

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 2 November 2015 at 7.30 pm
at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

Present:

Councillors:

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

Also in attendance:

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

1. Public participation.

There was none.

2. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from:

Cllr P Moles.

3. Resignation of a Councillor

Council received and reluctantly accepted a letter of resignation from Councillor T Hughes effective from 6.10.15. Clerk to send a letter of thanks to Mr Hughes for his service to the Council and inform Democratic Services, Mon CC.

4. The monthly police report – the report was circulated prior to the meeting but no officers attended. During the month there were five reports concerning vehicles, two minor vehicle collisions (one near the Huntsman and one at the Tredegar Arms) and three reports of sheds being broken into in the Earlswood/ Penywaemawr area. There were three calls to Brookacre. Clerk to contact PC L Thorpe for an update.

Minute 3299 - To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in any item of listed business.

There were none.

Minute 3300 – Minutes of the last meeting – minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2015 were approved, subject to one amendment to Public Participation.

Minute 3301 - to consider planning applications received.

1. DC/2015/00847 Gaerllwyd Barn amendment to drainage.

Council noted that the following response was submitted on 20.10.15.

The amendment from a cesspool to a septic tank would seem sensible providing the required porosity test proves that the ground can accommodate the suggested herringbone drainage from the septic tank outfall. However it must be stressed that the ground outside the proposed development must not be disturbed when laying the drainage pipe work or indeed during any building process as a Neolithic chambered tomb is close by which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

This Council recommended approval with a watching brief from an organisation such as the Glamorgan Archaeological Trust.

2. DC/2015/01086 Bluebell Farm, Usk Road to Buckwell Road, Penywaemawr

Council noted that four previous planning applications had been approved. Also that the farmhouse is an eyesore that does not provide practical living accommodation. The proposal is to build on the same site, but at a 45 degree angle, with the footprint being 4% less than existing. There is also a proposal to build a new garage to replace an existing tractor shed. Building materials to be traditional natural stone. This Council recommended approval. (Voting: 6 for/1 abstention).

Minute 3302 – Finance - to approve items listed for payment

Expenditure (by Standing Order)

Clerk's salary/allowances - October 2015 £507.46
Clerk's Pension (Council & Clerk's contribution) - October 2015 £150.80

Items for payment

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount £	Cheque No.
Clerk	September expenses	40.30	101275
Open Spaces Society	Annual Subscription	45.00	101277
Merlin Waste	Bin emptying (Oct)	27.12	101278
SAMFAL	Annual membership	15.00	101279
SAMFAL	Donation towards grasscutting	100.00	101280

It was resolved to make all payments as listed.

Minute 3303 – To consider and set the precept for 2016/2017.

Council considered information presented by the Clerk and set a draft precept for 2016/2017, to be ratified at the next meeting.

Minute 3304 - To consider a request for funding from Shirenewton & Mynyddbach Fields Association (SAMFAL).

Following receipt of relevant paperwork, Council resolved to make a one-off donation of £100 towards the increased costs of grass cutting.

Minute 3305: Update on traffic calming installation.

A response had been received from G Kinsella of Highways to advise that white lining is not planned for the centre of Shirenewton. Mr P Keeble of Highways Dept, Mon CC had agreed to attend the December meeting to discuss traffic calming. County Cllr Down confirmed that he is in discussion with the police regarding a public meeting on a community speed watch initiative, also with Highways regarding a traffic speed and volume assessment through Shirenewton. He further confirmed that the funding for this scheme was brought forward into this year's budget but that costs were over budget.

The Working Party arranged last month will hold its first meeting on 11.11.15.

Minute 3306 – To consider and adopt a website protocol.

Cllr Lenza advised that he is still working on the link and will have more information for the next meeting.

Minute 3307 - To receive feedback on Planning training session on 12.10.15.

Cllr Martin talked through the notes he circulated prior to the meeting. Clerk to request a Planning Officer to attend a Council meeting in the New Year.

