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| **MARSHFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL**   Minutes of the Council meeting held on 9th September 2014 at Marshfield Village Hall, Wellfield Road, Marshfield, commencing at 7:30 p.m.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Present: Mr Alan Chase (Chairman)  Mr Cenydd Edwards  Mr Anthony Quilter  Mr Mike Woods  Mr James Rowlands  Apologies: Mrs Victoria Maud (holiday), Mrs Linda Southworth-Stevens (holiday), Mr Adam Rowbotham (work), Mr David Collingbourne (ill), Mr Nathan Evans (work)Newport City Councillors Richard White and Tom Suller (meeting)  In attendance : Mrs Jo Powell (Allotment Committee Chairperson), 9 members of public, G C Thomas (Clerk)  ----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------  The minutes of the Council meeting held on 8th July were agreed to be a true record and signed by the Chairperson.  **31. Declaration of Interests**  No interests were declared.  **32. Resignation**  The Council received the resignation of Councillor Karl Evans from the Council and declared a vacancy.  The Clerk was asked to post notice of the vacancy from 10th September.  **33. Election of Chairperson**  The office of Chairperson has become vacant following the resignation of Karl Evans. There were no nominations of persons interested in filling the role and the Council agreed to postpone the matter until the next meeting.  **PLANNING MATTERS**  **34. Planning Application MCC 758 – 14/0531 Full (Major)**  **Proposal: Construction of a ground mounted solar PV generation project (solar farm) and associated works affecting public right of way 399/6 and 399/7.**  **Site: Land between M4 and Channel View, Castleton, Cardiff**  The Council adopted the final observations composed by Councillor Karl Evans:  *1. The proposed development is within a green belt area.*  *2. Development of this area would contravene the brown field development priority that is specified in the Newport City Council UDP. 3. Environmental concerns include:-  i) this is an increasingly important habitat for wildlife including*  *birds of prey, bats, dormice, toads and butterflies, many having arrived  over the last 10 years.*  *ii) rain water run-off will be altered and could have adverse  effects on the drainage in the surrounding area. 4. Public footpaths would be adversely affected. 5. It will be a major visual intrusion to local inhabitants.*  *6. Glare from reflected sunshine will adversely affect the residents of surrounding houses and vehicle drivers on adjacent roads.*  *7. Noise levels from the associated power conversion plant will adversely affect immediate neighbours.*  *8. Security fencing and night lighting will add to the intrusive effect.*  *9. Importantly, the Council requests the opportunity for a representative to speak at the Planning Committee when this application is being decided.*  The Chairman invited members of public to speak about this application. Residents of Castleton and two residents of Michaelstone Y Fedw addressed the Council and asked that Marshfield Community Council adopts a leading role to object to the application. The Council was asked to arrange a public meeting and to contribute to the cost of employing a planning consultant to oppose the application. Members heard that Michaelstone Y Feddw Community Council has agreed a grant of £2200 towards a consultant.  The Council agreed to arrange a public meeting but felt there was not enough opinion from local residents to commit funds, at the moment.  Members of public offered to arrange printing and door-to-door delivery of leaflets advertising the proposed public meeting when it is arranged by the Community Council and Members agreed to fund the production of a leaflet up to £300. Members agreed to invite to the public meeting Newport City Planning Officers, the applicant and the Keep Us Rural group, formed by the residents of Castleton and Michaelstone Y Feddw to oppose this and similar applications in the area.  **35. MCC 760 – Conex 14/0657**  **Proposal: Single storey rear and side extension together with two storey front extension (incorporating porch) and first floor extension.**  **Site: Cleve House, 290 Marshfield Road, Castleton, CF3 2UW**  The Council adopted the response that there were no observations to this application.  **36. MCC 761 – Conex 14/0689**  **Proposal: Erection of porch, single storey side extension, first floor side extension, single storey rear extension with balcony above and loft conversion with front and rear dormers.**  **Site: 91 Mallards Reach, Marshfield, CF3 2NN**  The Council did not adopt the ‘no observations’ response and wished to make the following comment:  *The Council is concerned to understand that there is a dispute over the applicant's ownership of land adjacent to his property that he is proposing to develop. The land in question has hitherto been open land for public use.*  **ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE**  37. Allotment Committee Minutes  Correspondence from an allotment tenant concerning the proposal to let allotment plots to people living outside the Marshfield Community Council area was noted by the Council. Members agreed to approve and adopt the Minutes of the Allotment Committee held on 11th August 2014.  38. Expenditure on Raised Beds Project  Members welcomed Jo Powell Chairperson of the Allotment Committee. Mrs Powell reviewed the grants that she had successfully obtained for the Allotment Committee towards the raised beds project and presented estimates from three companies to carry out further work on the project.  The Council agreed to appoint L&R Landscapes Ltd who had estimated £3522+VAT and provide additional funds beyond the grants received.  39 Allotment Committee Report  Councillor Quilter and Mrs Jo Powell updated the Council:   * The Committee is looking at plans to install a new gate at the Marshfield Road entrance to the allotments. * Mrs Powell is to apply for further grant funding from a list of possible sources provided by the Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations. * The Committee wished to thank Newport City Homes for their funding. The Council agreed to write to NCH giving thanks and to publicise the progress in the project from external grants and Council spending. * Greenmoor Nurseries should be thanked for their support in the 2014 Best Kept Garden Competition and the maintenance of planters located through the village.   (Councillor Edwards left the meeting)  **40. Leisure Facilities**  There were no reports available so the Council agreed to postpone this matter until the next meeting.  Councillor Rowlands agreed to assist with projects where possible.  **REVIEW OF ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**  41. Castleton and District Village Hall – Request for Financial Assistance (Min 22)  Castleton and District Village Hall had replied stating that they would not ask a member of the Community Council to join them at the present time, but would welcome a visit from a member of the Village Hall Management Committee to talk about future possible funding streams which could be investigated.  The Council agreed to ask Marshfield VHMC if someone is able to meet with Castleton & District VHMC.    42. Request for a Donation from Marshfield Junior and Youth Football Club (Min 25a)  Mr Kevin Giles, on behalf of the Marshfield JYFC, thanked the Council for the donation.  43. Overgrown Hedges and Brambles, Marshfield Road (Min 28c)  Members noted further correspondence between Councillor Rowbotham and Newport CC Marshfield Ward representatives. The Council was concerned about the occasions that Newport CC Councillors have been unable to attend Council meetings preventing discussion and feedback.  44. Playground Repairs (Min 28e)  The Council received the annual safety inspection for the junior and toddler play areas outside the Village Hall which reported no significant issues.  Councillor Rowlands drew the Council’s attention to a gap in the hedge off the toddler’s play area and Members agreed to arrange for this matter to receive attention.  The Clerk reported that the insurance claim to repair malicious damage to the Wicksteed Mystical World play panels had been approved and Wicksteed Ltd has been asked to make the repairs. Also, WM Garden Services have been asked to carry out repairs to the self-closing gates and the wooden bench in the junior play area.  **FINANCIAL MATTERS**  45. Audit – Annual Return  Mazars LLP wrote on 22 July stating that they have substantially completed their audit work and there were no issues relating to the Councils business for year ending 31March 2014. The Clerk certified Section 3 of the Annual Return and the Council approved the Annual Return to be returned to Mazars for them to complete the external audit.  46. Bank Signatories  NatWest Bank - The Council agreed to remove Karl Evans and Kirstie Evans as existing signatories and add Councillors Alan Chase, Anthony Quilter and Mike Woods.  Barclays Bank – The Council agreed to remove Karl Evans as a signatory and add Councillors Mike Woods and Linda Southworth-Stevens.  47. Village Hall Grounds Maintenance  The Village Hall Management Committee wrote on 16th July asking if the Council would add additional work to the current grounds maintenance contract that has arisen since the installation of footpaths around the Hall grounds. To carry out a post summer tidy of all areas around the footpaths not cut by the regular maintenance and to deal with vegetation along the centre of the fields will add £484.80 to the contract cost.  The Council agreed to add this charge to the existing contract with Newport CC.  48 Invoices  The Council agreed to pay the following invoices:   * RoSPA Playsafety Ltd - Annual safety check to Village Hall play areas -£99.60 inc VAT * GSL (South Wales) Ltd - Final phase of Village Hall footpath project - £8508.00 inc VAT * Newport City Council – Allotment site annual rent - £105.00   49. Income   * Newport City Council – 2014/15 Precept, 2nd installment - £7365.00 * Newport City Homes – Grant towards allotment raised beds project - £2500.00   50. Clerk’s Hours  The Clerk presented a report providing details of the hours worked in excess of the contractual hours during 2013/14. A total of 65 hours had been worked in excess of contractual hours from 1st April 2013 to 31 March 2014 and 33.5 hours remained unpaid.  The Council agreed to pay £345.05 to the Clerk for these hours.  51. Training  The Clerk reported that Councillor Southworth-Stevens had asked to attend One Voice Wales training courses for Use of IT, Website and Social Media at Radyr, Cardiff and Understanding the Law at Undy, Caldicot. The cost will be £30 per course plus travelling costs, although a bursary is available that may provide a £30 discount.  Members agreed to fund these courses.  52. Cheques  101408 G Thomas – Salary August 2014 (net) £269.97  101409 HMRC - PAYE August £ 67.60  101410 G Thomas – Internet connection reimbursement - August £ 18.00  101411 Playsafety Ltd – Annual play areas safety check (Min 48) £ 99.60  101412 Newport CC – Allotment site rent (Min 48) £105.00  101413 GSL South Wales Ltd – Village Hall footpath works (min 48) £8508.00  101414 G Thomas – Excess hours payment 2013/14 (Min 50) £345.05  CORRESPONDENCE  53. New M4 – Friends of the Earth  Friends of the Earth Cymru have launched a legal challenge to the Welsh Government’s preferred route decision arguing that it did not consider reasonable alternatives. Businesses and communities on the Gwent Levels have been asked to provide a Written Statement to support their case.  Members considered the request and agreed to reply that the Council had no response.  54. COMMUNICATION  Members agreed to publicise the following matters:   * Proposed Solar Farm public meeting * The donation by Newport City Homes towards creating raised beds in the allotments. * Thanks to Greenmoor Nurseries for sponsoring the Best Kept Garden Competition and maintaining the planters in the village.   ANY OTHER BUSINESS  55. Allotment Hedge Cutting  Councillor Quilter asked the Clerk to arrange for the allotment hedges to be cut by D Wilde & Sons again.  56. Marshfield Action Group (Magpies)  Councillor Quilter said there was a general lack of interest within the community which is affecting the enthusiasm of the Group. Members were concerned to hear this and asked that the matter is placed on the agenda for the next meeting.  **Meeting ended 22:40** | | **Action**  **GT**  **£**  **GT**  **JP**  **JP**  **JP/GT**  **AQ/GT**  **JR**  **GT**  **GT**  **GT**  **GT**  **GT**  **GT/£**  **GT**  **GT/£** |
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