

## SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 7 September 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	

### Also in attendance:

Mrs H Counsell (Clerk to the Council)  
County Councillor G Down  
Mr I Martin (Co-option candidate)  
Two members of the public

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

#### 1. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from:

Cllr P Moles.

#### 2. Appointment of co-opted member.

Mr I Martin attended the meeting and left the room while this item was discussed. Council resolved to offer him the co-option appointment for the Newchurch West ward. Mr Martin returned to the room and was offered and accepted the appointment. Introductions were made and Councillor Martin duly signed the Declaration of Office. Clerk to inform Democratic Services at Mon CC.

#### 3. Public participation.

Two members of the public attended and were concerned that the current installation of traffic calming through Shirenewton was not what the public had been expecting. The Chair responded with the recent history of the project and C Cllr G Down also advised of the public display that had been held in July 2014. Discussion followed and several points were raised for the Clerk to take back to Paul Keeble, Highways Dept, Mon CC. These being:

Is there a timescale for the work to be completed?

- a number of complaints were reported from residents regarding the two sets of bollards - a) that they restrict an already narrow road, and b) that the right hand set (heading towards Earlswood) encourage the parking of vehicles. This has long been a cause for complaint to the Council, but vehicles are now parking tight to the bollards, and three at a time;
- that the Recreation Hall car park entrance is not in the ownership of Highways and permission should have been sought for the alterations that were made, which is considered to be of inferior quality than the original. County Councillor Down to check ownership with Legal Dept;
- that the cobbled area at the Tredegar Arms is unnecessary;
- there has also been several complaints reported from residents in Mynyddbach at the expense of this work being carried out in Shirenewton, when they have complained about the poor condition of the Mynyddbach road for several years and the most recent 'patch up' work to the road is no longer effective, leaving it in a very poor condition. Is there a timescale for the complete resurfacing of this road?

4. **The monthly police report** - There had been two incidents of crime during the month with other reports being traffic related. On 30 August a Safety Operation was carried out on the B4235 at Shirenewton, between 10am and 3pm. 17 cars/vans and 27 motorbikes were stopped and given safety advice and their vehicles checked for road worthiness and legality. Councillors were advised of the Inspector's Surgery

to be held at the Palmers Centre, Chepstow on 19 September 2015 from 4 – 6pm.

**Minute 3274 - To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in any item of listed business.**

There were none.

**Minute 3275 - to consider planning applications received.**

1. DC/2015/00847 Gaerllwydd Barn, Gaerllwydd

Conversion of barn to form one dwelling.

Council noted that the proposal is sympathetic, there are no immediate neighbours to the property and the proposal allows parking for 3 vehicles.

Although the Council recognised that the surrounding area is rundown and in need of improvement, and had no objection to the proposal, members wished to remind the Planning Department of the following points:

- the site is a medieval burial ground and the previous owners undertook a geo-survey which showed a large shadow (possibly a temple) under the barn;
- this is also a site of SSSI which restricts the ploughing/digging of the ground;
- the two wide verges on either side of the lane are currently common land and should remain so;
- the current access to the property is across the verge, permission for this should be sought from Highways.

The Council felt that there are grounds for concern with this application and it should be given more careful consideration by the Planning Dept.

2. DC/2015/00990 Latimer Farm, Earlswood (Agricultural Notification)

Erection of agricultural building used for storage of agricultural machinery, hay and straw. Council recommended approval.

3. DC/2015/01011 Rhewl Farm. Non-material amendment to DC/2014/00939

Revised access and construction traffic management plan.

This Council objected to the substantive application and wished to give no comment on this amendment.

**Minute 3276** – The minutes of the meeting held on 3 August 2015 were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

**Minute 3277 – Finance - to approve items listed for payment**

**Expenditure (by Standing Order)**

Clerk's salary/allowances - August 2015 £511.31  
Clerk's Pension (Council & Clerk's contribution) - August 2015 £150.80

**Items for payment**

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount £	Cheque No.
Clerk	August expenses	37.70	101267
Mon CC	Annual play inspection	90.00	101268
Mazars LLP	External audit fee	246.00	101269
Merlin Waste	Specialist bin emptying (Aug)	27.12	101270
Gillett & Johnson	Annual clock maintenance	176.40	101271

Council resolved to make all payments as listed.

Council was pleased to note that the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2015 had been returned from the external auditor, who found that the information provided was in accordance with proper practices and no matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern.

The Clerk advised that Notices of the Conclusion of Audit and right to inspect the Annual Return had been posted in the four ward noticeboards from 2.9.15 (to remain in position for a minimum of 14 days).

**Minute 3278 –Annual maintenance costs to play equipment.**

Mon CC had carried out the annual play inspection and risk assessment and submitted a quote for repairs and painting of £950.00 + vat. Council resolved to accept this quote.

**Minute 3279 - Update on traffic calming installation.**

Following further discussion on the proposal from Mon CC to alter the signage at the entrances to Shirenewton, the Council resolved to install the VAS signage as originally proposed.

**Minute 3280 – The promotion of external information/charity events on the website.**

Firstly the Council members thanked Cllr Lenza for the work he had undertaken in setting up and maintaining the website. Council agreed to develop a protocol before accepting any requests. Cllrs Lenza, B Moore and the Clerk to draft a protocol for the next meeting.

**Minute 3281 - To receive the Clerk's Report**

**Issues being pursued by the Clerk**

- **Telephone kiosk** – Clerk's appointment with Evans & Ellis on 18 August 2015, with required Land Registry forms and maps from Mr Tayton. E& E to draw up the documentation for the LR. Mr Tayton has offered to engrave an 'I' for Information on a glass panel of the kiosk (an improvement on the current paper sign inviting people to look inside).
- **Best Kept Village Competition** – results should be known this month.

**Give Dog Fouling the Red Card** - additional bin in position at the SAMFAL gate and Clerk has contacted Merlin Waste to arrange regular emptying.

- **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. Clerk to request update for the October meeting.
- **Grass cutting of recreation field** – several complaints made in recent weeks to Mon CC regarding standard of grass cutting on the field. N Leaworthy has confirmed that in future a cylinder mower will be used (rather than a rotary) to give a finer cut. Recreation Association members to keep Clerk informed when cutting is not done, or not up to standard. Cllr B Moore to discuss taking on the responsibility of grass cutting with the Rec Committee.
- **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 – can supply a bigger bin if SCC contributes 25% towards it. (Rec Assoc may contribute half of our cost).

- **Repairs to Friends Burial Ground walls** – Mr J Saysell has been advised that his quote was successful and he planned on starting work at end of August.
- **Annual inspection and risk assessment of play area** by Mon CC completed, at a cost of £75 + vat. Some painting required and repairs needed on playhouse, dog springer, safety surfacing and one seat.
- **Wye Valley AONB Annual Study Tour** to be held on 25.11.15 from 9.15am – 4.50pm, meeting at Symonds Yat Rock Car Park. No Councillors available.
- **Clerk to attend financial training course** at County Hall, Usk on 14.9.15. Further **Planning Aid training course** to be held on 12.10.15 at Little Mill Village Hall, Pontypool from 9.30am – 12.30pm.

#### **Issues being pursued by County Councillor Down**

- **Dumping of Waste at Ridge House Stables** – an Enforcement Appeal is likely to be lodged, Planning Officer to inform the Clerk of the start date.
- **Reported footpath obstruction** on F/paths 119/120 (Ridge House Stables) – we were advised on 14.10.14 that under Section 130(6) of the Highways Act 1980 a diversion order was being sought (the process may take up to 18 months). C Cllr Down advised at the August 2015 meeting that he had met with I Blomeley, Enforcement Officer on site, IB to meet with neighbour concerned to try to reach an agreement on re-direction of footpath.

#### **Minute 3282 - Items of local concern** (information only)

- Flytipping had been reported to Mon CC on Batwell Lane, Council was advised that the police are also monitoring this area for drug use;
- 20mph speed restriction near the school is no longer timed but on all day – Clerk to report.
- County Councillor Down advised of public consultation events on Conservation Area Appraisals being held to review/change the current areas. Shirenewton's session will be held at Caldicot Town Council Offices on 29.9.15 from 3pm – 7pm. The public are welcome to attend.

#### **Minute 3283 - To receive items of correspondence.**

1. E-mail update from Dave Matthews, Traffic Management Adviser, Gwent Police regarding future notification of the Ras-de-Cymru Cycle Race and other cycle races held locally. (Circulated 8.8.15).
2. Letters of thanks for annual donation received from:  
Mrs E Heritage, St Peters Church, Newchurch  
Mrs S Lightbound, Monmouthshire County CAB  
Mrs A Smith, Earlswood Valley/Hope Churches  
Mrs D Brabon, Shirenewton Local History Society  
Mr C Eickhoff, Earlswood Recreation Hall  
Mr K Bounds, Shirenewton Church PCC
3. Report & Accounts from Cymru Shelter and request for financial support.
4. Information from One Voice Wales on the nine motions being put forward by

Councils in Wales to the OVW Annual General Meeting on 3 October 2015.

5. Invitation from GAVO to attend the Gwent Wide Third Sector Provider Fair on 13 October 2015 at the Christchurch Centre, Newport (Circ. 19.8.15). Responses by 28.8.15.

6. E-mail from Mark Hand, Head of Planning to inform of public consultation events on Conservation Area Appraisals. The date Shirenewton is to be displayed is on 29.9.15 at Caldicot Town Council Offices from 3 – 7pm.

7. Notification from Forrester's Car Club of a motor rally to be held at Caerwent Training Area on Sunday 27. September 2015. Notices have been posted on ward noticeboards.

8. Invitation from Shirenewton Guides and Rangers to Duke of Edinburgh presentation awards at the Recreation Hall on 15.9.15 at 8pm.

### **Consultations received:**

#### **One Voice Wales**

- Tax Collection and Management (Wales) Bill. (Closing date 8.9.15).
- BBC Charter Review
- Draft directions to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission Wales (Closing date 11.11.15).
- Independent Remuneration Panel Survey – closing date extended to 18.9.15.
- Charging Guidance to Ofwat (the economic regulator of the water sector).

#### **Welsh Government**

- The Welsh Language Tribunal – Practice Directions
- Further Secondary Legislation for Development Management
- Proposals to amend the Tuberculosis (Wales) Order 2010

#### **Minute 3284 - To present short reports from meetings attended.**

There were none.

#### **Minute 3285 - Date of next meeting:**

Monday 5 October 2015 at 7.30pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm.