

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 6 January 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 T Hughes

Also in attendance:

Mr R Hoggins, Deputy Chief Officer, Regeneration & Culture, Mon CC
County Councillor G Down
PC A Jones
Mrs G MacDonald
Mrs H Counsell (Clerk)

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and thanked Mr Hoggins for attending to explain Mon CC's proposals for future sharing/transferring of services.

1. Public participation - There were four members of the public present all of whom raised the current/ongoing issues at Yew Tree Bungalow, Earlswood. The Chair confirmed that a Mon CC Planning Officer had made a site visit on 19 December followed by a Shirenewton CC visit (IM and PH) on 20.12.13. The Chair stressed the point that at present this is a neighbour dispute and SCC is only able to pursue responses from the appropriate departments of Mon CC.

Residents advised that they were awaiting responses from Planning, Highways and Countryside regarding the inaccessibility of Bridleways 54 and 55; flooding from water pipes onto the bridleways and highway; and works being carried out - both R Hoggins and CC G Down offered to pursue these on behalf of residents.

2. Apologies were received and accepted from: Councillors L McCombe and D Adams.

3. To receive the police report.

The police report had been distributed prior to the meeting, and PC A Jones attended. There was report of a theft of cash from the Tredegar Arms pub - enquiries ongoing, also three reports of damage/theft of fencing at Earlswood and report of a vehicle on fire at a property on Earlswood Road which both police and the fire brigade attended. There were two calls to Brookacre during December.

Minute 3025 - To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in any item of listed business.

There were none.

Minute 3026 - To consider planning applications received.

DC/2013/00962 'Ty Canol', Shirenewton
Porch extension to front of house.
This Council recommends approval.

Minute 3027 - Minutes of the meeting held on 2 December and the Special Meeting held on 16 December 2013 were approved and duly signed by the Chair. Notes of joint meetings between SCC, Caerwent CC and the MoD held on 28 November and 11 December 2013 were also received.

Minute 3028 - To receive a presentation on Mon CC's proposals for future sharing/transferring of services.

Mr Hoggins explained Mon CC's budget constraints over the next three years and how the local authority proposes to work closer with Town and Community Councils to sustain services and facilities within local communities. He referred Councillors to the explanatory paper he had produced and distributed.

A question and answer session followed during which Mr Hoggins confirmed that essential works will still take place throughout the County. SCC suggested that Mon CC take into account the current budget consultations that it is holding throughout the county. SCC further stressed the need for trust and transparency and that longer term plans needed to be made available to allow local Councils to make considered decisions.

The Council later resolved that no changes be made to the 2014/15 precept request that had been agreed at the November 2013 meeting.

Minute 3029 - Finance - to consider items for payment

Expenditure (by Standing Order)

Clerk's salary/allowances -	December 2013	
£441.06		
Clerk's Pension (Council & Clerk's contribution) -	December 2013	£109.39

Items for payment

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount	Cheque No.
Merlin Waste	Specialist bin emptying - Nov	£17.82	101148
Clerk	December expenses	£56.50	101149
T J Davies & Sons	War memorial maintenance	£960.00	101150
Earlswood Hall	Hall hire 16.12.13	£20.00	101151
Mon CC	Grounds maintenance 2013	£1,173.58	101152
Llanvair Landscapes	Grass cutting play area 2013	£700.00	101153
Rec'n Association	Hall Hire 2013/14	£220.00	101154

The Council resolved to make all payments as listed.

Members noted information from Mon CC to advise that notification of the Community Council precept must be made by 20 January 2014.

It was further noted that Merlin Waste had advised that specialist emptying costs will

rise in 2014 by 14%. Prices to increase from £2.97 per empty to £3.38. Clerk to query.

Council resolved to advertise that a small grant is available to local organisations. Applications to be considered at the March meeting.

