

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 7 December 2015 at 7.30 pm
at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

Present:

Councillors:

Mr P Harris (Chair)	Ms B Moore	Mr K Morton
Mr I Moore	Mrs L Prosser	Mr I Martin

Also in attendance:

Mr P Keeble, Highways Officer, Mon CC
County Councillor G Down
Mrs H Counsell (Clerk to the Council)
4 members of the public

1. Public participation.

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and gave a brief history of the traffic calming scheme. He then handed over to Mr P Keeble, who attended to respond to questions on the traffic calming installation previously forwarded to him by the Council and by the Traffic Calming Group. Mr Keeble handed the Clerk copies of the original plans of the scheme. He confirmed the following points:

- that the VAS signage would be installed early in the new year, rather than the next financial year,
- that the Crick/Earlswood road would be the main highway,

Mr Keeble advised that the white lining at junctions was not to be replaced at the moment, the requirement is to be monitored.

With regard to the 'cobbled' areas he stated that such cobbles had been used successfully in housing developments, villages in England, Chepstow and Caerwent. Although he later admitted that some of these schemes had been 'stone' cobbles rather than thermoplastic, as used in this case. He confirmed that thermoplastic cobbles were made of a specialist material that had been HAPAS approved and following repairs, contractors should be able to reinstate to a good standard. The 'cobbles' will be monitored by surveys. Mr Keeble advised that a change of surface informs the motorist of a change of speed and that reports of noise will be monitored, as will effectiveness in adverse weather conditions.

Regarding the installation of the bollards, Mr Keeble advised that the intention was to create a safe stepping off point for pedestrians using the footpath, although this was disputed by those present as they cause frustration and appear to legitimise vehicle parking.

Regarding the dropped pavements and altered entrance to the recreation hall car park, this was seen as a real hazard to road safety and it was requested that these points be included in safety monitoring.

Residents requested sight of the data that forms the baseline for the next assessment.

Mr Keeble agreed to forward information on the costs of the traffic calming scheme. He further confirmed that road safety for all users was a priority.

County Councillor G Down summed up and advised of three points that had yet to be resolved:

1. The 20mph speed restriction through Shirenewton – although a speed and volume survey is planned for early spring 2016 and it may be possible following the survey;
2. A 40mph speed restriction on the Usk Road between the council houses and Spout Hill;

3. Speed restrictions in Mynyddbach, although it is hoped to revisit this in the future. He further advised that he is in contact with the police regarding arranging a Community Speedwatch initiative run by volunteer residents.

2. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from:

Cllr M Lenza.

3. The monthly police report – the report was circulated prior to the meeting and PCSO S Parker attended. During the month there was one report concerning damage to a vehicle at Home Farm Court, one report of sheds being broken into at a property on the Usk Road and a report of a speeding vehicle on the Earlswood Road – driver located and advised about their manner of driving. There were twelve calls to Brookacre, but one resident was then moved.

4. Resignation of a Councillor

Council received and reluctantly accepted a letter of resignation from Councillor P Moles. Clerk to send a letter of thanks to Mr Moles for his service to the Council and inform Democratic Services, Mon CC. Vacancy notices from Mon CC had been posted with a closing date of 3.12.15, with no applications received by them.

Council then considered Mr R Kopp's application for a co-option vacancy and resolved to appoint him to a vacancy in the Shirenewton Ward. Cllr Kopp to be invited to attend the next meeting. This leaves two further vacancies in this ward to be filled.

Minute 3313 - To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in any item of listed business.

There were none.

Minute 3314 – Minutes of the last meeting – minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2015 were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

Minute 3315 - to consider planning applications received.

1. DC/2015/01386 23 Clearview Court, Shirenewton
Removal of existing failed boundary retaining wall, proposed new boundary retaining wall and associated engineering and landscaping works.

Council noted that this property is at the entrance to the estate, alongside a main route into Shirenewton village, at the edge of the conservation area. The existing brick retaining wall is approx 1 metre high and in keeping with the rest of the estate. The proposal is for this to be replaced with a stone faced retaining wall approx 2.6 metres high, topped with a steel fence of a further 1.1 metres, making the height 3.7 metres in all. Council recommend refusal of the application as it will be intrusive; constructed of differing materials; out of keeping with the other properties in Clearview Court and will have a negative visual impact.

2. TOWN AND PLANNING ACT 1990 SECTION 211 – TREES IN CONSERVATION AREAS

Mon CC had received a written statement from the resident of Olive Cottage, Crick Road, Shirenewton NP16 6RQ giving the Council six weeks notice of his intention to remove a Yew tree from the rear garden of the property. The property is within the Shirenewton conservation area.

Council noted that the tree in question is 490 years old and in this conservation area. Also that yew trees in this area have a long history, being used for the longbow by the 'Men of Gwent' at the battle of Cressy (1346) to defeat the French. The slow

growing yew tree is under threat and few are being replanted, 80% of all yew are in church yards. Yew trees in this area do therefore enhance the conservation area. Council further noted that the yew is very slow growing and has a large intake of water, when cut down this dries out and leaves a void which may result in the collapse of any boundary/building walls close by.

During discussion, the applicant was sympathetic to the above comments and was minded to withdraw his application for removal of the tree and consult with Mon CC regarding having the tree dramatically cut back to reduce its size. The Council recommended that a specialist company is used for this work.

The Community Council could not recommend approval of the application to fell the tree, but was content for the applicant to consult with Mon CC regarding reducing the size of the tree. However, the Council recommended that if the tree was felled at some time in the future a replacement yew tree is planted within the community.

Minute 3316 – Finance - to approve items listed for payment

Expenditure (by Standing Order)

Clerk's salary/allowances - November 2015 £507.46
 Clerk's Pension (Council & Clerk's contribution) - November 2015 £150.80

Items for payment

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount £	Cheque No.
Clerk	November expenses	62.93	101283
Llanvair Landscapes	Grass/hedge maintenance for 2015 season (2 hedge cuts)	880.00	101284
One Voice Wales	Councillor training session (50% bursary received)	17.50	101285
RBL Poppy Appeal	Two wreaths and donation for Remembrance Sunday	50.00	101286
Mon CC	Grounds maintenance 2015/16	1512.58	101287
Merlin Waste	Specialist bin emptying (Nov)	40.68	101288

It was resolved to make all payments as listed.

Minute 3317 – To consider and set the precept for 2016/2017.

Council considered information presented by the Clerk that was additional to the precept information considered last month – the increased costs of grounds maintenance and grass cutting, plus future devolvement of services from Mon CC. Clerk to request further information on the costs of services from Mon CC. Council agreed that when the time comes a SLA should be agreed and monitored to ensure that residents get what they pay for. Precept to be agreed and ratified at the January 2016 meeting.

Minute 3318 – To consider and adopt a website protocol.

Cllr Lenza was not able to attend this meeting. All Councillors felt that the website 'pop-up' was effective. The Clerk advised that the issues Cllr Lenza was chasing concerning hosting and maintenance of the site were still ongoing.

Minute 3319 - To receive the Clerk's Report

Issues being pursued by the Clerk

- **Telephone kiosk** – cheque for £40 for submission to Land Registry delivered to Evans & Ellis on 19.10.15. Council confirmed that registration of kiosk site is to be pursued. Clerk informed Mr Howells (E&E) on 11.11.15 and gave him copies of further information. E-mail reminder sent 30.11.15.

Kiosk is leaking like a sieve – e-mail sent to BSSB Sandblasting on 30.11.15 asking for complete weatherproofing, as should have been included in refurbishment.

