

CALDICOT TOWN COUNCIL

Mintutes of meeting with representatives of Caldicot Police, Monmouthshire CC and Caldicot AFC held at 6.00pm on Tuesday, 20th August 2013 at Caldicot Town Council

Present:

Town Council: Cllrs A Davies, Mayor, W Conniff, A Easson [6.05pm], D Evans, F J Harvey, R J Higginson [6.05pm], M Stevens, P Stevens, R Stewart, P Watts, S Webb [6.10pm]
Caldicot Police: PC L Underhill, PCSO C Vaughan
Caldicot AFC: Mr D Morton, Mr F Rowberry
Mon CC: Mr A Browne [left 7pm], Area Services Officer, Claire Rogers Mon Youth Service
Members of Public

1 Apologies - None

2 Declarations of Interest - To be identified under the relevant item/Forms to be completed

Cllr M Stevens declared an interest in Caldicot AFC

The Mayor stated he wished to add three additional items to the agenda for discussion. The Clerk advised the Mayor that Town Council business could not be added to the agenda. The Mayor moved business.

3 To Discuss Anti-social Behaviour Issues in Caldicot in particular King George V Playing Fields

A lengthy discussion ensued and the following items were discussed:

- PC Underhill defined anti-social behaviour
- Caldicot Police monitors playing fields on regular basis – Police presence increased, local Officers and Chepstow Response Officers made aware of issues at KGVPF
- AFC ask youths to move on from stand
- AFC has been asked to contact Police if youths congregate in stand
- Would ‘naming and shaming’ offenders reduce the issues of anti-social behaviour?
- Increase trend re: minor fires/criminal damage throughout Gwent
- Recommend AFC install CCTV in clubhouse to monitor stand and enclosed pitch
- Recent ‘VW’ event held at Caldicot Castle resulted in an increase in anti-social behaviour, particularly in the Church Road area
- Serious incident re: attempt to set fire to caravan at Church Road – issues getting out of hand
- Clarification was sought re: Members of public speaking at the meeting
- Insufficient lighting in stand for Jubilee Way CCTV camera to monitor – previous grant returned due to estimated costs of £10,000 to install
- Installation of column lighting along path to be turned off at 10pm
- AFC stand invites anti-social behaviour – AFC looking to secure stand
- Gates to KGVPF not permitted to be locked during the day
- Additional lighting to stand
- Friday/Saturday evenings worst time– Police increase patrols at these times
- Youths have nowhere to go – AFC provides shelter
- Youths invited into clubhouse by AFC and encouraged to paint posts – ‘not interested’
- Dustbins provided in stand – youths set fire to them
- Problems escalated over last few years
- Consider offering reward system
- Restorative Justice Initiative – Recent meeting involving previous offenders - report to be presented to Town Council 25.9.13
- Rarely see Police Officers patrolling the town

- Glass found on football pitch
- Clarification re: CCTV
- Youths have no apparent fear of consequences
- School Liaison Officer tasked to go to schools to talk re: fires etc – past offenders to be involved if feasible – AFC requested to also be involved
- Damage to safety surfacing at children’s play area – youths apprehended – possible publicity to deter future offenses and offenders should be made to pay for damage
- Courts decide on punishments – Police guidelines to deal with young offenders – individual circumstances taken in to account
- Anti-vandalism paint is permitted on the stand – consider light reflective paint
- No representative of Fields in Trust [FiT] present
- Bowls Club/children’s play area gates locked at night
- FiT no objection to gates being locked at night provided open during the day – AFC previously locked at night but gates were not opened during the day
- Public playing field – Trustee has duty to ensure fields available for public to use
- Police receive calls to move youths on when congregating at the fields – public fields
- The Zone has a programme of activities for youth
- Youth Service/Police/Street Pastors work together to try to engage with youths
- Requirement for detached youth worker in Caldicot – already happening – attached to The Zone
- Certain amount of outreach happening – lack of resources due to restructure cutbacks
- Youths enter main pitch over garages and through the fence
- Pitch fenced re: Welsh League status – without AFC would be an open field
- Youths feel protected in the town because of CCTV
- Decrease in anti-social behaviour in Oakley Way since installation of CCTV camera
- Issues discussed at PACT meetings
- anti-social behaviour caused by a minority of youths in the town.
- Consider Crime Prevention Board near to stand

Action Points

- Increased Police presence
- Work with schools – Caldicot AFC volunteers to assist – Police to take forward
- Engage with young people in the town – invite to Town Council to have their say
- Meet quarterly to establish progress being made
- Consider Town Council newsletter
- Claire Rogers to arrange for youth discussion with Town Council – what TC can do to help youths and what youths can do to help TC

It was clarified that the objective of the group was to offer a better quality of life for the people in Caldicot

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending