

## SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 6 July 2015 at 7.00 pm  
at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

### Present:

#### Councillors:

Mr P Harris (Chair)    Ms B Moore    Mr K Morton  
Mr M Lenza            Mr I Moore    Mr T Hughes

### Also in attendance:

Mrs H Counsell (Clerk to the Council)  
County Councillor G Down  
CSIO A Jones  
Two members of the public

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:

Cllrs L Prosser and P Moles.

3. The monthly police report had been circulated prior to the meeting, and CSIO A Jones attended. During the month there had been one break-in in Shirenewton on 9.6.15, nothing was taken. There had been one road traffic accident on 7.6.15 between a car and a motorcycle (not speed related), minor injuries only. There had been three calls to Brookacre during June. CSIO Jones was questioned on the Ras-de-Cymru cycle event through Shirenewton last week. CSIO Jones confirmed that Gwent Police were aware of the race but had said that no police action was required. CSIO Jones to provide the Clerk with contact details for the Traffic Management Advisor, Gwent Police.

#### Minute 3246 - To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in any item of listed business.

Cllr B Moore            Item 7            Member of Shirenewton Recreation Association

#### Minute 3247 – to consider planning applications received.

1. DC/2015/00674 The Marls Farm, Earlswood

Erection of single storey garden room.

Council noted that the proposal is not visible from the road or near neighbours.

Also that materials used will be as existing. Recommendation: Approval.

2. DC/2015/00137 Ty Hendre, Earlswood

Portal frame agricultural hay and machinery store

Council was unable to make a recommendation until the following observations/ points had been clarified by the Planning Dept:

- the construction is of metal and wood with no electricity connection, for the storage of hay and machinery,
- the property Ty Hendre is in a dilapidated state that the owner wishes to restore.
- ensure the proposal complies with Policies LC1 (New built development in the open countryside), RE4 (New agricultural and forestry development) and LC5 (Protection and enhancement of landscape character).

- an objection has been made from a neighbouring property that the shared driveway/road which is maintained by both properties is unsuitable for additional farm/agricultural machinery - this needs to be investigated.
- that the Public Rights of Way report dated 16.6.15 be taken into account, that if approved, a condition be included that RoW 190 is kept open to the public and any damage caused by construction traffic be made good to at least public footpath standards.

### 3. DC/2015/00688 Residential development of land East of Shirenewton

Council acknowledged that this development has been approved but recommended refusal of this application, with the following observations:

- Five residential units is over development of the site causing cramming. The size of the site is roughly equivalent to that of a neighbouring development of three houses.
- Access should be relocated to avoid the removal of a long length of ancient hedgerow which is outside the LDP line.
- The increased and unacceptable concentration of traffic from this and another proposed development on the road junction with Trelenny Road.
- The LDP line was altered to allow the building of the four previous houses and it is now proposed to be altered again to accommodate access.

### 4. DC/2015/00206 New Shire Farm, Old Usk Road, Shirenewton

Retention of pillars and gateway.

Council recommended approval of this retrospective application.

### 5. DC/2015/317 Little Mill, Bully Hole Bottom

Conversion of existing barn/games room/workshops to single family dwelling.

The Council's recommendation was for approval with the following observations:

- Access is down a steep hill with a narrow bridge over the brook.
- This is the first water mill in a run of seven down the Mounton Brook.
- All buildings are as if time has stood still.
- The mill race is all intact, beautifully laid out and well landscaped.
- If approved, conditions should be included to ensure the buildings are sympathetically restored; that window and doorway openings are retained; also the external stone steps;
- that the proposal is limited to a three bedroomed property;
- that ground levels and the mill race are retained intact;
- that near trees and hedges are retained to encourage the bat habitat;
- that the existing public footpaths 31 and 63 are kept open to the public at all times;
- that the Council will pursue contact with the Conservation Officer for possible listing of the mill building for heritage purposes.

