

Input from the public present highlighted the unique problem with motorcycles at weekends and holidays. It was acknowledged that the police had taken the issues on board and were taking steps to find solutions, but that Monmouthshire Highways Dept. does not accept there is a problem, although they could provide help with speed limits and double white lines. Mr Davies offered to accompany C Cllr Down to a meeting with the Highways Dept, to request further support.

Speed, noise and inconsiderate driving were all issues that concern local residents. Council were advised of a successful initiative in Powys that involved creating a 50mph speed limit on a long stretch of road, with a speed/noise monitoring unit in place.

Inspector Thompson confirmed that there will be an update on the progress of the initiative each month in the Police Report.

The Chair thanked Mr Davies and Inspector Thompson for their input to the meeting.

Inspector Thompson was then asked by Council whether a complaint had been made on 23.3.15 by a neighbour of Brookacre on loud and offensive bad language from a resident. She was not aware of the complaint but advised that CSO Thorpe had spoken to the Manager of the residential home and some residents had been moved elsewhere. In future the police are to be involved with the information sharing process when new residents move in and CSO Thorpe will liaise on a monthly basis with Brookacre staff. When Council discussed the appropriateness of placements and quality of staff supervision, Inspector Thompson suggested putting pressure on Social Services via C Cllr Down.

Minute 3209: To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in items of listed business.

Cllr L Dyke Agenda item 8 Refit of telephone kiosk.

Minute 3210: To consider planning applications

1. Appeal E8640/A/14/2229840 (DC/2014/00939) Rhewl Farm, Shirenewton.
 Provision of photovoltaic solar park and ancillary infrastructure.
 Council agreed to recommend refusal to the Planning Inspectorate using the same points as previously made to Mon CC.

2. DC/2014/01185 Land adjacent to Clearview Court
 Amended layout.
 Council noted the recommendation of approval to the amended plan that had been submitted before the closing date of 19.3.15. Two members of the public expressed their disappointment that the Council had recommended approval.

Minute 3211: To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2015.

Following some discussion over Minute 3194, the minutes were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

Minute 3212: To consider proposed earthworks on the recreation field.

Mrs C Jones, Vice Chair of the Recreation Association Committee (RAC) asked whether the Agreement between the Community Council (SCC) and the resident had been rescinded and was advised that it had not. She explained why the RAC considered the Agreement was not lawful and that the RAC was looking to become involved in helping to move this issue on. The Chair acknowledged that he now recognised that the Agreement should have included the RAC and also that it should have been signed by the Clerk and witnessed by the Chair. He had since checked this point with One Voice Wales. The Chair explained how this mistake had occurred and added that the priority now was to find a solution that would be acceptable to all three interested parties. The Chair apologised for his error in an agreement being signed without prior Council agreement but the Council members accepted their collective responsibility regarding this.

The Chair then reported that he had spoken to the resident by telephone, who confirmed that he would welcome the opportunity to clarify any concerns that members of the RAC may have. The Chair further suggested that SCC, RAC and the resident meet as soon as possible to discuss the situation. Mrs Jones agreed to this proposal and all present agreed the need to move on and resolve this issue amicably.

Minute 3213: To consider items for payment.

Expenditure by Standing Order

Clerk's salary/allowances -	March 2015	£456.07
Clerk's pension (Council & Clerk's contribution)	March 2015	£171.33

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount £	Cheque number
A-Ply Carpentry	Fit noticeboard/shelving to interior of kiosk	145.00	101230
Clerk	March expenses	48.90	101234
SLHS	Small grant donation 14/15	60.00	101235
Earlswood Hall	“ “ “	100.00	101236
Merlin Waste	Bin emptying (Feb & Mar)	54.24	101237
Williams Associates (Land agents)	Earlswood field rental advice	90.00	101238

Council resolved to make all payments as listed.

Council note that an HMRC VAT refund of £433.91 had been received.

The Chair advised that following his intervention with J Robson, Mon CC, the Council's pension contribution from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2017 is to be reduced from 27.6% to 21.1%.

Minute 2314: To consider entering the Best Kept Village Competition 2015.

In view of the success of last year's entry after the collaborative efforts of village residents, Council resolved to enter the competition again this year. Cllr Hughes was thanked for the efforts he made last year but Councillors were sorry to learn that he will be unable to offer support this year, so Cllrs B Moore, M Lenza, L Dyke and the Clerk agreed to help. Clerk to submit article to the Parish Magazine and website.

Minute 2315: To receive an update on traffic calming proposals.

County Cllr Down was unable to attend the meeting, but feedback from P Keeble, Highways Dept., Mon CC was that a spell of good weather was required to lay the textured surfacing material and that the programme, along with the funding, would carry over to the new financial year. Work is planned to take place at the end of April.

