

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 5 January 2015 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 Moles
Mr T Hughes	Ms L Dyke	Mr M Lenza

Also in attendance:

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

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

1. Public participation.

There was none.

2. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from: Cllr P Harris.

3. To receive the police report.

The monthly report was received prior to the meeting and PC A Jones attended. There had been no instances of crime in the area during the past month. PC Jones advised that an open meeting is to be held in the near future (date tbc) on the issue of traffic/motorbikes on the B4235 to which council members will be invited. He further advised of a Crime Prevention Initiative which involves the police asking for volunteers, who will be trained to give advice/support to victims of crime in their area. Some members of the Council expressed serious misgivings about this initiative.

PC Jones advised that they had been told not to provide information on calls to Brookacre in the monthly police reports. As the established protocol with Brookacre had been confirmed at a recent meeting with the newly appointed police inspector for south Monmouthshire, Clerk to check future procedure with Chief Inspector M Moyles.

The Chair fed back on a very positive meeting held with newly appointed inspector, David Morgan, on 8.12.14 and expressed his disappointment to learn that after a few weeks this inspector moved on from his post at the end of December. The Chair hoped for a continued positive relationship with local councils and his replacement.

Minute 3168 - To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in any item of listed business.

Cllr D Adams - Agenda Item 11, Clerk's Report - point 4.

Minute 3169 - To consider planning applications received.

1. Application to divert Footpath 51 (part) Yew Tree Cottage.
Recommendation: Approval.

2. DC/2014/01428 Pen-y-Rheol Farm, Old Road, Penywaemawr (LD)
Proposed canopy extended off the existing living area to the north of the barn. Council noted that the canopy does not interfere with neighbouring properties, neighbours have been consulted and have no objections. Recommendation: Approval.

Members were advised by C Cllr Down that the planning application for the solar park at Rhewl Farm had been refused by Mon CC.

Minute 3170 - The minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2014 were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

Minute 3171 - Finance - to consider items for payment

Council noted and approved the revised NJC pay scales from 1.1 2015 for 2014-16 which included a non-consolidated payment of £100.

Expenditure (by Standing Order)

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

Items for payment

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount £	Cheque No.
Clerk	December expenses	43.15	101208
Merlin Waste	Specialist bin emptying (Nov)	27.12	101209
Shirenewton Rec Hall	Annual donation	300.00	101210
Earlswood Hall	" "	300.00	101211
Shirenewton PCC	" "	150.00	101212
Shirenewton Playgroup	" "	100.00	101213
Earlswood Methodist	" "	60.00	101214
Earlswood Hope	" "	60.00	101215
Gaerllwyd Baptist Chapel	" "	60.00	101216
St Peters Newchurch	" "	60.00	101217
Village Carol Service	" "	50.00	101218
Mon County CAB	" "	60.00	101219
Clerk	Non consolidated payment due to increase in NJC pay scales from 1.1.15	100.00	101220
Torfaen CBC Pension Fund	Pension on above payment	27.60	101221

The Council resolved to make all payments as listed. Members agreed to review the process of making future local donations at the March meeting.

Minute 3172 - Update on traffic calming proposals - County Cllr Down confirmed that proposals are scheduled to take place within the current financial year.

Minute 3173 - To consider information on proposed earthworks on Recreation Field - Clerk to research implications to the Council of a Deed of Easement and arrange a meeting between the Chair, Clerk and Mr R Tranter, Legal Dept. Mon CC.

Minute 3174 - Update on lease options for Earlswood Recreation Field.

Mr S Williams, Land Agent, has visited the field to familiarise himself with the land. Clerk to contact Mr Williams to arrange details of lease agreement.

Minute 3175 - To receive the Clerk's Report

Issues being pursued by the Clerk:

- **SCC website** now complete and available to view. Clerk to continue to send OWL notifications for posting to website.
- **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 messages left - still no response. Clerk to write and request early completion of this refurbishment. 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 being made.
- **Clearview additional houses** - Planning Officer has confirmed planning gain for 7 houses = 7 x £787 = £5509 'for improvement to the existing recreational provision in Shirenewton'. C Cllr Down confirmed it is to 'alleviate the impact of development'. Funding will not become available until houses have been built and sold and will be administered by Mon CC via a proper process. Clerk to pursue at an appropriate time.
- **Requests for updated Register of Elector forms** were distributed to Councillors, also the Register of Business Interest Forms to be completed and returned to the Clerk at the February meeting.

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 3176 - Items of local concern (information only)

- De-registration of common land at Trefil - Clerk to check date of meeting with Planning Inspectorate and circulate.
- Highways Dept is to inspect the quality of the road surface through Mynyddbach. Cllr Prosser to monitor.
- Clerk to contact N Leaworthy of Mon CC to chase up the proposal to plant wildflowers in the area.
- Clerk to contact owner of the Tan House to request an update on current situation also to request the gas tank area to be filled in for health and safety reasons.
- C Cllr Down advised of potential admittance problems for prospective pupils at Shirenewton Primary School. As priority is given to siblings already attending, this could mean that children within the catchment area will be unable to gain a place.

Minute 3177 - To receive items of correspondence.

1. Letter from the Open Spaces Society listing their achievements over 150 years and requesting a donation towards their '150th Anniversary Appeal'. The OSS is not government funded and relies solely on donations. This Council makes an annual subscription.

Minute 3178 - To present short reports from meetings attended.

- Meeting held with Chair of Recreation Association on 11.12.14 to discuss issues such as VAT claims, grass cutting and CCTV provision.
- Cllr B Moore and Clerk met to devise a response to Mon CC's draft planning guidance. It was further suggested that a final inspection is held to ensure the applicant has complied with conditions. Clerk to pass this on to the Dept.

Minute 3179 - Date of next meeting:

Monday 2 February 2015 at 7.30pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

Councillors were reminded that Mr N Ramsay AM, will be attending the February meeting to explain the devolution of tax raising powers to the Assembly.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.