

BISHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED TRESEFGOB

Clerk's Office – 15 Caerau Road – Newport – NP20 4HL
07988624393 – clerk@bishton.org.uk

Ordinary Meeting Wednesday 10th July 2024 Bishton Village Hall

MINUTES

1. Attendance

John Davies, Pamela Davies, Andrew Cork, Carol Cork, Chelsea Powell, Cherie Hall, Rachael Stephens, John Hall, Richard Stokes

2x Police Officers (Inspector Giles and Daniel PCSO)

Ecology officers from Newport City Council: Becky Biodiversity Scheme (Local Places for Nature Officer) & Matthew Harris Ecology Officer for NCC

City Councillor Raymond Mogford

1x Member of public

Clerk – Jacob Richards-Powell

Non-Attendance: Mark Campbell

2. Apologies

No apologies received

3. Declarations of Interest

Allotments: John Hall & Samantha Voaden-Miller

Item 8D: John Davies and Pamela Davies

4. Announcements

No announcements

5. Public Forum (Limited to 20 Minutes)

a. Public Participation

- i. No questions have been submitted.
- ii. Presentation and discussion with Rebecca Williams of Newport City Ecology Dept.
 1. Matthew Harris introduced Becky the new Local Places for Nature Officer who will be managing the ecology sites within Underwood that are managed by NCC.
 2. Clerk will CC ecology officers on the design and costing of future proposed accessible plot development at allotments.
 3. Richard Stokes reported that it has been 12 weeks since the bench was taken from Waltwood Road (following a 2-day consultation and removal) a bench has been sited near an active beehive and is not ideal. Now that the verges are being cut in the area and planting is taking place people are sitting on the edge of the planters because the bench is missing. Richard Stokes asked Becky if it was possible to have the bench replaced and she said that it will be.
 4. John Davies suggested that the ecology team maintain communication with BCC to avoid issues like this in the past. Becky confirmed this and said that the department had reacted poorly to the situation and has received complaints about the bench and seeing the return. Comments also included the raised beds in the community. BCC

presented photos of the ecology sites and that they are inaccessible due to the tall grass. This has been reported to NCH and although they have carried out some strimming and clearing it isn't sufficient.

5. The ecology team have secured a Christmas tree for BCC, as a tree has already been sourced and planted members of BCC will agree on a second site for the tree.
6. 'burial mound' improvement, relocation of bug hotel, one of the trees is moving to increase open space for play. **Action: Ecologist group to continue working with Richard Stokes on the outstanding matters.**

iii. Update on local crime and trends from Giles Roland

1. Update on local crime stats of local area (which includes Llanwern) 135 crimes (average 1.2 a day) since April 1st, 2024. Highest crimes are related to violence and injury. Second is public nuisance offences, then theft and burglary. Fly tipping operations have been in effect to monitor and stop vehicles prior to them fly tipping.
 - a. John Davies announced that the Bishton speed-watch has now started, a high percentage of vehicles passing through were speeding and this will continue to be monitored.
 - b. Inspector Giles suggested that any key areas of speeding observed by councillors should be brought to the attention of the police so that they can monitor the area or look to expand the speed watch. Councillor Richard Stokes reported the continued speed issues of vehicles entering the Underwood estate.
 - c. PCSO has observed that when police have attended the estate with speed watch equipment the officers are reported via social media by members of the community who warn everyone that the officers are in operation.
 - d. PCSOs and officers are aware of the ongoing issue with 'off-road bikes' being operated unlawfully not only in Underwood but also the wider Newport area. They have spoken to the parents of people who own them to increase safety awareness and prevent the unlawful use. This saw a brief reduction in off-road bikes being used in the area, but it is on the increase again.
 - i. Andrew Cork asked if the officers could act on land which is council owned and operated or whether it's a civil matter due to being 'private land' – the officers clarified that there are factors that they can act on: for example, vehicles not having insurance, valid registration, MOTs etc...
 - ii. City Councillor William Routley clarified that the land surrounding the former leisure centre is classed as public land as members of the public access it. However, the leisure centre and carpark itself are private land as they are privately owned. He further clarified that no off-road motorbikes should operate on the agricultural land whether private or not as the usage of the land is agricultural and not for leisure purposes.
 - iii. John Davies asked what the most efficient way is for councillors to report the ongoing issues with off-road bikes. Councillors advised to submit emails to PCSOs and any photos / videos of the culprits.
 - iv. Inspector Giles clarified that it is okay to take photos / footage of the culprits even if they are minors providing the footage is only sent to the police and not shared in any way.
 - v. Most of the reported missing persons calls are related to the local Children's care facilities.
 - vi. Safety in school week at Llanmartin: emergency vehicles attended, police & fire, police and fire safety, GoSafe with speed van attended, PCSO did presentation on bike safety, E-bikes, etc... walk-in bus.

