

Minutes of Caldicot Town Council held at 6.30pm on Wednesday, 25th January 2012 at Caldicot Town Council.

Present: Cllrs: M Stevens, Mayor
A Easson [left 7.40pm]
W Conniff
D Evans
K Harris
E Harvey [left 8.10pm]
J Haskey [left 7.35pm]

R J Higginson
A Lloyd
A Perrett
R Stewart
P Watts
S Webb

[In attendance: Mrs G McIntyre, Clerk, Mrs A Sandiford, Members of Public, Press]

The Mayor opened the meeting and wished everybody a belated 'Happy New Year'.

8777 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs D Ashwin and V Lloyd

8778 Declarations of Interest – To be identified under the relevant item/Forms to be completed

Cllr W Conniff declared an interest in Min 8785(c)

Cllr D Evans declared an interest in Min 8782(2) (3) (8) (18) Min 8784 and Min 8785(c)

Cllr K Harris declared an interest in Min 8782(6) (18) and Min 8787(a) (b)

Cllr R J Higginson declared an interest in Min 8782(3) (8)

Cllr M Stevens declared an interesting Min 8782(6) (18) and Min 8787(b)

Cllr R Stewart declared an interest in Min 8784

Cllr P Watts declared an interest in Min 8782(18) and Min 8787 (b)

Further declarations of interest to be identified under the relevant item.

8779 Open Forum for Public Participation [max 30 mins at Mayor's Discretion]

The following items were raised during the public open forum:

- Objections to proposals for re-siting pedestrian crossing along B4245 near to the junction of Shakespeare Drive
- Adoption/lighting issues re: Phase 4 Castle Lea development - **It was agreed to write to Mon CC to express residents' concerns in this matter**

8780 To Approve the Minutes of Full Town Council Meeting 30th November 2011 [Circ]

The Minutes were approved as a true record subject to the following amendment:

- Page 5 Min 8770(ii) - **delete** "Cllr Harvey requested clarification in relation to Town Council's decision to reduce the precept and top up funds from reserves." **insert** Cllr E Harvey asked the question "How much had he saved on Band 'D' in Caldicot on last year and the year before?"

a) Mayor to Sign the Minutes

The Mayor signed the Minutes.

8781 To Approve the Minutes of Planning & Resources Committee 13th December 2011 [Circ]

The Minutes were approved as a true record subject to the following amendment:

- Page 2 Item 6(vi) - **delete** "Abergavenny" **insert** "Llangollen"

a) Mayor to Sign the Minutes

The Mayor signed the Minutes.

8782 Correspondence [Circulated unless marked*]

- * **(1) Girlguiding UK** **To Note Appreciation for Donation £500**

Town Council noted an appreciation for £500 donation from Girlguiding UK

- * **(1a) Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru** **To Note Appreciation for Donation £100**

Town Council noted an appreciation for £100 donation from Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru

- * **(1b) Abergavenny Eisteddfod** **To Note Appreciation for Donation £100**

Town Council noted an appreciation for £100 donation from Abergavenny Eisteddfod

- * **(1c) Bobath Children's Therapy Centre** **To Note Appreciation for Donation £300**

Town Council noted an appreciation for £300 donation from Bobath Children's Therapy Centre

- * **(1d) Llangollen Eisteddfod** **To Note Appreciation for Donation £50**

Town Council noted an appreciation for £50 donation from Llangollen Eisteddfod

- * **(1e) Caldicot & District Chamber of Commerce** **To Note Refund £2,000 Donation [Fireworks]**

Town Council noted refund of £2,000 donation from Caldicot & District Chamber of Commerce.

- (2) Mon CC** **To Note Response re: FP28, Castle Park School**

Town Council noted the response from Mon CC in relation to Footpath 28, Castle Park School and agreed to await further update in this matter following a proposed meeting of Castle Park School Governors with a Mon CC Officer.

- (3) Mon CC** **To Note Response re: Caldicot School and Fields**

Town Council noted the response from Mon CC advising it is beginning the procedure of appointing a developer/operator for the foodstore and that Caldicot School remains top priority for investment amongst Monmouthshire secondary schools.

- (4) Mon CC** **To Note Response re: Cars Parking at Deepweir**

Town Council noted the response from Mon CC in relation to cars parking at Deepweir and that Caldicot Police were aware of no issues in that area at present.

- (5) Mon CC** **Monmouthshire LDP 2011 – 2021 –
Alternative Sites Representations**

Town Council considered Notice of Site Allocation Representations on Monmouthshire LDP 2011-2021.