County Councillor G Down gave feedback on the Informal Hearing held on 17.6.15 for the Rhewl Farm solar park. Mon CC Planning Committee had originally recommended approval, but at the Hearing Planning Officers offered no objection, the Appeal was lost and the application approved. C Cllr Down confirmed that the site would remain as a greenfield site after the 25 year lifespan of the solar park. Council supported the suggestion that Mon CC Chief Executive is to be questioned on the above process, CC GD to forward a copy of his letter so that this Council's response can be formulated.

**Minute 3248** – The minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2015 were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

## Minute 3249 – Finance - to approve items listed for payment

### Expenditure (by Standing Order)

Clerk's salary/allowances -	June 2015	£510.09
Clerk's Pension (Council & Clerk's contribution) -	June 2015	£152.42

### Items for payment

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount £	Cheque No.
Clerk	June expenses	56.63	101250
Clerk	Best Kept Village expenses	35.00	101254
Merlin Waste	Specialist bin emptying – May & June	67.80	101252
Recreation Association	Annual room hire	220.00	101253

Council resolved to make all payments as listed.

**Minute 3250 – To receive and consider quotes for fencing roadside of Earlswood Recreation Field** - quotes received from the Haines Bros, Caerwent - £800 and Mr H Stone, Newchurch West - £1200. Cllr I Moore to obtain further information from Mr Stone.

Council received the signed Annual Agreement from Mr H Stone.

### Minute 3251 - To receive and consider applications for grant funding from the 2015/16 budget.

Applications for grant funding from the 2015/16 budget were considered and approved as follows:

Shirenewton PCC	£250	Contribution towards upkeep of churchyard
Shirenewton PCC	£50	Christmas celebration - Carols around the Tree
St Peters Church, Newchurch	£60	Contribution towards replacement guttering
SLHS	£100	Contribution towards digital projector
Mon County CAB	£60	Annual contribution
Earlswood Hall	£300	Contribution towards fixed costs
Earlswood Valley/Hope Churches	£150	Contribution towards upkeep
Recreation Association	£300	Contribution towards CCTV.
Shirenewton Playgroup	£100	Contribution towards nature garden.

### Minute 3252 – To consider repairs to the Friends Burial Ground wall.

A resident reported on 17.6.15 that part of the internal wall had collapsed. Clerk has contacted J Saysell who inspected and reported back that two walls need to be taken down and rebuilt, with cement capping. Quoted a cost of £600 + vat (vat is re-claimed from HMRC). Clerk to obtain second quote. Clerk has checked with Aon and been advised that an insurance claim is not applicable for 'age related' problems, rather than accidental damage.

### Minute 3253 - Update on traffic calming proposals.

C Cllr Down advised that no progress had been made P Keeble has confirmed that the scheme and the funding were still in place, work to be undertaken by Mon CC's

in-house Projects Team. The Clerk had also received an e-mail from Highways informing that the tender for the surfacing material would be issued 'this week' and work was planned to start on 10 August for 4 weeks. Council was not satisfied with this response, complaint to be made to Mon CC.

## **Minute 3254 - To receive the Clerk's Report**

### **Issues being pursued by the Clerk**

- **Election of Councillors** – Advised by Democratic Services Mon CC that the Council can co-opt into the vacancies. Notices of two co-option vacancies have been advertised on all noticeboards, Parish Magazine and the website (closing date 24.7.15) one application received so far, Councillors to consider approaching further candidates.
- **Telephone kiosk** – Lease paperwork and fee returned from the Land Registry on 22.6.15, they strongly suggest that we use a solicitor to draw up the required documents. Francis & Co estimate a cost of £200 + vat if SCC supplies the required forms and Mr Tayton the detailed map. Clerk to obtain second quote. BSSB Sandblasting advised on 17.6.15 that remedial work has been carried out to stop ingress of water. Clerk to monitor.
- **Best Kept Village Competition** – results should be known in September.
- **Give Dog Fouling the Red Card'** - A supply of dog waste bags has been placed in the kiosk and a sign, plus bags given to SAMFAL. The Rec Association was pleased to be offered the second sign which will be placed on the boundary of the recreation field. The third sign was to be placed at Blethyn Close play area, but it is not required so will be put at the pedestrian entrance of the Rec field. Clerk met with S Parkinson, Mon CC on 2.7.15 regarding location of additional bin at the SAMFAL gate.
- **Fields in Trust Centenary Fields Programme** – opportunity to register local green spaces. Clerk contacted M Moran, Mon CC who recommended not to register the Earlswood Recreation Field at this time as this could restrict its use, it could be protected for recreational use, when required at some point in the future, by Fields in Trust.

