

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 3 March 2014 at 7.30 pm
at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

Present:

Councillors:

Ms B Moore
Mrs L Prosser
Mr I Moore (Chair)
Mr K Morton
Mr P Harris
Mr D Adams
Mr T Hughes

Also in attendance:

Mrs G MacDonald
Mrs H Counsell (Clerk)
Two members of the public.

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

1. Public participation. Two members of the public were present to hear updates of progress on the issues previously raised at Taliesen/Yew Tree Bungalow, Earlswood. Responses had been received from Enforcement and Rights of Way officers at Mon CC, confirming that there had been no change of condition, but no action has been taken by Mon CC to date. This Council resolved to contact C Cllr G Down to ask that he puts pressure on officers to prioritise these issues (copy to be sent to Roger Hoggins, Mon CC).

2. Apologies were received and accepted from: Councillor P Moles.

3. To receive the police report.

The monthly police report had been circulated, but no officers were present at the meeting. It was noted that only minor incidents had been reported and no instances of crime. There had been four calls to Brookacre during the month.

Minute 3051 - To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in any item of listed business.

Cllr B Moore - Item 9, grant funding.

Minute 3052 - To consider planning applications received.

DC/2013/01131 Lower Weyloed Barn, Mynyddbach

Proposed extension to former barn converted into dwelling.

Council noted that the proposal is within keeping, existing finishes are to be used and there have been no objections. Recommendation: Approval.

DC/2014/00045 Bluebell Lane Barn, Earlswood

Engineering operations to change ground levels for agricultural and rural purposes.

Council noted that this was a retrospective application as the work had taken place.

Recommendation: Approval.

DC/2014/00030 Bluebell Lane Barn, Earlswood

Proposed detached garage.

Recommendation: Approval

DC/2014/00150 Dinwood Cottage, Shirenewton

Wildlife pond.

Council noted that this property is on the edge of, but outside, the boundary with Caerwent. Recommendation: Approval.

Application to divert Footpath 51 (part), Yew Tree Cottage, Shirenewton, into adjacent field. Council recommended approval, with the following observations:

- that the adjacent field is not in the ownership of the applicant and confirmation should be made that permission has been sought,
- that the kissing gate should be sited in the vertical hedge, rather than the roadside hedge to allow walkers access from the field entrance rather than the roadside.

Council noted the Welsh Government proposals to reform the planning system in Wales.

Minute 3053 - Minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2014 were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

Minute 3054 - To consider two vacancies on the Council - Council reluctantly accepted the resignation of Cllr L McCombe which had been received since the last meeting. Clerk to send her a letter of thanks for her contribution to meetings and longstanding support of the Council. As no applications had been received by Democratic Services, Mon CC for an election, Council resolved to advertise two co-opted vacancies - one in Shirenewton and one in Newchurch West, with a closing date of 23.4.14.

Minute 3055 - To consider grant applications for funding available from 2013/14 budget.

Having declared an interest, Cllr B Moore took no part in the discussion on this item. Six applications had been received for the £300 available and it was resolved to donate £50 to each.

Minute 3056 - Finance - to consider items for payment

Expenditure (by Standing Order)

Clerk's salary/allowances - February 2014 £441.06
Clerk's Pension (Council & Clerk's contribution) - February 2014 £109.39

Items for payment

| Payee | Reason for expenditure | Amount | Cheque No. |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Merlin Waste | Specialist bin emptying - Jan | £17.82 | 101157 |
| Clerk | February expenses | £47.40 | 101158 |
| One Voice Wales | Membership 2014/15 | £126.00 | 101159 |
| St Peters Church | Small grant 2013/14 | £50 | 101160 |
| Shirenewton Brownies | Small grant 2013/14 | £50 | 101161 |
| Shirenewton WI | Small grant 2013/14 | £50 | 101162 |
| Earlswood Valley Chapel | Small grant 2013/14 | £50 | 101163 |

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|----------------|---------------------|-----|--------|
| Earlswood Hall | Small grant 2013/14 | £50 | 101164 |
| SLHS | Small grant 2013/14 | £50 | 101165 |

Minute 3057 - To consider an annual incremental increase to the Clerk's salary from 1.4.14.

The Clerk and public left the room prior to consideration of this item.
Council resolved to increase the Clerk's salary from SCP 16 to 17 from 1.4.14.

Minute 3058 - To consider updated policies of the Council.

The following policies were agreed, to be adopted at the Annual Meeting on 12.5.14.

- Requests for information under the Freedom of Information/Data Protection Acts.
- Complaints Procedure
- Retention of Documents
- Risk Assessment and Management (Council agreed a schedule of inspections of assets)
- Assets list.

Minute 3058 - Update on traffic calming proposals.

