

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 1 December 2014 at 7.30 pm
at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

Present:

Councillors:

Mr I Moore	Ms B Moore	Mr K Morton
Ms L Prosser	Mr D Adams	Mr P Harris

Also in attendance:

Mrs H Counsell (Clerk to the Council)
County Councillor G Down

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

1. Public participation.

There was none.

2. Apologies for absence: Cllrs T Hughes, P Moles, M Lenza and L Dyke.

3. To receive the police report.

No monthly report was received and no officers attended the meeting.

The Chair and Clerk, along with other local Councils, are to attend a meeting with the newly appointed police inspector for south Monmouthshire on Monday 8.12.14 and will raise the issues of traffic speed/noise on the B4235 and the established protocol with Brookacre.

Minute 3156 - To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in any item of listed business.

Cllr D Adams Planning - Item 5.1 and Clerk's Report - point 4.

Minute 3157 - To consider planning applications received.

Cllr Adams took no part in the debate or voting on the next item.

1. DC/2014/00969 Rhewl Farm, Shirenewton

Provision of photovoltaic solar park and ancillary infrastructure - amended plans.

Council acknowledged the amendments to the original proposal and the reduction in size, but felt that the changes were not significant enough to change the decision to recommend refusal of the application, and the original observations still stand. It was felt that a reduction from 41,900 units to 31,799 was still a very sizeable site. County Cllr Down explained the Community Benefit offer and advised that this had been reported to the police under the Bribery Act.

2. D/2014/01397 'Sarisa', Old Road, Newchurch West Agricultural shed.

Council recommended refusal with the following observations:

- The proposed shed not being suitable for the purpose described,
- The shed being completely enclosed, with no ventilation, so not suitable for housing animals,
- No water on site (a bore hole on site but no electricity to pump water,
- The proposed shed sited in a prominent position on the land and much larger than the current one,
- Council felt that the activity proposed and the reasons for the activity should be assessed by an agricultural expert,
- There is a current trend of farmland being sold off in small parcels and in this case there is a caravan on site and several small sheds, this is an AONB area and there should be clear guidance from Mon CC on planning policy.

Minute 3158 - The minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2014 were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

Minute 3159 - Finance - to consider items for payment

Expenditure (by Standing Order)

Clerk's salary/allowances - November 2014
 £449.42
 Clerk's Pension (Council & Clerk's contribution) - November 2014 £166.74

Items for payment

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount £	Cheque No.
Clerk	November expenses	64.01	101202
Merlin Waste	Specialist bin emptying (Oct)	27.12	101203
Royal British Legion	Two wreaths and donation	50.00	101204
One Voice Wales	Councillor training 10.11.14	30.00	101205
Shirenewton Charity Committee	Church clock restoration (donation previously agreed)	40.00	101206
Llanfair Landscapes	Grass cutting 2014. Play area and memorial ground.	780.00	101207

The Council resolved to make all payments as listed.

Minute 3160 - To consider and adopt the annual Precept for 2015/2016.

The annual precept for 2015-2016 was considered in detail and adopted. During discussions Council resolved to increase the working hours of the Clerk from 12 ½ per week to 14 per week, with effect from 1.4.15. A meeting is to be arranged with representatives from the Recreation Association to discuss current issues - grass cutting, CCTV replacement etc.

It was further resolved to make annual donations to local organisations the same as last year:

	£:00
Shirenewton Rec Hall	300
Earlswood Hall	300
Shirenewton PCC	150
Shirenewton Playgroup	100
Earlswood Methodist	60
Earlswood Hope	60
Gaerllwyd Baptist	60
St Peters Newchurch	60
Mon County CAB	60
Village Carol Service	50

This leaves a balance of £300 to be donated to local organisations, upon request,

before the end of the financial year.

Councillors were concerned about rising costs and in an effort to keep the precept as low as possible in 2015/16, it was resolved to use £2,000 from reserves.

Minute 3161 - Update on traffic calming proposals - County Cllr Down had issued the detail of the proposals prior to the meeting. Councillors expressed concern over the many months of negotiations, then having to respond within a week. In view of the timescale Council agreed to accept the proposals and were pleased to hear that the B4235 is on the agenda for speed monitoring. It was also felt that 300, 200, 100 yard warnings on the approach to speed restrictions would be of benefit.

Minute 3162 - Council received information on a car rally through Earlswood on 6.12.14. Information had been received via the Online Watch Link (OWL) and followed up by Cllr Harris.

Minute 3163 - Update on lease options for Earlswood Recreation Field.

This item is still ongoing. Cllr Hughes returns on 11.12.14 and will take up the lead. There will be more to report at the January or February meeting.

Minute 3164 - To receive the Clerk's Report

Issues being pursued by the Clerk:

- **SCC website** now complete and available to view. The 'Contact Us' form is available but needs a header statement from SCC, also need to think about how we access and respond. Details publicised in November issue of Parish Magazine.
- **Telephone kiosk** - . Refurbished kiosk returned to site on 6.9.14 (glass panels still need to be inserted but contractor awaiting delivery of inner frames, confirmed he is still chasing up on 19.11.14), he was requested to arrange completion as a matter of urgency. Site visit made by Clerk on 1.12.14 - Mr Baynton not available, mobile message left. Meeting to be arranged between SCC Chair, Clerk and owner to confirm and sign lease (when work has been completed).
- **Mynyddbach notice board** - the board has not withstood external use/weather and started to fall apart. It was returned to Usk Prison on 16.9.14 by Cllr B Moore and a replacement notice board is to be made.
- **Clearview additional houses** - Planning Officer has confirmed planning gain for 7 houses = $7 \times £787 = £5509$ 'for improvement to the existing recreational provision in Shirenewton'. Clerk asked T Bradfield, Mon CC whether any match funding is available, more likely to be available to Rec Assoc. than the Council. Receipt of this funding is still some time away

Issues being pursued by County Councillor Down

- **Earlswood Hall directions signs** - CC Down has met with Highways and the purchase has been approved. Clerk contacted P Keeble, Mon CC on 19.11.14, he cannot recollect the order and will investigate. Clerk to contact G Kinsella.
- **Yew Tree Bungalow, Earlswood/Rights of Way 53/54/55** - Responses from I Blomeley with several maps re. RoW's, plus original PROW report dated 14.1.14 (circ 27.10.14). Clerk has raised access/ownership queries, IB's response circulated 22.11.14.

- **Reported footpath obstruction** on 119/120 (Ridge House Stables) - Under Section 130(6) of the Highways Act 1980 a diversion order is being sought (the process may take up to 18 months). E-mail circulated from M Lewis, Countryside Manager, Mon CC on 21.10.14 confirming the above. Clerk to request progress report in March 2015.
- **Site off Blethyn Close** - Forwarded e-mail from CC GD - from Scott Ramsay, Mon CC to inform of work starting on 1.11.14 at the site sold by Mon CC to Monmouthshire Housing Association. C Cllr Down confirmed that H&S compliance is a contract requirement.

Minute 3164 - Items of local concern (information only)

- grit bins at West End and Earlswood (opp. 'Brynbriallen') need filling.
- the Tan House pub site has deteriorated and needs tidying up. This point to be picked up with Cllr Hughes.
- Councillors were disappointed to learn that the newspaper collection service run by the Tredegar Arms has ended because people did not pay when collecting their papers. Clerk to write to the landlady to thank her for her community spirit.

Minute 3165 - To receive items of correspondence.

1. Letter from a Mynyddbach resident regarding traffic issues on the B4235 and response to November Council meeting. Further e-mail requesting written support from this Council to David Davies MP regarding traffic issues. Council agreed to contact D Davies and raise the issue at a meeting with the new police inspector for Chepstow on 8.12.14.
2. Response from Nick Ramsay AM regarding his attending a meeting to explain current discussions on devolution of tax raising powers to the Assembly - will provisionally attend SCC meeting on 2 February 2015.
3. E-mail from the Open Spaces Society urging local Councils to write to local Assembly Members in support of OSS's response to the inquiry into the Planning (Wales) Bill regarding village greens, re. Part 7, which restricts when a town or village green application can be made.
4. Mon CC consultation on the draft Local Transport Plan (LTP) for the period 2015-2020 and longer term to 2030. Response required asap - no date given, but 3 weeks from date of e-mail is Friday 12 December.
5. Mon CC Local Development Plan consultation on draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (respond by 22.1.15).
 - Policy H4(g) Conversion/rehabilitation of buildings in open countryside
 - Conversion of agricultural buildings
 - Policies H5 & 6 Replacement dwellings and extensions in the countryside.
 Clerk and Cllr B Moore to meet to consider a response.
6. Monmouthshire Engages - dates for Budget Events for January 2015. Proposed changes to reduce costs and increase income -
 - One Stop Shops/libraries merging, mileage for free school transport reduced,
 - number of Council buildings reduced, scrap grey bags, generate income by selling advertising space, increasing the costs of discretionary services.

6 Jan 6 - 8pm Monmouth Leisure Centre
 7 Jan " Caldicot School
 8 Jan " Chepstow School
 9 Jan 1.30 - 3pm Trellech

12 Jan 9.30 - 11am Raglan
" " 12 noon - 1.30pm Usk

Minute 3166 - To present short reports from meetings attended.

- Cllr Morton reported on a meeting facilitated by Adventa on walks and countryside services in Monmouthshire - as Adventa's funding ended on 30.11.14 that service has now ended and Mon Countryside Department is taking on the role. They have developed an interactive website www.monmouthshirewalking.com which accesses all walks/Rights of Way/footpaths and the community can use it to report faults or damage, also to advertise walks and events.

- Cllr B Moore reported that the joint meeting with Caerwent CC and the MoD had been productive. 15,000 troops had been trained at the base in Caerwent during the year and a further 5,000 at the weapons site in Rogiet. There is to be a major exercise at Caerwent in January 2015 involving 1,000 troops. Training is now going back to traditional warfare. The MoD is currently looking to improve facilities for troops using the site at Caerwent and the Commandant expressed his appreciation of the tolerance of neighbouring residents.

The Commandant advised that Crownhill is now on site and incorporating Wormtech waste into topsoil, that there are no contaminants present and only plastics are being removed from the waste.

Minute 3167 - Date of next meeting:

Monday 5 January 2015 at 7.30pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00 pm.