

## CALDICOT TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of Caldicot Town Council held at 6.30pm on Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at Caldicot Town Council

**Present:** Cllrs: A Davies, Mayor  
A Lloyd, Deputy Mayor  
D Ashwin [left 7.45pm]  
W Conniff  
A Easson  
D Evans  
F J Harvey  
J Haskey  
R J Higginson  
G Owen  
M Stevens  
P Stevens  
R Stewart  
P Watts

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

#### **9181 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs P Maycock-Jones, S Webb, Caldicot Police

#### **9182 Declarations of Interest – To be identified under the relevant item/Forms to be completed**

**Cllrs D Evans, R J Higginson and P Watts declared an interest in planning matters.**

**Cllrs M Stevens and P Stevens declared an interest in Min 9192(b) (c)**

**Cllr D Evans declared an interest in Mins 9186(1a), 9189(g)**

Further declarations of interest to be identified under the relevant item

#### **9183 Open Forum for Public Participation [max 30 mins at Mayor's Discretion]**

*The Mayor addressed the meeting prior to the Open Forum for Public Participation – See Appendix A*

The following items were raised during the Public Open Forum:

- Proposed withdrawal of bus services in Caldicot
- Caldicot Town Team meeting 29.4.14

#### **9184 To Approve the Minutes of Full Town Council Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> March 2014 [Circ]**

The Minutes were approved as a true record.

##### **a) Mayor to Sign the Minutes**

The Mayor signed the Minutes

#### **9185 To Approve the Minutes of Planning & Resources Committee 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014 [Circ]**

The Minutes were approved as a true record.

##### **a) Mayor to Sign the Minutes**

The Mayor signed the Minutes

#### **9186 Correspondence [Circulated unless marked\*]**

- \* (1) **Home Start Monmouthshire**                      **Appreciation for £250 donation**

Town Council noted the appreciation for £250 donation from Home Start Monmouthshire.

**9186\*(1a) Caldicot Events Committee**

**Appreciation for £2,000 donation**

Town council noted the appreciation for £2,000 donation from Caldicot Events Committee.

**Cllr D Evans declared an interest in this matter.**

**\*(2) Plot holder O/W Allotments**

**Request to place shed on plot 3 O/W allotments**

Town Council approved the request to site a small shed on Plot 3 Oakley Way allotments

**(3) Caldicot Town Team**

**Re: Town Centre Bins**

Town Council considered correspondence from Caldicot Town Team proposing to fund the replacement of new multiuse bins throughout the town centre, on a like for like basis and requesting Town Council approval and input into the decision.

**It was resolved to accept the correspondence noting that the bins are not within the jurisdiction of Town Council and that the town centre was the responsibility of Mon CC.**

**9187 Publications, Minutes, Etc [Displayed] – To Note available Town Council Office**

**[NB: One Voice Wales responds on WAG consultations on behalf of Town Councils via a network of volunteer responders: interested councillors require e-mail address – contact Clerk]**

**[A] Mon CC**

**CCTV Monitoring Report for March 2014**

**[B] Severnside Area Committee**

**Agenda/Minutes 26.3.14**

**[C] Severnside Programme Board**

**Agenda/Minutes 9.4.14**

**[D] One Voice Wales**

**i) Agenda/Mins Monmouthshire Area Cttee 17.4.14**

**ii) Agenda/Mins Larger Local Councils Cttee 16.4.14**

**[E] Mon CC**

**Re: Dog Fouling & Littering Group templates**

**[F] Welsh Government**

**Consultation:**

**i) The Local Govt (Wales) Measure 2009**

**(Amendment) Order 2014 response 2.5.14**

**[G] Welsh Government**

**The Local Govt (Wales) Measure 2011 Part 7: Communities and Community Councils - Summary of Responses/Guidance including Statutory Guidance to Principal Councils & Community and Town Councils The Legislative Reform (Payments by Parish Councils, Community Councils and Charter Trustees) Order 2014**