Minute 3308 - To receive the Clerk's Report

Issues being pursued by the Clerk

- **Telephone kiosk** – cheque for £40 for submission to Land Registry delivered to Evans & Ellis on 19.10.15. Despite further setbacks, the Council confirmed that registration of the kiosk site is still to be pursued.
 - **Listing ‘The Mill’, Bully Hole Bottom** – 27.10.15 e-mail received from Louise Meese, Regional Inspector, CADW who has passed this on to Simon Wardle, Inspector of Historic Buildings with responsibility for listing.
 - **Litter bin – Recreation Hall car park** – second bin ordered 25.10.15. Rec Assoc to pay half of the cost of £100.
 - **Repairs to Friends Burial Ground walls** – work now under way.
 - **Repairs to play area** – all painting and repairs complete.
 - **Reminder of MoD joint meeting** with Shirenewton and Caerwent Community Councils at the Recreation Hall on Thursday 26 November from 6pm followed by a curry supper. Clerk has invited representatives from local organisations.
 - **Reminder of Remembrance Sunday on 8.11.15.** Wreaths have been collected and are at the churches. Chair to lay the Shirenewton wreath.
 - **Wayleave agreements for Consent No SA 213687** for installation of green cabinet at Rec Hall car park – signatures required for permission to complete the work. (Previously met and agreed by G Hughes (Rec Hall) and Councillor T Hughes, SCC (since resigned). Clerk contacted BT to request amendments to the forms – no response as yet.
 - **Footpath closures** - information received from S Pritchard, RoW Officer, Mon CC on the temporary closure of public paths in Wentwood for forestry harvesting from 10 November 2015 to 6 April 2016. SP to meet with NRW re. keeping alternative routes open as the area is well used by the public – Clerk to monitor.
 - **Payment of Clerk’s salary via Mon CC Payroll Dept** – several Clerks in the County are paid (salary/pension/tax) via Payroll, which removes the task and the work involved from the Clerk. Payroll charges £18.75 per quarter for the service. Council decided not to take up this service.

Issues being pursued by County Councillor Down

- **Dumping of Waste at Ridge House Stables** – response made on to Planning Inspectorate on 5.10.15 regarding the applicant’s Appeal, also formal complaint made to Chief Executive Officer, Mon CC on 20.10.15 over the length of time Conditions to the planning approval are taking to be enforced.
- **Reported footpath obstruction** on F/paths 119/120 (Ridge House Stables) – formal complaint made (as above) to Chief Executive Officer, Mon CC over the length of time Conditions to the planning approval are taking to be enforced.

Response from Chief Exec received 27.10.15 regarding formal complaint – as point 1 (above) is being investigated by the Ombudsman, Mon CC will await those findings. Point 2 has been referred to the Principal Officer for Countryside for assessment of current position – needs a site visit, will have more information next week.

Minute 3309 - Items of local concern (information only)

- Report from County Cllr Down that the Welsh Language Commissioner has issued a Compliance Notice to all local authorities in Wales to issue all official notices/adverts/promotions in both Welsh and English.

Also that Mon CC's budget gap is likely to be around £1.7 million which will mean withdrawal from non-essential services such as libraries, museums, public toilets, street cleaning, etc. this has implications for the future budget setting of town and community councils within the county. Consultation events are to be held during November (GD to send list of dates to the Clerk)

- Report made to the Community Council via a neighbouring resident on current issues at the water treatment works – heavy plant excavation, widening and damage to access, potential for boundary fence to collapse into neighbour's garden. Council was further advised that outside organisations are involved, the Health & Safety Executive, Cardiff is taking the lead and will contact this Council in due course.

Minute 3310 - To receive items of correspondence.

1. Letter from Nick Ramsay AM regarding proposed changes to abolish the county of Monmouthshire and merge it with Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Torfaen and Newport, creating a super-region of almost 600,000 people. Mr Ramsay was encouraging signatures on a petition to support his campaign to Save Monmouthshire and also offered to attend a Council meeting to discuss further, if requested.

Consultations received:

Monmouthshire County Council

- Active Travel Consultation – closing date 21.12.15. (Local exhibitions will be held – dates/venues to be confirmed).
- Consultation on alterations to Monmouth Comprehensive School. Closing date 6.12.15 (Circulated 19.10.15).
- Consultation on proposed closure of Llanfair Kilgeddin Primary School. Closing date 6.12.15 (Circulated 19.10.15).
- Consultation on proposed closure of the Special Needs Resource at Deri View Primary School, Abergavenny. Closing date 27.11.15 (Circ. 20.10.15).

Welsh Government

- A Call for Proposals on a Migrant Roma Strategy for Wales
- Alternative delivery models in public service delivery: an action plan for consultation.
- WG Finance Committee Draft Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Bill. Closing date 18.11.15. (Circ. 26.10.15).
- Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015: How do you measure a Nation's progress?

Minute 3311 - To present short reports from meetings attended.

- Cllr Harris reported back on the One Voice Wales Area Committee meeting held in October.

Minute 3312 - Date of next meeting:

Monday 7 December 2015 at 7.30pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.15 pm.

DRAFT