C Cllr Down was not present to report back to the meeting but had e-mailed the Clerk to advise that the next Working Party meeting would be held on 12.3.14. Council appointed Cllr Hughes to the vacancy on the Working Party.

Minute 3059 - To receive the Clerk's Report

Issues being pursued by the Clerk:

- **Poor Land field** - As requested the Clerk gave Mr Hoare two Cllrs contact details on 18.2.14 for him to obtain Statements from them for the Land Registry.
- **Play area** - Cllr Moles had confirmed that outstanding remedial work (replacement rocking horse head, painting big swings, topping up chippings) will be completed by end April 2014. Council were concerned at the length of time this is taking, Clerk to request work is completed by 31.3.14.
- **Communal Web Portal** - No progress this month. Need 'Microsoft Office' on pc to access documents/links etc. Council resolved to allow the Clerk to purchase this package.
- **Yew Tree Bungalow, Earlswood/Rights of Way 53/54/55** - Ian Blomeley is awaiting a meeting with the Principal Access Officer, Guy Delamere is writing a report for Enforcement. (See Public Participation above).
- **Mynyddbach bin emptying on village green** - Mon CC denies all knowledge of emptying the bin and would do it at a cost of £8.00 per empty. Council resolved to add this bin to the Merlin Waste round at a cost of £2.97 per empty.
- **Telephone kiosk** - Clerk and Cllr B Moore to pursue.
- **Best Kept Village Competition** - Clerk and Cllr Hughes to check on local support and encourage residents with article in Parish Magazine in April.
- **Planning training** to be held at Raglan School on 11.3.14 by One Voice Wales - Cllrs Hughes and I Moore expressed an interest, subject to commitments.

Issues being pursued by County Councillor Down

- **Earlswood Hall directions signs** - CC Down has met with Highways and is progressing this.
- **Reported footpath obstruction** on 119/120 (Ridge House Stables) confirmation received from Rights of Way, Mon CC that access has been blocked for some time. Clerk to request that this be pursued via Enforcement as a priority.
- **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 (6 - 8 weeks).
- **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, - this has been reported and residents views are being sought on alterations to direction of traffic.
- C Cllr Down further advised that the LDP has been adopted by Mon CC following the Inspector's Report and that 10 houses are confirmed for Shirenewton.
- Also that Mon CC has settled its budget for 2014/15 which will result in a Council Tax increase of 3.95%.

Minute 3060 - Items of local concern

- 'Laurel Cottage', Earlswood - original planning application to be replaced.
- Mynyddbach notice board - it was confirmed that a replacement is still in hand at Usk Prison.
- It was agreed to invite Nigel Leaworthy, Mon CC to the next meeting to present the Mon CC Pollinator Policy and wild flower planting.

Minute 3061 - To receive items of correspondence.

1. 'Walk for Life' Kidney Wales Foundation. Sunday 27 April 2014.
Requesting we organise a Walk for Life to support families affected by kidney disease or renal failure, or make a donation.
2. Notification of One Voice Wales Conference/AGM on 4.10.14 and the option to put motions forward - to be received by Thursday 24.4.14. If accepted, the proposer and seconder must attend the AGM.
3. Homestart Monmouthshire (support and friendship for families) - request for donation as 3 year Big Lottery Grant funding ends in March 2014.
4. Monmouthshire LDP to be adopted at Special Council meeting on 27.2.14 at County Hall, Usk.
5. Invite from SE Wales Regional Equality Council (SEWREC) to meet Outreach Development Worker at Asda Distribution Centre, Chepstow on Weds 5.3.14, 10am - 12.30pm. (Circ 19.2.14)
6. Welsh Government consultation on 'Local Government Byelaws (Wales) Act 2012 - Implementation'. Comments to be made by 11.5.14. (Circ 19.2.14)
7. Letter from Chair of Mon CC (CC David Dovey)
Invitation to the Chair to a Music Showcase at Chepstow Leisure Centre at 7pm

on Thursday 27 March 2014 in aid of Age Cymru and the NSPCC.

8. Letter from Neil Fuller, Chairman of Forrester's Car Club to advise of the Marshall and Hicks Print Media Motor Rally at Caerwent Training Area on Sunday 23 March 2014.

9. Notification from OVW that the Police Commissioner will attend the next Area Meeting, if we have any questions to raise they must be submitted by 14.3.14.

10. Welsh Govt (Ethics and Regulation) consultation on Local Authority Playing Fields (Community Involvement in Disposal Decisions) (Wales) Measure 2010 (Circ 1.3.14). Responses to be submitted by 30.5.14.

Minute 3062 - To present short reports from meetings attended.

There were none.

Date of next meeting:

Monday 7 April 2014 at 7.30pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

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