

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 4 April 2016 at 7.30 pm
at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

Present:

Councillors:

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

Also in attendance:

Mrs H Counsell (Clerk to the Council)

In the absence of Cllr P Harris, Cllr B Moore (Vice Chair) took the Chair, welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

1. Public participation.

There was none.

2. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from:

Cllrs P Harris and I Moore. County Councillor G Down also sent his apologies

3. The monthly police report.

Councillors noted that the report had been circulated prior to the meeting, but no officers were able to attend. It was further noted that December 2015 was the last meeting that officers had attended.

The Chair advised that according to police report figures, during the year Feb 2015 – March 2016 there had been 10 reported crimes in the Shirenewton ward.

The Council had received an invitation via the Clerk to join 'Gwent Now' the replacement organisation for the OWL initiative. The Chair advised that Neighbourhood Watch is referring some data protection concerns to the Crime Commissioner. Council resolved to join 'Gwent Now'. Cllr Lenza advised that the OWL notifications had received most hits on the Council website and Facebook page.

4. To consider any applications to fill co-opted vacancies

There were none. Vacancies continue to be advertised in the monthly Parish Magazine and on the website.

Minute 3358 - To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in any item of listed business.

There were none.

Minute 3359 - Minutes of the last meeting – minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2016 were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

Minute 3360 - to consider planning applications received.

1. DC/2016/00160 Land at Gaerllwyd Farm, Earlswood
Retention of lean-to and a storage container.

Council noted that the proposal is unobtrusive and does not affect neighbouring properties. Recommendation: Approval with a condition that the steel container be painted green. (Voting: Unanimous).

As there are several steel shipping containers in the community, the Clerk was requested to contact Planning to enquire whether as a general principle they are encouraged by Mon CC and are subject to planning permission

2. DC/2014/01185 Land adjacent to Clearview Court, Shirenewton
Reserved matters application for 7 dwellings and associated works on land adjoining Clearview Court granted outline permission under application DC/2009/01061, including details to discharge condition 1 (Reserved Matters) and condition 4 (Boundary Treatments).

Council noted that the splay of the site entrance onto the highway had been improved; that the boundary hedge had been removed; and that the property at the top of the site with no garage now had three parking spaces. Recommendation: Approval. (Voting: Unanimous).

Minute 3361 – Finance - to approve items listed for payment

Expenditure (by Standing Order)

Clerk’s salary/allowances - March 2016 £604.09
(Salary increased/tax reduced for 4 months to recover overpaid tax to HMRC)
Clerk’s Pension (Council & Clerk’s contribution) - March 2016 £150.80

Items for payment

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount £	Cheque No.
Clerk	March expenses	81.70	101295
Caldicot Joinery	Mynyddbach noticeboard	478.32	101296
Planning Aid Wales	Training x 2 on 16.5.16	50.00	101297

Council resolved to make all payments as listed.

Minute 3362 – To consider annual tenancy of Earlswood Recreation Field.

The annual tenancy of the Earlswood Recreation Field will be due for renewal from 1st May 2016. Council agreed some minor amendments to the Agreement and further resolved in the interests of continuity, to offer the tenancy in the first instance to the current tenant at the same annual rate. If the tenant does not wish to continue then the tenancy will be advertised.

Minute 3363 – To finalise the Queen’s 90th birthday celebrations on Thursday 21 April 2016

The Clerk advised that arrangements were under way, with a walking treasure hunt, tea and cakes at the Hall, a quarter peel of the church bells, and lighting of the beacon. Clerk to arrange a poster and advertising. Council agreed to fund the hire of the Recreation Hall for the event and the purchase of refreshments.

Minute 3364 – To discuss the Council website.

Cllr Lenza advised that the current community council website is hosted by Shared Resource Services (SRS), Blaenavon, previously Mon CC. Hosting has been free of charge to date but there has been much disruption of the website over the last 6 months. SRS cannot cope and have asked some organisations and schools to leave and arrange hosting elsewhere – we have no option. Alex McConaghie, Digital Marketing Officer of Mon CC has offered hosting the website for £5 per month. Cllr Lenza to pursue this offer further and ask whether this is an initial cost that would be increased later, or a permanent offer.

The Chair thanked Cllr Lenza for the enormous amount of work he has undertaken in setting up and managing the website, particularly during the recent difficult circumstances with SRS.

Minute 3365 - To receive the Clerk's Report

Issues being pursued by the Clerk

- **Telephone kiosk** – amendments to draft lease received from Star Legal on 14.3.16 and distributed. Council accepted the amendments.

Weekly checks made on kiosk have not shown any ingress of rain water during February/March.

