

## SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 7 April 2014 at 7.30 pm  
at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

### **Present:**

#### **Councillors:**

Ms B Moore  
Mr I Moore (Chair)  
Mr K Morton  
Mr P Harris  
Mr D Adams  
Mr T Hughes

### **Also in attendance:**

Mr N Leaworthy, Mon CC  
Mrs G MacDonald  
Mrs H Counsell (Clerk)  
Six members of the public.

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, made introductions and thanked everyone for their attendance.

#### **1. Public participation.**

It was noted that a statutory Section 125 Untidy Land Notice had been issued week commencing 31.3.14. A copy of a letter from Mr Lutken was passed to the Chair with a request that he forward it on to Ian Blomeley, Enforcement, Mon CC.

The Chair reminded residents of the actions that the Community Council is able to take,

#### **2. Apologies were received and accepted from:** Councillors L Prosser, P Moles and County Councillor G Down.

#### **3. To receive the police report.**

The monthly police report had been circulated, but no officers were present at the meeting. There were two reports of suspicious vehicles in Penycmaewr and Earlswood which were not taken further and four reports of theft, one walk-in at a house in Shirenewton, two in Earlswood - one from a shed and one of heating oil., the fourth was copper cable from the electricity sub-station in Wentwood. There had been nine calls to Brookacre during the month, a meeting is to take place to discuss current concerns at Brookacre .

4. Talk from Mr N Leaworthy, Mon CC on the Pollinator Policy which enables the authority to look at the way that open spaces, parks, cemeteries, verges etc are managed. The authority is planting yellow rattle, trialling 'urban mix' wildflower planting - indigenous flowers that enhance pollinators, also perennial flower mixes at some sites and poppies as part of the WW1 commemorations. When questioned, Mr Leaworthy agreed that the verges along the Shirenewton/Crick road could be appropriate for wild flower planting next year. The Spout was another area that was suggested. This item to be added to the July agenda for further discussion and sites nominated, if appropriate.

#### **Minute 3063 - To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in any item of listed business.**

There were none.

**Minute 3064 - To consider planning applications received.**

1. DC/2014/00215 Listed Building Consent - proposed installation of a Blue Plaque to commemorate EJ Lowe on the gatepost of Shirenewton Hall.

**Recommendation: Approval.**

2. DC/2014/00205 Gaerllwyd Farm, Newchurch  
Conversion of barn to a dwelling.

**Recommendation: Approval** with the following observations -

- that a single story dwelling would be a significant improvement to what is a redundant and unsightly agricultural building,
- the intention to retain the Welsh slate roof, which is in good condition,
- there will be no increase in size,
- there were no objections registered on the Mon CC website.

3. DC/2014/00121 Bluebell Farm, Earlswood

Extend existing steel framed barn and construct new manege in adjoining field.

Council noted that according to the website, this application had been approved by Mon CC on 7.4.14 (the day of the SCC meeting). Although this Council also intended approving the application, the following questions were asked of Mon CC -

- Why has the application been passed before consultation was completed?
- Has the applicant contacted the authority regarding Right of Way 156 as instructed by the RoW Officer in his report dated 18.3.14?

Has an application been made for Change of Use of the ground from agricultural to equestrian, as this should be the first stage of planning procedure?

4. DC/2013/01103 Bluebell Farm, Earlswood

Detached double garage and workshop with office accommodation in roof space.

Council noted from the website that Mon CC had given notice to refuse this application on 1.4.14 due to its poor design, excessive scale and unacceptable massing.

5. DC/2014/00337 Old Home, Earlswood

Demolition of some disused and structurally unsafe outbuildings to be replaced by an annexe.

Council noted that demolition work had already been carried out and that the single storey design would not impose on neighbours. There had been no objections registered on the Mon CC website. **Recommendation: Approval.**

6. E6840/A/2014/2214033 Hill View Cottage, Shirenewton

(Planning application DC/2012/00631) Appeal against a refusal.

Council resolved that the following recommendation be sent to the Planning Inspectorate for Wales:

'In December 2012 this Council recommended refusal with the following observations;

- that the property is in a conservation area and that particular row of houses, especially the outbuilding that was the village pound, is of historic interest,
- all alterations should be in keeping with the village character, this proposal is cramped and results in over development of the site,
- although alterations had been made to the original plans, proposals for access and parking were still considered unacceptable.

In September 2013, amendments to the plans were considered and, again, Council recommended refusal. Members acknowledged that amendments had been made but still had serious concerns about access and limited parking space, they felt that not enough of an improvement had been made to change their recommendation'.

7. To receive the appeal decision of the Planning Inspectorate on the proposal for Shirenewton Village Shop. Council noted that the Appeal had been allowed and 'permission granted for the conversion of the existing ground floor shop so as to form a 3-storey dwelling'.

**Minute 3065** - Minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2014 were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

**Minute 3066 - To consider two vacancies on the Council** - the Clerk advised that two applications had been received so far, one for Shirenewton and one for Newchurch West. The closing date for applications is 23.4.14. Council agreed that if applications remain at two, they are to be invited for co-option, if further applications are received then a sub-committee will be set up for interviews.

**Minute 3067 - Finance - to consider items for payment**

**Expenditure (by Standing Order)**

Clerk's salary/allowances -	March 2014	
£441.06		
Clerk's Pension (Council & Clerk's contribution) -	March 2014	£109.39

**Items for payment**

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount	Cheque No.
	Cheque cancelled		101166
Clerk	March expenses	£61.40	101167
One Voice Wales	Training session 20.2.14	£30.00	101168
Merlin Waste	Specialist bin emptying - Feb/March	£48.33	101169

**Minute 3068 - To consider grant request for WW1 commemorations in 2014.**  
Council resolved to donate £150 towards these events.

**Minute 3069 - Update on traffic calming proposals.**  
C Cllr Down had e-mailed a report to the meeting and Cllr T Hughes confirmed that the Working Party meeting held in March had finalised suggestions for speed restrictions, the locations of which will depend on the width of verges, and a scheme is to be drawn up with technical assessments made by Highways. CC G Down is expecting to consult with the community by mid-May.

**Minute 3070 - to consider entry to the Best Kept Village Competition 2014.**  
Council agreed to enter the competition again this year. Clerk and Cllr Hughes to contact Carole Jones, local residents and departments of Mon CC to arrange for the village to be brought up to the required standard.

**Minute 3071 - To consider items to be raised at the joint MoD, Caerwent CC meeting on 28.4.14.**  
No current issues - Cllrs B Moore and K Morton to attend.

**Minute 3072 - To receive the Clerk's Report**

### Issues being pursued by the Clerk:

- **Poor Land field** - Response from Mr Hoare (Solicitor) on 5.4.14, including a draft Statutory Declaration from Cllr Hughes for submission to the Land Registry. Declaration circulated 5.4.14 for comments. Cllr Hughes to meet again on 10 April to finalise and obtain signatures, ready for submission on 11.4.14.
- **Play area** - Area of bark has been topped up. Chair checking with Cllr Moles regarding suitability - play bark to be laid. Other outstanding work to be completed by end April.
- **Communal Web Portal** - No progress this month. Several e-mails received regarding Welsh Govt. compliance in bilingualism, accessibility and mobile compatibility - awaiting WG response to questions raised by Chepstow Clerk. Clerk in touch with Mon CC for their observations.
- **Litter bin emptying** - Mynyddbach bin to be emptied by Merlin Waste on a fortnightly basis, second Rec Hall car park bin to be emptied by Mon CC on informal basis, as at present. West End bin to be emptied fortnightly by Mon CC.
- **Telephone kiosk** - Clerk and Cllr B Moore to meet on 3.4.14. Clerk has contacted Big Lottery Fund to check on progress of grant application. Meeting to be arranged with Mr Tayton (owner).
- **Asset checklist** responses from Councillors received, some non-urgent maintenance required - to be agreed at next precept discussion.
- **Damaged Keep Left bollard central Shirenewton** - Clerk informed Highways and police of bollard being smashed early am on Sunday 23.3.14.
- **Rescheduled meetings** - Joint MoD meeting to be held on 28 April at 2.00 pm at Caerwent Village Hall. Proposed date for CADW meeting not yet received.
- Copies of updated **Register of Electors 2013/2014** distributed to Councillors.
- **Clerk's request for annual leave** from 30/4 - 7/5/14 (6 days) was agreed by Council.

### Issues being pursued by County Councillor Down

- **Earlswood Hall directions signs** - CC Down has met with Highways and is progressing this.
  - **Yew Tree Bungalow, Earlswood/Rights of Way 53/54/55** - Clerk e-mailed for update on 17 and 27.3.14 - G Delamere has passed issues on to Enforcement - Section 125 Untidy Land Notice to be issued w/c 31.3.14.
- **Reported footpath obstruction** on 119/120 (Ridge House Stables) confirmation received from Rights of Way, Mon CC that access has been blocked for some time. Clerk requested that this be pursued via Enforcement as a priority. Reminder e-mail sent 27.3.14 - no response as yet.
- **Residents request for signage at top and bottom of Weyloed Lane** to aid emergency services has been agreed and will be fitted in to work schedule (6 - 8 weeks).

- **Destruction of verge and bank on corner of Bluebell Lane** - an understanding has been reached with the owner of Bluebell farm and the verges are to be re-instated. No Further Action.

**Minute 3073 - Items of local concern** (information only)

- request for additional dog waste bin at the SAMFAL gate - Council declined this request as there is a bin close by at the Tan House bus stop.
- condition of temporary patching of Mynyddbach Lane.
- request for noise monitoring equipment for motorcycles using the Usk Road.
- increased play area signage in Shirenewton - suggest this is considered along with the traffic calming proposals.
- a stone for erection of the QE11 plaque has been delivered to the recreation field.

**Minute 3074 - To receive items of correspondence.**

1. E-mail from Charles Eickhoff (circulated 21.3.14) to confirm a successful application to the War Memorial Trust for 50% funding of the costs of restoration of the church clock. The restoration can now take place, CE to keep the Council informed of progress.
2. Information from Planning Dept., Mon CC on a new Pre-planning Application Advice Service. (circ 1.4.14).
3. E-mail from Mr R Tout (resident) received and circulated on 7.4.14 regarding signage at Lower Lane, Mynyddbach. Council confirmed that it has no proposal to erect a such a sign.

**Minute 3075 - To present short reports from meetings attended.**

Cllr Morton had attended a Countryside Service meeting. Cut backs on maintenance of stiles/gates/paths were discussed and future maintenance work will be prioritised.

**Minute 3076 - Date of next meeting:**

The Annual Meeting will be held on Monday 12 May 2014 at 7.30pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall, to be immediately followed by the Ordinary Meeting.

The Chair reminded members that the election of Chair and Vice Chair will take place at the Annual Meeting and encouraged them to give some thought to this. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55 pm.