

Minutes of Caldicot Town Council held at 6.30pm on Wednesday, 30th November 2011 at Caldicot Town Council.

Present: Cllrs: M Stevens, Mayor
A Easson, Deputy Mayor
D Ashwin [left 7.50pm]
C Botchett [6.35pm]
W Conniff
D Evans
K Harris

E Harvey
J Haskey [left 7.55pm]
R J Higginson
A Lloyd
R Stewart
P Watts
S Webb

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

8761 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr V Lloyd

8762 Declarations of Interest – To be identified under the relevant item/Forms to be completed

Cllr W Conniff declared an interest in Min 8772
Cllr D Evans declared an interest in Min 8766 (3), Min 8770 (i)
Cllr R J Higginson declared an interest in Min 8766 (3)

Further declarations of interest to be identified under the relevant item

8763 Open Forum for Public Participation [max 30 mins at Mayor's Discretion]

The following items were raised during the public open forum:

- Sale of Caldicot School fields/proposed new School
Cllrs A Easson/D Evans/R J Higginson declared an interest in this matter
- Cars for sale in cul-de-sac at Deepweir – **GM to report to Caldicot Police.**
- Update on request for double yellow lines along Church Road

8764 To Approve the Minutes of Full Town Council Meeting 26th October 2011 [Circ]

a) Mayor to Sign the Minutes

The Minutes were approved as a true record and duly signed by the Mayor.

8765 To Approve the Minutes of Estimates Committee as part of Full Town Council 8th November 2011 [Circ]

a) Mayor to Sign the Minutes

The Minutes were approved as a true record and duly signed by the Mayor.

8766 Correspondence [Circulated unless marked*]

*** (1) Caldicot Community Website – To Note Appreciation for Donation £150**

Town Council noted the appreciation for £150 donation from Caldicot Community Website.

*** (1a) Shopmobility Newport – To Note Appreciation for Donation £50**

Town Council noted the appreciation for £50 donation from Shopmobility.

8766 (2) Torfaen CBC – Local Government Pension Scheme - Consultation by 6.1.12

Town Council considered the above consultation on proposed increases to employee contribution rates and changes to scheme accrual rates, effective from 1 April 2012 in England and Wales.

It was resolved that any Member wishing to comment on the Local Government Pension Scheme consultation document do so via the Clerk.

Cllrs D Evans and R J Higginson declared an interest in the following item and left the room.

(3) Monmouthshire Housing – Environmental Estate Improvements

Town Council considered correspondence from Monmouthshire Housing requesting if Town Council had any suggestions for improvement works to be considered to serve Monmouthshire Housing Association [MHA] tenants in the town.

A lengthy discussion ensued in relation to owner-occupiers having to contribute towards the cost of any potential works on a pro rata basis. Members considered this to be discrimination against owner-occupiers and it was stated that there was a requirement for legislative changes in the way in which Housing Associations conduct their businesses.

It was resolved to request clarification in this matter from Mon CC Representative on MHA Board.

Cllrs D Ashwin, E Harvey and R J Higginson declared an interest in the following item and left the room.

(4) Mon CC – Re: s106 monies Caldicot

Town Council considered correspondence received from Mon CC in relation to s106 monies for Caldicot including a break-down of allocated funds in respect of the Crest Nicholson development at Church Road.

A discussion ensued and A County Council Member referred to an allocation of £70,000 under s106 for a proposed football pitch at the Church Road development which did not materialise and requested where the £70,000 had been spent.

It was requested why Town Council was not informed when s106 monies become available from developments in Caldicot and Members expressed concerns that s106 monies were being used to “prop-up” main line services.

It was resolved to request clarification from Mon CC in this matter.

(5) Royal Mail – To Note Response re: Request for Post Box at Denny View

Town Council noted the response from Royal Mail advising of two post boxes currently within 500m of the requested post box at Denny View.

(6) Mon CC – To Note Response re: Footpath 28, Castle Park School

Town Council considered the response from Mon CC outlining its decision not to pursue a judicial review in this matter.

A discussion ensued and Members further expressed concerns over the welfare of the children.

County Cllr R Stewart updated Members in this matter.

It was resolved to request Mr Paul Matthews, Chief Executive Officer, Mon CC meet with Town Council in this matter.

Cllr D Evans declared an interest in this matter.

8766 (7) Mon CC – Re: Managing Our Street Lights in The Future

Town Council considered correspondence from Mon CC advising of proposed changes to street lighting being considered by Mon CC.

A discussion ensued and reference was made to footpaths becoming “pitch black” at night. A Member stated some lighting columns had already been switched off on a regular basis - *Member to provide the Clerk with column numbers*

It was resolved to request that street lights near to footpaths are not dimmed

(8) Newsquest – To Note Office Re-location Re: South Wales Argus/Free Press

Town Council noted the closure of South Wales Argus/Free Press offices in Chepstow and Pontypool from 25.11.11.

(9) One Voice Wales – Various Matters – a) Amendment to Model Standing Orders

Town Council resolved to accept and amend Model Standing Order 31 – Allegations of breaches of the code of conduct – as notified by One Voice Wales, to reflect arrangements in Wales.

b) Appointment of Training Champions

Town Council noted an extension to the closing date for nomination of Training Champions to One Voice Wales, to which Town Council had nominated Cllrs W Conniff and M Stevens.

(10) Mon CC – Dewstow School: B4242 Pedestrian Crossings Arrangements

Town Council noted copy correspondence from Mon CC to Green Lane and Caldicot School Governors requesting their views on proposals for additional crossing facilities on the B4245 following consultation with local Members.

A West End Ward Member stated she was unaware of the proposals for a crossing near the junction with Shakespeare Drive and requested if the residents had been informed. County Cllr D Evans stated he was under the impression that residents had been informed but he would follow this up with the Mon CC Officer.

(11) Mon CC – Re: Queen’s Diamond Jubilee/Olympic Games in London

It was agreed to consider this item with Min 8770 (iii)(a) below.

(12) Cty Cllr J Harris – Re: M48/B4245 link – website petition

Town Council resolved to support a petition to the Welsh Assembly calling for a review of the decision to exclude the M48/B4245 link from the M4 enhancement programme.

(13) Gwent Levels Flood Defence Coastal Group [GLFDC] – Various

Town Council noted correspondence from GLFDC and referred to any request for s137 Grant Application being made in the appropriate manner.

8767 Publications, Minutes, Etc [Displayed] – To Note available Town Council Office

- [A] NALC **Direct Info Service Issue 771**
- [B] **Gwent Levels Flood Defence Coastal Group – Agenda/Minutes 1.11.11/Notes 25.11.11**
- [C] **One Voice Wales – Responses Welsh Government Walker Review/Public Sector Mapping**
- [D] **Severnside Area Committee – Agenda/Minutes 16.11.11**
- [E] **Clerks & Councils Direct – November 2011**
- [F] **SLCC – The Clerk - November 11**
- [G] **Nat Soc Allot & Leisure Gardeners – Issue 4 2011**
- [H] **STRI – Bulletin October 2011**
- [I] **GAVO – Monmouthshire Network Autumn 2011**

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

8768 Planning [Displayed]

A) Planning Applications Received

DC/2011/01042: Conservatory to rear elevation – 21 Linnet Road, Caldicot **TC Approved**

DC/2011/01076: Proposed pitched roof extension to existing kitchen and repositioning of existing conservatory – 25 Budden Crescent, Caldicot **TC Approved**

B) Mon CC Planning Information [For Information]

i) Planning Permissions

DC/2011/00484: Reserved Matters for DC/2009/01040 – 12 Church Road, Caldicot **TC Ref 9.8.11**

- **Over-development of site**
- **Traffic issues on Church Road**
- **Parking problems**
- **Flooding issues**

DC/2011/00750/ST: New detached dwelling – 63 Longcroft Road, Caldicot **TC Ref 28.9.11**

- **Access Issues**
- **Too large for plot**

DC/2011/00830: Change of use to D2 leisure for gymnastic facility – 53G Symondscliffe Way, Severnbridge Industrial Estate, Portskewett, Caldicot **TC App 11.10.11**

DC/2011/00858: Install new fascia sign to replace existing; install new pylon sign – Unit 55 Scania Keltruck, Norman Way, Severnbridge Industrial Estate, Caldicot **TC App 28.9.11**

DC/2010/00908: Single storey side extension for utility and store room 18 Kipling Road, Caldicot **TC App 26.10.11**

DC/2011/00957/NEW: New illuminated individual fascia lettering; New internally illuminated projecting sign; and installation of branch name plate 64 Newport Road, Caldicot **TC App 26.10.11**

DC/2011/00965/NEW: Replacement cctv camera, security lighting and upgrade of existing ATM surround 64A Newport Road, Caldicot **TC App 26.10.11**

ii) Refusal of Planning Permissions

DC/2011/00748: Alterations and extensions 27 Heol Teifi, Caldicot **TC App 13.9.11**

iii) Planning Committee Agenda 15.11.11

iv) Planning Site Inspections 7.11.11

v) New/Completed Enforcement Cases 1.10.11-31.10.11

Town Council noted Planning information (i) to (v) above from Mon CC.

Cllrs D Evans and R Stewart declared an interest in planning matters

8769 Finance [Circ]

a) To Approve Updated Cheque List Schedule November 2011

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

8770 Members Items of Business [Circ]

Cllr D Evans declared an interest in the following item and left the room.

*** (i) Cllr D Ashwin – Caldicot School Field – Request for update on sale of land**

Cllr D Ashwin referred to Mon CC's recent application to the Welsh Assembly Government for funding to remodel four secondary schools in Monmouthshire and requested Town Council's support to appeal against this application.

A discussion ensued and Members were unhappy with the lack of information placed on the agenda for discussion of this item. The Mayor reiterated Town Council's requirement to complete its standard form in relation to Members' items of business.

It was resolved to request an official update from Mon CC on the sale of the land and its proposals for a 21st Century school in Caldicot.

(ii) Cllr E Harvey – Finance Points to Council

Cllr Harvey requested clarification in relation to Town Council's decision to reduce the precept and top up funds from reserves.

An explanation was provided in relation to the council tax base set annually by Mon CC and the reduced burden on council tax payers of Caldicot by Town Council allocating £14,000 from its reserves towards the precept. It was stated that it would not be acceptable to hold reserves equal to the precept.

(iii)a) Cllr M Stevens, Mayor – Queen's Diamond Jubilee

The Mayor updated Members on responses from local organisations interested in forming a working party to organise celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June 2012.

The Mayor requested expressions of interest from Members and a recorded vote ensued.

For: Cllrs CB/WC/AE/DE/KH/RJH/MS/SW

Abstentions: Cllrs DA/EH/JH/AL/RS/PW

The Mayor thanked Members for their support stating a meeting would be arranged in January.

b) Charity Football Match 1.12.11 – Mayor Request to purchase Memorial Cup via TC

Town Council endorsed the purchase of a Memorial Cup to be funded and presented by the Mayor at a charity football match 1.12.11 at Caldicot Town AFC in aid of 1st Rifles Battalion, based at Beachley Barracks.

The Mayor invited all Members to attend and support the charity match.

8771 Severnside Charter Liaison Committee

a) Correspondence Mon CC Area Services Officer [Circ]

Town Council supported the Severnside Charter initiative.

b) Notes of Meeting 1.1.11 [Circ] – Noted

c) To Consider and Complete Pro-Formas for Action Plan [Circ]

Town Council resolved to arrange a meeting with local Community Councils in order to further discuss this matter

8772 Play Working Party – To Consider Recommendations following 3rd meeting 28.11.11 – To Follow

Town Council accepted and endorsed the notes of the Play Working Party meeting 28.11.11, circulated at the meeting.

A Member of the Play Working Party Referred to the ‘Time for Play’ brochure outlining the play strategy for Monmouthshire, developed in recognition of the importance of play in the lives of children and young people by ‘Monmouthshire Children and Young People’s Partnership’. The Member stated, however, that the strategy could not be implemented as Mon CC no longer employed play workers.

A discussion ensued and it was stated that Town Council should look strategically at what children need in Caldicot with a view to entering into partnerships with other interested parties to provide easy access to play in Caldicot.

Reference was made to s106 monies available from large developments.

It was resolved:

- i) to accept the recommendations of the Play Working Party meeting 28.11.11**
- ii) to write to Mon CC to register an interest in securing £329,000 s106 monies allocated from the the current Church Road development**
- iii) to undertake consultation with interest groups with a view to producing a play strategy for Caldicot to include costs**

Cllr W Conniff declared an interest in this matter

8773 CCTV

a) To Consider Amended CCTV Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (2011) [b/f TC 28.9.11] [Circ]

Town Council resolved to accept and sign the amended CCTV Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (2011)

b) To Consider Correspondence from CCTV Project Officer – To Consider Upgrade of Cameras 2011/12 or 2012/13 [NB: TC 27.4.11 approved £6,334 for mobile camera at KGVPF but sole use in Caldicot not permissible under Scheme]

Town Council considered correspondence from CCTV Project Officer in relation to updating CCTV cameras in the town. Reference was made to Town Council’s decision to purchase a mobile CCTV camera for KGVPF. It was stated that as this was a matter for CSAT the purchase of a mobile CCTV camera be placed on hold and the monies be used to upgrade the CCTV cameras in the town in this financial year.

It was resolved not to purchase a mobile CCTV camera for KGVPF [TC 27.4.11 - £6334] at this stage but to update the CCTV cameras in the town in this financial year [TC 8.11.11 - £8350] subject to copies of guarantees and maintenance schedules being retained by Town Council

8774 To Note Christmas Lighting-Up Event Friday, 2nd December 2011

Town Council noted the date for Christmas Lighting-up Event, to commence with stalls in the town from 4pm

8775 To Note Veolia Address to Council Re: Proposed Energy Recover Facility within the Llanwern Steelworks Complex– 6pm Tuesday, 13th December 2011

Town Council noted the date and time for the above address and were also invited to a meeting being held at 1pm on the same day at Town Council building with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and “Newport Against Incinerators” opposition group if Members wished to attend. Cllr S Webb requested a formal request to attend for work purposes.

8776 Reports

a) Town Council Representatives on Outside Bodies

There were no reports.

b) Governors

Cllr S Webb updated Members in relation to Dewstow Primary School.

c) Other

There were no other reports.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

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Mayor/Deputy Mayor