

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

Present:

Councillors:

Mr I Moore	Ms B Moore	Mr K Morton
Ms L Dyke	Ms L Prosser	Mr D Adams
Mr M Lenza		

Also in attendance:

Mrs H Counsell (Clerk to the Council)
County Councillor G Down
Ms G MacDonald
Wpc L Moore
Seven members of the public.

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

1. Public participation.

Bridleways 52/55 were discussed again and the Clerk is to get back to Mon CC with questions of access and ownership. The Chair encouraged members of the public present to also contact Mon CC with their concerns.

A resident living alongside the recreation field distributed drawings of work and explained his proposal to access the field to alleviate lateral penetration of damp to his property. In view of the time of year, the resident agreed to dig out and render the wall at this time, and postpone work on soakaways until the spring. He agreed to attend a further Council meeting in the new year with proposals for completion of the work.

County Councillor G Down fed back information from his meeting with Highways officers on 9.10.14 as follows:

- Regarding the request for a 20mph speed restriction through Shirenewton, monitoring has shown that traffic travels at around 30mph, this is to be reviewed.
- Officers were reluctant to put in a 20mph restriction in Mynyddbach as they felt the topography of the road reduced the speed of traffic, but will put in measurement devices to check.
- B4235 - monitoring has shown that the speed of traffic is around 40mph, which makes a limit of 40mph achievable. Officers are to contact the police to investigate whether they would enforce this speed limit.
- noise monitoring - Wpc Thorpe confirmed that no noise monitoring equipment is available from local forces. A meeting has been arranged with the Traffic Officer next week to look at the way forward. Speed monitoring will take place in spring 2015.

Two Mynyddbach residents attended the meeting and expressed concerns about the ongoing traffic issues on the B4235, ie. Reducing the speed limit to 40mph; noise monitoring; increasing police enforcement of speed limits, illegal exhaust systems on

motorbikes and dangerous driving.

2. Apologies for absence: Cllrs T Hughes, P Moles and P Harris.

3. To receive the police report.

The report was distributed prior to the meeting and Wpc L Thorpe attended. There were a number of minor incidents, but police enquiries are ongoing into a break in and theft from a vehicle at the Recreation Hall, also on the same day, a suspicious vehicle in the Tredegar Arms Car Park, from which the registration number had been reported.

A Councillor reported that a gold ring had been found in the play area, Wpc Thorpe advised that it should be reported to the police as found property.

Minute 3143 - To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in any item of listed business.

Cllr Ms L Dyke	Planning - Item 5.1
Cllr D Adams	Planning - Item 5.2

Minute 3144 - To consider planning applications received.

Cllr Dyke left the room at this point.

1. DC/2014/01061 'Montrose', Earlswood
Replacement dwelling.

Council noted that pre-planning advice had been sought and taken by the applicant; that the existing property has no architectural merit; that the footprint of the new build is slightly smaller than existing and is in line with Mon CC policy; that no objections have been made from nearby residents. **Recommendation: Approval**

Cllr Dyke returned to the room and Cllr Adams left the room.

2. DC/2014/01185 Land adjacent to Clearview Court
Reserved Matters application for 7 no. dwellings and associated works on land adjoining Clearview Court granted outline permission under application DC/2009/01061, including details to discharge Condition 1 (Reserved Matters) and Condition 4 (Boundary Treatments).
- Council recognised that outline planning permission for 7 dwellings had already been granted in 2011.
- Attention was drawn to the previous application, noted above, where the applicants spokesperson gave assurance to residents that consultation would take place in order to minimise adverse effects on neighbouring properties, this does not appear to have taken place.
- The established use of the footpath to the western boundary was noted, as was several residents requests to retain access to the footpath. House numbers 7, 8 and 9 have used this as a rear access for a number of years. 'Ballintober' has deeds dated 1964 illustrating access to this property from the proposed site. In 1993 a Statutory Declaration was signed to give vehicular access to hard standing at the rear of the property.

- The number and type of street lighting should be as unobtrusive as possible, in keeping with the rural location.
- Street furniture, hedges, trees etc should not be allowed to impede vehicles using the existing drive shared by three properties located to the west of the plot.

Cllr Adams returned to the room.

3. DC/2014/01204 Holly Cottage, Shirenewton

Proposed two storey extension to existing two storey house.

Council noted that the proposed extension was in keeping with, and enhanced the existing property. Also that there were no objections from neighbours.

Recommendation: Approval

Council discussed pursuing a complaint to the Public Services Ombudsman of maladministration against a Mon CC planning decision on application DC/2013/00925. Further information to be sought before proceeding.

C Cllr G Down advised that the Rhewl Farm application for a solar park had been refused as it was deemed damaging to the AONB. However, the size of the park is being considerably reduced and will be considered again by Planning Committee on 4.11.14 when the refusal is likely to be overturned and the application approved.

Minute 3145 - The minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2014 were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

Minute 3146 - Finance - to consider items for payment

Council discussed correspondence from the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund giving details of the increase in the employer's pension contributions, effective from 1.4.14. Council resolved to accept the increase and make a one-off payment for back pay from 1 April - 31 October 2014.

