

## SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 4 July 2016 at 7.30 pm  
at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

### **Present:**

#### **Councillors:**

Mr P Harris (Chair)   Ms B Moore   Mr M Lenza   Mr I Moore  
Mr R Kopp   Mr I Martin   Mr K Morton   Mrs L Prosser

### **Also in attendance:**

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

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

#### **1. Public participation.**

There was none.

#### **2. Apologies for absence.**

There were none.

#### **3. The monthly police report.**

The police report was circulated prior to the meeting but no officers were in attendance. During the month there had been one reported theft of a purse from an unlocked vehicle at Blethyn Close, also a report of a car fire at Cadira Beeches, which is still being investigated. The school gates at Mynyddbach had been driven into causing damage to a vehicle. There has been no calls to Brookacre during the month.

#### **4. To consider any applications to fill co-opted vacancies**

There were none. Vacancies continue to be advertised in the monthly Parish Magazine and on the website.

#### **Minute 3394 - To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in any item of listed business.**

Cllr B Moore – Shirenewton Recreation Association – Member  
Cllr B Moore – Earlswood Valley/Hope Churches - Member  
Cllrs L Prosser and R Kopp – Shirenewton Recreation Association – Representatives  
Cllr I Moore – Monmouthshire County Citizens Advice Bureau - Volunteer

**Minute 3395 - Minutes of the last meeting** – minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2016 were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

County Councillor Down needed to leave the meeting early so the following points were raised with him:

- Community Speedwatch – due to police reorganisation the traffic officer has changed and C Cllr Down is trying to get in touch with his replacement – no further progress at this time.
- How do Area Committees link in with Public Service Boards? – Area Committees deal with local issues and PSB's at a higher level on how services are provided.
- Pursuance of Community Benefit – C Cllr Down confirmed his support and suggested the Clerk contact the Clerk of Mathern Community Council and the two Councils work together.

County Councillor Down was thanked by the Chair for his input prior to leaving the meeting at this point.

**Minute 3396 - to consider planning applications received.**

1. DC/2016/00646 Upper House, Pen-y-Cae Mawr, Usk  
Conversion of existing stables to ancillary home office and amendment to existing access to highway.

Council noted that there was no Statement of Intent regarding the change of use of the building and questioned the validity of the application. Also that the proposal would enlarge the footprint by 50% as well as increasing the elevation, however there were no objections registered on the Mon CC website. Council recommended approval of the application with a Planning Condition linking the use of the proposed home office to the residential occupation of the property. (Voting: 5 for/3 against).

2. Council resolved to respond to the Planning Inspectorate regarding Appeal against Enforcement Notice at Ridge House Stables at the next meeting on 1.8.16 (closing date for comments 2.8.16).

**Minute 3397 - To consider the proposal to rationalise public footpaths at Mynyddbach.**

Council considered and unanimously approved this proposal.

**Minute 3398 – Finance - to approve items listed for payment**

**Expenditure (by Standing Order)**

Clerk's salary/allowances - June 2016 £520.34  
Clerk's Pension (Council & Clerk's contribution) - June 2016 £157.91

**Items for payment**

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount £	Cheque No.
Clerk	May expenses	74.75	101309
Star Legal Ltd Solicitors	Provision of telephone kiosk lease	420.00	101310
Land Registry	To register telephone kiosk	40.00	101311

Council resolved to make all payments as listed.

**NB:**

- 2016-2018 National Salary Award, revised pay scales received from NALC/SLCC. New pay scales for part time clerks apply from 1 April 2016 (SCP 19 - £9.65 per hour) and 1 April 2017 (SCP20 - £10.10 per hour).
- Updated model of Financial Regulations received July 2016, to be checked by the Clerk and Cllr B Moore, with final draft to be brought to next meeting for consideration prior to adoption.

**Minute 3399: To consider annual requests for donations from the 2016/17 budget.**

Council considered the list of applications and agreed the following donations:

Shirenewton PCC £250  
Shirenewton Recreation Association £300  
Shirenewton Local History Society £80  
Earlswood Hall £300

Earlswood Hope/Valley Churches	£180
St Peters Church, Newchurch	£60
Shirenewton Playgroup	£100
Monmouthshire County CAB	£60

P Moles, Huntsman Hotel – purchase of defibrillators (agreed in principle, to be revisited when more information is available).