- **Mynyddbach noticeboard** – new board erected by Caldicot Joinery on 23.3.16, all OK and payment made on 4.4.16.
- **Changes to OWL notifications** – this system now renamed 'Gwent Now' and being used by police and Neighbourhood Watch. Council agreed to sign up to new system.
- **Reminder of joint meeting between MoD, Shirenewton and Caerwent CC's** at Caerwent Training Area offices on Thursday 21 April 2016 at 2pm. Clerk to request the meeting is re-scheduled as it clashes with the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations.
- **Best Kept Village Competition 2016** – following the recent advert in the Parish Magazine, the Tredegar Arms has offered to sponsor the flower trough in the centre of the village.
- **VAS signage** – reported to Mon CC that the 20 mph sign at Crick Road is not operational and the one at the school is on 24 hours a day. Response received 4.4.16 that they will be checked out.
- **Grow Wild Seed Kits 2016** – 4 kits received. Grow Wild is the UK's biggest-ever wild flower campaign, bringing people together to transform local spaces with native, pollinator-friendly wild flowers and plants. Supported by the **Big Lottery Fund**, Grow Wild is the national outreach initiative of the **Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew**. Kits to be given to the school, playgroup, SAMFAL and church.

Issues being pursued by County Councillor Down

Dumping of Waste at Ridge House Stables – Planning Inspectorate decision on 1.2.16 was to quash the Enforcement Notice for ambiguity. Council made a complaint of maladministration against Mon CC on 22.2.16 but this could not be pursued. Council noted that a replacement enforcement notice is to be served at Ridge House Stables. Council resolved to seek a meeting with the CEO of Mon CC to discuss progress. Cllr I Moore offered to attend, C Cllr G Down to also be invited to attend. E-mail sent to CEO on 14.3.16 requesting a meeting, no response. Clerk to pursue. Cllr Morton expressed an interest to attend the meeting if it also covers the footpath obstructions.

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.

No timetable on further progress but this Council will be consulted by Mon CC at the pre-order and notice stages.

Clerk requested progress report – response from Annette Evans on 18.2.16 – requested update from Countryside Manager. E-mails received 22.2 and 26.2.16 and circulated.

Minute 3366 - To receive items of local concern (information only)

- The groundwork being carried out on the Crick Road has been referred to Enforcement by County Councillor P Murphy (Caerwent CC).
- Vandalism of the playgroup area on the recreation field led to approximately £200 of damage, which was followed by further damage two weeks later. People and cars were picked up on CCTV and although the police scrutinized the CCTV footage, they advised that images were not clear enough to pursue. The Recreation Association has agreed to contribute £100 towards repairs.
- Rubbish reported at Batwell Hill - Clerk to report to Mon CC.
- The traffic direction sign at West End/Earlswood has fallen off the pole, which has rusted away - Clerk to report.

Minute 3367 - To receive items of correspondence.

1. Walk for Life (Sunday 24 April 2016) information and sponsorship pack, supporting families across Wales affected by kidney disease and renal failure.

2. Notification from One Voice Wales of next meeting of Monmouth/Newport Area Committee on Thursday 7 April at 7.00 pm at the Sessions House, Usk.

3. E-mail from Mr Leat of Earlswood regarding road name in Shirenewton (Distributed 22.3.16). Council considered that there were many unclassified roads in a rural community and did not feel that roads needed to be named for insurance company purposes. Clerk to refer Mr Leat to Highways Dept., Mon CC.

Consultations received:

Monmouthshire County Council

Traffic Regulation Order 2016 - Earlswood Road, Shirenewton (Circ 10.3.16)
Closing date 20.4.16.

Traffic Regulation Order 2016 - B4235, Mynyddbach (Circ 10.3.16)
Closing date 20.4.16.

Consultation on Draft Mon CC Parking Places Order 2016 (Circulated 10.3.16).
Closing date 22.4.16.

Consultation on Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule (Circ 25.3.16)
Closing date 5.5.16. Clerk and Cllr B Moore to meet to formulate a response.

One Voice Wales

Consultation on the M4 Corridor around Newport (Circ 10.3.16). Closing date 4.5.16.

Welsh Government

- Consultation on the refreshed Autistic Spectrum Disorder Strategic Action Plan
- Building Regulations Sustainability Review
- Consultation on proposed changes to Planning Policy Wales Chapter 6 – The Historic Environment. Closing date 13.6.16.
- Support for Foundation Years.

Minute 3368 - To present short reports from meetings attended.

- The Clerk attended a presentation on the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2016 – Mon CC, 16.3.16. This Act came into force on the 1st April and has significant consequences for Town and Community Councils in Wales. Clerk to bring copies of information provided to the next Council meeting.

Minute 3369 - Date of next meetings:

Annual Meeting Monday 9 May 2016 at 7.30pm followed by the ordinary meeting at 8.00 pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

The Chair reminded Councillors to consider nominations for office and representatives on other organisations, especially the Recreation Association.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.