- **Listing 'The Mill', Bully Hole Bottom** – 27.10.15 e-mail received from Louise Meese, Regional Inspector, CADW who has passed this on to Simon Wardle, Inspector of Historic Buildings with responsibility for listing.
- **Litter bin – Recreation Hall car park** – second bin ordered 25.10.15. Rec Assoc to pay half of the cost of £100. Not yet installed.
- **Repairs to Friends Burial Ground walls** – work ongoing.
- **Wayleave agreements for Consent No SA 213687** for installation of green cabinet at Rec Hall car park – signatures required for permission to complete the work. (Previously met and agreed by G Hughes (Rec Hall) and ex - Councillor T Hughes (SCC). Amended agreement received, Council gave permission for wayleave to be signed by Clerk. BT confirmed there would be a one-off payment of £750 for this installation.
- **Mynyddbach noticeboard** – has fallen apart. A1 Carpentry to be asked to check whether it can be salvaged and weatherproofed or whether it is beyond repair.

Issues being pursued by County Councillor Down

- **Dumping of Waste at Ridge House Stables** – response made on to Planning Inspectorate on 5.10.15 regarding the applicant's Appeal, also formal complaint made to Chief Executive Officer, Mon CC on 20.10.15 over the length of time that Conditions to the planning approval are taking to be enforced. Response from Chief Exec received 27.10.15 regarding formal complaint – as this issue is being investigated by the Ombudsman, Mon CC will await those findings.
- **Reported footpath obstruction** on F/paths 119/120 (Ridge House Stables) – formal complaint made (as above) to Chief Executive Officer, Mon CC over the length of time Conditions to the planning approval are taking to be enforced.

This point was referred to the Principal Officer for Countryside for assessment of current position, response received 9.11.15 with same info as that received from M Lewis on 21.10.14. After 2 reminders on 12 and 24.11.15, response received and circulated 1.12.15 – some progress as a draft path order is now being prepared with the agreement of the landowner. No timetable on further progress but this Council will be consulted by Mon CC at the pre-order and notice stages.

Minute 3320 - Items of local concern (information only)

- Council was advised that Enforcement notices had been issued to Digby Plant Hire in November 2015.
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Minute 3321 - To receive items of correspondence.

1. Diary Marker from the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner advising of a consultation event on 11.1.16 regarding the 2016/17 policing budget precept. (Circulated 16.11.15).
2. Monmouthshire County Citizens Advice Bureau Notice of AGM at the Sessions House, Usk on Monday 7 December 2015 at 6.30pm.
3. Invitation from the Chairman of Mon CC to a charity Quiz Night at the Glen-yr-Afon House Hotel on Sunday 10 January 2016 from 7pm. (Circ. 23.11.15)
4. Press Release – New Lottery funding available for Monmouthshire’s countryside communities. (Circulated 4.11.15).

Consultations received:

Monmouthshire County Council

Mon CC’s Annual Improvement Plan 2016 (Circ. 19.11.15)

One Voice Wales

Gwent Police and Office of the Police Crime Commissioner – are we fair?
Consultation closes 16.12.15 (Circ. 12.11.15)

Welsh Government

- Refreshing the Financial Inclusion Strategy for Wales 2016
- Harmonising school term dates for 2017 to 2018
- Draft Statutory Guidance on ‘Ask and Act’ under Section 15 of the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 and Section 60 of the Government of Wales Act 2006
- Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill (responses by 15.2.16)
- Producing a New Travel Behaviour Code
- Proposed new management measures for the scallop fishery in Cardigan Bay

Minute 3322 - To present short reports from meetings attended.

- Give Dog Fouling the Red Card meeting on 3.11.15, attended by the Clerk. In light of a reduction in budget by the Tidy Towns scheme, Council was asked to consider whether further signage/supplies were required in 2016 and whether a contribution would be made towards them. Council agreed that there were no further requirements at this stage.
- Joint meeting between the MoD, Shirenewton and Caerwent CC’s on 26.11.15 – minutes circulated 30.11.15.
- Mon CC budget meeting on 3.12.15 regarding devolution of services and the potential impact on Community Council budgets.
- The Traffic Calming Group had held one meeting, with the next to be held on 10.12.15. Responses to the traffic Calming Questionnaire in the Parish Magazine are to be analysed.
- The Chair had attended training on Chairing Meeting Skills.

Minute 3323 - Date of next meeting:

Monday 4 January 2016 at 7.30pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40 pm.