

Michaelston-y-Fedw Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held at Michaelston-y-Fedw Village Hall
Wednesday 5th October 2016

Members Present:

Councillor Mr G. Davies
Councillor Mr C. Walford
Councillor Mr L. Meringolo
Councillor Mr G. Morgan
Councillor Mr V. Davies

Ward Councillors Present:

Councillor Mr R. White

Apologies for absence:

Councillor Dr C. Rowlands
Councillor Mrs. A. Huckle
Ward Councillor Mr T. Suller

10/16/01 – Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on the 7th September 2016 were proposed as correct by Councillor Walford and seconded by Councillor V. Davies.

10/16/02 – Matters arising

- Additional price quotations are still awaited for strengthening the grass areas of the Village Hall car park.

10/16/03 – Police matters

- The monthly police report for July was circulated at the meeting. The detection rate in this ward last month was 8%. Anti-social behaviour has decreased by 12.1%.

10/16/04 – Planning

- 16/0916 Chapel Cottage change from flat roof to pitched roof. The council has no objections.
- 16/0903 Clearwell Farm – Demolition of side extension and erection of 2 single storey side extensions. The council has no objection in principle, but members considered that the change from pitched roofs to flat roofs will detract from the character of the property.
- 16/0980 Fairwater Farm – Partial discharge of condition 19 (traffic management plan) of planning permission 14/0337 for installation of ground-mounted solar PV plant. Councillors consider that the use of the entrance on Began Road hill is inappropriate as the road is unsuitable for HGVs. There have already been problems with HGVs trying to negotiate the junction at the top of the hill. It would be far better for HGVs to use the existing wide gateway opposite the end of Penylan Road.

10/16/05 – Correspondence

- Newport Council are considering options for changing the distribution of money to community councils via the concurrent grant. No decision has yet been taken.
- A letter has been received from Mark Drayford AM (Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government), saying that he intends to enact arrangements to help town and community councils to become more effective. Councillors elected in 2017 will serve a full 5-year term until 2022, and the same rule will apply to those elected in 2022.

- Now that work has commenced on the solar farm, Councillor Rowlands wrote to Michaelston Solar requesting payment of the £87k that was promised by them in October 2015. A reply was received from Pavel Tyle of Michaelston Solar Ltd, saying that the offer had been withdrawn. It was reported that Keep Us Rural wrote to Sir Stanley Thomas regarding the refusal to honour the agreement. Anesco Ltd (the new owners of Michaelston Solar Ltd) replied, saying that they were aware of the promise, and that they were working with the developer to ensure that it was paid at the earliest opportunity. At a subsequent meeting between Councillor Rowlands, representatives of Anesco Ltd., and representatives of Keep Us Rural, Anesco said that they would not be making the payment, though they would have done so if it had been agreed under a Section 106 agreement with Newport Council. Councillor Rowlands wrote to Graham Price, Head of Legal Services, including a copy of the agreement from Michaelston Solar, asking for advice. However we are still awaiting a reply
The Clerk wrote to legal advisors at One Voice Wales, asking whether the council could pursue the claim in law, but they advised that the council would not be able to enforce the payment. Nevertheless, councillors believe that there is a strong moral case. Councillor White suggested asking Gareth Price for help in imposing a S.106 agreement; Councillor G. Davies will contact Mr Price.

10/16/06 – Finance

- Despite the council's objection, Welsh Government auditors have qualified the council's accounts because the accounts were adopted 2 weeks late (even though this had been agreed with them), and because there is no meeting minute recording the agreement of the council's budget for 2015-16.

10/16/07 – Meeting Reports

None

The meeting concluded at 8.35pm.