**MARSHFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Note of the main recommendations agreed during the Council Meeting held on 11th January 2022 via a Zoom video/audio conference call commencing at 7:15 p.m.

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 Present: Mrs Cath Davis (Chairman)

 Mr John Holland

 Mrs Chris Roberts

 Mrs Cathy Holland

 Mrs Susan Davies

 Mrs Linda Southworth-Stevens

Apologies: None

In attendance: PCO Michelle Pearson (Gwent Police), Councillor Tom Suller (Newport City Council), Mrs Jayne Constance (Marshfield Village Hall Management Committee), Councillor Brian Miles (Wentloog Community Council), Ms Caroline Antoniou (Marshfield Magpies), 2 members of public, G C Thomas (Clerk)

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The minutes of the monthly Council meeting held on 14th December 2021 were agreed to be a true record and should be signed by the Chairman. All recommendations from the December meeting were adopted by the Council.

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1. Resignations from Council

Members wished to thank Councillor Geoff Stockham for the work he had done for the community during his time as a community councillor. Members also, wished to thank Councillor Jonathan Aver for his interest in joining the Council.

2. Bus Shelter

Councillor Suller told the meeting that he had asked Newport City Council to take down the damaged bus shelter at the bottom of Marshfield Road and preferably replace it.

He had also reported the broken name plate for Cambrian Close.

3. Play Areas Safety Checks

The Council agreed to contact Newport CC to enquire whether they can assist with basic weekly checks to the children’s play areas and muga at Marshfield Village Hall.

4. Training Policy

The Council agreed to adopt the draft training policy drawn up by the Training Working Group.

5. Trim Trail/Assault Course

It was understood that planning permission was not required for additional equipment planned to be sited in the Village Hall grounds. Land owner’s permission is awaited from Newport City Council Estates Section.

6. Finance and General Purposes Committee

The Council approved and adopted the minutes and recommendations of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 4th January, including the budget for 2022/23 and a precept per property requirement of £21. The Committee also recommended no donations towards of Marie Curie Charity, Latch, Welsh Children’s Cancer Charity, Urdd Eisteddfod Denbighshire and Wales Air Ambulance.

It was agreed that Councillor Susan Davies should be a member of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

7. Planning Matters

The Council approved the draft response to be sent to

Newport City Council regarding planning application MCC 973 -Conex 21/1055:

**Proposal: Creation of Hardstanding Yard for Proposed Stable Block, Muck Heap**

 **And Horse/Pony Exercise Menage (Partly in Retrospect)**

**Site: Land North of and Adjacent to St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Marshfield,**

 **Cardiff, South Wales**

With reference to the above Planning Application and related Enforcement Notice E21/0170(1409). Marshfield Community Council considers that the application 21/1055 should be refused and would make the following comments /observations in support of this.

The 2.76 Acre site is situated on the historic Gwent Levels, a nationally and internationally recognised Special Landscape Area (SLA). It is outside the Marshfield settlement area, in the countryside, on a C1 flood plain where the area is surrounded and drained by historic reens. The land is sited within

the Green Wedge.

The Site is within an archeologically sensitive area bordering on a SSSI Designated Area. It is within a mile of both the Wales Coastal Path and the internationally important RAMSAR Severn Estuary. The site is in an old part of the village adjacent to the 11th Century St Mary’s CADW listed Church. The Church and grave yard provide a comforting tranquil area for reflection and is favoured by residents. Around the Church is a conservation area, the near-by farm and cottages have had to consider appropriate materials that harmonise with the Church and the surroundings when considering any alterations to their properties. The area is accessed by Church Lane, a single width country lane.

Work was commenced at the site prior to a planning application being submitted resulting in the issuing of an Enforcement Notice. The Enforcement Notice was disregarded by the applicant and further unauthorised work was carried out, none of the “make good” conditions in the Enforcement Notice were addressed by the applicant. A large hard standing has been laid close to the perimeter wall and trees of the Church. Owing to its close proximity to the Church wall, the hard standing covers the root system of the Church’s TPO trees. Consequently, the tree’s root growth will be hindered and damaged. An old natural indigenous hedge has been grubbed out and replaced with unsympathetic close board fencing that does nothing to blend with the countryside or assist in supporting and maintaining the ecologically sensitive biodiversity of the area. Lighting has been placed on the close board fencing together with a high pole bright security light that pollutes this dark sky area and is harmful and upsetting to wild life and farm animals in the locality.

The single width lane is well used by locals attending the Church and surrounding fields. There are four Public Right of Way Footpaths that adjoin this narrow lane making this a popular lane with cyclists, dog walkers, pedestrians and farm vehicles. The applicant has planted an unsuitable Laurel hedge outside the site perimeter, the hedge is taking up the curtilage between the close board fencing and the tarmac lane surface. Owing to the narrowness of the lane and the size and number of vehicles using this lane the curtilage is important as a safety refuge for cyclists and those on foot. The proposed development will increase the number of large vehicles using the lane and exacerbate this hazard.

Turning to the actual application, the excavation work involved and partially commenced without planning permission is within an archeologically sensitive area. The land has historically been grassed and lay undisturbed. It does not appear that advice and information has been sought from Glamorgan – Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT) regarding this site.

The applicant originally notified residents via Face Book that he had purchased the land with the intention of building a tack room, stable and grazing for his daughter’s pony. From the number of stables shown on the planning application it suggests far more horses. The agent’s statement says that the applicant like his father is a horse breeder. This together with the number of proposed stables seems to suggest a business operation – is this a change of use?

It is recommended that a horse needs approximately an acre of grazing. With animal welfare in mind, we would query that the available grazing remaining after the proposed menage, muck heap, stables and hard standing have been constructed would not be sufficient to support the proposed number of stables. The proposed menage appears to be less than the recommended minimum size of 40 – 20 metres and would be built on a sloping field.

It therefore raises concerns regarding its construction, the materials used and drainage capability as the land slopes down to Church Reen on a water table that is low lying. There may be implications to the land and water course being polluted and the delicate reen ecology compromised. Unless drainage is adequately and correctly addressed the water table may be adversely affected causing flooding and possibly the lifting of the graves in the adjoining Church grave yard.

8. Allotments

The Council resolved that future allotment lettings should not allow more than two allotment plots per tenant.

9. Christmas Tree

The Council agreed to thank TR33 for their assistance with the Christmas tree erected on the green area opposite the shop on Marshfield Road.

Meeting ended 21:25