

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 6 October 2014 at 7.30 pm
at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

Present:

Councillors:

Mr P Harris (Chair)	Ms B Moore	Mr K Morton
Ms L Dyke	Ms L Prosser	Mr D Adams
Mr M Lenza	Mr T Hughes	Mr P Moles

Also in attendance:

Mrs H Counsell (Clerk to the Council)
County Councillor G Down
Ms G MacDonald
Wpc S Parker
Three members of the public.

In the absence of Cllr I Moore, Cllr Harris took the Chair, he welcomed all to the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

1. Public participation.

There were three members of the public present, two of which were concerned with the noise and speed of traffic (particularly motorcycles) on the B4235. Councillors explained the steps that have been taken by the Community Council. County Councillor Down explained that the responsibility for speed restrictions are not in the remit of the Community Council, but lie with Highways and excessive noise/speed control with the police, although the Community Council does feed back the concerns of residents to these authorities.

C Cllr Down further advised that he has a meeting with Highways on 9.10.14 when he will raise these issues, along with progress on the feedback from the public meeting held in July 2014. Wpc Parker explained that new initiatives should be in place by next spring. Clerk to contact Highways and Wpc L Thorpe for updates on these issues.

2. Apologies for absence: Cllr I Moore.

3. To receive the police report.

The police report had been circulated prior to the meeting and Wpc Parker attended. There were a number of minor incidents reported, also a vehicle stopped at Cadira Beeches Picnic Site believed to be involved in poaching. A joint operation is being set up by Wpc Thorpe and the Forestry Commission to target poaching in the area. Wpc Parker confirmed that there had been no calls from Brookacre during the month. Newly appointed Police Inspector R Giles apologised for not attending the meeting as he will be moving on from his post.

Minute 3132 - To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in any item of listed business.

There were none.

Minute 3133 - To consider planning applications received.

1. DC/2014/00718 Land adjacent to Tre Newydd, Ditch Hill Lane, Shirenewton
Proposed construction of detached residential dwelling.

Council also noted a copy of a letter of objection from a neighbouring resident.

Recommendation: Refusal, with the following observations:

- Council noted that this was a renewal of a 2010 planning application, that the proposed house would be approximately double the size of the original which was 125 sq m, the proposal now being around 250 sq m.
- The house is too large for the site, cramped closely to the host house and inappropriately close to the road. It would be more acceptable if the whole property was moved back 5 metres on the site.
- The area of parking has been significantly reduced and with a 5 bedroomed house it is likely that parking/visitor parking will take place on the already congested road.
- The proposed rendered finish is not in keeping with neighbouring properties and the finish does not include stonework.
- We recommend that a report from Welsh Water is sought on the suitability of the current sewerage/drainage system.

2. DC/2014/01092 Vyne Court, Shirenewton

Erection of a single storey timber framed garden room replacing existing garden room. **Recommendation: Approval**

3. DC/2014/01111 Dyer's House, Itton

Installation of Air Source Heat Pumps at rear of property.

Recommendation: Approval

4. DC/2014/00939 Rhewl Farm, Shirenewton.

Provision of photovoltaic solar park and ancillary infrastructure.

Recommendation: (submitted to Mon CC on 20.9.14) **Refusal**, with the following observations:

- The solar panel farm is an intrusion into open, unspoiled countryside (against Policy EP1),
 - The site is adjacent to St Pierre Great Wood, it is visible from several locations, so increasing the detrimental visual impact (against Policy DES 1),
 - The size of the farm is bigger than expected at 40+ acres and 42,000 panels,
 - Access via the Crick Road is for construction only and future access will be off Trelenney Lane, we suggest that Highways report on the suitability of this lane for increased/heavy traffic use,
 - Recommendation that, if approved, the land remains classed as agricultural throughout the duration of the solar farm and is not classed as a brownfield site,
 - The company making the application makes assurances that all equipment will be removed and the ground restored to its original condition after the lifespan of the project. If the company no longer exists, or has sold the enterprise on, could the County Council make planning consent (if given) conditional on a bond being paid (either outright or in instalments) to cover the cost of removal of all equipment and restoration of the ground?

Council considered correspondence from a resident regarding requesting a review of Mon CC's planning process used for application DC/2013/00925. Clerk to respond to the resident and agenda this item for the next meeting.

Council noted information from the Planning Control Manager, Mon CC, regarding changes to the Scheme of Delegation on planning issues.

Minute 3134 - The minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2014 were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

Minute 3135 - Finance - to consider items for payment**Expenditure (by Standing Order)**

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

Items for payment

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount	Cheque No.
Clerk	September expenses	£62.54	101193
Mon CC	Annual play inspection	£90.00	101194
Recreation Association	Annual room hire	£220.00	101195
Merlin Waste	Specialist bin emptying (August)	£27.12	101196
Cllr K Morton	AONB Study Tour	£10.00	101197

Council considered correspondence from the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund and agreed to defer this item to the next meeting pending the outcome of investigations by Cllr I Moore.

Minute 3136 - The half yearly budget figures and forecast to 31 March 2015 were received and considered.

Minute 3137 - Update on traffic calming proposals.

This item was covered in 'Public Participation' above.

Minute 3138 - To receive the Clerk's Report**Issues being pursued by the Clerk:**

- **Earslwood Community Field** - Payment made to solicitor of original estimate plus disbursements and VAT = £419.00. Lease discussions progressing with SCC sub committee, further meeting to be arranged to look at lease conditions, Agent to check small holdings grant registration. Clerk to add this item to agenda next month.
- **Best Kept Village Competition 2014** - Shirenewton won the following categories - Best Kept Village, Best Kept War Memorial and Best Kept Village Hall. Council congratulated all involved. 'Stop Press' article sent in to Parish Magazine. Clerk to cost signage for entrances to village.
- **SCC website** - currently under construction by Cllrs Lenza and Dyke, website is likely to be available to the public in a couple of months. Currently working on designing a response page for members of the public. BKV info and photographs to be added to website.

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- **Telephone kiosk** - . Refurbished kiosk returned to site on 6.9.14 (glass panels still need to be inserted but contractor awaiting delivery of beading). Meeting to be arranged between SCC Chair, Clerk and owner to confirm and sign lease. Council accepted a quote from A-ply for the provision of an internal notice board and shelving.
- **Wild Flower planting 2015** - Clerk has informed Mon CC of suggested sites, including an offer to pay £100 towards the purchase of wildflower seed.
- **Reminder of Remembrance Sunday on 9th November 2014.** Cllr Harris agreed to lay the wreath if Cllr I Moore is not available.
- **Reminder of joint meeting/supper with MoD and Caerwent CC on Thursday 27 November at Caerwent Village Hall at 6pm.** Numbers to be confirmed at next meeting.
- **Annual play inspection** - inspection carried out on 20.8.14 at a cost of £75 +VAT. Quote for remedial work to follow. Cllr Moles was thanked for organised the weather proofing of the three benches in the play area.
- **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 for examination and repair/weatherproofing.
- **Pruning of cherry tree at Mynyddbach village green** - permission given on 16.9.14 to Western Power Distribution to prune a tree that was causing the power supply to short out in Mynyddbach.
- **One Voice Wales Training Programme 2014/15** - a copy was distributed to all Councillors and they were encouraged to attend training sessions.

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 at meeting on 9.10.14.
 - **Yew Tree Bungalow, Earlswood/Rights of Way 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. Cllr Hughes fed back on a site visit as follows: In consultation with Councillor Morton he had set up a site meeting on 15.9.14 with the Rights of Way Officer for the local Ramblers Association, Mr Alan Thomas, to investigate the access to the public along Bridle Way 55.

The condition of this Bridleway and the fencing to enclose land CYM 793 18, were inspected to see if they were in compliance with the enforceable requirements of the Ramblers Association and Open Spaces Association in terms of common law covering such Bridleways. The conclusion reached by Mr Thomas was that the owner of the land had not caused any obstruction to the Bridleway in fencing off the land or erecting the gates, which contravened R.O.W. and warranted any action by him. He did point out the raising of the ground level on one section of the Bridleway and that the gate allowing access to horses did not open fully should be notified to the owner as needing rectifying.

It was noted that the dispute between residents regarding the other access gate to CYM 793 18 did not involve Bridleway 55 and should be dealt with by the judicial action currently taking place.

This being the situation, his conclusion was that this protracted issue over these two ROW Bridleways can only be resolved by establishing documented legal ownership of these two Bridleways and their legally defined boundaries. This should be done by MCC as they have already addressed these issues in their notes on the site meeting of the 20/01/2014.

Regarding ownership, it is noted that MCC Legal Services "were of the opinion" that the resident owned Bridleway 55 and MCC owned Bridleway 54. Clerk to request copies of legal documents from the Land Registry office as to this being fact.

Regarding the boundaries of these two Bridleways, MCC notes state that those of Bridleway 54 on their plans are different to its actual location and they need to urgently resolve this situation and provide SCC with a copy of their ownership deed. For Bridleway 55 recent changes of ownership of land adjacent to it at its junction with the highway have changed, so Clerk to request an updated plan of the location of Bridleway 55.

- **Reported footpath obstruction** on 119/120 (Ridge House Stables) - I Blomeley, Mon CC reported on 28.7.14 that under Section 130(6) of the Highways Act 1980 a diversion order is required (the process may take some time). If no further response received, Clerk to request update in Dec 2014. Following CC Down's intervention, e-mail received today from Matthew Lewis, Head of Countryside to confirm that he will pursue an update on this issue.
- **Residents request for signage at top and bottom of Weyloed Lane** - signage installed. Clerk contacted P Keeble 6.8.14 to advise that the sign at bottom of Weyloed Lane should be moved to opposite verge to improve visibility. CC Down has requested signage on both sides of the lane.
- **Repair of the 20mph traffic restriction signage near the school** - completed, no further action.

Minute 3139 - Items of local concern (information only)

- Congratulations were given to all involved with the 'Good Old Days' Show held at Earlswood Hall, it was an excellent evening.
- Fly tipping was reported in two gateways at Rhewl Farm; below Llanmellin Farm and at Lower House on the Crick Road (approx 40 bags in corner of field).
- Concern was raised over the potential risk to motorists of the overgrown tree canopy causing a dark 'tunnel' on the Crick road.
- Broadband update - David Davies MP will be holding an open meeting with the Head of BT Wales on Friday 10.10.14 at Abergavenny. Cllrs Harris and Morton to attend.

Minute 3140 - To receive items of correspondence.

1. Notification of One Voice Wales Conference and AGM on Saturday 4.10.14.
2. Offer of presentation from the Senior Citizen Liaison Team (SCLT) Avon & Somerset police. Offering safety services to the older adult population eg. crime prevention, victim support, scams, cons and general deception.

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3. Letter received from Wales Audit Office to confirm payment of £30 as this Council's share of the Wales Audit Office reserves. (Paid to all T&CC's in Wales).
4. Invitation from Planning Aid Wales to Community Planning Seminar on 18th November from 2.30 - 6.30pm at Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff.
5. Invitation from Welsh Government to respond to the draft Annual Report on Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales. Consultation closing date - 27th November 2014.
6. E-mail received regarding the poor quality of grass cutting of the recreation field by Mon CC groundsmen. Better control is required to meet the needs of field users such as football/cricket teams. Options to be considered during 'Precept' discussions at next meeting.

Minute 3141 - To present short reports from meetings attended.

- The Clerk had attended a Charter Liaison meeting at Usk on 11.9.14. Mon CC asked, and were told, which areas of service needed to be improved. A copy of the finalised Charter was requested by the Clerk.
- The AONB Study Tour was attended by Cllr Morton on 26.9.14. He fed back the details of the Tour and recommended other Councillors to take up future invitations as he found them very interesting.

Minute 3142 - Date of next meeting:

Monday 3 November 2014 at 7.30pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.
There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.05 pm.