#### **Minute 3400 –Asset maintenance.**

Councillors reported back on their asset inspections and the maintenance required. The Clerk fed back on a meeting/site visit held with Karen McCorriston, Senior Reparation/Community Officer, Mon/Torfaen Youth Offending Team, who arranges work projects for young offenders aged 10 – 16 years. She has agreed in principle to arrange a work group to sand and treat benches and a picnic table on the recreation field, Shirenewton and the village green at Mynyddbach. Council authorised the purchase of treatment materials. Work is planned to take place during the school holidays, if successful, the project could be used again in the future for maintenance work.

#### **Minute 3401 – To receive a website update**

Cllr Lenza advised that the website problems still continue. The PayPal account was not feasible as the Council does not hold a credit/debit card. Council authorised a bank transfer of \$100 US dollars to GoDaddy. This will cover approximately 11 monthly payments and GoDaddy will e-mail a reminder when the next payment is due. The website is currently 4<sup>th</sup> on the Google listing, which is the highest it has been.

#### **Minute 3402 - To receive the Clerk's Report**

- **Telephone kiosk** – copy of signed lease received from Star Legal on 17.6.16, plus invoice for £350.00 + vat and request for cheque for £40.00 for the Land Registry (previous cheque 101273 issued in October 2015 now out of date and therefore cancelled).
- **Best Kept Village Competition 2016** – Competition results will be announced in September.
- **VAS signage** – reported to Mon CC on 2.4.16 that the 20 mph sign at Crick Road is not operational and the one at the school is on 24 hours a day. Following several reminders, e-mail received on 27.6.16 to say that Mon CC has requested maintenance costings from contractors SWARCO and when confirmed, expects to enter into a maintenance programme with them.
- **Assets** – part church wall - MCC Footpaths Officer has confirmed MCC has no ownership of F/p 36 (Memorial walk to church).  
Forestry land – contacted NRW Land Agent to request copy of lease.
- **Solar park, community benefit** – queried with Kate Bingham, Planning Officer whether the Council is entitled to community benefit from the Buckwell and Rhewl Farms developments and we may be, but do not know if there are any consequences as yet. Clerk to pursue further with the developers and contact Mathern CC to ask whether they are also willing to pursue. C Cllr G Down confirmed his support of pursuing payment.
- **Steel containers in the countryside** – Clerk reported instance of unsightly containers on 9.6.16. Response to confirm Enforcement will check it out. Clerk to pursue.

- **Joint meeting MoD, Shirenewton & Caerwent CC's** – due to training commitments and reorganisation, MoD unable to commit until Sept . As next meeting is due in November, Council is content to wait until then for the meeting.

**Dumping of Waste at Ridge House Stables and footpath obstruction on F/paths 119/120.**

The LPA had to respond to the appeal by the 9<sup>th</sup> June 2016 and including with this neighbour letter/ consultations to be sent out to interested parties and at this stage SCC could make comment on the appeal to the Planning Inspectorate. E-mail sent 27.6.16 to ask whether comment can be made to PI and closing date.

Meetings had been held with owners of neighbouring properties, to which Cllr Morton had expected to be invited, however S Pritchard, Footpaths Officer felt it would not be appropriate at that stage. He also confirmed that diversion costs would not be paid by the Authority.

**Minute 3403 - To receive items of local concern (information only)**

- Update requested on recent enforcement report via Caerwent Community Council.

**Minute 3404 - To receive items of correspondence.**

1. E-mail from Bill Clark, Secretary of Church PCC on 18.6.16 to advise that the recently found Japanese knotweed in the churchyard had its first treatment on 17.6.16 and it will get treated again every six months for the next three years, and then be monitored for a further 7 years.
2. The Open Spaces Summer 2016 Newsletter.
3. Notification of the AGM and ordinary meeting of OVW Monmouth/Newport Area Committee at 7pm on 7 July 2016 at the Sessions House, Usk.
4. Telephone call from Mr Howells, regarding hedge cutting at Bluebell Lane. Clerk to contact and advise that he can contact the Chair to discuss further.

**Minute 3405 - To present short reports from meetings attended.**

- Monmouthshire T&CC's Engagement Event, Usk County Hall 20.6.16 attended by Cllr B Moore and the Clerk. Notes circulated 23.6.16.
- Lower Wye Area Committee meeting - grants are available to local organisations. Last year's Recreation Association grant application to be followed up by C Cllr Down. Also the Senior Representative of the Local Health Board has been questioned as to why Chepstow Hospital is not used to its full extent, eg. minor injuries.

**Minute 3406 - Date of next meeting:** Monday 1 August 2016 at 7.30pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall. Cllr Lenza gave his apologies for being unable to attend this meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm.