**MARSHFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of the monthly Council Meeting held on 11th February 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

Fr Ross Maidment

Mr Lee Colvin

Mr Gary Doubler

Mrs Sue Davies

Apologies: Councillor Seema Sindhakar (family), Councillor Gary Doubler (ill), Councillor Sue Davies (family)

In attendance: One member of public, Councillor Trevor Watkins (Newport City Council), PCSO 360, PCSO 409 (Gwent Police), G C Thomas (Clerk)

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| **247. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**  Councillor Colvin declared an interest in the Save Six Bells campaign.  Councillor Maidment declared an interest in St Mary’s Church.  **248. POLICE MATTERS**  The following matters were discussed with the police officers in attendance:  Dangers in the location of a burger bar.  Parking outside Marshfield Primary School blocking residents’ property – Residents should complain to the police.  Sling shot investigation.  HGV’s using Marshfield Road – The DVSA and NCC Highways should assist with this issue.  Anti-social behaviour in Marshfield Village Hall car park -Police will patrol the area but reports including vehicle registration numbers will be helpful.  *(Councillor Southworth-Stevens joined the meeting)*  Car transported parking near shop on Marshfield Road taking up parking places.  Nitrous oxide containers.  Vehicles speeding on coast road.  Off road bikes on sea wall.  **249. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**  The Home Manager for Orbis Care home at the Old Vicarage, Marshfield addressed the Council to describe the business of the organisation and how they wished to promote independence and integration of the people living there within the community.  **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEEETING**  250. Street Lighting Pentwyn Terrace (Min 224)  Councillor Watkins had no further information and will bring the matter up with Newport CC.  251. Replacement Gate - Village Hall Playing Fields (Min 225)  Councillor Southworth-Stevens is still in communication with Newport City Council Rights of Way officers about the gate to the footpath.  252. Newport CC Budget 2025/26 (Min 228)  Councillor Watkins told the meeting that Newport City Council cabinet will meet tomorrow to make a final decision on the budget. Including the future of the library in the grounds of Tredegar House.  253. Marshfield Magpies – Litter Pick Bags (Min 240)  The Clerk had replied to Marshfield Magpies and written to Keep Wales Tidy. A reply from the East Wales Area Manager of keep Wales Tidy dated 4th February had described how Litter Champions are provided with a handbook and given induction training and gave further details on how the matter was being dealt with, including a meeting with Newport City Council.  **254. NEWPORT CITY COUNCILLORS’S REPORT**  Councillor Trevor Watkins addressed the Council.  Newport City Council budget for 2025/26 is to be put to the cabinet for a final decision.  Coast road management requests near St Brides Village Hall.  Ward Councillors visit to Bryn Ivor residential home.  Newport Bus timetables. Some will be changed in March. Councillor Roberts asked for copies to be displayed in bus stops and shops.  Councillor Watkins has been seconded to the Internal Drainage Board.  Councillor Davis enquired about the litter bin removed from Groes Corner as Newport CC had stated that there were no plans to remove the bin.  Councillor Davis told the meeting about fly tipping at Church Lane, Coedkernew to the LG Roundabout and also on Ty Mawr Road. The area needs litter picking.  Councillor Watkins took the details to make enquiries with Newport CC.  Councillor Colvin told the meeting about white lines peeling off the road surface at Broadway and the poor condition of roads after inadequate repairs.  **255. COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATION - SIX BELLS CAMPAIGN**  *(Councillor Colvin declared an interest in this matter)*  Councillor Davis explained that there had been a suggestion that local community councils could get together to apply for a community fund loan to assist the Six Bells Campaign.  ***Councillor Roberts proposed that Councillor Davis attends a meeting to find out more about this and feeds back to the Council. This was seconded by Councillor Southworth-Stevens and unanimously agreed***.  **FINANCIAL MATTERS**  256. St Mary’s Cemetery Maintenance – Donation Request  The Secretary of St Mary’s Church emailed on 16th January to seek Marshfield Community Council's support by contributing £1100 towards the maintenance of St Mary's Churchyard. He provided details of how the churchyard plays a vital role in the life of the community and how they are working hard to ensure it remains accessible, welcoming and sustainable for future generations. The grounds have been maintained by volunteers; however these volunteers are no longer able to continue due to age and health, and this has prompted the church to review and formalise its approach to maintenance.  *(Councillor Ross Maidment declared an interest in this matter)*  The Council asked Councillor Maidment to provide further details about the request and he explained how a recent grant is being used for ecology and biodiversity projects and that there is a need for community engagement to enlist support for ground maintenance.  *(Councillor Maidment left the meeting)*  The Council discussed the application and considered legal advice The Council regarded the churchyard as an open cemetery. Further, the Council took regard to the Local Government Act 1894 that prohibits the community council from involvement in property relating to the affairs of the church, including the maintenance of land or contributing to the costs. The Council took the view that later legislation that may be considered to allow incurring such costs are of a general nature and are overridden by the specific 1894 Act which would make any decision to contribute to the costs ultra vires.  ***Councillor Colvin proposed that whilst the Council is not in a position to help with the costs of maintenance, it accepts the value of the churchyard and sympathises with the predicament to find the funds to continue its upkeep. This being so, the Council would be willing to consider other assistance that may help with finding a solution to the present position. This was seconded by Councillor Southworth-Stevens and unanimously agreed.***  *(Councillor Maidment rejoined the meeting)*  Councillor Watkins referred to the Welsh Church Fund that could help with these costs.  257. Notice Boards  This matter was carried over to the next meeting.  258. Payments and Invoices  The Council agreed the following payments and invoices:   * G Thomas – Reimbursement of Zoom subscription February - £15.59 * L Southworth-Stevens – Reimbursement allotment key deposit refund + Allotment payment receipt book. £11.49. * Morgan’s Joinery – Supply 64 bird boxes - £368.64 * C Davis – Milage June-2024 -February 2025 – 241.4 @40p per mile - £96.56 * C Davis – Reimbursement for Stationery - £7.98 * Morgan’s Joinery – Supply 64 bird boxes £368.64   259. Bank Payments  12/02/2025 - CATHERINE DAVIS MILAGE + STATIONARY - £104.54  12/02/2025 - MORGANS JOINERY BIRD BOXES TIMBER - £368.64  12/02/2025 - HMRC PAYE/NIC - £315.11  12/02/2025 – G THOMAS - CLERKS SALARY & TRAVEL January - 987.72  12/02/2025 - G THOMAS - INTERNET REIMBURSEMENT - £18.00  12/02/2025 - G THOMAS - ZOOM REIMBURSEMENT - £15.59  **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**  260. Invoices  The Clerk reported that most tenants had paid their plot rent apart from four that remined outstanding. Several recent tenants were not due to pay rent until 2026. Reminders would be sent to the four tenants due to pay.  261. Management  Councillor Southworth-Stevens will check the position with the shed on vacant plot 45MR and the condition of the shed on plot 5 C.  The tenant of plot 62a had confirmed that she is continuing her tenancy and it is not available to let.  A new application for an allotment has been received. Councillor Southworth-Stevens will arrange to meet the applicant on site to view vacant plots.  **PLANNING MATTERS**  262. Planning Application Observations  The Council considered a response to Newport City Council on the following planning application:  MCC 1024  Conex 25/0023  Proposal: Outline Application for Proposed Demolition of Commercial Building and Construction of Residential Development.  Site: Red Barn, Wellfield Road, Marshfield, CF3 2UB  ***Members agreed that Councillor Southworth-Stevens should look at the details of the application and recommend observations to be returned to Newport City Council.***  **CORRESPONDENCE**  263. Buckingham Palace Garden Party  One Voice Wales emailed on 28th January with details of this year’s Garden Party and invited the Council to nominate a Member of the Council to go into the draw for an invitation.  ***No Members wished to be nominated.***  264. Castleton Baptist Church Cemetery Lych Gate/Bus Shelter  The deacon of Castleton Baptist Church emailed Newport City Council and Marshfield Community Council on 31 January about maintenance of the construction and ownership of the building.  The Community Council discussed the matter and wished to reply stating that there is no change to the decision stated in its letter to Rev De Lima, dated 17th January 2023, that it has no responsibility for the structure and cannot contribute to the cost of any repairs.  The Community Council wished to confirm that it has made representations to Newport City Council for a new bus shelter to be erected away from the lych gate and understands that this has been accepted and added to their list of new shelters to be installed in the future.  **265. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT**  Councillor Davis provided details of a questionnaire to be added to the Council website, aimed at youths, for the Council to discover what the young people of our community would like to see in their villages.  ***Some questions were raised concerning data protection regulations. Councillor Davis will consider further action.***  **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**  266. Articles for Village Magazine  The Council suggested the following matters: Allotment vacancies, St Mary’s Church events, bird boxes, Save the Six Bells Campaign, councillor vacancies, Village Hall events.  267. Village Hall Warm Hub  Councillor Roberts reported that the Warm Hub had an initial low attendance and it was expected to take a while for word to get around to boost attendance.  **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**  268. Village Hall Representative  Councillor Roberts will deputise for Councillor Southworth-Stevens at the next Village Hall Management Committee meeting. Councillor Southworth-Stevens advised on ongoing issues including anti-social behaviour in the grounds and locking the car park gate.  269. Bird Boxes  Councillor Roberts told Councillors that Girl Guides are interested in participating in the bird box project but nothing heard from the local Scouts yet. Councillor Maidment advised that the church youth group would be interested.  270. Minor Authorities Representative – Marshfield Primary School Governors  Councillor Maidment had attended the school governors meeting, filling the minor authorities representative’s seat. He passed on thanks for the donation towards parking control aids which are making a positive difference to this problem  **Meeting closed 21:55** | **Actions**  **TW**  **LSS**  **TW**  **CD**  **GT**  **LS-S**  **GT**  **CD**  **CD** |