Committee Representative Report

There was no report.

155. Leisure Committee Report

Councillor Hemmings told the Council that the Leisure Committee had met and co-opted Mat Sykes, Chairman to Marshfield Village Hall Management Committee, onto the Committee.

The Committee is proposing to consult local residents by publicising the current options and seeking other ideas. A notice will appear in the next Marshfield Mail, the Council's website will be updated and information circulated through Marshfield Primary School and Village Hall user groups.

156. Christmas Evening

The Council agreed to pay for Members to attend an evening meal.

ANY OTHER BUSSINESS

157. Council Business E-mails

Councillor Evans noted the volume of information being sent to the Council via e-mail and asked if some form of prioritising mark could be added to e-mails sent to Members via the Clerk. The Clerk agreed to look into this.

158. Concurrent Expenditure

Councillor Kemp-Philp referred to the Concurrent Expenditure report from the Newport City Council Liaison Meeting.

159. Council Members

Councillor Kemp-Philp asked for an updated Council member list.

160. Tesco Free Bus

Councillor Bashi updated the Council on the present position.