**[H] Welsh Government**

**[I] STAG**

**Update re: Passenger Rail Bridge at STJ**

**[J] Fields in Trust**

**Impact Report 2013/AGM – 10.6.14**

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

**9188 Planning [Displayed]**

**A) Planning Applications Received**

**DC/2013/00898 [Amended]:** Conversion of public house and function room to 2 no. residential units and demolition of single storey buildings to rear. New development of 1 no. house incorporating existing rubble walls to south west of site. New development of 4 no. semi-detached houses – 108 Chepstow Road, Caldicot

**TC Approved**

**9188 B) Mon CC Planning Information**

**i) Planning Permissions**

**DC/2013/01053:** Retention and repositioning of existing fence; proposed stone wall and planting – Brooklands Barn, Pill Row, Caldicot **TC Observation 11.2.14 \***

**\* Wall and fence above Mon CC required height – too high fronting road**

**DC/2014/00191:** Side porch for disabled scooter – 42 Cas Troggy, Caldicot **TC App 11.3.14**

**DC/2014/00241:** Two-storey extension incorporating single storey lean to extension to provide improved kitchen/dining and bedroom accommodation – 18 Ash Grove, Caldicot **TC App 11.3.14**

Town Council noted the planning information (i) above from Mon CC.

**C) Section 1 - Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Mon CC Station Road, Caldicot – Prohibition of Waiting at Any Time – Traffic Regulation Order 2014 [TC Noted FTC 30.10.13]**

Town Council noted the above Traffic Regulation Order

**9189 Finance [Circ]**

**a) To Approve Updated Cheque List Schedule March/April 2014**

Town Council resolved to approve the updated Cheque List Schedule as circulated

**b) To Approve Financial Comparisons 1.1.14– 31.3.14, 1.4.13-31.3.14**

Town Council resolved to approve Financial Comparisons 1.1.14– 31.3.14, 1.4.13-31.3.14

**c) To Approve Final Accounts Year Ended 31.3.14 [subject to audit]**

Town Council resolved to approve Final Accounts Year Ended 31.3.14 [subject to audit]

**d) To Receive Completed Annual Return for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 – To Note Internal Audit 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> April 14 – Report to Follow**

Town Council resolved to approve Completed Annual Return for the Year Ended 31.3.14 and the Internal Audit Report, circulated at the meeting.

**9189 e) Re: Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund Triennial Actuarial Valuations 31.3.13  
- To Approve Increase from 18.4% to 20.8% [Statutory]**

Town Council received the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund Triennial Actuarial Valuations 31.3.13 and approved increase from 18.4% to 20.8% [Statutory]

Cllrs D Ashwin and D Evans declared an interest in (e) above.

**f) Re: R1 Internal Audit Recommendation (Interim) – “The Council needs to expand its current risk assessment framework to ensure that financial risks are fully incorporated”  
- To Consider Draft Financial Risk Assessment**

Town Council Approved the Draft Financial Risk Assessment as circulated.

- g) **To Consider release of £2,000 grant to Caldicot Events Committee as set aside in Estimates 2014/15.**

**Town Council resolved to release £2,000 to Caldicot Events Committee**

**Cllr D Evans declared an interest in (g) above.**

**9190 Members Items of Business**

- a) **Cllr A Easson: Removal of Bus Service between Newport-Chepstow via Severnside [Circ**

Cllr A Easson referred to the discussion in the public open forum regarding the proposed withdrawal of bus services from Caldicot.

**It was resolved:**

- i) that members email their concerns in this matter to the Clerk in order to collate and forward to Mon CC**
- ii) to arrange a Special Meeting of Town Council with Jessica Morden MP, John Griffiths AM and Richard Cope, Mon CC in this matter**
- iii) to invite local community councils to the meeting**

- b) **Cllr A Davies: i) To Consider Best Kept Garden Judging**

Cllr Davies outlined his item of business requesting the judging system for best kept garden competition is changed.

A discussion ensued and it was stated that the competition was for front gardens only and criteria would need to be set to enable Ward Councillors to judge each garden equally. Reference was made to the presentation of awards to best kept garden winners 2013 and it was requested that Town Council revert to the formal presentation evening as in previous years.

A Member considered the judging, as in previous years, by an experienced individual to be fairer.

