

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 2 February 2015 at 7.30 pm
at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

Present:

Councillors:

Mr I Moore	Ms B Moore	Mr K Morton
Ms L Prosser	Ms L Dyke	Mr P Harris

Also in attendance:

Mrs H Counsell (Clerk to the Council)
Ms G MacDonald
Mr N Ramsay AM
One member of the public

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. Mr N Ramsay AM gave a presentation on the devolution of tax raising powers to the Assembly, he distributed an explanatory handout and confirmed that this is a huge and complicated issue which will be happening in 2018. He then responded to a question and answer session. The Chair thanked him for his explanation.

1. Public participation.

Mr Bolingbroke attended the meeting to present a risk assessment of the proposed drainage work to be undertaken at Upper House and the recreation field. He proposed to start work in early March (weather permitting) and would take no longer than one week. Council will consider whether to arrange a Deed of Easement or an Agreement and will respond to Mr Bolingbroke in the next few weeks.

2. **Apologies for absence were received and accepted from:** Cllrs Hughes, Lenza, Moles and Adams. County Councillor G Down also sent his apologies.

3. To receive the police report.

The monthly report was received prior to the meeting but no officers were in attendance, although it had been confirmed that calls to Brookacre would continue to be included in future police reports.

There were reports of a number of suspicious incidents and one crime relating to the theft of hay bales. Meetings had progressed in relation to safety discussions on the B4235. The last meeting between Gwent Police and Highways had taken place on 27.1.15, the next is to have discussions with Community and Town Councillors from the affected areas - date to be advised.

Calls to Brookacre - 6 in December, 2 in January - no effect on community.

Council felt that information provided in the report only told of community incidents, not all police activity in the area.

The Chair confirmed the need to engage with the newly appointed police inspector, Clerk to invite her to attend a meeting of the Council.

Minute 3180 - To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in any item of listed business.

There were none.

Minute 3181 - To consider planning applications received.

There were none this month.

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Minute 3182 - The minutes of the meeting held on 5 January 2015 were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

Minute 3183 - Finance - to consider items for payment

Expenditure (by Standing Order)

Clerk's salary/allowances - January 2015
£456.07
Clerk's Pension (Council & Clerk's contribution) - January 2015 £171.33

Items for payment

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount £	Cheque No.
Clerk	January expenses	58.04	101222
Merlin Waste	Specialist bin emptying (Dec)	27.12	101223
Mon CC	Playground repairs 2014	534.00	101224

Council resolved to make all payments as listed.

Council further resolved to advertise a small pot of funding available to local organisations from the 2014/15 budget.

Minute 3184 - Update on traffic calming proposals - County Cllr Down was unable to attend the meeting (See Item 3, Police Report).

Minute 3185 - To consider information on proposed earthworks on Recreation Field - see Public Participation above.

Minute 3186 - Update on lease options for Earlswood Recreation Field.

Clerk contacted S Williams, Land Agent on 19.1.15 to advise of points/clauses for inclusion in agreement, agree fee and finalise agreement. Land Agent advised of the need for a Business Farm Tenancy - Clerk to investigate further, also to contact prospective tenants as soon as possible.

Minute 3187 - To receive the Clerk's Report

Issues being pursued by the Clerk:

- **Telephone kiosk** - . Notification received from BSSB Sandblasting on 2.2.15 that work on the kiosk has been completed. Noticeboard/shelving can now be fitted. 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 been repaired and will be available for collection w/c 9.2.15. The second notice board for Shirenewton village is under construction.
- **Planting of wildflowers in 2015** - N Leaworthy of Mon CC has confirmed that preparation will begin at the end of February (weather permitting) of as much of

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nominated areas as possible. Areas nominated were Crick/Shirenewton road verges; ground opposite Kirrin House at footpath to school; Spout Hill to Postman's Lane; Cock-a-Roosting triangle; area of bus shelter at Gaerllwyd crossroads; top road junction to Earlswood.

- **Tan House site** - e-mail sent to owner on 11.1.15 asking for timescale of project. Also requested that gas tank area is filled in for health & safety reasons. No response - further email sent 26.1.15.
- **Brookacre** - Clerk has contacted new police inspector Lysha Thompson regarding reporting back on calls to Brookacre in the monthly police report and this information will be reinstated.
- **Play area maintenance** - following the Mon CC inspection in the summer, the agreed maintenance has taken place. Clerk has further requested a replacement back board for the play house as water has got into the ply and caused it to rot away from the bolts. This has been replaced with a heavy duty plastic board specifically for play equipment (checked 28.1.15).
- **Quote for grounds maintenance contract for 2015/16** received 27.1.15, costs will be £1022.48 + vat. (Last year was £978 + vat). G Hughes, Chair of Rec Association is also obtaining quotes for this work.
- **David Davies MP will attend SCC meeting on 13 April** - in response to our letter on traffic issues on B4235.

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 G Kinsella on 24.11 & 29.12, CC Down contacted him on 3.1.15.
 - **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 and copies of maps given to Cllrs B Moore and T Hughes.
- **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.

Minute 3188 - To discuss Common Land Application (Circuit of Wales)

Councillor Morton reminded members of the history of common land, poor land and poor woodland. Local commoners being allowed to graze livestock. The Open Spaces Society was formed to protect common land (an offshoot of this is the National Trust). Council was asked whether there was an appetite to be stakeholders in the administration of commoners rights. There is to be a Public Enquiry in Ebbw Vale on 10.3.15, which is expected to last two weeks. The Chair advised members to familiarise themselves with the Pre-Inquiry meeting notes circulated on 2.2.15. Clerk to contact OSS to ask whether they have commented and what they think the effects will be on this area.

Minute 3189 - Items of local concern (information only)

- Highways Dept has acknowledged receipt of an e-mail regarding water on the road

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between Earlswood Hall and West End.

Minute 3190 - To receive items of correspondence.

1. E-mail from Mon CC on 9.1.15 regarding joining a pilot scheme 'Give Dog Fouling the Red Card'. Response date - first week of February 2015. As no complaints have been received in recent months, Council felt that the specialist bins are solving the problem locally and agreed not to join this pilot.
2. 18.1.15 - E-mail from Mavis Griffiths, Treasurer of Abergavenny Eisteddfod to all Town and Community Councils requesting a donation.
3. Letter received from Gwent Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs on 19.1.15 explaining their work and requesting a donation.
4. Letter received from the Teenage Cancer Trust on 24.1.15 explaining their work and requesting a donation.

Council has previously agreed that donations are made to local organisations only.

Minute 3191 - To present short reports from meetings attended.

- Mon CC budget meetings - Mon CC intends to save £5.8 million in 2015/16. Priority spending will be on education, vulnerable people, business and job opportunities. Council Tax will be 4.95% + police and community councils. Tough decisions to be made and the Mon CC budget will be set on 27.2.15.

Minute 3192 - Date of next meeting:

Monday 2 March 2015 at 7.30pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.
Cllr Morton gave his apologies for not being able to attend this meeting.

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