

Michaelston-y-Fedw Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held at Michaelston-y-Fedw Village Hall
Wednesday 7th September 2016

Members Present:

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

Ward Councillors Present:

Councillor Mr R. White
Ward Councillor Mr T. Suller

Apologies for absence:

None

09/16/01 – Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on the 13th July 2016 were proposed as correct by Councillor Rowlands and seconded by Councillor G. Morgan.

09/16/02 – Matters arising

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

09/16/03 – Police matters

- The monthly police report for July was circulated at the meeting. The detection rate in this ward last month was 5.4%.
- Councillor G. Davies raised the problem of off-road motor bikes causing danger and excessive noise as they are used in the local lanes at high speeds, especially on Sundays. Attempts to follow them and find out where they come from have failed because of their high speeds.

09/16/04 – Planning

- 16/0776 Domestic extensions at 1 Bridge Terrace. The council has no objections, in fact the development is welcomed.
- 16/0088 Fairwater Farm solar farm. The Newport Planning website has just been updated with additional documents. One document from the applicants shows the Began Road entrance with vision splays that are too small for a road which is subject to the national speed limit of 60mph. The document claims that local road speeds are typically 30mph, but this should not be allowed to override planning policy. There also seems to be an attempt to circumvent planning requirements in respect of a bridge over a stream within the site. Ward Councillor R. White will look into these matters, and the Clerk will write to Newport Planning.

09/16/05 – Roads, Hedges, Verges & Bridges

- It was agreed that the planting of wild flowers had been very successful and should be repeated next year. Now that the flowers have died it is time to clear the dead material. The Chair and the Clerk will attend to this.

- Cefn Llwyd Bridge has been damaged twice by vehicles but has been very promptly repaired each time. The Clerk will write to Caerphilly Council to thank them for their prompt responses.

09/16/06 – Correspondence

- Reminder invitation received from the Gwent Police & Crime Commissioner to a discussion re police strategy and local policing on 14th September. Councillors Rowlands and G. Davies will attend.
- A list of motions to be debated at the One Voice Wales AGM has been received.
- Reports of the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill are available on line.
- Newport Council will be holding a workshop aimed at encouraging potential councillors to stand for election. They are keen to encourage under-represented groups, e.g. young people, ethnic minorities, LGBT. The Clerk will publicise this on the village website.
- BT are proposing to remove the payphone at Bridge Terrace because of lack of use.
- Next year's audit will require evidence of councillors' personal adoption of the Code of Conduct (which has already been adopted by the council as a whole). The Clerk will prepare forms for councillors to sign for this purpose.

09/16/07 – Finance

- The income and expenditure to date were reviewed against the budget for 2016-17. There are no causes for concern at this stage.
- The new external auditors have asked for several items of evidence which have never been requested before, and which therefore have not been available. Because of this they intend to qualify the audit statement. They also intend to qualify the audit because the council formally adopted the accounts 2 weeks late, despite this being previously agreed with them when the internal audit results were delayed. They raised several questions of detail during the summer months, including asking for evidence of postage expenditure which totalled £14.58, despite this having already been covered by the internal audit. The Chair will write to the auditors complaining at their inappropriate concentration on low levels of detail which has already been covered by the internal audit, and at their decision to qualify their audit report despite their previous agreement to a change of review date.
- It was agreed that from now on the Clerk should use the bank's on-line facilities wherever possible, including the payment of the monthly salary.

09/16/08 – Meeting Reports

None

09/16/08 – Chairman's Business

- Councillor G. Davies raised Newport Council's publication of a map showing "Michaelston Bridge" as an area, some distance from the bridge itself. There is no such area – Councillor Davies will draft a letter to be sent to Newport Council asking for this misleading marker to be removed.
- Councillor V. Davies is temporarily leaving the area now that the Cefn Mably Arms is changing hands. He will remain as a member of the council during this period. The decision was welcomed by the other councillors.

The meeting concluded at 8.45pm.