Council considered a request from Shirenewton Local History Society for a contribution towards a three day WW1 Exhibition to be held in the Church Hall in April 2015. Council agreed to fund the £75 charge for room hire for the event.

Expenditure (by Standing Order)

Clerk's salary/allowances - October 2014
£449.42
Clerk's Pension (Council & Clerk's contribution) - October 2014
£111.99

Items for payment

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount	Cheque No.
Clerk	October expenses	£64.45	101198

DRAFT

Merlin Waste	Specialist bin emptying (September)	£40.68	101199
Open Spaces Society	Annual subscription	£45.00	101200
Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund	Backpay of increased contributions from 1.4.14	£396.62	101201

Minute 3147 - The Mon CC quote for play area maintenance costs amounting to £445.00 + VAT was considered and accepted.

Minute 3148 - The proposal from a resident for earthworks on the Recreation Field was dealt with in 'Public Participation' above.

Minute 3149 - Update on traffic calming proposals - This item was covered in 'Public Participation' above.

Minute 3150 - To consider and pursue lease options for Earlswood Recreation Field.

The Working Party reported back that close contact was being made with the Land Agent, who is aware of several suggested conditions to be included into the lease. The Agent intends visiting the field to check its condition and draw up a suitable rental agreement then return to SCC with draft agreement options. No commitment has been made as yet, but it was suggested that the Agent draw up the lease, find a tenant and administer the lease for the first year, with SCC to administer in future.

Minute 3151 - To receive the Clerk's Report

Issues being pursued by the Clerk:

- **Best Kept Village Competition 2014** - Catalogue requested from Griffiths Signs, Rogerstone for signage at entrances of the village. Clerk to measure up and cost the four signs required.
- **SCC website** now complete and available to view. The 'Contact Us' form is available but needs a header statement from SCC, also need to think about how we access and respond.
- **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 27.10.14), he was requested to arrange completion as a matter of urgency. Meeting to be arranged between SCC Chair, Clerk and owner to confirm and sign lease (when work has been completed).
- **Reminder of Remembrance Sunday on 9th November 2014.** Cllr Harris

agreed to lay the wreath in the absence of Cllr I Moore.

- **Reminder of joint meeting/supper with MoD and Caerwent CC on Thursday 27 November at Caerwent Village Hall at 6pm.** Numbers were confirmed.
- **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 new notice board is to be made.
- **Cherry tree at RoW 380/9, Mynyddbach** - Agreement from J Keech, Tree Officer at Mon CC on 24 October, that tree is a self setter and obstructing the footpath (so their responsibility). Tree was removed on 29.10.14.
- **The Adopted Monmouthshire Local Development Plan** received and summary leaflets distributed to Councillors.

Issues being pursued by County Councillor Down:

- **Earlswood Hall directions signs** - CC Down has met with Highways and the purchase has been approved - CC Down to pursue.
 - **Yew Tree Bungalow, Earlswood/Rights of Way 53/54/55** - Section 125 Untidy Land Notice issued w/c 31.3.14, compliance to be made by 13.8.14. Compliance not made, Legal Dept to become involved. Some tidying up has taken place. Responses from I Blomeley with several maps re. RoW's, plus original PROW report dated 14.1.14 (circ 27.10.14). Clerk to contact Enforcement.
- **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.
- **Residents request for signage at top and bottom of Weyloed Lane** - signage has now been installed on both sides of lane. **No further action.**

Site off Blethyn Close - Forwarded e-mail from CC Down - from Scott Ramsay, Mon CC to inform of work starting on 1.11.14 at the site sold by Mon CC to Monmouthshire Housing Association. CC GD to check that access meets H&S requirements as it crosses the play area.

Minute 3152 - Items of local concern (information only)

- Council was informed that members of Newchurch West Church were concerned that funding from this Council was to end, it was confirmed that there was no truth in this rumour.
- Complaints from residents of Mynyddbach on the quality of the road surface.
- Local grit bins had been checked and were all full.

- Council was informed that the Recreation Association is considering fundraising in order to upgrade the security system at the Hall.

Minute 3153 - To receive items of correspondence.

1. Letter and folder of information received from Clarke Willmott Solicitors, Bristol regarding Section 16 application to de-register land forming part of Trefil-Las and Twyn Bryn-March Common (BCL015). (Part of Wentwood Forest). Clerk to submit objection from this Council before closing date on 7.11.14.
2. Final version of the Adopted Monmouthshire Local Development Plan received, plus Summary leaflets, which were distributed to Councillors.
3. Letter from Nick Ramsay AM for Monmouthshire offering to attend a meeting to explain discussions taking place on the devolution of tax raising powers to the Assembly. Clerk to respond and suggest he attends in the new year

Minute 3154 - To present short reports from meetings attended.

There were none.

Minute 3155 - Date of next meeting:

Monday 1 December 2014 at 7.30pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.25 pm.