

Michaelston-y-Fedw Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 7th February 2024 at Michaelston Village Hall

Members Present:

Councillor L. Meringolo
Councillor C. Rowlands
Councillor N. Hallett
Councillor L. Cohen
Newport City Councillor T. Watkins

Councillor G. Davies
Councillor C. Walford
Councillor D. Schofield
Councillor S. Cohen

Apologies For Absence

None

02/24/01 Minutes of previous meeting

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Councillor Rowlands and seconded by Councillor Davies.

02/24/02 Matters Arising

- Mr S Cohen was appointed to the council as Youth Representative.

02/24/03 Planning

- Application 24/0021 Rectory Coach House alterations. Councillors support this application.
- Application 24/0029 Badgers Wood garage with storage above. Councillors object to this application as it is within TPO-protected ancient woodland, is not within the property curtilage and seems to be unnecessary.
- Application 23/1066 Castleton Park crematorium. Councillors Schofield, Davies and Meringolo declared an interest this matter, and they left the meeting while it was discussed. Welsh Government has now instructed Newport Planning not to approve the development without reference to them. Councillors commended the local action group for the thoroughness of their work.
- Newport LDP Update – The list of candidate development sites has not yet been published, but there are believed to be at least two large candidate sites in the Bassaleg area with scope for up to 400 houses. The community council will pay attention to the candidate sites as there may well be traffic implications. The clerk will ask NCC when the list of sites will be published.

02/24/04 Police Matters

- The monthly police report has been circulated, though it is felt to be of little use. Councillor Hallett will raise the matter at the next liaison meeting.

02/24/05 Roads, Hedges and Verges

- The road surface outside Fairwater Farm remains in a very poor state and has again been reported to Newport Council.
- The lack of road gritting in icy conditions led to residents spreading grit by hand, despite the dangers involved. This seems ridiculous given Newport Council's refusal to collect litter that has been picked from roads where the speed limit exceeds 30mph because of the danger.
- City Councillor Howells has emailed Jayne Bryant M.S. asking her to lobby in favour of allowing local discretion in setting speed limits. She replied saying that the new "setting local speed limits" guidance will not be published until next year, but they are aware of the problem in Michaelston-y-Fedw. There seems to be no reason why NCC could not introduce a speed limit under the existing guidance, and the 3 ward councillors are pressing them to do so.

- Work to relieve flooding at the junction of Michaelston Road and Mill Lane had to be postponed because the diversion route was also subject to a road closure.
- Recent road closure notices have been wrongly positioned and have caused uncertainty because they don't say which part of the road is closed. Councillor Watkins will take this up with Newport Council Highways.

02/24/06 – Correspondence

- Notice was received of forthcoming city councillors' ward surgeries and will be published on the village WhatsApp group.
- Nominations are invited for two Buckingham Palace Garden parties in May. Councillor Schofield was nominated.

02/24/07 – Finance

- The subscription for internet security software was auto renewed, causing an unexpected spend. Auto renewal has now been cancelled.
- Audit Wales has published their list of charges for 2024-25. We will be charged an amount in the range £117-£138. We have not yet been charged for 2021-22 or 2022-23 and the amount is unknown. Audit Wales have not responded to the email sent in November pointing out errors in their audit report for 2022-23.
- Purchase of office supplies up to the budget amount of £50 was authorised.
- The current financial report was discussed. It was agreed that the budgeted amount of £500 for village hall maintenance will be used to buy a replacement projector.

02/24/08 – Meeting Reports

- CCTV installation work, already funded, will be carried out over the next few months. Draethen Community Council have received funds from Caerphilly Council for CCTV in their area. There is common interest between Draethen and Michaelston-y-Fedw for monitoring CCTV and other matters, so a joint public meeting will be organised.
- A planning liaison meeting with Marshfield Community Council will be held on Sunday 25th February.

02/24/08 – Chairman's Business

- The community litter pick will take place on Saturday 24th February.
- Councillor Walford was wrongly threatened by Newport Council over the state of a hedge which had already been cut, and the letter's author will not respond to calls. Councillor Watkins will take this up with Newport Council.

02/24/09 – Date of next meeting

- Wednesday 6th March 2024.