

Michaelston-Y-Fedw Community Council

Clerk Claire Dixon – 8, Druidstone House, Druidstone Road, Cardiff, CF3 6XF

Phone: 01633 680506

Minutes of the meeting held at Michaelston-Y-Fedw village hall on Wednesday 6th April, 2005.

Members Present

Councillor Dr C C Rowlands
Councillor Mrs T Clifford
Councillor Mr G Davies
Councillor Mr S Tyler
Councillor Mr D Philips
Councillor Mr W Percy
Clerk Mrs C Dixon
PC Jim Neesam
Councillor Mr W Morgan

Apologies for absence

Councillor Mrs A Huckle
Councillor Mr C Walford

Members of the Public Present

Residents of Maes Y Crochan

Agenda Item and Comments

05/01/028 – Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday March 3rd 2005 were read and accepted as a true record. This was proposed by Councillor Rowlands and seconded by Councillor Davies.

05/01/029 – Matters Arising

Roads – Councillor Rowlands has taken various photographs of pot holes. More importantly he has used a measure to display the depth and length of some of the worst ones.

Councillor Huckle and the Clerk to write a letter to the Head of Highways.

Pot Hole outside of Cae Gwyn – This was reported to Newport Call Centre on Jan 28th, again at the end of February, and finally at the beginning of April. On this last occasion the Clerk was told that the pot hole had been filled mid-February. Not so, said the Clerk. Newport Council, it would seem, filled the wrong hole.....

Action: Newport Council promised to fill.

BT Pole – Despite Councillor Phillips speaking to BT, and them giving assurances it would be removed, the pole is still there. Councillor Clifford stated that a car had been in collision with it recently.

Action: Councillor Phillips to ring BT again, telling them of this latest incident

Community Litter Day – This has been organised for Sunday, 17th April with all Councillors attending. The provision of mechanical hands, gloves, bags and fluorescent jackets has been arranged.

Church Fund – Councillor Morgan has given the Clerk the number for this organisation.

Action: Clerk to write to them asking for grant assistance for the maintenance of the Village Hall.

Community Noticeboard and Bench – Now completed by Father John Dale.

05/01/030 - Police Matters

PC Neesam reported that, once again, Michaelston has been quiet. Only 1 recorded incident, and that was damage to a car at the Cefn Mably Pub.

Councillor Clifford raised the issue of scrambler bikes racing through the village, creating a lot of noise, every Sunday at around 10am and 3pm. Also, more activity during the school holidays, which raises the question of how old the bikers are. PC Neesam said he would monitor the situation. He said that a new Section 59 law had been passed, which gave Police greater “on-the-spot” powers regarding these bikes. Offenders would be given a verbal warning, if they failed to take notice, then the 2nd offence could risk confiscation of the bike, and a £105 fine.

Councillor Clifford also stated that a car had hit the problematic BT Pole, which Councillor Phillips had already reported to BT.

05/01/031 – Visit by Dee Ashurst, Ebbw Park Ranger

Dee is new to the area, but wanted to introduce herself and the Forest Design Plans for the area (in particular, the Parkwood Forest plans). Dee explained that her team mapped the forests, and then discussed with the public future uses of the woodlands, e.g. planting policy, bridleways, footpaths etc.

Park Wood – the area of forestation is very wet and not good for timber production, although excellent for wildlife. It has been discovered that the woodland dates back to the 17th Century and the plan is to return it to its original broadleaf status, and away from the more recent conifer planting. The plan is to remove sections of conifers during the following years:

North Wood – 2007-2011

South Wood – 2012-2016

Central Wood-a natural regeneration of broadleaf

Councillor Davies asked about parking facilities for walkers. Dee stated that there was no designated parking, and that car users should ask the local residents if they could park by their properties.

Dee also stated that they carry out an inventory of paths, and will endeavour to keep all of the major ones open, although it is beyond their resources to keep all of the minor

paths clear. Permissive paths are cleared with the help of volunteers and member of the British Horse Society (many of whom use the wood for recreational riding purposes).

Councillor Rowlands wanted clarification on the nuisance of scrambler bikes on Forestry Commission land, as he knew of problems at Cefn Mably wood. Dee said that illegal scrambler bikes were being tackled by joint police and forestry ranger patrols. However, she acknowledged that bikers do need an area to go to, and that this would have to be investigated alongside farmers and other groups. However Dee stated that obstacle courses were not allowed, and that bikes could only be used on the roads that run through Forestry Commission land, and not the paths.

Ramblers were welcome throughout, as were Horse Riders, although had to stick to approved paths/bridleways.

Dee stressed that these areas were being developed for recreational activities, and that the plans went out to the public, so as to gain feedback. The outcome of this will be published in July.

The Community Council said they would make the Park Wood plans known within the community, with a link via the web site. They would also ask people to let them know of any concerns with regards path accessibility and marking.

Action: Clerk to create link to Forestry Commission web site.

05/01/032 - Planning

No planning applications were received.

05/01/033 - Roads – Hedges – Verges and Bridges

Roads – The pot holes in the road between Plough House and Druidstone House have been filled, although still not satisfactorily.

Clerk: Councillor Huckle to still send her letter to the Head of Highways

05/01/034 - Correspondence

Various correspondence was received. Of particular interest was the letter from Calor Gas who sponsor the Village of the Year (Wales), inviting interested villages to enter. A prize of £8000 could be available.

Action: Clerk to ask for an Entry Form

05/01/035 - Finance Matters

Father John Dale re-imburement for materials – Chq No 183 - £44.75

Clerks Salary – Chq No 184 - £48

One Voice Wales Subscription – Chq No 185 -£24

Michaelston-y-Fedw Village Hall Committee contribution to fixing roof - Chq No 186 - £2000

05/01/036 - Meetings Reports

Marshfield Primary School – Dr. Eric Peagram, Inspector, returned to the school to present a summary of his findings. He stated that “Marshfield Primary School is an excellent school that has outstanding features in all areas of its work and no shortcomings. It has maintained the high standards identified at the previous inspection and has continued to make improvements in the quality of education it offers. As a result, it offers excellent value for money”. In addition he stated that “no shortcomings were identified in any area of the school’s work so that there are no recommendations arising from such shortcomings”. It was agreed by the Community Council that this was a tremendous endorsement for the local school.

05/01/037 - Chairman’s Business

No other business.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 9.20pm. The next meeting is to be held on Wednesday, May 4th 2005 at the Village Hall, Michaelston-Y-Fedw.