

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 3 February 2014 at 7.30 pm
at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

Present:

Councillors:

Ms B Moore
Mrs C Jones
Mrs L Prosser
Mr I Moore (Chair)
Mr K Morton
Mr P Harris
Mr D Adams
Mr P Moles

Also in attendance:

County Councillor G Down
WPC L Thorpe and PC A Jones
Mrs G MacDonald
Mrs H Counsell (Clerk)
Nine members of the public

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

2. Apologies were received and accepted from: Councillors L McCombe
and T Hughes.

3. To receive the police report.

The police report had been circulated prior to the meeting, and both WPC Thorpe and PC A Jones attended. There were several incidents on the report, some being weather related, but only one crime. There had been one call to Brookacre during January regarding an internal issue.

WPC Thorpe advised that the next PACT meeting to discuss community issues would be held on 25.2.14 at 7.30pm at the Huntsman Hotel.

Minute 3039 - To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in any item of listed business.

There were none.

Minute 3040 - To consider planning applications received.

No planning applications had been received this month.

CC G Down informed the Council that he had attended the Public Inquiry regarding Shirenewton Village Shop and the Inspector's Report should be published soon. As should the Monmouthshire LDP Inspector's Report.

He further advised that planning application DC/2013/00925, Buckwell Farm, had stalled as a further report on 'glare' had been requested.

1. Public Participation

1. Mrs D Brabon and Dr D Thomas representing Shirenewton Local History Society advised the Council that, subject to permission from the Conservation Officer at Mon CC, a blue plaque is to be erected in Shirenewton to commemorate the life of Edward J Lowe. CC Down gave Mrs Brabon an application form for a Lower Wye Committee grant for installation costs.
2. Taliesen/Yew Tree Bungalow, Earlswood - the Chair gave background

information on the discussion at the last meeting and subsequent correspondence received from Mon CC which included a report from Mr I Blomeley on the affected Rights of Way. The Chair assured members of the public that the issues were being actively pursued by Departments of Mon CC and are still ongoing.

Two members of the public expressed concern regarding the discharge of domestic water onto the highway, resulting in thick mud and slurry. They were also concerned over the poor road repairs that have been carried out by Mon CC as the bank is eroding and the field falling into the lane. CC G Down arranged a site meeting with interested parties.

After some discussion, the Chair once again assured those present that this Council will endeavour to pursue issues, but final responsibility lies with the local authority.

Minute 3041 - Minutes of the meeting held on 6 January 2014 were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

Minute 3042 - Update on telephone kiosk - Cllr Jones has applied for a grant towards refurbishment and should have a response by end of April. Also, when the lease has been agreed Mon CC solicitors have agreed to check it over.

Minute 3043 - Update on WW1 commemoration plans - several local organisations are interested in taking part, Brownies, WI, etc. 'Good Old Days' event to be organised in Sept 2014. Any profits made will be donated to Help the Heroes.

Minute 3044 - Traffic calming update - CC Down explained the background and that SEWTA will fund feasibility and design work. One meeting had been held in September 2013 and two main recommendations made:

- 20mph speed restriction through Shirenewton and Mynyddbach;
- 'gateway' features to emphasise village entrances - need to slow traffic but not obstruct the highway.

S Glos has some innovative ideas for traffic calming in rural areas but CC Down has had difficulty in getting information from S Glos. Information now received and CC Down to visit villages next week with P Keeble (Mon CC). Following this, engineers will develop drawings/designs to put to the community at a Public Meeting then, once agreed, back to SEWTA to claim funding.

Frustration was expressed by several of those present at the length of time this was taking to progress.

WPC Thorpe advised that the police would appreciate being included in future Working Party meetings. She also agreed to greater police visibility in the community and speed monitoring, particularly the school run.

Councillors Moles and Jones left the meeting at this time, with Councillor Jones tendering her resignation to the Chair. Members reluctantly accepted Cllr Jones' resignation, Clerk to inform Democratic Services, Mon CC.

Minute 3045 - Finance - to consider items for payment

Expenditure (by Standing Order)

Clerk's salary/allowances -
£441.06

January 2014

Clerk's Pension (Council & Clerk's contribution) - January 2014

£109.39

Items for payment

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount	Cheque No.
Merlin Waste	Specialist bin emptying - Dec	£26.73	101156
Clerk	January expenses	£48.20	101155

Council resolved to accept the quote of £997.54 + vat from Mon CC for the grounds maintenance contract for 2014.

VAT reimbursement of £812.24 received on 24.1.14.

Minute 3046 - To consider the process for distributing future grants to local organisations - Council agreed to defer this item until the precept is considered in November.

Minute 3047 - Mon CC's review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements - Council agreed on the response to be made and acknowledged that the recent Williams Commission may overtake these arrangements.

Minute 3047 - Clerk's Report

Issues being pursued by the Clerk:

- **Poor Land field** - Mr Hoare (Solicitor) contacted 31.1.14 - Land Registry need 'Statements' from residents, not letters, Clerk to seek permission from Cllrs for contact details to be passed to Mr Hoare - Cllr Morton gave his permission.
- **Play area** - Cllr Moles has confirmed that outstanding remedial work will be completed as soon as possible.
- **Communal Web Portal** - Clerk has met with Jo Goodwin, Mon CC. Website now completed and Clerk in the process of uploading links and information. New photographs of the area to be taken for inclusion on the website.
 - **Overgrown hedge** - Ditch Hill Lane (Kirrin House) - contact from Martyn Lewis, Mon CC - hedge should have been cut by 16.1.14 (not cut when I checked last week). Cost of Mon CC cutting hedge is £165 and if no agreement with home owners, work will be done w/c 27.1.14.
 - **Yew Tree Bungalow, Earlswood/Rights of Way 53/54/55** - response received from Phil Thomas 24.1.14 including a report on the current position on the above Rights of Way (see Public Participation (2) above).
- **Small grant application forms** have been issued with a closing date of 25.2.14, for consideration at the March 2014 meeting.
- **Update of Policies** - the following policies will be circulated prior to the next

meeting for update.

- Requests for information under the Freedom of Information/Data Protection Acts.
- Risk Assessments
- Complaints Procedure
- Unacceptable Behaviour
- Retention of Documents
- Assets list (this is not a policy but needs to be reviewed)
- Investment strategy.

Councillors B Moore, L Prosser and K Morton to meet with Clerk to consider policies prior to adoption at next meeting.

- **Sign for road name at 'Lower Lane' Mynyddbach** - Clerk contacted Chris Jenkins, Mon CC, on 28.1.14 to establish the ownership of the land.
- **Mynyddbach bin emptying on village green** - Clerk contacted Clare Hamer, Mon CC, on 2.2.14 to ask why bin is not being emptied after at least 8 years.
- **Training request** - Council agreed for Clerk to attend One Voice Wales IT, Website & Social Media training on 20.2.14. Cost of £30 (50% bursary applied for from SLCC).
- **Annual leave request** for Clerk for 2 days (10-11 February 2014) agreed by Council.
- Copies of the 'Good Councillor's Guide 2012' distributed to Councillors.
- Two copies of One Voice Wales Newsletter 'The Voice' available from the Clerk.

Issues being pursued by County Councillor Down

- **Earlswood Hall directions signs** - CC Down meeting with G Kinchella (Mon CC) next week.
- **Reported footpath obstructions** on 119/120 (Ridge House Stables) and 51 (Yew Tree Cottage) - members complained that these reports had either not been followed up by Mon CC, or were incorrect. CC GD continuing to pursue with I Blomeley, Enforcement Officer & S Pritchard, Rights of Way Officer.
- **Alterations to post codes at Great House Farm/'Old Road'** - CC Down reported that this is not being pursued further.
- **Road erosion at Weyloed Lane and Spout Hill/ Mynyddbach junction** - road repairs have been made. Weyloed Lane is to be patched and surface dressed in next financial year.
- **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** from use of heavy lorries going to Blackbird Farm. Also Old Road widened by 6" each side from caterpillar track vehicles using field entrance to Blackbird Farm, - this has been reported and residents views are being sought on alterations to direction of traffic.

Minute 3048 - Items of local concern

- Council expressed thanks to Cllr Jones, who had earlier resigned, for her unfailing support of this Council over several years.

Minute 3049 - To receive items of correspondence.

1. Invitation from Amy Bowen, Senior Projects Officer, Mon CC to attend one of two workshops regarding the future of Recycling and Waste in Monmouthshire - Cllr B Moore to attend.
2. Roger Hoggins, Mon CC - Consultation on Managing Advertising on our Public Highways. Responses to be made by 24.2.14. (Circulated 28.1.14).
3. Consultation information received from One Voice Wales on Welsh Government changes to the planning system. Cllr I Moore to study. Responses to be submitted by 26.2.14.
4. Village Alive Trust Conference on 'Community Engagement in Rural Heritage' on 14.3.14 (£20 refundable deposit). St Marys Priory Centre, Abergavenny from 10am - 3.30pm, looking at the achievements of 15 projects in rural Monmouthshire funded under the 2010-13 Rural Development Plan for Wales.

Minute 3050 - To present short reports from meetings attended.

Cllr B Moore had attended the follow-up meeting on Mon CC's budget cuts, she confirmed that savings will be made in the areas of Leisure, Care Line, Meals on Wheels and School Meals. Discussions also took place on a possible rise in Council Tax. The meetings had been well attended by a cross section of the public who had been fully engaged in the debate.

Date of next meeting:

Monday 3 March 2014 at 7.30pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.10 pm.