- vii. Cllr Voaden-Miller asked if Gwent Police operated Police Cadets, and could they do community outreach – Dan explained they have Mini Police (Next Gen Team – cadets / mini police).
- viii. Clerk asked how Welsh Government's intention to reduce number of Community Support Officers through natural wastage would affect Gwent Police. Inspector Giles said that Commissioner is due to submit the figures soon. [cite] Happy to attend community events and help with support.

- 2. Comparison of crimes from last year to this year are very similar, there are no spikes or key areas of concern at this time.

b. City Councillors Updates & Comments

- i. Written to NCH at start of month about obligation for grass to be cut in the estate. Citing it was very high! These concerns have been passed onto the Estates Teams and that high grass is a concern (and a fire risk) By September there should be a completed map that illustrates which organisation / public body owns which portion of land within Underwood.

6. Approval Of Minutes

- a. Wednesday 12th June 2024
 - i. Proposed by Andrew Cork seconded by Pamela Davies

7. Action Points & Clerk Report

- a. Updates of clerical matters circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

8. Finance & Procedure

- a. Review & Agree Bank Reconciliation for June 2024
 - i.
- b. Review Donation Submission for Memorial Garden
 - i. The question was raised regarding the insurance and training of those who operate equipment at the memorial garden and whether a donated strimmer can be operated on site.
- c. Discuss request for NFP Training session for councillor
 - i.
- d. Discuss payment to staff for unused holidays 23/24
 - i. Proposed by Andrew Cork seconded by John Hall – Payments to staff for unused holidays for the years 2023/2024 however staff will be moved onto the NALC model contracts whereby they must 'use or lose holidays'
- e. Discuss renewal of SLCC membership
 - i. All in favour for Clerk to renew membership for the year
- f. Discuss opening of UNITY bank account
 - i. All in favour of the Clerk to open a new bank account with UNITY due to ongoing issues with

9. Community

- a. Discuss provision of water provision to Memorial Garden
 - i. Richard will use the tap at the football club to fill the water butt at the community garden for the provision of water to the community group.
- b. Discuss date and organisation of garden competition
 - i. 'Best in Bloom' will be held at Bishton Hall for 2024. Judging will take place early / mid-August, and the award ceremony will take place on 28th September 2024. Mayor Raymond Mogford will be asked to give the presentation.
- c. Discuss project proposal for accessible garden at Underwood Allotments
 - i. John Hall and Clerk will take measurements and put together provisional

10. Maintenance

- a. Discuss quotations for park inspection

11. Planning

- a. Confirm receipt of Delegated Planning Notices
- b. Confirm receipt of NCC planning Notices
- c. 24/0456 - LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE (EXISTING) FOR THE USE OF FORMER HAY STORE AS A RESIDENTIAL STORE BUILDING IN ASSOCIATION WITH CAE PANDY COTTAGE

- d. **24/0464** - PRIOR APPROVAL FOR A PORTAL FRAME AGRICULTURAL BUILDING
- e. **24/0511** - PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF DEMOLITION OF 2NO. OUTBUILDINGS AND THE PARTIAL DEMOLITION OF 1NO. OUTBUILDING
- f. **24/0524** - CONVERSION OF BUILDING INTO RESIDENTIAL USE TO INCLUDE A SMALL SIDE EXTENSION, CONSTRUCTION OF DETACHED DOMESTIC STABLE BLOCK, STANDALONE BAT HOUSE AND ASSOCIATED WORKS INCLUDING LANDSCAPING, FORMATION OF A SMALL DOMESTIC GARDEN, IMPROVEMENTS TO ACCESS AND PROVISION OF TWO PARKING SPACES
- g. **24/0546** - NON MATERIAL AMENDMENT APPLICATION TO VARY CONDITION 1 (APPROVED PLANS) OF 23/0207 SINGLE STOREY EXTENSION WITH PV ARRAY, NEW ENTRANCE PORCH AND ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPING WORKS TO EXISTING COTTAGE (RESUBMISSION). AMENDMENTS INCLUDE OMISSION OF SOLAR PV TO SOUTH FACING ROOF AND CHANGE IN DOOR MATERIALS
- h. **24/0548** - PROPOSED EQUESTRIAN CENTRE
- i. **24/0550** - ERECTION OF DETACHED ANNEXE AND GARAGE (REVISED APPLICATION FOLLOWING REFUSAL OF APPLICATION 23/0913)
- j. **24/0562** - CONVERSION OF GARAGE TO A LIVING ROOM AND REPLACING THE EXISTING GARAGE DOOR WITH A WINDOW WITH MATCHING BRICKWORK INFILLING DOOR OPENING

No comments or objections regarding any of the above planning applications received by BCC.

12. Date for Next Meeting

- a. Wednesday 14th August 2024 – Underwood Community Centre