**Grass cutting on Recreation Field** – complaint made to Mon CC re. infrequency of cutting, no collection of cuttings and grass being left too long. One cut and collect done free of charge. Clerk has requested a cost for regular collection. Mon CC has confirmed that different equipment will be used in future to ensure a closer cut.

- **Request for Annual Leave** – granted.
- **Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013** - Register of Interests and Attendance at meetings – in order to comply with the above Act, the Clerk will keep a record of Councillors signed attendance at meetings, also future disclosures of personal or pecuniary interest.

### **Issues being pursued by County Councillor Down**

- **Earlswood Village Hall signage** – signage now installed. No further action.
- **Dumping of Waste at Ridge House Stables** – update on current situation received and circulated from C Cllr Down on 15.6.15. Enforcement notice

currently being drafted. When issued, there is a 28 day allowance for appeal. Mr Smith has put in a complaint to the Ombudsman re. Mon CC's lack of urgency in resolving this issue (25.6.15). Clerk to contact Enforcement to ask whether Notice has been served.

- **Reported footpath obstruction** on 119/120 (Ridge House Stables) - we were advised on 14.10.14 that under Section 130(6) of the Highways Act 1980 a diversion order was being sought (the process may take up to 18 months). C Cllr Down advised that he had discussed the issue with M Lewis, Countryside Manager – footpath needs to be diverted off neighbouring land, no response from neighbour. A Cllr proposed Mon CC should order the landowner to either open the obstructed footpaths or divert them.

**Minute 3255 - Items of local concern** (information only)

- Grass cutting of verges to take place this week in Shirenewton and Earlswood areas.
- Clerk to contact Mon CC Conservation Officer with a view to having listed status on the old paper mill at Little Mill, Bully Hole Bottom. Clerk and Cllr Morton to attend SLHS archive meeting on 13.7.15.
- Resident of 'The Barn' to be contacted to cut back growth on hedge as it is restricting visibility for vehicle drivers. C Cllr Down suggested that as the resident had been previously asked to cut the hedge, this should now be passed to Highways for action.
- C Cllr Down to arrange site meeting with Highways regarding various issues.

**Minute 3256 - To receive items of correspondence.**

1. Invitation from Home Start Monmouthshire to the AGM on 9.7.15, 10 – 11.30am at the Bridges Centre, Monmouth.
2. E-mail from D Poulson, Mon CC on 5.6.15 asking for interest in a minor authority nomination for governor at Shirenewton School – no nominations made.
3. E-mail from Chairman of Mon CC with invitation to a Charity Garden Party at Abergavenny Castle on Sunday 19.7.15 at 2.30pm in support of Abergavenny Eisteddfod. (Circulated 20.6.15).
4. Notification from One Voice Wales of AGM and Ordinary Meeting Of Monmouth/ Newport Area Committee to be held on 9 July 2015 at 7pm at Llandenny Parish Hall. (Circulated 28.6.15). Cllr Harris to attend.

**Consultations received:**

**Welsh Government**

Public Health (Wales) Bill – provision of toilets for use by the public

Protecting Community Assets

A Strategic Framework for Welsh Agriculture

WG Action Plan to further equality for transgender people

**One Voice Wales**

Wales Energy Efficiency Strategy

**Minute 3257 - To present short reports from meetings attended.**

There were none.

**Minute 3258 - Date of next meeting:**

Monday 3 August 2015 at 7.30pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

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