

Michaelston-Y-Fedw Community Council

www.michaelston-y-fedw.com

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 14th April, 2004.

Members Present

Councillor Dr C C Rowlands
Councillor Mrs T Clifford
Councillor Mr G Davies
Councillor Mr C Walford
Councillor Mr S Tyler
Councillor Mr D Philips
Councillor Mr R Evans
Clerk Mrs C Dixon
PC Jim Neesam

Apologies for absence

Councillor Mrs A Huckle

Members of the Public Present

Mr Alex Dunn

Agenda Item and Comments

03/21/225 – Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

03/21/226 – Matters Arising

A summary of the March Action Plan was discussed.

Litter Bin – No change. Still await one from Newport Council.

Planning - All Councillors on-line have a link to the Newport Planning Site, as does the community web site. A hard copy will be brought to future meetings for those not on-line.

Roads, Hedges & Verges – The Tirzah Baptist Graveyard – Despite the Community Council's upkeep it was agreed that the Baptist Union should claim some responsibility for it. Cllr. Clifford and Cllr. Phillips will endeavour to find the appropriate contacts by the next meeting to enable the Clerk to write an appropriate letter.

Michaelston Bridge – The Bridge Engineer, John Pritchard, responded to the Clerk’s correspondence indicating that he was happy to meet with representatives of the Community Council to discuss replacement bollards, and the safety of the bridge. Cllr. Davies will liaise with the Bridge Engineer and various Councillors to fix a date and a time for an on-site meeting.

Potholes – A letter of complaint was sent by the Clerk to Brian Kemp, Head of Highways and transportation at Newport Council. The letter referred to the two previous letters and photographs sent by the Clerk complaining of pothole damage in the community and also drainage problems on Began Road, neither of which were acknowledged by his department. The letter to Brian Kemp asked specifically why there had been no acknowledgement, and further solicited a specific response from Highways and Transportation of the long term plans for the maintenance of roads within Michaelstone-y-Fedw. This letter has also failed to gain a response.

The Community Council has now asked the Clerk to write to the Chief Executive of Newport Council, copying the three previous letters to his Highways and Transportation department, asking him why we have had no response.

Scrap Metal on Coal Pit Lane – Despite attempts to get it removed through official channels it still remains. Cllr. Evans has very kindly offered to get it removed at his own expense.

Finance – Cllr. Evans presented the new “Welcome” signs for the village. A vote of thanks for his good work was noted. Cllr. Davies will organise the erection of the signs. The Clerk also noted that Newport Council had forwarded the cheque for them, from which she could now pay the suppliers.

2002/2003 Accounts – The Clerk and Chairman will endeavour to have these finalised by next meeting.

Community Bench – The individual assigned to re-varnish the bench has now emigrated. Cllr. Tyler will now approach a fellow villager who has expressed an interest in helping the community in such matters. Cllr. Walford agreed to lay more chippings underneath bench.

Community Warden Letter – This has now been posted on the Community Web Site.

03/21/227 Police & Neighbourhood Watch Matters

PC Jim Neesam has taken over from PC Brendan Fisher. His area will cover Marshfield, Michaelston-y-Fedw and Coedkernew. PC Neesam explained that an extra 2/3 officers will be available in the coming months allowing him to become a traditional “beat” officer in this area only, rather than being called away to more troublesome places like Duffryn. PC Neesam will be a visible presence in our community, patrolling both on foot and bike. The Community Council welcomed this wholeheartedly. Should anyone have any concerns then he can be reached on (01633) 680533 or (07968) 097879.

Action: Clerk to post contact details on web site.

03/21/228 Planning

There were no planning applications.

03/21/229 Roads – Hedges – Verges and Bridges

Roads – Cllr. Walford reported that there was now a new drain on Pound Hill.

Action: No further action required.

Bridges – Nothing new to report.

03/21/230 Correspondence

Ruperra Castle – Cllr. Davies received a letter from Rudry Community Council regarding a Planning Application to Caerphilly County Borough Council P/02/0774, which involved 15 or more dwellings being built at Ruperra Castle. They want to make us aware that a road widening scheme will take place between Minorca Cottages and Michaelston Bridge, and that the extra traffic from construction lorries and the development itself, would have a direct affect on residents of Michaelston.

Action: Clerk to write to Caerphilly Council asking them to notify us of any implications that we may face should the application be approved. Also, Clerk to send a letter to Newport Council asking them if they are aware of this project and it's possible affects on our Community.

03/21/231 Finance Matters

Clerk reported that she had received Community Council allocation for 2003/04 of £980, and also the £620 for the purchase of new signposts. As the Clerk forgot the cheque book payments will have to wait until next meeting.

03/121/232 Meetings Reports

Nothing to report.

03/21/233 Chairman's Business

Cllr. Tyler is concerned about the amount of litter being dumped by motorists in our hedges and along our verges. He would like to see a community initiative to tackle the problem, possibly a day when a team of volunteers would clear the litter.

Action: Clerk to post a notice on community web site to gauge interest of villagers. Those not on-line but reading these minutes to contact Cllr. Tyler to show interest.

Mr. Alex Dunn attended the meeting because of his concern at the state of Druidstone Road between Plough House and Druidstone House, Tyla Lane and Coal Pit Lane. Mr Dunn produced a letter that he had written to Newport Council's Highways and Transportation Department last year. In it he criticised the poor state of roads in our community which had got progressively worse in the 9 years since he had lived on Druidstone Road. A letter of response took several months to reach him, and gave him little hope that anything constructive would be done. Mr Dunn feels aggrieved that as a

pensioner he faces an increase of 9% in Council Tax, and yet receives little return in terms of services provided, e.g. no street lighting, pavements, adequate transport links etc.

Cllr. Davies assured Mr. Dunn that the Community Council was entirely sympathetic to his position and is continually trying to engage in dialogue with the Highways and Transportation Department on this matter. The Community Council will take its complaint to the Chief Executive (see earlier), whose response will be relayed to Mr. Dunn and the wider community. However, any form of civil disobedience e.g. non-payment of Council Taxes in protest at the state of our roads could not be condoned by the Community Council.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8.55pm. The next meeting is to be held on Wednesday, May 5th, 2004 at the Village Hall, Michaelston-Y-Fedw.