

RAGLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Raglan Community Council held on Wednesday 22 June 2011 at 7:30pm in Raglan School

Cllr Mrs H Williams, Chairman

Cllrs Mrs A Vaughan, T Phillips, Mrs S Price, R Moorby, D Watkins, A Crump, R Watkins

In attendance: A Sherwill (Press), PC M Thomas, PCSO S Cowles (Police)

3049 Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs S Thomas, N Porter and R Parry.

3050. The Chair welcomed PC Mike Thomas and PCSO Steve Cowles to the meeting and invited them to give their report.

M. Thomas confirmed that PC Lenny Oliver is for medical reasons carrying out his duties at HQ and therefore M Thomas will be covering his area for the foreseeable future; in the meantime he is the point of contact and not PC Oliver. He commented on the crime sheet already sent to the Clerk and gave an updated sheet to those present. He went on that on 21.6.11 two individuals were seen running from the lay-by at the Castle with approx £100 worth of fuel stolen from a parked lorry. There were no incidents reported at the Raglan Festival. Residents of Ethley Drive have been reporting incidents of nuisance with skateboarders. It is also Neighbourhood Watch Week and he emphasised the benefits of the OWL system (including reduced insurance costs if a member) and asked that councillors could promote this by "spreading the word". Previously PACT had concentrated on promoting OWL and the NO COLD CALLING scheme. M Thomas asked that if we had any specific areas of concern to fill in the PACT sheets and take them to the Police Station. He informed the Council that Raglan was still a 'live site' with 8 hours of camera presence compared to Llanybi's 2.

Cllr T Phillips commented that there was still a speeding problem in the village.

Cllr A Crump reported that Supt Sutton had recently paid a visit to the village incognito and had spent a few hours looking at the 'hotspots' especially Chepstow Rd. There is now a plan to put a 'fixed survey camera' (an information gatherer) quite soon at this site. Cllr Crump mentioned that in all previous surveys problems had been identified.

M Thomas said there had been speed gun monitoring at Burrium Gate and around 50% of vehicles were speeding and since then a 'Golden River' device had been installed which is much less visible.

Cllr Mrs Price and Cllr Moorby voiced concerns of speeding at the roundabout into the High St. M Thomas commented that they had not had significant evidence of this when they looked at it. Members discussed pros and cons of a one-way system in the High St.

Cllr Crump thought a 'crackdown' on illegal parking in the High St was needed and that the press needed to report this. M Thomas insisted that fixed penalties had been issued but that they cannot be present all of the time; but if this was a priority area that the council would like to see targeted he could possibly make an impact.

The Chair thanked the police for their report and time.

3051. The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 May were received and adopted as a

correct record with the following amendments:

3042 - Ivy in the lane of the High St should read: ivy on the wall in the High Street. (This has now been cut by MCC).

3045 – Cllr Mrs Price reported the problem on the bridge not Cllr Mrs Vaughan and it is on Castle Hill not Barton Bridge.

3052 Matters Arising.

3046 - An email from MCC was noted stating that an agreement would be drawn up by the legal department with regards to the maintenance of the MUGA footpath.

3053. Planning Matters

Councillor Crump declared an interest in planning matters and took no part in the discussions.

- a) It was noted that there had been a Planning committee meeting held on 14th June and application DC/2010/01065 - the demolition of the existing cattle market and associated buildings and the construction of a new library, supermarket and associated car park and landscaping at the cattle market, Abergavenny had been approved.

Enforcement notices were noted at Central Garage, High St, Raglan re: Display of pole mounted sign - Breach Terminated.

Cae Knovil, Llandenny re: Extension of Garden - No Breach.

The email sent regarding Cayo Cottage's conversion of a garage was noted this is not contravening any planning laws. T Phillips commented that there was now a vehicle sticking out onto the road but as there is work still being carried out at the property he would keep an eye on the situation.

- b) The following Planning Applications were considered:

DC/2011/00480 - Planning permission for demolition of existing extensions: erect new two storey extension, St Quentin, Llandenny. Agreed.

