

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 7 November 2016 at 7.30 pm
at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

Present:

Councillors:

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

Also in attendance:

Mr T King
Mr G Hughes and Mrs B Saysell (Shirenewton Recreation Association)
County Councillor G Down
Mrs H Counsell (Clerk to the Council)

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

Mr King of Usk Road gave a presentation on a not-for-profit community project to improve the broadband service to residents in the Earlswood and Gaerllwyd areas (the service is already available in Shirenewton). It would involve an unobtrusive radio station being installed on the roof of the Recreation Hall (it must be within 500m of the green cabinet). There are several other radio stations in the area and currently 32 people in outlying areas are benefitting from an improved broadband and wifi service. The Rec Hall would receive a free broadband and wifi service, but would need to have a telephone line installed. Costs would be an initial £200 for hardware and 12 months fees, plus £5 per year, per person that signed up to the service.

Mr Hughes to take the proposal to the next Recreation Association committee meeting and the Community Council to discuss further.

1. Public participation.

None

2. Apologies for absence.

None.

3. The monthly police report.

There were two reports of off-road bikes being ridden round Wentwood and one report of a land rover being found in the forest. There had been 5 calls to Brookacre during the month. Council was pleased to note that 100 residents had responded to the "Your Voice" questionnaire.

The following is an extract from the Police Report:

Your Voice priority – B4235, motorbikes

"In July 2016 the 40mph restriction was implemented by Mon CC Highways. Regular uniform and plain car patrols took place along the B4235 involving local officers and officers from the Area Support Unit. During two separate Operations carried out, over 40 motor bikes were stopped and checked and 8 had action taken against them for various offences. Footage was obtained by both Officers and residents showing several occasions where motor bikes were seen to overtake on the double white lines in place. Action has been taken and is being taken against some of these riders. Further activity by Gwent Police is planned for next year to continue with the positive action that has been taken so far."

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 3449: To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in any item of listed business.

Cllr B Moore

Shirenewton Recreation Association

Agenda item 13.

Minute 3450: To consider grass cutting options for the 2017/18 season.

This item was moved up the agenda to accommodate the representatives of the Recreation Association. The Chair reminded those present of the proposal made to the Recreation Association at the last meeting. Mr Hughes explained the inadequacy of the grass cutting during the last two years. He felt that 14 cuts a season was insufficient and 16 cuts on a regular basis would be an improvement that would eliminate the current regular mess on the field and the need for a cut and collect service. He explained that the football club that books the field uses it 2% of the time, with the community using it for the other 98%.

All agreed the need for a contract with a specific timetable of cuts. Cuts next year to be monitored by Rec Association and contact made with Mon CC/Clerk if not adhering to time table. The possibility of a Service Level Agreement with Mon CC is also to be pursued. Mr Hughes to take the above discussion to the next Recreation Association committee meeting.

Minute 3451: To consider planning applications received.

1. DC/2014/01110 Little Grondra Farm, Shirenewton

Conversion of redundant barn to a dwelling.

Application invalid, to be re-submitted.

2. DC/2016/01137 Gate House, Usk Road, Penywaemawr (ILM)

To erect a steel frame apex building to replace existing containers which are to be removed. Council noted that this is a 7 acre plot that is surrounded by trees. The proposal is for a blue-grey steel framed building, height at apex 4.8 metres, with no windows and a roll over door. Council recommended approval of the application subject to the condition of removal of the containers the building replaces. (Vote: Unanimous)

3. DC/2016/00897 Mo I Rana, Weyloed Lane, Mynyddbach

Proposed alterations to first floor and roof of existing dwelling.

The Council noted that pre-application advice had been sought and the application had Planning Officer approval. There were no on-line objections, only one concern about construction traffic affecting residents. Council recommended approval of the application, subject to the following condition:

'That in order to meet the concerns of neighbours, the plans be amended to provide for a solid wall to roof height on the sun terrace overlooking the property below'. Vote: (Unanimous).

4. DC/2015/01594 Advertisement consent for free standing signs

The Council recommended refusal of this amended application for the following reasons:

- There is a safety issue as such signage would be a visual distraction for motorists - Highways Department officers have always argued this point;
- There is already a proliferation of Highways signage, particularly along the A48, and further business signage would spoil the character and quality of the countryside;
- Tourism is the biggest industry in Monmouthshire and to allow signage along already unkempt and neglected verges would be detrimental to the landscape;
- Council also noted three additional applications on the website - 01591, 01592, 01593 and felt that this is likely to be the thin end of the wedge with regard to such signage.

5. Council discussed further information received from S Pritchard, Footpaths Officer, Mon CC on 14.10.16 on the proposed path order at 119, Earlswood and again recommended refusal of the proposal. Council pointed out that although always having been co-operative

in the survey and upkeep of Rights of Way in this community, in this instance, considers that the diversion is unlikely to be used owing to the previously mentioned intimidation, nuisance and safety issues. Council further noted that there have been instances where RoW have been diverted from farm tracks, or near buildings in the area – The Oaks 380/41 and Usk Road 380/51, to alleviate the problem of nuisance.

Clerk to contact the Ramblers Association and the Open Spaces Society for support.

Minute 3452 - Minutes of the last meeting – minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2016 were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

Minute 3453 – Finance - to approve items listed for payment

Expenditure (by Standing Order)

Clerk’s salary/allowances - October 2016 £520.34
 Clerk’s Pension (Council & Clerk’s contribution) - October 2016 £157.91

Items for payment

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount £	Cheque No.
Clerk	October expenses	52.65	101333
Merlin Waste	Bin emptying (Sept & Oct)	67.80	101334
Noah’s Ark Appeal	Annual donation	50.00	101335
Open Spaces Society	Annual subscription	45.00	101336

Council resolved to make all payments as listed.

Council noted that an updated bank mandate to include the Clerk of the Council was signed by relevant Councillors.

In view of the increased financial information required and the effect on the Clerk’s workload, Council resolved to request Mon CC Payroll Department to arrange payment of the Clerk’s salary/pension/tax by the Department at a cost of £18.75 per quarter.

Minute 3454: To receive a quarterly financial update (July – September 2016)

Council reviewed the quarterly budget, showing material variations, and noted the continued potential overspend of £1000 by the end of the financial year, based on current spending. Council agreed to take no action at present but to review at next quarterly update and take account of the variance when considering the 2017/18 budget.

Council noted that Cllr R Kopp, being neither Chair nor a bank signatory, verified and signed the quarterly budget, relevant bank statements and the detailed list of payments made at each meeting during the quarter.

Minute 3455: Three year forecast of revenue capital receipts and payments

Council considered a three year plan and looked at the current annual expenditure, the expected additional future income and future plans/expenditure. The forecast is to be finalised at the December meeting prior to consideration of the 2017/18 precept. C Cllr Down to invite a Mon CC Grants Officer to the next meeting to explain the criteria for

any available funding.

C Cllr Down further advised of the availability of Welsh Church grants available to local organisations.

After confirming that there had been no progress on the Speed Watch initiative, C Cllr Down left the meeting at 9.10pm.

Minute 3456: Costings for remedial action to play equipment.

Council received and resolved to accept costings from Mon CC for repair of play equipment totalling £837.00 + vat to include labour and materials. Council noted that the cost was within the 2016/17 budget.

Minute 3457: Progress on Community Benefit agreement.

The Clerk confirmed that the agreement had been extended to £50,000 payable over 25 years at £2,000 pa between both Councils. Council resolved to pursue this agreement with ReneSola and signed the amended agreement, which is now to be passed to Mathern CC for their signatures before being returned to the Project Development Manager at ReneSola.

Clerk to include information on community benefit and the additional future funding of £1,000 pa in the next issue of the Parish Magazine and encourage residents to put forward ideas/projects for consideration.

Minute 3458: Closure/removal of BT payphones and purchase option.

The kiosk earmarked for closure and removal by BT is at West End, Earlswood, which BT advised had not been used to make a call within the last 12 months. Council had no objection to closure but notification is to be made in the Parish Magazine to allow residents who are opposed to closure the opportunity to object. Responses to be made to the Clerk by Friday 9th December 2016.

