

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 2 October 2017 at 7.30 pm
at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

Present:

Councillors:

Mr K Morton (Chair) Mr I Martin Mrs L Brown Mrs M Davies
(following election Cllr B Allen)

Also in attendance:

One member of the public – Mr B Allen
County Councillor L Brown
Mrs H Counsell (Clerk to the Council)

1. Public Participation.

There was none.

2. Apologies for absence.

Cllrs B Moore and B Price.

Cllr K Morton took the Chair as agreed at the last meeting. In the meantime Cllr I Moore had handed in his resignation on 27.9.17 as both Councillor and Chair. Council reluctantly accepted this resignation. Clerk to inform Democratic Services and write to Ian Moore to thank him for his services to both the Council and the Shirenewton community. This left four vacancies on the Council – two in the Shirenewton ward, one in Earlswood and one in Mynyddbach, the latter had recently been advertised with no applications received.

In view of the above resignation, Cllr M Davies was nominated and unanimously elected as Chair from the November meeting until the Annual Meeting in May 2018.

3. Nominations for the position of Vice Chair.

There were no nominations, defer to next meeting.

4. To consider co-opted vacancies on the Council

Mr B Allen attended the meeting to apply for a co-opted position. He gave the Councillors a brief history of his life and work, then left the room while his application was considered. It was unanimously agreed to accept Mr Allen's application to fill one of the vacancies in the Shirenewton ward. Clerk to inform Democratic Services. Cllr Allen then returned to the meeting.

The further three vacancies on the Council to continue to be advertised on noticeboards, the website and in the Parish Magazine, as well as at the coffee morning on 21st October.

5. Monthly police report

No report received this month and no officers attended the meeting.

Minute: 3583 - To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in any item of listed business.

County Councillor Brown gave no opinion in relation to the planning matters considered as she is a member of the Mon CC Planning Committee.

Minute 3584 - Minutes of the last meeting – minutes of the meeting held on 4 September

2017 were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

Minute 3585 – To consider planning matters.

1. DC/2017/00594 Land adjacent to Bluebell Lane, Earlswood
Proposed erection of stable building, shed/workshop.

Recommendation of approval made on 22.9.17 subject to the following conditions:

- the retention of all existing trees and hedging to retain natural biodiversity,
- that no external floodlighting be installed,
- that a scheme be drawn up for the processing and off-site disposal of waste.
- that there is no future commercial use of the buildings/site.

2. DC/2017/00997 7 Tan House Court, Shirenewton
Alteration to PVC glazed front porch inset into front elevation of single storey bungalow.
Reconfiguration of ground floor area.

Council noted that the modification was relatively minor, the footprint of the property will remain the same and there were no objections from neighbouring properties on-line. The recommendation was for approval.

3. DC/2016/01365 Springhill, Earlswood
Alterations and extensions at the rear of the dwelling.

Council noted the following information and recommended that the application be approved.

"The house has been extended previously. The original stone central section possibly 2-300 years old had both sides extended with rendering finish. The new external walls will be natural stone and rendering. The roof will match with existing brown concrete tiling. The windows at present are utilitarian d/g UPVC. New cottage style woodgrain finish UPVC windows are to be installed. A new window is to be added to the front elevation of the existing left hand extension to give a more balanced look. The extension is not visible from the road save obliquely to the right hand elevation where full length glazing is proposed to the rear to enclose the balcony and entrance area. The glazing is very modern and not consistent with the cottage style, but owners propose that the glazing be darkened so that it appears from the road (in so far as it is visible at all) to be solid walling."

4. DC/2017/01106 Maybee Cottage, Usk Road, Shirenewton
Remove an existing pergola canopy and construct an orangery style conservatory to the rear of the dwelling.

Council noted that the proposal will be the same height as the existing pergola and will significantly improve the property without increasing the existing footprint in a meaningful way. The recommendation was for approval.

Minute 3586 – Finance - to approve items listed for payment

Expenditure (by Standing Order)

Clerk's salary/allowances -	September 2017	£555.30
Clerk's Pension (Council & Clerk's contribution) -	September 2017	£158.20

Items for payment

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount £	Vat £	Cheque No.
Mrs H Counsell	September expenses	70.95	0	101384
Mrs H Counsell	Computer repairs	30.00	0	101385
Distinct IT	Website maintenance and annual domain hosting	195.00	39.00	101386
Mon CC	Replacement of animal springer - play area equipment	565.00	113.00	101387
Wales Audit Office	2016/17 external audit	177.30	0	101388
Mr J Hughes	Noticeboard repairs	25.00	0	101389

Council resolved to make all payments as listed.

Minute 3587: External Audit 2016/17.

Council approved and accepted the external audit Annual Return for 2016/17, considered the points raised on the Issues Arising Report and approved an action plan drawn up by the Clerk. The Clerk was thanked for her preparatory work prior to the audit.

Minute 3588: To receive an update on the Council website.

The Clerk reported that the website was up and running from 12 September 2017, and that all information that had not been posted in previous months due to the cyberattack had now been posted, including copies of minutes of meetings, advertisements and audit information. The Clerk's website training dates with M Lenza are to be arranged. Clerk to write a report on the cyberattack for the police, which will be circulated to Councillors beforehand.

Minute 3589 – To note the dates of upcoming events –

The Coffee Morning will be held at the monthly Village Market at the Recreation Hall from 10am – 12 noon. Agreed to promote vacancies on the Council, 'You said/We did', Give Dog Fouling the Red Card leaflets and any compliments/complaints.

The joint meeting between the MoD, Shirenewton and Caerwent CC's will be held on Thursday 30 November 2017 from 6.00pm at the Saysell Centre, Shirenewton Church.

Clerk to invite interested groups within the community.

Remembrance Sunday will be held on Sunday 12 November 2017. Cllr K Morton to lay the wreath at Shirenewton war memorial.

Minute 3590: To receive the Clerk's Report

Planning Appeal APP/E6840/C/17/3172828 (Amended planning application DC/2017/00082), wall at 23 Clearview – E-mailed P Keeble, Highways on 28.8.17 to request that SCC is advised of action taken regarding encroachment onto the highway. Reminder sent 25.9.17.

Dumping of Waste at Ridge House Stables

E-mail from Planning Officer received 2.10.17– the third Enforcement Notice has been issued.

'Oslo' trees (DC/2015/00431) – contacted D Wong, Planning Officer on 13.6.17 to check whether approval was given, as several trees at this property have been cut down which would appear to be contravening Condition 14 of the planning approval given in August 2015. Response 26.6.17, he asked Enforcement to visit the site. Chased up 11.9.17

Friends Burial Ground walls – looking unkempt, ivy and brambles to be cut back. Paid £600 for repairs to one wall in 2015. Other three walls in poor state of repair. The Friends Society, London refused to help with funding as the area is the responsibility of the Council. Continuing to seek funding sources.

Community noticeboards – Earlswood board has been repaired at a cost of £25. Gaerllwyd board to be taken down for closer inspection and repair.

Footpath 380/25/1, 2, 3 Newton Manor-Cox's Well-school – e-mailed S Pritchard, Footpaths Rights of Way Officer on 13.9.17 to request that the path be cut back as it's a Safe Route to School. Confirmed cut back on 25.9.17.

Community defibrillators – approximately £500 left in fundraising account for maintenance of the four installed. Request made that the Council take this fund over and distribute it when required. Council was reluctant to take on this long term commitment and felt that the host organisations should have the responsibility. Suggested that the fund be distributed between the organisations hosting the defibrillators for their future maintenance. The organisations could then apply to the Council for maintenance support in future years via the usual annual donations.

Best Kept Village Competition 2017 – invitation received to awards evening to be held at Chepstow Garden Centre on Friday 6 October – Clerk and Cllr K Morton to attend.

Give Dog Fouling the Red Card – template leaflet received and updated. Clerk to distribute.

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.

Outstanding Highways issues reported to P Keeble - responses received 2.10. 17 - Lack of white lining at Shirenewton . Response - As the Community Council is undoubtedly aware, the Traffic Team made a conscious decision not to provide any junction markings as part of the Shirenewton traffic scheme. This was intended to create a shared space environment where no one group takes precedence over another. I do not feel that providing junction or centre line markings is necessary at this time.

Poor visibility on right when using the pedestrian crossing on Earlswood Road at recreation hall car park. **Response** - The visibility to the right when using the crossing point outside the Community Centre was improved as part of the scheme. However, given the adjacent boundaries it would be very difficult to improve it any more than we already have.

Confusion between 20mph and 30mph signage when located close to each other. **Response** - the advisory 20mph vehicle activated sign (vas) units are located within the limits of the 30mph speed limit, therefore, any motorist driving through the 30mph terminal signs should encounter the advisory 20mph vas units. Therefore, there should be no confusion in terms of the speeds the motorists are advised to drive at.

HGV's using Blacksmiths Lane. Response - the request for "unsuitable for HGV's" is on the current Road Safety & Traffic Management program for implementation this financial year.

Road repairs at West End. Response - the Area Maintenance Engineer will need to consider appropriate follow on action.

Cracks in 'cobblestones'. Response - the Project Engineer has discussed this matter with the Contractor and it is acknowledged that any applied surfacing such as that used within the village cannot be guaranteed owing to the historical make-up of the road. However an inspection has confirmed that the reflective cracking does not present a safety risk and therefore repairs will be undertaken as appropriate.

Minute 3591: Items of Local Concern

- Overgrown roadside hedges on the left at Gaerllwyd junction (Usk direction)
- Update request on the installation of high fibre broadband in the Earlswood area – Cllr Brown to attend a meeting in Raglan and request an update.
- Two 30mph signs near old shop premises overgrown.

Minute 3592: To receive correspondence as listed.

Council noted receipt of the following correspondence:

1. GAVO – invitation to AGM on 15 November 2017 from 10 am at the Christchurch Centre, Newport.

Welsh Government Consultations

- Special Guardianship Orders
- Boundary Commission – Guidance for Principal Councils on the Review of Communities (Closing date: 21.12.17)

Minute 3593: Short reports from meetings attended

Cluster meeting, Chepstow Hub, 20.9.17 – minutes circulated 26.9.17.

Lower Wye Area Committee meeting 20.9.17 – Cllr Brown attended, concerns raised were: waiting time for routine gp appointments, should be 2 weeks but can be 4 – 6 weeks in some surgeries; patients can access cross boundary services, eg., Lydney minor injuries service; there is to be a review of Chepstow Hospital services in the spring of 2018.

Minute 3594: Date of next meeting – due to unavailability on the first Monday in November, the meeting will be held on Monday 13 November 2017 at 7.30pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall. To also consider changing the meeting times to 7 pm.

Cllr Brown gave her apologies for not being able to attend the meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00 pm.