Minute 2316: To consider the future of Earlswood Recreation Field.

- a. Council resolved to accept the draft annual agreement, with one minor amendment.
- b. Of the two offers received for the rental of the field for 2015, Council resolved to accept Mr H Stone at £295.00. Clerk to advise Mr Stone.
- c. Fencing - Council resolved to fence the roadside boundary only, with post, pigwire and one row of barbed wire.

Council paid an invoice of £90 from Williams Associates (Land Agents) for advice on the future rental of the field.

Minute 2317: To agree a response to the Reforming Government White Paper.

Council considered and agreed a response, Clerk to submit by the closing date of 28.4.15.

Minute 2318: To receive the Clerk's Report.

Issues being pursued by the Clerk

1. Telephone kiosk - the proposed long term lease must be compliant and registered with the Land Registry, completion of Form AP1, copy of lease and £40 fee required. Council resolved to continue with registration.
2. Tan House site (untidy land) - advised on 30.3.15 that Enforcement will monitor.
3. Earlswood Village Hall signage - G Kinsella, Mon CC confirmed that installation will take place during next tranche of work in the area. Clerk to check when this is planned.
4. Drainage/freezing road surface West End/Earlswood - update requested and remind sent, but no response as yet. Clerk to continue to pursue.

5. Draft grant application for funding in 2015/16 - Council accepted the application format. Clerk to include in Parish News article and advise that applications are to be submitted by 30.6.15.
6. Reminder of WW1 Exhibition and Flower Festival in the church on the weekend of 17/18/19 April. In addition to funding £75 for the hire of the church room for the Exhibition, Council agreed to a further £25 to sponsor a flower arrangement for the Festival.
7. Reminder of joint meeting between MoD, Shirenewton and Caerwent Councils on 29 April at 2pm in the Church Room, Shirenewton Church.
8. Reminder of Shirenewton fete on Saturday 13 June. Clerk has applied for a goody box from Fields in Trust, but is unable to attend the fete that day, neither are Cllrs B Moore and L Dyke. Council to decide at the next meeting whether to man a stall this year.
9. Clerk's request for one week's annual leave was granted by Council.
10. One Voice Wales Training Programme for 2015 was distributed to Councillors.

Issues being pursued by County Councillor Down

1. Yew Tree Bungalow, Earlswood - Rights of Way 53/54/55 - no progress. Clerk to contact C Cllr Down with question of ownership of triangle of land.
2. Ridge House Stables - Rights of Way 119/120 Footpath obstruction - following request for update, e-mail from M Lewis, Countryside Manager advising that due to workload restrictions no action had been taken as yet. Clerk to request further update in 3 months.

Minute 2319: Items of local concern (information only)

- Mon CC has selected sites for wildflower planting at the entrance to Home Farm, Cock-a-Roosting triangle and Gaerllwyd bus stop.
- Blethyn Close garages are to be refurbished, Clerk to check the timescale with Housing.
- Llewyncelyn Lane/The Row - Clerk has requested a site visit from Enforcement.
- Play area swings to be painted in near future by volunteers and bark pit topped up.
- Huntsman Hotel Annual Music Festival will take place on 6 June. There will be no noise pollution this year, following one complaint last year.
- It was confirmed that the Huntsman Hotel is having repairs made to drains at front of Hotel, it is not being extended.
- Query roadway across open countryside - Clerk to investigate.
- It was reported that the telephone kiosk is not watertight, Cllr Dyke to pass further details to the Clerk.

Minute 2320: To receive items of correspondence:

1. Contact via website on 24.3.15 from a resident regarding an increase in dog fouling on the SAMFAL site. Clerk to check whether a community group can join the Red Card Scheme, also to invite Carl Touhig, 'Tidy Towns' Funding Officer to the June meeting.
2. Letter from Welsh Government on 4.4.15 reminding communities to visit CADW local heritage sites. Children have a 'Kids Go Free' day on 17 May and a month long 'Open Doors' Festival will give free entry to all during September.
3. Notice from One Voice Wales of next meeting of Monmouth/Newport Area Committee on Thursday 16 April at 7pm at the Sessions House, Usk. Cllr Harris to attend.

Minute 2321: Short reports from meetings attended.

- Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk attended a meeting with CSO Thorpe on 6.3.15 - CSO Thorpe explained the initiative for policing the traffic issues on the B4235 (as recorded in the Police Report above).
- Recreation Association Meeting (BM) held on 6.3.15 - discussed CCTV, which has now been installed and invoice for £1750 + VAT was passed to the Clerk for payment, as previously agreed by the Council.

Minute 2322: Date of next meetings confirmed as the Annual Meeting followed immediately by the ordinary meeting on Monday 11 May 2015 at 7.30pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.