Minute 3459 - To receive the Clerk's Report

- **Best Kept Village Competition 2016** – Won Best War Memorial, Best Village Hall and runner up for Best Kept Village, winner was Llanfair Discoed. We didn't do as well this year achieving 73 points of a possible 100, with points being lost for non-clearance of vegetative (organic) rubbish. Although judges commented that overall Shirenewton was a well-kept village. We really need to find a resident in Shirenewton to spearhead finding/chasing volunteers to get involved.
- **VAS signage repair/replacement** – sign on the Crick Road at entrance to Shirenewton now in working order.
- **Assets** – Work group from Youth Offending Service has not yet started, Clerk has confirmed with Reparation Officer that Mon CC insurance covers the work, Risk Assessment amended, signed and returned on 31.10.16. Footpath at top of Tan House Court added to list of tasks.
- **Remembrance Sunday** – Sunday 13 November 2016. Chair to lay wreath. Path from war memorial to church has been cleared by Haines Bros and will be swept on 12.11.16.
- **Joint meeting between MoD and Shirenewton/Caerwent CC's** – Monday 21.11.16 at Caerwent Village Hall from 6pm. 9 Councillors and guests attending.

- **Hedge cutting at Earlswood** – Now logged onto Highways system Ref: 023140.
- **Height of retaining wall at 23 Clearview** – Planning Officer advised on 12.10.16 that wall not built as approved and height needs to be reduced. Requested progress report 27.10.16, received and circulated 31/10. Planning Officer is awaiting amended plans, and will monitor closely. Applicant has to be given the opportunity to rectify the work.
- **Trees overhanging Funeral Path** – Clerk trying to establish address of owner of the property.
- **Financial Regulations action plan** – a backed up copy of the external hard drive of the Council pc was passed to the Chair for safe keeping off-site.

Dumping of Waste at Ridge House Stables and obstruction on F/paths 119/120.

Council finalised appeal response to the Planning Inspectorate at August meeting, result likely in October. No further progress.

Footpath 119 - Council agreed to submit further refusal response following information received from S Pritchard on 14.10.16. (see Minute 3451.5 above).

Minute 3459 - To receive items of local concern (information only)

- Council received a report that the tea party held at the school on 20th October had been an excellent event with pupils taking the lead in welcoming guests and feeding back their findings on their community project, which will lay a foundation for future project work.
- The roads to Crick from both Shirenewton and Portskewett directions have been reduced to 30mph on approaching the hamlet.
- Contact had been made with the owner of the Tan House pub who confirmed that no progress had been made but the property is internally secure. Further contact to be made to advise him of slates falling from the roof.

Minute 3460 - To receive items of correspondence.

Council noted receipt of the following correspondence:

1. Letter from N Edwards, Food & Tourism Strategic Manager, Mon CC requesting a contribution towards running costs of the Tourist Information Centre, Chepstow.

Monmouthshire County Council

Information from Mark Hand, Head of Planning on Planning Service contacts, Pre-application Community Consultation and Development of National Significance categories. (Circulated 25.10.16. Response requested by 30.11.16).

One Voice Wales

- Review of the national standards for the Community Health Councils
- Ageing Well in Wales Walking Survey

Welsh Government

Statement on Local Government Reform (Circulated 13.10.16)

Welsh Government Consultation

- Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Draft Annual Report - February 2017. In order to meet the Measure's requirement to publish this report by 28th February 2017, representations should be received by 28 November 2016.

- Nitrate vulnerable zones in Wales.
- Independent Remuneration Panel Wales (IRPW) draft annual report 2017/18 (Section 13 relates to T&CC's) Closing date 28.11.16.
- Management plans for the castle and town walls of King Edward in Gwynedd Heritage Site.
- Amendment to Council Tax legislation to reflect the introduction of premiums on long-term empty homes and second homes.
- National Infrastructure Commission for Wales – strategic infrastructure needs and priorities (Closing date 9.1.17)
- A refreshed TB Eradication Programme

Minute 3461 - To present short reports from meetings attended.

There were none.

Minute 3462 - Date of next meeting: Monday 5 December 2016 at 7.30pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall. Council resolved to cancel the January 2017 meeting unless urgent business was received.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55 pm.