DC/2011/00546 - Planning permission to construct a part raised patio adjacent and hard surface a field access track, Grange Lodge, Old Abergavenny Rd, Raglan. Recommend that Highways look at road safety at the site regarding access as very near the blind bend, there are concerns as this site is prone to flooding every year. No objections to patio, objections to the hard surface access track due to the above.

3054 Finance Matters

- a) The following payments were agreed
Payment of £35.64 to Merlin Waste for the emptying of the dog bins.
Clerks salary of £271.67.
- b) Letters of thanks were noted from the following for donations received from Raglan Community Council:
Donald Spencer - St Cadocs Church
St Davids Foundation Hospice
MacMillan Cancer Support
Monmouth CAB

The Noah's Ark Appeal
Llandenny PCC
Llangovan Church
Kingcoed Church
Bobath

- c) Cllr R Watkins has looked into the costing of a new plaque at the war memorial which will include the name omitted from the current plaque. The cost of £250-£300 seemed to be the most reasonable and it was suggested that the council purchase this so that we can claim the VAT return and the lady will then make a donation. It was suggested that more space be left on the plaque, in light of the current climate with local young servicemen and women on active duty. This was agreed in principle by those present but the matter would be checked with the Clerk on his return.

3055. Highways Matters

It was noted that resurfacing is finally underway at Somerset Drive/Fairfax/Beaufort Gardens and that there was approx two more weeks of work to be done. Highway Enquiries comments were noted.

3056. Correspondence

Items of correspondence were noted and received by council members.

It was decided by the council members in light of no response from local people to the notice put up by Cllr R Watkins, that it would not adopt the telephone box at Cuckoos Row.

3057. Local Development Plan

Cllr Moorby commented that the LDP is due for consultation up until September and comments or concerns could be received. A meeting is being held on the 1st July and the public can apply to speak subject to the Protocol that has been issued.

The Chairman invited Cllr Crump to speak on this matter further. He commented that the LDP had been in production for five years and consultation had gone on longer than he thought necessary. In all the five years he cannot see that there has been much changed in the original draft. He felt that local groups and residents had not been listened to regarding their concerns. He was dismayed that he had not been informed that public were able to speak on the 1st July. He thought this was going to be impractical. He discussed the sites affected in Raglan in more detail with other members present and it was agreed that he would push for the area adjacent to Ethley Drive be the preferred site for development. He asked that as the meeting was open to the public other members support him in this matter.

3057 . Members Reports. No reports were made.

3058. Website

Unfortunately there has been no opportunity for this to be looked at and the Chairman asked that this be deferred to the next council meeting.

3059. Any Other Business

The Chairman informed the meeting that there was to be a temporary skateboard park in the Infant Yard at Usk School on the 10th/11th and the 16th/17th August and that all skateboarders were welcome. The area would be erected and taken down each day.

Cllr Mrs Vaughan will put up a poster to inform local people.

An email was noted that an enquiry would be held into the conduct of how the police had responded to the burglary at 1 Barton Bridge Close.

The Chairman explained that at the Charter Liaison Meeting it was noted that in areas other than Monmouthshire the Liaison Officers seem to have more authority and that this is potentially going to be a problem in our area. Issues around this matter are being looked at especially in ways to inform members at MCC of the Charter's existence.

Cllr Phillips felt that this problem is worse since the retirement of Jenny Lewis. The next meeting would be held on Sept 22nd at Raglan School.

Cllr Crump said that the 21st Century Schools Bid decision had been put back to possibly Jan/Feb; he felt that WAG (Now known as WG) would say that there is no money for developing schools. The school are asking for local support for the bid and ask that the council send a letter of support to MCC on behalf of the community. A petition by the school is being set up and will be in various venues around the village. Cllr Mrs Vaughan will ask the GP surgery to write in support and it was suggested that the councillors' drum-up as much support as possible in the community. Raglan Village Hall should also write.

Cllr R Watkins mentioned the new rules allowing local landowners to build low-cost housing for family members on their own land, there was some confusion as to whether this rules applies to Wales as well as England, this needed to be clarified.

Cllr Mrs Price would like it noted that the police have reacted excellently to an incident affecting a family member.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm