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| **MARSHFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  Minutes of the Monthly Council meeting held on 10th January 2017 at Marshfield Village Hall, Wellfield Road, Marshfield, commencing at 7:30 p.m.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_    Present: Mr Mathew Taylor (Chairman)  Mr Joel Williams  Mr Geoff Stockham  Mrs Catherine Grady  Mrs Lisa Clark  Mr Mike Rigby  Mrs Linda Southworth-Stevens    Apologies: Mrs Sarah Lyons (personal), Mrs Susan Davies (personal), Newport City Councillor Tom Suller,  In attendance: 1 members of public, Mrs Tracy Sweet & Mr Sweet, Mr Stephen Davies, PCSO’s Caroline Doidge & Huw Moses, (Gwent Police), City Councillor Richard White, Mr Gavin Jones (Living Levels Landscape Partnership), G C Thomas (Clerk)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13th December 2016 were agreed to be a true record and signed by the Chairman.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  -T**20. 135. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**  No interests were declared.  **136. LIVING LEVELS PROJECT PRESENTATION**  The Council welcomed Mr Gavin Jones, Community Engagement Officer for the Living Levels Landscape Partnership.  *(Councillor Southworth-Stevens joined the meeting)*  The partnership includes Monmouthshire, Newport and Cardiff local authorities and nine other interested organisations and is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The aim of the programme is to reconnect people with the Gwent Levels and to leave the Levels with a sustainable future, in a better condition and better managed. To achieve this, there will be 18-20 projects across five themes – Natural Heritage, Historical Heritage, Destination Management/Access & Interpretation, Living and Working, Skills and Training. Currently, two projects are in place concerning 1) the identity of the landscape and 2) destination management. The project has been following a timeline since March 2014 with a two-stage process, currently in the Development Phase which will run from December 2015-June 2017 and end in the submission of a Landscape Conservation Action Plan to the Heritage Lottery Fund in June 2017. If successful, the Delivery Phase will take place between January 2018 and December 2020. Search “Our Living Levels” for more information.  **137 POLICE MATTERS**  a) Police Report - Marshfield Ward  Council Members noted the content of the monthly reports for December and January.  b) Community Speed Watch  It was clarified that volunteers to operate the scheme can be any residents who satisfy the criteria. It was hoped to have seven volunteers for the Marshfield and Castleton area interested in taking this forward in conjunction with Wentloog Community Council.  c) Green Cone Scheme  CSO Doidge told the meeting that Newport CC had given the go ahead for the scheme but it would be up to the school to make the arrangements and purchase the green cones. The cost of the cones was discussed, following which, Councillor Williams agreed to speak to the head teacher and report back to the Council.  **138. BEE KEEPING ON MARSHFIELD ALLOTMENTS**  Further to minute 120a of the November Council meeting, the Council welcomed Mrs Tracy Sweet who is interested in creating a bee hive on Marshfield allotment site. Mrs Sweet was accompanied by her brother-in-law, Mr Sweet, who is an experienced bee keeper. The presentation was brought forward from Financial Matters on the agenda. Members asked questions about the practicalities of managing such a venture for Mrs Sweet and other allotment tenants. Mrs Sweet suggested that a donation of £150 would help towards the cost of setting up a hive, although further costs were to be expected.  **139. NEWPORT CITY COUNCILLOR**  The Chairman thanked Councillor Richard White for his attendance and asked Members if there were any questions to put to him.  a) X16 Bus Service – Councillor Rigby gave details of the difficulties experienced by an elderly resident forced to take a taxi due to inadequate public transport. The meeting looked forward to the public meeting arranged for 17th January to look at this matter in depth.  b) Newport Matters - Councillor White asked if the newspaper “Newport Matters” was being delivered as there had been problems within the CF post codes. Many Members were unaware of the publication.  c) Recycling – Councillor Grady asked about the new red bag which has not been seen in the Marshfield CC area. The scheme is being phased in and is not yet complete.  *(Councillor White left the meeting)*  **140. COUNCIL VACANCY**  *(Councillor Taylor declared an interest in the following matter, vacated the chair and left the room. Councillor Williams took the chair for this decision)*  The Council welcomed Mr Stephen Davies who had expressed an interest in joining the Council. Mr Davies addressed the Council and answered Members questions.  ***Councillor Stockham proposed that Mr Davies is co-opted to fill one of the vacant seats on the Council. The Council unanimously resolved to co-opt Mr Davies to the Council.