**MARSHFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of the monthly Council Meeting held on 14th January 2025 at Marshfield Village Hall and via a Zoom video/audio conference call commencing at 7:15 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Present: Ms Cath Davis (Chairperson)

Mrs Chris Roberts

Mrs Linda Southworth-Stevens

Mr Gary Doubler

Mrs Sue Davies

Apologies: Councillor Seema Sindhakar (family), Councillor Lee Colvin (ill), Councillor Ross Maidment (family)

In attendance: One member of public, Councillor Rhian Howells (Newport City Council), PCSO Huw Moses (Gwent Police), G C Thomas (Clerk)

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| **218. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**  There were no interests declared.  **219. RECRUITMENT OF COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS**  Advertisements had been posted in notice boards, council website and Facebook. Also, Councillors had made approaches by word of mouth to residents who may be interested in becoming a Member of the Council. At present, no candidates have come forward.  **POLICE MATTERS**  220. Police Statistics  PCSO Huw Moses discussed the statistics that had been issued for December. The Council had not received statistics for October and November.  221. Police Surgeries and Attendance to Council Meetings  Councillor Davis told the Council about a meeting with Sergeant Chris Johnson concerning police presence. City Councillor Rhian Howells said that NCC ward surgeries were not as effective without a police presence. The Council discussed the location and benefits of police surgeries.  ***The Council resolved to write to Marshfield Village Hall Management Committee to book the meeting room for the first Sunday every month between 10:00 am and 11:30 am to allow a definite arrangement for a police surgery to benefit local residents.***  **222. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**  There was nothing to bring up under this item  **223. Minutes of the Last Meeting.**  The minutes of the Council meeting held on 10th December 2024 were confirmed as a true record and adopted by the Council.  **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING**  224. Street Lighting Pentwyn Terrace (Min 201)  Councillor Doubler confirmed that the street lights were still not timed properly and agreed to pass the details on to Councillor Rhian Howells who will take up the matter with Newport CC.  225. Replacement Gate - Village Hall Playing Fields (Min 209)  The new gate had been installed. Councillor Southworth-Stevens agreed to check with Newport City Council Rights of Way officers about the gate to the footpath.  226. Allotment Costs (Min 210)  Councillor Southworth-Stevens had ordered one skip for the Marshfield Road site.  227. School Admissions Consultation - Community Engagement (Min 216)  The school admissions consultation is being undertaken by Newport City Council.  ***Councillor Davis agreed to add this to a Facebook message.***  **NEWPORT CITY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT**  228. Budget 2025/26  Councillor Howells told the Council that Newport CC had received a better rate than expected rate support grant settlement from Welsh Government and is due to increase council tac by 6.7%. However, there was still a £4.3 million budget gap which could be addressed by cuts to some services and increases in fees. Cleaning and grass cutting are to be improved.  In the Tredegar Park and Marshfield Ward, the closure of the Tredegar House library is planned to save costs. There are representations to keep this facility and residents and the Community Council can offer observations via the online budget consultation exercise being undertaken by Newport CC.  ***The Council resolved to send its objections to this closure and to publish details of the consultation on the Council website for resident’s information.***  229. Ward Surgery  A Tredegar Park & Marshfield Ward surgery will be held in Duffryn on 27th January.  230. Planning Enforcement  Ward councillors had met with planning enforcement officers and received an update on the present position for Church Lane and caravans sited at Broadway.  231. Litter Picking  Councillor Davis referred to a local voluntary fly tipping and litter picking event held last Saturday along roads including Marshfield Road, St Mellons Road, Wellfield Road and Ty Mawr Lane, when 40 bags of litter were collected. Councillor Davis asked Councillor Howells if Newport City Council could increase its litter picking service to the area.  Councillor Howells took the details and advised that NCC Cabinet Member Councillor Yvonne Forsey can receive details of litter issues.  *(Councillor Howells left the meeting)*  **FINANCIAL MATTERS**  232. Notice Boards  The Council wished to add this to the agenda for the next meeting.  233. Payments and Invoices  ***The Council agree to pay the following charges:***  Newport City Council – Village Hall Ground Maintenance - £2085.01  Country Timbers – Supply and fit 7 bar gate to Village Hall field - £279.39  G Thomas- Reimbursement of stamps, stationery costs - £19.74  G Thomas – Reimbursement for Zoom subscription January - £15.59  234. Bank  16.1.25 Online payment - G Thomas Salary & Travel December - £987.52  16.1.25 Online payment – HMRC Paye/NIC December - £315.31  16.1.25 Online payment – G Thomas – Zoom subscription January - ££15.59  16.1.25 Online payment – G Thomas - Internet reimbursement - £18.00  16.1.25 Online payment – Newport City Council – V Hall ground maintenance - £2085.01  16.1.25 Online payment – Country Timbers – Gate to Village Hall field - £279.39  16.1.25 Online payment – G Thomas – Reimbursement - stamps & stationery - £19.74  **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**  235. Church Lane Plot 5  The new tenant had written concerning the condition of the Council shed being offered to rent. ***Councillor Southworth-Stevens agreed to inspect the shed and report back to the Council.***  236. Marshfield Road Plot 62b  The tenant of plot 62b wrote to ask if an adjoining plot was being worked as she was willing to take this on in addition to the existing plot.  ***The Council agreed to write to the tenant of plot 62a to check if is still being worked or if they wish to give it up.***  237. Allotment Rent Invoices  The Clerk reported that 55 invoices for rent for 2025 had been issued to tenants, 10 of these had no charge for 2025 as the first year was free due to the condition of the plot. At present, 26 payments had been received.  **238. COUNCIL WEBSITE**  Christopher Harris from 'Our Living Levels' had looked at the MCC website free of charge and made some adjustments. Members viewed the amended website and were happy with the changes and thanked Mr Harris for his assistance.  **PLANNING MATTERS**  239. Solar Farm Wentlooge  ***PEDW had requested further comments on the proposed development. The Council approved and adopted the following comments which had been sent on 13th January to meet deadlines.***    **Application CAS-01772-Z5P5D2**  **Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) (‘the 1990 Act’) The Developments of National Significance (Wales) Regulations 2016 (as amended) (‘the DNS Regulations’) The Developments of National Significance (Procedure) (Wales) Order 2016 (as amended) (‘the DNS Procedure Order’) The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 (as amended) (‘the EIA Regulations’)**  **Application by: Wentlooge Farmers’ Solar Scheme Limited Site address: Land on the Wentlooge Levels to the West of Hawse Lane and the South of the Cardiff to Newport railway line Proposed development: Erection of a Renewable Energy Hub comprising ground mounted solar panels and battery storage units (160 units) with a combined installed generating capacity of up to 125MW, underground cabling, grid connection hub, associated infrastructure, landscaping and environmental enhancements for a temporary period of 40 years.**  With reference to your correspondence dated 19th November 2024 concerning the above application; Marshfield Community Council wishes to forward the following submission in connection with the new information submitted by the developer.   * The St Brides SSSI interconnects with the entire landscape of the Wentlooge Level and beyond; all waterways or reens cannot be considered in isolation. The landscape contributes, forms and sustains the ecosystems within it and the surrounding reens. The Llanwern solar development has proved to have polluted the surrounding reens resulting in a catastrophic drop in biodiversity on that SSSI site. * It is not clear what year the bird population totals for the Severn estuary were taken; it appears to be around 2019. If this is the case the bird populations recorded in the 2024 sample does not provide an accurate representation of the overall Severn Estuary populations. * The Llanwern solar development has led to the local extinction of the lapwing population, 90% drop in Bat activity and pollution of the reens surrounding the site (and beyond). * The developer states that they will not damage the reens at the St. Brides site, but has also stated that they will be building new bridges over the reens on the site; this is a contradiction of the mitigation. They also state that the reens are not in good condition thus qualifying permission of the solar development; what is needed is better management of the reens. * 11.9.14 'The proposed scheme will reverse the degradation of the SSSI by taking the land out of intensive farming use'   i.e. by removing grazing animals this will reduce soil compaction and improve filtration; but the site will have heavy construction equipment, burying cables and inserting concrete in the soil, so the project will increase compaction and reduce filtration far more than any grazing animals.   * Any biodiversity improvements by solar farms have been on ‘brown field sites’ and not SSSI’s; the Llanwern solar development has shown that biodiversity will be reduced, potentially on a catastrophic level. * The application will cause loss and damage to the habitat for significant species such as Lapwing, Bats and the Shrill Carder Bee. As a statutory designation site there is a legal requirement for the area to be managed as its designation states. * It is known that solar developments are a major threat of habitat loss on the Gwent Levels. * The 40 year plan for the site means that the site will be polluted and damaged over that time and will not be able to be returned to its current state. * The mitigation schemes from the Llanwern Solar development for species has been shown to have failed and as the applicant is planning to use the same mitigation measures at the St Brides application, this fails the requirement of Planning Policy Wales.   **CORRESPONDENCE**  240. Marshfield Magpies – Litter Pick Bags  Caroline Antoniou of Marshfield Magpies had written on 6th January concerning an issue with red bags given to community groups and litter champions by Keep Wales Tidy.  ***The Council agreed to write to Keep Wales Tidy to ask them to investigate any misuse of the bags.***  ***The Clerk reminded all Councillors of the requirement to observe the Code of Conduct at all times.***  ***The Council asked the Clerk to reply to Caroline Antoniou.***  241. Christmas Tree  2  ***The Council wished to thank TR33 for their assistance in providing and erecting a Christmas tree for the community***.  **242. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT**  Councillor Davis had met with Thea Evans and had taken a draft questionnaire about youth engagement to be circulated for completion by youths. Ms Evans was willing to assist with the circulation of the questionnaire.  ***The Council agreed with the details of the draft questionnaire and that it should be used as planned***  **243. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**  Councillor Davis told the meeting that an article had been prepared for the village magazine which had just been issued.  **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**  244. Community Council Chairs Meeting  Councillor Davis told Members that the last local community council chairs meeting had been attended by Councillor Allan Screen and Sergeant Chris Johnson when police issues were discussed with a positive outcome. Members should let Councillor Davis know if there are any items for the agenda of future meetings.  245. One Voice Wales  Councillor Roberts reported on the One Voice Wales Monmouthshire/Newport Area Committee meeting. A police officer had attended and gave positive information. Future meetings planned to involve Chris Harris. Programme Manager for the Gwent Levels and Steve Morgan of Natural Resources Wales.  246. Bird Boxes  Councillor Roberts is hoping to buy more boxes for schools and community groups using the money donated for this project.  **Meeting Closed 20:57** | **Actions**  **GT**  **RH**  **LS-S**  **CD**  **GT**  **LS-S**  **GT**  **GT**  **GT**  **CD** |