It was resolved to make the following comments in relation to Caldicot:

- **Land at Garthalan Drive - No objections**
- **Land opposite Brooklands Motel - No objections**
- **Re: ASN 061 – Land off Church Road – Object on the following grounds:**
 - **Access issues**
 - **Site is too Close to the roundabout**
- **Re: ASN071 – Land off Church Road – Object on the following grounds:**
 - **Abutting development at Neddern Rise would impact on the landscape overlooking the Neddern**

Town Council considered correspondence from Mon CC advising of a meeting arranged to finalise proposed changes and additions to the existing crossing facilities on the B4245 through Caldicot.

A discussion ensued in relation to the new proposed crossing near to the junction of Shakespeare Drive and Members considered comments, photographs and objections made by members of the public in the Public Open Forum.

The County Councillor for West End advised the meeting of a further meeting to take place in February to which local residents, Ward Members and County Councillors would be invited.

It was resolved to write to Mon CC to request the installation of the proposed crossing near to the junction of Shakespeare Drive does not go ahead until further consultation has taken place.

Cllr K Harris declared an interest in this item and left the room.

(7) Welsh Government

**Re: The M4 Corridor Enhancement Measures –
Steelworks Access Road Phase 2**

Town Council considered correspondence from Welsh Government in relation to proposed M4 Corridor Enhancement Measures – Steelworks Access Road Phase 2.

It was resolved to reiterate Town Council's previous decision to support the proposed enhancement measures subject to it not being detrimental to Caldicot gaining a junction to M48.

(8) Monmouthshire Housing Association

**To Note Response re: Environmental Estate
Improvements**

Town Council noted the response from MHA stating it has always been the practice (even when the stock was managed by MCC) to ask, where appropriate, owner occupiers who will benefit from improvements to contribute on a pro rata basis.

(9) Mon CC

Re: Wales Coast Path Opening Event 5.5.12

Town Council considered correspondence from Mon CC advising that the Welsh Government is planning three key events in Flint, Cardiff and Aberystwyth on 5.5.12 to open the entire Wales Coast Path.

A discussion ensued and it was stated that this was an opportunity to further tourism in the area.

It was resolved to refer this item to Caldicot Events Group via Cllr D Evans.

(10) Network Rail

Re: Change to Caldicot Level Crossing

Town Council considered correspondence from Network Rail advising of an ongoing £450m re-signalling scheme in the South Wales and bordering area to include Caldicot level crossing changing from being manually operated with a crossing keeper to manually operated with CCTV.

It was resolved to request an assurance from Network Rail that safety is not compromised by the changes in view of the railing line being a very busy line.

It was resolved that Members submit any comments on the above consultation to the Clerk by 10.2.12.

(12) Veolia Environment Services

Re: Proposed Energy Recovery Facility with the Llanwern Steelworks Complex

Town Council considered correspondence from Veolia Environmental Services advising that a planning application has been submitted to Newport City Council for the development of an Energy Recovery Facility [ERF) within the site of Llanwern Steelworks complex.

Town Council agreed for a Member to read out a list of 14 reasons for objecting to the proposed facility, a copy of which was handed to the Clerk.

A discussion ensued and it was queried if the proposed energy recovery facility would be any more detrimental to health and the environment than the current steelworks plant. The issue of flooding was also queried

It was considered that Town Council should await consultation on this matter from Mon CC until a Member referred to the imminent closing date for consultation.

It was resolved to write to Newport City Council to object to the planning application on the following grounds:

- **The application site is only yards from one Site of Special Scientific Interest and is very close to 3 others. Contamination of this delicate protected area with toxic emissions via the burning process and the toxic ash waste products could be irreversible.**
- **Toxins released onto farmland absorbed into cattle and the food chain represents an unacceptable impact to health.**
- **The HPA admits there is a risk to health. It is unacceptable to expose residents and wildlife to this level of pollutants.**
- **The proximity to schools, and infants' nurseries, a new housing estate, as well as the densely populated village of Underwood is unacceptable in terms of the possible health impacts from incineration.**
- **The Gwent Levels is designated as having historical landscape importance. An incinerator with a 50 to 60 metre high chimney stack will have a large negative visual impact on the landscape and is unacceptable.**
- **The application is in contravention of TAN 21 which says that waste should be treated within the area in which it is produced.**
- **The area has a history of flooding which will increase the risk and effects of toxins through run-off and drainage entering the sensitive local reed system of the Levels.**
- **No amount of mitigation will lessen the impact on rare species of wildlife. Once impacted they are impacted.**
- **The proposed increase in heavy traffic would serve only to put further pressure on the road system in a rural area further decreasing the quality of the air throughout the area, and increasing greenhouse gases.**
- **The application goes against the Newport Community Strategy 2010-2011 in terms of better quality of life by increasing pollutants in the area.**

- **The resulting increase of poor health would be an unacceptable burden on the NHS.**
- **While there is a need for waste treatment facilities in South East Wales, there is not a need for an incinerator. There are much more cost-effective, adaptable, less polluting and less climate-changing ways to treat our waste.**
- **Waste is evidence of mistake. The £1.1 billion allocated to Prosiect Gwyrdd should be used to minimize the creation of waste products and maximize recycling.**
- **Recycling a plastic water bottle saves 26 times more energy than burning it in an electricity producing incinerator. Choosing to burn poisons the air we breathe and destroys the potential of the next generation to reuse what we could not.**

8782 (12a) Stop Newport Incinerator Campaign Group Re: (12)

See (12) above

(13) Cotyledon CIC

Re: Monmouthshire Visitor Signing Project

Town Council considered correspondence from Cotyledon CIC emphasising the findings of an audit of visitor signage around the town and a survey for Caldicot.

It was resolved:

- i) to request better signage to the Town Centre and the Castle**
- ii) to point out that the fingerpost sign outside Waitrose was pointing in the wrong direction.**

(14) Welsh Government

Proposal to Alter the Date of Local Government Elections in Wales Response by 12.3.12

Town Council resolved to support the Welsh Government proposal to delay elections to county and county borough councils and town and community councils by one year from May 2016 to May 2017.

(15) Mon CC

Response re: s106 monies

Town Council considered a response from Mon CC in relation to s106 monies.

It was resolved to refer the correspondence to Town Council's Play Working Party

(16) MCC

Re: copy letter young person re: Skatepark

Town Council considered correspondence from Mon CC enclosing a letter from an 8 year old child, requesting an additional skatepark in Cas Troggy park.

It was resolved to acknowledge the correspondence and refer it to Town Council Play Working Party

(17) Mon CC

Review of Markets – Caldicot Market

Town Council noted a copy of the Cabinet Report in respect of the review of Caldicot market.

(18) Caldicot Community Carnival Committee Re: Queen's Diamond Jubilee – see also 11b

Town Council considered correspondence from Caldicot Community Carnival Committee stating it had offered to take the lead in organising an event to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on Tuesday 5.6.12 and requesting a donation of £5,000.

It was stated that Town Council had allocated £2,000 in Estimates for the “carnival” event.

It was resolved to agree in principle to a donation of £5,000 towards an event for the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee, subject to further information and application via Town Council’s s137 Grant Policy.

Cllrs W Conniff, D Evans, K Harris, M Stevens and P Watts declared an interest in this matter.

8783 Publications, Minutes, Etc [Displayed] – To Note available Town Council Office	
[A]NALC	DIS Issues 772/774/775/LCR – Winter 2011
[B]National Assembly for Wales	Consultation on Local Government Byelaws (Wales) Bill/One Voice Wales Response
[C]Firebrake Wales (JAG)	Wales Arson Reduction Strategy 2012-2015
[D]One Voice Wales	Fire & Rescue National Framework 2012
[E] Clerks & Councils Direct	Onwards/Area Meeting Agenda/Minutes 12.1.12
[F] SLCC	January 2012
[G]National Association of Councillors	The Clerk January 2012
[H]Mon CC	Agenda 28.1.12
[I] Mon CC	Budget Consultation Meeting Agenda
[J] Mon CC	18.1.12/Sevenside Area Cttee Ag/Mins 18.1.12
	Re: Chepstow Rail Line Studies Consultation
	CCTV Monitoring Statistics Nov/Dec 2011

Town Council noted Publications [A] to [J] above, available in Town Council office.

8784 Planning [Displayed]

A) Planning Applications Received

DC/2011/01222: Proposed detached garage at rear of property – 5 Greenfield, Caldicot

TC Approved

B) Mon CC Planning Information

i) Planning Committee Agendas 13.11.11, 17.1.12 – For Information

Town Council noted the above planning information from Mon CC.

8785 Finance [Circ]

a) To Approve Financial Comparisons, 1.10.11-31.12.11, 1.4.11-31.12.11

Town Council resolved to approve Financial Comparisons, 1.10.11-31.12.11, 1.4.11-31.12.11

b) To Approve Updated Cheque List Schedule December/January 2012

Town Council resolved to approve the Updated Cheque list as circulated

c) To Approve Payment of £5,000 towards summer playscheme 2011 [NB: Reminder received 4.1.12] – Report summary attached

Town Council resolved to approve payment of £5,000 to Mon CC for summer playscheme 2011

8786 Members Items of Business [Circ]

i) Cllr R J Higginson – Public Spiritness by Young People.

Cllr Higginson requested Town Council support in honouring the efforts of five young persons following a serious incident in the town, which helped save the life of a local resident.

It was resolved

- a) **that Members submit their suggestions for wording of the Certificate to Planning & Resources Committee for consideration**
- b) **to present Maurice Chambers, Hollie Hughes, Rhys Jones, Tim Park, and Bradley Thomson, with Town Council Crest and Certificate at Town Council meeting 29.2.12 and to invite the press and police.**

Cllr A Easson declared an interest in this matter

ii) Cllr K Harris – a) Re: Proposed Crossing in West End

Cllr K Harris withdrew this item from the agenda.

b) Cllr K Harris – Re: Caldicot Castle - Post of Manager

Cllr Harris requested an updated in relation to management of the Castle catering contract.

It was resolved to invite Paul Matthews and Kelly Beirne, MCC to update Town Council on the proposals for the Castle for the next year.

Cllr A Easson declared an interest in this matter

iii) Cllr E Harvey – Re: Town Council Precept

a) MCC Council Tax Precept Advice 2012/13/Previous Years Tax Bases –For Information

Cllr Harvey requested information on savings for residents of ‘Band D’ in relation to 2010/11 and 2011/12 recognising that the figures for 2012/13 would not be available until February 2012.

Town Council’s decision to lessen the burden on the tax payer of Caldicot by reducing the amount of precept requested by £14,000 from its reserves was again explained to Cllr Harvey.

Cllr Harvey requested an explanation on savings to ‘Band D’ residents of ‘8p’ as per his calculations.

A lengthy discussion ensued and it was stated that as the precept is set annually, information on previous financial years was immaterial. Reference was made to the ‘six months rule’ and this item being continuously brought up since the setting of the precept at Estimates Committee .

The Mayor advised Cllr Harvey that Town Council was unable to answer his question and referred him to the Head of Finance at Mon CC.

It was resolved that no further discussion on precept business is brought to the agenda until the next setting of the precept for 2013-2014.

iv) Cllr A Perrett – Re: Vital Villages – Grant Schemes

Cllr Perrett referred to Vital Villages Community Energy Advice Scheme.

It was resolved to invite Vital Villages to address Town Council at its meeting 29.2.12.

8787 Reports

- a) **To Note Play Working Party Report 11.1.12 [Circ] – To Consider letter be sent to Schools via Three Counties Play Strategy**

Town Council noted the Play Working Party report and supported the request to engage in a survey of local school children via Three Counties Play Strategy.

It was resolved to write to the schools to request they take part in a survey in this matter.

b) To Note Report 11.1.12 re: Queen's Jubilee 2012 Celebrations [Circ] –see also 6(18)

Town Council noted the above report re: Queen's Jubilee 2012 Celebrations

Cllrs W Conniff, D Evans, K Harris and M Stevens declared an interest in this matter

c) Town Council Representatives on Outside Bodies

There were no reports.

d) Governors

Cllr S Webb updated Members in relation to progress at the New Dewstow Primary School.

e) Other

There were no other reports.

8788 RESOLVED - Exclusion of Press and Public – By virtue of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public are excluded from discussions on the following item on the basis that disclosure thereof would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted:

a) To Consider Renewal of Cemetery Moles Contract February 2012-2015 [Circ]

Town Council resolved to renew its mole control contract at the Cemetery until 2015 at a cost of £405 + VAT per annum.

b) To Consider Request from Bowls Green Contractor re: Shrubs [Circ]

Town Council resolved to remove and replace shrubs at Caldicot Bowls Club at a cost of £110 + VAT

c) To Consider Play Area Quotations [Items of equipment recommendation of Play Area Working Party] [NB: £8272in budget] [Circ]

Town Council considered quotations for play equipment as recommended by the Play Area Working Party.

It was resolved to go out to tender for additional play equipment in the children's play area for consideration at Town Council meeting 29.2.12

d) To Consider Quotations for Refurbishment of Town Council office/building [TC 8.11.11] – To Follow [NB: Consider b/f 2011/12]

Town Council considered quotations for refurbishments at Town Council building following the recommendations of Health & Safety Committee and the offer of surplus office furniture free of charge from Mon CC.

It was resolved:

- i) to accept quotation from Cambrian Carpets for replacement carpet in Town Council office at a cost of £594 + VAT**
- ii) to accept quotation from P Sperrin for painting works to Town Council building at a cost of £1,870 + VAT to commence as soon as possible in order to accommodate surplus furniture from Mon CC.**

Cllr A Lloyd declared an interest in this matter.

- e) To Consider Quotation for Upgrade of Computers] [via support services] – [TC 8.11.11] -To Follow [NB: Consider b/f 2011/12]**

It was resolved to accept quotation from Apex Computer Services to upgrade Town Council computers at a total cost of £1514 + VAT

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

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Mayor/Deputy Mayor