***  Mr Davies completed a Declaration of Acceptance and took part in the following meeting.  *(Councillor Taylor returned to the chair)*  **141. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**  a) St Mellons Road Bridge – The member of public in attendance informed the Council that she had been in contact with Newport CC Streetscene about road safety issued at the road bridge. Streetscene had investigated and described no problem but the member of public has sent a further e-mail expressing concerns about traffic speed and visibility issues which she feels are causing dangers.  b) Doctor’s Surgery – An enquiry about the position with the doctor’s surgery was referred to an earlier response from Mr Julian Hayman providing a briefing on the proposed closure of the Marshfield Branch Surgery.  The Clerk gave details of an event arranged by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board who are asking local people to share their views on local health issues. The event will be held on 17th February at the Christchurch Centre, Malpas, Newport. Councillor Stephen Davies agreed to represent the Council at this event.  **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**  142. Community Speed Watch (Min 126a)  Councillor Williams asked for people to come forward as volunteers to operate the scheme.  143. Public Participation – HGV Restrictions (Min 128)  It was noted that the advisory signs had been erected.  144. Overgrown Hedges (Min 129)  The Council was pleased that some work had been carried out but disappointed that nothing had been done in the Castleton area. The Council asked the Clerk to contact Newport CC to ask again for work to remedy footpath encroachment, particularly on the A48 between Tyla Lane and the Coach and Horses.  **145. M4 SCHEMES**  Councillor Williams said the recently formed working party, tasked to look at ways to engage with residents about the M4 schemes, would be meeting with Wentloog CC representatives about how the schemes will affect the local area.  Councillor Taylor told Members that he had been contacted by a representative of Wentloog Community Council who expected Marshfield Community Council to lead joint representations against the M4 Black Route scheme.  Councillor Williams saw that he would not have sufficient time available to undertake such a role and agreed to step down from chairing the working party.  ***Councillor Taylor proposed that Councillor Davies should replace Cllr Williams as Chair of the working party and lead the consideration of engagement with residents and prepare a written report of the objections to the Black Route. The report should be presented to the Council with a view to sending to the Public Inquiry as the Council’s response.***  ***The Council unanimously resolved to agree to this proposal.***  **146. MULTI-USE GAMES AREA UPDATE**  Councillor Stockham reported on the progress in the MUGA project.   * A pre-start meeting with the contractors, HAGS-SMP, is due soon. * A non-material amendment planning application has been submitted to Newport CC and is in the process of being decided. This is in connection with the downsizing of the basket-ball hoop area on the outside of the MUGA fencing. * Benches and litter bins need to be purchased. * A new pathway from the Village Hall to the MUGA and renovation of the existing Village Hall patio area need to be addressed. * Car parking alterations need to be looked at with the Village Hall Management Committee.   Councillor Stockham asked the Council for permission to take these matters forward, including requesting quotes from suitable suppliers for benches and litter bins.  **The Council unanimously resolved to agree to Councillor Stockham undertaking this work.**  **147 FINANCIAL MATTERS**  a) Marshfield Village Hall Business Plan  Councillors Mat Taylor and Geoff Stockham had met with the Village Hall management Committee to discuss their priorities and needs. Two main points were identified:  1. Village Hall Car Park – An enlarged car park or marking out the existing car park to fill it most efficiently.  2. Extend Village Hall – A smaller extension that previously considered. The Committee was asked for a clear need and purpose to be given for any such development.  ***Councillor Taylor proposed that the Community Council agrees to fund the following work at the Village Hall and allows for a sealed bid tendering process in the selection of suitable contractors:***  ***a) To scrape-off the tarmacked car park area and install lined parking bays, along with ancillary works.***  ***b) To level-off and tarmac the existing patio and surrounding footpaths.***  ***The Council unanimously resolved to agree to this proposal but required advice from One Voice Wales on a potential conflict of interest. The Council agreed to create a working group to draw up the specifications for the work and to make recommendations to the Council from the tenders received.***  ***The working group will be Cllr Geoff Stockham (lead), Cllr Linda Southworth-Stevens and Cllr Joel Williams.***  b) Precept & Concurrent Functions Requirements for 2017/18  The Clerk reported that Newport City Council had written to state that the concurrent functions allocation for 2017/18 had been set at £7244. The Council also required details of the community council’s budget for 2017/18 and the amount of precept required to create a balanced budget for this period based on a tax base of 1513.52  Members noted that continuing with a precept of £18 per property would produce an income of £27243.36 which was £153.36 greater that the amount used in the draft budget agreed at the last meeting.  ***The Council unanimously resolved to set the precept at £18 per property and to assign the additional amount raised to the community wellbeing part of the budget.***  c) Bee Keeping on Marshfield Allotments  The Council discussed the matter following the presentation by Tracy Sweet and her brother-in-law. There was a general agreement with the benefits of assisting the bee population but some reservations remained about how the proposal will affect the Council and other allotment tenants.  ***Councillor Grady proposed that the Council offers a contribution of £150 as a one-off payment providing the following conditions are put to Mrs Sweet and accepted by her:***  ***1) You undertake to provide a complete set of equipment and hives to sustain a bee colony.***  ***2) The bees are to be kept in a place determined by the Allotment Committee and protected by fencing or netting.***  ***3) You agree to take relevant training and in the mean-time be guided by a competent person.***  ***4) You should be a member of a bee keepers association providing third party insurance.***  ***5) You should provide other allotment tenants an opportunity to engage in this activity.***  ***6) If you leave or are no longer able to manage the facility you will be required to remove the bees from the allotment site or arrange for a competent person to remove the bees.***  ***7) You should engage with the Allotment Committee in any relevant matters relating to the bees.***  ***The Council resolved by majority to agree to this proposal and asked the Clerk to write to Mrs Sweet with the details.***  d) Ramblers  ***The Council resolved not to renew its membership of the Ramblers at this point in time.***  e) Invoices  The Council agreed to pay the following invoices:   * WM Garden Services – Replace worn bearings on whirlybird roundabout - £354.00 * Newport CC – Village Hall Grounds Maintenance for period 1/10/16 to 31/12/16 - £910.66 * W P Walkey – Screwfix - Reimbursement for purchase of 50m heavy braided hose for use on allotment site - £58.98   f) Cheques  £  101623 Newport CC - Planning Fee – MUGA- Non-material Amendment 95.00  101624 G Thomas – Salary December (net) 442.26  101625 HMRC – PAYE December 110.60  101626 G Thomas – Internet connection December 18.00  101627 WM Garden Services - Roundabout repair (Min 147e) 354.00  101628 Newport City Council – V Hall Grounds Maintenance (Min 147e) 910.66  101629 W Whittington-Gidley – Allotment Plot 33 – Shed & Key deposit refund 40.00  101630 P Mathews – Allotment Plot 49 – Key deposit refund 10.00  101631 I Thomas – Allotment Plot 8 – Shed & Key deposit refund less rent adjustment 26.00  101632 W P Walkey – Reimbursement Screwfix – Hose for allotments (min 147e) 59.98  **148. PLANNING MATTERS**  There were no planning matters.  **149. CORRESPONDENCE**  a) Welsh Government Proposal to Ban Use of Plastic Microbeads in Cosmetics and Personal Care  The Welsh Government are undertaking a consultation on proposals to ban microbeads which may cause harm to the marine environment.  ***Councillor Stockham proposed that the Community Council endorses the ban. Members unanimously resolved to respond to the consultation endorsing the proposed ban on microbeads.***  b) Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales  Members noted an invitation to attend a round table event to discuss the Panel’s remuneration framework for community and town councils.  **150. COMMUNICATION**  The Council agreed to publicise details of the following matters:  X16 Bus Service.  M4 Schemes.  Co-option of Councillor Stephen Davies.  Aneurin Bevan University Health Board public event in Newport.  **151. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**  a) Fly Tipping  Councillor Southworth-Stevens told Members that she will be attending the next Gwent Levels fly tipping meeting arranged by Natural Resources Wales.  b) Vacant Allotment Plots  Councillor Southworth-Stevens put forward an idea to spread wild flower seeds on unused allotment plots.  c) Refuse Collection Information  Councillor Rigby felt that information about refuse collection times was lacking.  d) Older Residents  Councillor Rigby highlighted the problems with local doctor’s surgery and transport which are seriously affecting older residents.  **Meeting ended 23:50** | **Action**  **JW**  **SD**  **All**  **GT**  **SD**  **GS**  **GS/**  **LS-S/JW**  **GT**  **GT** |
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