**It was resolved:**

- i) that Ward Councillors carry out judging in their own wards during late June/early July, selecting a ward best kept garden followed by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor selecting the Town's best kept garden from the nominated ward winners.**
- ii) to consider criteria for judging**
- iii) to notify the previous judge of a change in procedure.**

- ii) Dog Fouling KGV Fields**

Cllr Davies outlined his item of business requesting the control of dogs on KGVPF, significantly reducing a public health risk.

**It was resolved to serve one month's notice prior to introducing a dog on a lead order and ban dogs from being exercised and fouling on the KGV Fields.**

- c) **Cllr J Haskey: Issue of Dog Fouling Bags**

Cllr Haskey outlined her item of business and advised Members that from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 Mon CC ceased issuing dog fouling bags, resulting in numerous complaints received in this matter.

A discussion ensued and Members were unhappy with this decision by Mon CC. It was stated that this was not a good example of Mon CC looking towards partnership working with Town and Community Councils and Town Council paid in the region of £7,500 per year to empty its 37 dog bins in an attempt to combat dog mess in the town. It was further stated that it would cost Mon CC more in the long run to pick up the dog mess

A Member of the Mon CC Dog Fouling & Littering Working Group referred to the new “Give Dog Fouling the Red Card” pilot scheme and stated that via funds for the initiative, dog waste bags would be reinstated at the One Stop Shop from 1.5.14 until the supply run out.

**It was resolved to request Mon CC re-instate the issue of dog waste bags.**

#### **9191 To Consider Adoption of One Voice Wales Revised Model Standing Orders [Circ]**

Town Council accepted the One Voice Wales Revised Model Standing Orders as circulated.

**It was resolved that any amendments to the Standing Orders be submitted to the Clerk for consideration at the Annual Meeting 20.5.14.**

Members noted that items in bold could not be amended.

##### **a) To Note One Voice Wales Model Revised Financial Regulations awaited**

Town Council noted the above.

*Proceedings were suspended to allow Town Council as Trustee to consider the following item:  
It was resolved to consider the cost of sign (a) below in Committee – See Min 9196(b)*

#### **9192 King George V Playing Fields**

##### **a) To Consider Replacement Sign for Children’s Play Area [Circ]**

Town Council considered two options for replacement sign for children’s play area.

A discussion ensued and certain Members considered individual symbols would be more productive than written information on the sign. It was stated that Personnel Committee had advised the inclusion of additional information on the existing sign.

**It was resolved to accept a full refurbishment of the sign by Smart Signs at the children’s play area using the existing board and to consider symbols for future signs.**

##### **b) To Approve Notes User Sub-Committee 23.4.14 – to follow**

**Town Council resolved to accept and approve the Notes of User sub-Committee 23.4.14, circulated at the meeting.**

##### **c) To Consider Requests Caldicot AFC Re: Re-instatement Works/Event [Circ]**

Town Council considered a request from Caldicot AFC to carry out reinstatement works to the fields.

**It was resolved to permit Caldicot AFC to carry out annual reinstatement works to the fields and gate closure to the enclosed pitch from Monday 19.5.15 to Saturday 12.7.14.**

Town Council considered a request from Caldicot AFC to place a marquee on KGVPF on 6.6.14 for a Liverpool Sports Dinner Legends evening.

Reference was made to the “no alcohol” signs on the fields.

**It was resolved to permit Caldicot AFC to place a marquee on KGVPF 6.6.14 and to be mindful of the “no alcohol” signs on the fields.**

**Cllrs M Stevens and P Stevens declared an interest in (b) and (c) above.**

*Normal proceedings resumed.*

**9193 a) To Approve Notes of Localism Working Party 10.4.14 [Circ]**

The Notes of Localism Working Party 10.4.14 were approved.

The Chairman of the Localism Working Party advised that he was awaiting dates to further meet with Mon CC in Usk and proposed dates for a meeting re: Caldicot Castle

**b) Re: Mon CC correspondence re: Localism Working Group [Circ]**

Town Council noted correspondence from Mon CC Officers in relation to actions for Mon CC officers arising from the Localism Working Party meeting 10.4.14.

**9194 Reports**

**a) Town Council Representatives on Outside Bodies**

There were no reports from representatives on outside bodies.

**b) Governors**

There were no Governors’ reports

**c) Other**

Re: (a) above Cllr A Easson referred to CCTV and to some towns in Monmouthshire having more cameras monitored than Caldicot yet paying the same contract price. Members considered anything above six CCTV cameras should be paid for on a pro-rata basis. Town Council representatives on Monmouthshire CCTV Working Party were requested to pursue this via the group. It was stated that Town Council had signed a contract with Mon CC in relation to CCTV.

**9195 To Note Annual Meeting, 6pm on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

Town Council noted the arrangements for its Annual Meeting.

**9196 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 Quotation for Summer/Winter Bedding [Circ]**

**Town Council resolved to accept quotation from Willow Landscapes for Spring/Summer bedding at a cost of £240 + VAT**

**b) Re: Min 9192 (a) – it was resolved to accept the estimated quotation of £120 for refurbished sign from Smart Signs.**

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

## **APPENDIX A – MAYOR’S SPEECH**

Before we commence the Public Participation session I want to address some concerns I have.

We seem to have a group of people, (who I will refer to as the usual suspects), who’s sole purpose for attending council meetings seems to be to criticise this council. Most of this criticism revolves around issues controlled by M.C.C over which this council has no control.

The usual suspects tell us we should be doing more, we are not doing enough. No matter what this council does for the community there is never a word of praise from the usual suspects.

I have to say, I have been somewhat puzzled by this behaviour and have asked myself is it because:

A) They do not understand the system of governance in this country?

B) Is it because they have a personal grievance against this council?

C) Is it motivated by political bias?

I must admit I couldn’t see what else this council could do in relation to raising concerns about decisions made by M.C.C.

Then I thought well hang on a minute perhaps the usual suspects are right. Perhaps there is a method or system, which when applied guarantees compliance by M.C.C. to every request we make.

And then I realised how it could be achieved!

At this point, fellow councillors I have to say that we have all been very stupid. All that time you have devoted to this community for no financial reward, all those letters that have been written and all those verbal requests to M.C.C. have been a waste of time. All we needed to do to ensure compliance by M.C.C. to every issue we want addressed is to apply the usual suspects’ secret formulae.

There is a little Island in the Pacific Ocean, which you need to take a plane to reach. Now I know this place exists because I have seen it on TV!

Upon arrival you are greeted by a very diminutive gentleman, he takes you to see his boss who can grant you any wish you desire. I believe this place is called:

### **“FANTASY ISLAND”**

Now back here in the real world, the usual suspects know full well that this Town council or any other Town or community council does not have the power to dictate to M.C.C.

Caldicot Town Council is not responsible for any of the real or perceived inadequacies of M.C.C. We can raise issues (which we do frequently). Our Town and County Councillors can take issues forward to M.C.C but we cannot instruct or dictate.

Now let me address the Public Participation format:

Firstly there is no requirement in law to hold a public participation session.

Secondly, standing orders and NALC guidelines are quite clear that the purpose of this session is to take questions related **only to items on the agenda**. Consultation with other local councils confirms that this is the format applied. Whilst I fully support the requirement for the public to contribute I am dismayed by the usual suspects' abuse of the privilege. Enough is enough and it is now time to stop this abuse. **Therefore in line with standing orders, questions or statements from the public must be related to a subject on the agenda. If members of the public wish to have issues put on the agenda then they should write to the Town Clerk within the required notice period. Any deviation from the above is purely at the discretion of the sitting chair of the meeting.**

Whatever the topic and however strongly an individual feels there will be zero tolerance of:

**Foul or abusive language** (as displayed by one of the usual suspects at the last council meeting)

**Personal Attacks**

**Threatening Behaviour**

Anyone who breaches the above will be asked by the chair to desist and sit down or may be asked to leave the meeting. Failure to comply will result in action being taken to remove the individual.

**This is a critical time for our Town and there are opportunities to improve both the facilities and services available to the community. We all need to be working together to ensure that Caldicot makes the most of these opportunities.**