Minute 3030 - Clerk's Report

Issues being pursued by the Clerk:

- **Poor Land field** - Registration reminder sent to Solicitor on 2.1.14. Declaration had been returned by Land Registry before Christmas as uncertain whether registering for lost deeds or long possession, Mr Hoare to ring LR and discuss.
- **Play area** - Cllr Moles has confirmed that outstanding remedial work will be completed early January 2014.
- **Communal Web Portal** - Clerk met with Jo Goodwin on 18.12.13. 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.
- **New road sign should read 'Ditch House Lane'** - Clerk included this in Parish Magazine for December and requested residents that wanted the name changed, to make contact - with evidence. ***No responses received so no further action.***
 - **Overgrown hedge** - Ditch Hill Lane (Kirrin House) - Clerk contacted Highways 25.10.13 (Ref: 012576). Hedge notice issued to resident on 29.10.13). Contacted Martyn Lewis, Mon CC on 25.11.13, who confirmed that price is to be obtained and action taken at end of month's notice. Reminder sent 2.1.14 and letter to be sent to householder w/c 6.1.14 outlining costs.
- **To consider any issues to be raised at the joint meeting with CADW and Caerwent CC** to be held at Westgate Barns, Caerwent on 22.1.14 at 10am.
- Copies of OVW training schedule for Jan/June 2014 distributed to members. There is £20 bursary available to end Feb 2014.
- Requests for copies of the Register of Electors distributed to members, Clerk to return signed copies to Mon CC.

Issues being pursued by County Councillor Down

- **Earlswood Hall directions signs** - CC Down reported that Mon CC recognised that signage to Earlswood from Gaerllwyd crossroads needed improving and this is in their work programme.
- **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 S Pritchard, Footpaths Officer.
- **Alterations to post codes at Great House Farm/'Old Road'** - CC Down has the necessary information from Mon Cc and will follow up.
- **Complaints from residents regarding road erosion at Weyloed Lane** and

Spout Hill/ Mynyddbach junction have been reported and will be actioned.

- **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.
- **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 and further damage to hedge from field entrance to Little Goytre junction has been reported and action is ongoing.
- **Traffic calming** - Pursuing list of villages in S Glos with successful traffic calming measures in place for Traffic Calming Group to visit. Members voiced concerns over the length of time this is taking, the speed of traffic of local residents when dropping children at school and the need for a considered traffic calming proposal to be in place before 31 March 2014. C Cllr Down to contact P Keeble, Mon CC as a matter of urgency.

Minute 3031 - To receive the draft proposals for the Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements.

The draft proposals were discussed and the following points are to be referred back by the Clerk:

- Ward name to be 'Earlswood and Newchurch West' not 'Wentwood' as proposed;
 - Number of Councillors representing wards to be 8 rather than the proposed 7;
 - A list of adjacent properties that would be better placed in the Shirenewton wards.
- Cllrs I Moore, K Morton and C Cllr G Down will attend the consultation meeting on 7.1.14 at Usk.

Minute 3032 - To discuss local commemoration of World War 1.

Cllr Jones reported that there is to be a meeting on 9.1.14 to discuss local arrangements.

Minute 3033 - To receive an update on the telephone kiosk.

Cllr Jones reported that an application for £1312.00 grant funding is being made to 'Awards for All' for refurbishment of the kiosk. She is also in discussion with M Moran of Mon CC regarding the proposed lease.

Minute 3034 - To receive an update on maintenance of war memorial.

Members resolved to write a letter of thanks to express their appreciation to the anonymous donor that paid for the regilding of the war memorial (Cllr Jones to pass on the letter).

It is unlikely that the maintenance of the steps to the war memorial will be completed until the spring. Again, this will be at no cost to the Community Council.

Minute 3035 - To consider any items to be raised at the joint CADW meeting on 22.1.14.

Cllr Morton to contact the Clerk with any issues for the agenda.

Minute 3036 - Items of local concern

- As no interest has been shown by residents in improving the broadband service in this area, this issue will not be pursued further by the Council.

- Further complaints received from two residents regarding inaccessibility of Bridleway 55 and flooding from water pipes at same location (see Agenda Item 1 - Public Participation).

- poor condition of Mynyddbach Road. Cllr Prosser has raised this issue several times in the past and Highways have classed the repairs as 'not requiring urgent attention'. Cllr Prosser to suggest that residents contact highways individually to voice their concerns over the poor state of the road surface and potholes.

Minute 3037 - To receive items of correspondence.

1. Information received from the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund to advise of changes coming into place from 1.4.14 and requesting the appointment of a Lead Officer for the LGPS. The Clerk was duly appointed as Lead Officer.

2. E-mail from Dan Davies Innovation and Enterprise, Mon CC to advise of the second round of Budget Meetings to be held throughout the county in January. Relevant posters displayed on community notice boards.

Minute 3024 - To present short reports from meetings attended.

There were none.

Date of next meeting:

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

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.15 pm.

Signed by Chair:

Date: