

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 5 October 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 T Hughes	Mr I Martin

Also in attendance:

Mrs H Counsell (Clerk to the Council)
Eight members of the public

1. Public participation.

Four members of the public attended the meeting to voice concern over the traffic calming scheme that is currently being installed through Shirenewton. Three of the members had previously written to the Clerk expressing their concerns. The main concerns were that the installation does not slow traffic; the excessive noise of traffic on the 'cobblestones', (particularly tractors and trailers); that 30mph is too fast for traffic to pass through a village with no pavements: that the original Working Party had not signed off the final plan for the scheme and had particularly requested that the surfacing should not be noisy, there had been no discussion on 'cobblestones'.

The Chair reminded members of the public that the installation is not yet complete. The Clerk advised of a response from Paul Keeble, Highways Dept, Mon CC – that vehicle activated 20mph signs/20mph rondels are yet to be installed, plus white lining in the centre of the village. C Cllr Down had also responded to advise that following the bedding in of the installation there will be a speed/volume survey to judge the effect. Also that he is in touch with the police to organise a public meeting to try and implement a community speed watch initiative.

A Working Party was set up to monitor and feedback on the traffic calming scheme, consisting of three members of the public, Cllr B Moore and one further Councillor (tba). The Working Party may make direct contact with Highways and will report back to monthly Council meetings. Council confirmed that it is not responsible for the Working Party's actions.

Council was further advised by Highways that there is no plan for resurfacing the road through Mynyddbach in the near future.

2. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from:

Cllr P Moles and County Councillor G Down.

3. **The monthly police report** - There had been no criminal activity reported during September and two calls to Brookacre. Council was reminded that 'Hoggin the Bridge' would take place on Sunday 18 October and that 16 additional police officers from Newport would also be on duty.

Minute 3286 - To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in any item of listed business.

There were none.

Minute 3287 – Minutes of the last meeting – minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2015 were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

Minute 3288 - to consider planning applications received.

1. DC/2015/00556 Bluebell Farm, Blackbird Farm Road, Earlswood

Replacement and relocation of existing garage and pool house.

Council noted that the proposed garage is smaller than the original, but that the poolhouse, which is to be demolished and rebuilt, will be a 50% increase on the original footprint. The proposal will not affect neighbours. The Council's recommendation is for approval.

2. DC/2015/00373 Bluebell Farm, Earlswood

Amendments to approved planning permission DC/2014/00121

The Council's recommendation is for approval, with the following observations:

- That there is proper provision for the management and disposal of waste;
- That previous biodiversity recommendations are still relevant;
- That previous planning conditions should be complied with;
- That this remains a family concern and not a commercial business.

3. DC/2015/00965 Barn on Old Road, Buckwell Farm, Penycyemawr

Conversion of barn to dwelling.

Council noted that the property is well hidden by hedging; that the proposal would not increase the footprint of the property; that, if approved, there would be a small loss of agricultural land, but that there would be an improvement to the visual impact. The Council's recommendation is for approval with the following observation:

- That Public Right of Way 380/184 is protected and maintained.

4. DC/2015/01064 Rhewl Farm, Shirenewton

Discharge of Condition 4 (details of the external finishes of the inverter stations and centre station, and details of any internal fencing, hard standing areas and access roads, the details of connection cabling and any signage), and 8 (lighting during construction) relating to previous application DC/2014/00939.

The Council's recommendation is for approval with the following recommendations:

- That the access via Trelenny Lane is unsuitable for construction traffic and access should be via the Crick Road as previously proposed.

5. DC/2015/01065 Rhewl Farm, Shirenewton

Non-material amendments to previous application DC/2014/00939

The Council's recommendation is for approval with the following observations:

- Council has serious reservations about the lighting during construction as lighting at night would mean work being undertaken on site causing noise and disturbance. Also that a number of badger setts have been recorded on site and lighting would cause disturbance to them.
- That the access via Trelenny Lane is unsuitable for construction traffic and access should be via the Crick Road as previously proposed.

6. E6840/C/15/3132722 Enforcement Appeal, Ridge House Stables, Earlswood
Response to be made to Planning Inspectorate:

Response made by this Council to the Planning Dept, Mon CC at the time of the original application:

"This application was considered at the Shirenewton Community council meeting on 13.5.2013 and the recommendation was refusal pending investigation, for the following reasons:

- provision of a detailed plan for waste disposal and management, to include environmental aspects and consideration of neighbour.
- an Enforcement Order is involved, the business is not agricultural, it is equestrian, there has been no previous application for change of use and no mention of it in this planning application. Council questions whether the correct procedure has been followed.

- there appears some confusion over whether footpath no's 119 and 120 are accessible or have been moved (see Public Rights of Way DC Observations from S Pritchard dated 11.4.13). There has been no public consultation or planning application and, again, Council questions whether the correct procedure has been followed.
- Health & Safety risks to the public using a RoW through business premises exercising horses.”

Mon CC approved the application in April 2014, Condition 1 relates to the disposal of waste:

Condition 1 The waste management/location of disposal of storage of waste from the equestrian enterprise at the site shall be agreed with the Local Planning Authority within two months of the date of this permission. No waste shall be deposited or stored on the site other than in the location approved by the LPA. Any existing waste stockpile shall be removed and stored in the approved location within two months of the date the LPA approved the location of the waste storage area.

Nearly 2 ½ years on Mon CC has still not enforced this planning condition. This Council, County Councillor Down and the affected neighbour have all been in contact with the Planning Dept. on several occasions over this time to try to move the issue on. It has been on the agenda of the Community Council for two years.

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2007, the Environment Agency regulations state that there is a Duty of Care that requires that all waste is stored and disposed of responsibly. Also that the location of a heap is such that it does not cause a nuisance to neighbours or people using Public Rights of Way.

The affected neighbour's wife suffers from serious ill health which could well have been exacerbated by stress and anxiety caused by the protracted handling of this issue.

7. DC/2015/01046 Yew Tree Cottage, Mynyddbach

Extension to detached garage for non-residential purposes. Storage only.

The Council's recommendation is for approval with the following recommendation:

- to be used as garage/storage for the private use of Yew Tree Cottage only, not for residential purposes.

8. DC/2015/01151 Hallam House, Old School Lane, Mynyddbach

Single Story side utility room extension. Two new rear foldaway doors.

Council noted that the proposal matches the roofline and finish of the original property and that there were no objections on the Mon CC website. The Council's recommendation is for approval.

The Clerk was requested to contact Planning to request guidance on applications for the conversion of field shelters (rather than barns) in open countryside and whether Mon CC was generally minded to approve them.

Minute 3289 – Finance - to approve items listed for payment

Expenditure (by Standing Order)

Clerk's salary/allowances - September Standing Order not paid)		
Clerk's Pension (Council & Clerk's contribution) - September 2015		£150.80

Items for payment

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount £	Cheque No.
Clerk	September expenses	75.80	101272
Land Registry	Registration of kiosk	40.00	101273
Merlin Waste	Specialist bin emptying (Sept)	27.12	101274

It was resolved to make all payments as listed.

Note - Letter received from Wales Audit Office dated 24.9.15 informing of external audit changes for the Annual Returns 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18. The Auditor General for Wales will become statutory auditor, with the appointed auditor being BDO LLP of Southampton. The new arrangements will have a greater focus on governance with an extended Annual Governance Statement having a new section highlighting 'thematic' areas for review. The themes will vary year on year, addressing concerns arising from audit findings. There will also be a focus on budget setting and monitoring and the engagement of internal audit for the 2015-16 audits. Councils will be notified in advance of all requirements which should not mean any substantial additional work.

Minute 3290 – To consider a request for funding from Shirenewton & Mynyddbach Fields Association (SAMFAL).

Council agreed in principle to this request but requested that SAMFAL provide proof of the additional costs.

Minute 3291 – To receive the half yearly budget report and forecast to 31.3.16

This report was received and approved.

Minute 3292: Update on traffic calming installation.

See 'Public Participation' above.

Minute 3293 – To consider and adopt a website protocol.

Cllr Lenza presented the draft protocol for consideration. Council agreed to embedded links to/from other websites to network and promote the Council website. Following discussion and suggestions, the final draft protocol will be brought to the next meeting for adoption.

Minute 3294 - To receive the Clerk's Report

Issues being pursued by the Clerk

- **Telephone kiosk** –Evans & Ellis has drawn up the Deed of Transfer for owners to sign. Cheque for £40 requested for submission to Land Registry with signed paperwork.
- **Best Kept Village Competition** – Cllr Prosser and Clerk attended presentation evening held on 28.9.15 at Chepstow Garden Centre. Excellent results as Shirenewton won Best Kept Village, Best Kept Village Hall, Best Kept War Memorial, joint winner of Best Kept Churchyard and the Tredegar Arms was runner up in the Best Kept pub section. Council Congratulated all residents who

helped to keep the village looking its best and win the awards.

Give Dog Fouling the Red Card – complaint from a resident in Mynyddbach regarding dog fouling at/near the school. Clerk contacted C Touhig Mon CC re. additional signage. Clerk to meet with S Parkinson to collect sign and waste bags.

- **Listing 'The Mill', Bully Hole Bottom** – Clerk contacted Louise Meese, Regional Inspector of Ancient Monuments, CADW on 17.7.15 to find out the process required for 'listing' a site. Requested information has been provided.
- **Grass cutting of recreation field** – further complaint this month re standard of grass cutting prior to football match being held on field. Referee prepared to abandon the match resulting in hefty fine for the football club. Following complaint, Mon CC prompt at getting grass cut and collected, avoiding the fine. Cllr B Moore to suggest to Rec Assoc that they consider managing the grass cutting.
- **Litter bin – Recreation Hall car park** – the two litter bins in the car park are always overflowing because they are so well used. Contacted Mon CC, Tidy Towns funding – a bigger bin is not cost effective, could provide additional bin at a cost to SCC of £100. Mon CC confirmed that it will be emptied on the regular run. Chair of Rec Assoc checking on contributing half of the cost. Council agreed to install this additional bin.
- **Repairs to Friends Burial Ground walls** – Clerk has confirmed with Mr Saysell that work will start w/c 12.10.15.
- **Repairs to play area** – repairs and painting of equipment completed by Mon CC.
- **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 to invite representatives from local organisations.

Issues being pursued by County Councillor Down

- **Dumping of Waste at Ridge House Stables** – Appeal lodged by landowner, SCC response made to Planning Inspectorate at this meeting. Clerk contacted Planning Officer on 30.9.15 regarding compliance by landowner of planning conditions imposed in April 2014.
- **Reported footpath obstruction** on F/paths 119/120 (Ridge House Stables) – C Cllr Down advised at the August 2015 meeting that he had met with I Blomeley, Enforcement Office on site, IB to meet with neighbour concerned to try to reach an agreement on re-direction of path. Clerk contacted IB for update on 21.9.15, IB responded 24.9 – no meeting as yet. Chased up progress on 30.9.15.

Minute 3295 - Items of local concern (information only)

- Correspondence received regarding the Village Market, Council agreed that this issue is between the person concerned and the Recreation Association as organisers of the Market.
- Planning applications – it was suggested that applications be displayed on a table at meetings and Cllrs wishing to inspect them arrive early enough to do so, however this suggestion was not pursued as all applications are available on-line and the ward Councillor responsible reports back to the next meeting.
- Attendance at meetings – the Clerk was requested to write to a Councillor

regarding missed meetings to ask for future commitment.

Minute 3296 - To receive items of correspondence.

1. Invitation from Chair of Mon CC to charity Harvest Supper on Sunday 11th October at the Glen yr Afon House Hotel.
2. Notification from Open Spaces Society of a campaign against the National Grid's proposal to install a 24 km power line of 50m pylons to the west of the Lake District National Park. (Circulated 14.9.15).
3. Appeal letter from the Chairman of Llangollen Music Festival 2016 (Circ. 17.9.15).
4. Invitation from GAVO to become a member – first year free, subsequently £5 per year. (Circ. 17.9.15). Membership form to be completed and returned by 15.10.15. Council did not wish to take up this membership.

One Voice Wales

Notification of the next meeting of the Monmouth/Newport Area Committee on Thursday 8 October from 7pm at the Sessions House, Usk. Cllr Harris to attend.

Invitation from Leighton Andrews, Minister for Public Services, Welsh Government to a conference on establishing Public Services Boards for each local government area in Wales at the Millennium Centre, Cardiff on Thursday 26 November 2015. Circ. (28.9.15)

Consultations received:

Welsh Government

- Revision of the Mental Health Act 1983 Code of Practice for Wales
- Smoking in Prisons
- Refugee and Asylum Seeker Delivery Plan

Minute 3297 - To present short reports from meetings attended.

- Recreation Association – Council was reminded that there is no official representative on the Rec Assoc Committee.
- Conservation Appraisal display 29.9.15 – Clerk attended and felt proposals seemed to be sensible. Proposals currently on Mon CC website, consultation closes on 31.10.15.

Minute 3298 - Date of next meeting:

Monday 2 November 2015 at 7.30pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.30 pm.