

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 5 August 2013 at 7.30 pm
at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

Present:

Councillors:

Mrs E McCombe
Ms B Moore
Mrs L Prosser
Mrs C Jones
Mr K Morton (Chair)
Mr P Harris
Mr T Hughes
Mr P Moles
Mr D Adams

Also in attendance:

County Councillor G Down
PC A Jones
WPC L Thorpe
Mrs G MacDonald
Mrs H Counsell (Clerk)
Three members of the public.

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

1. **Public participation** - There were three members of the public present.
2. **Apologies were received and accepted from:** Councillor I Moore.

C Cllr Down raised the following points as he needed to leave the meeting early:

- Representatives from the Council for the Traffic Working Group meeting on 10th September - Cllrs Jones and Adams elected to attend.
- Location of proposed housing development at Mounton Road.
- Reminder that the change of use planning application for the village shop will be considered tomorrow, he had attended the site meeting today and officers were recommending refusal.
- Mon CC has started working on the budget for next year and needs to find savings of £9 - 10 million. Mon CC will be looking at future self-help type projects, delivering services with people, rather than for people.

3. **To receive the police report.**

The police report had been distributed prior to the meeting and was presented by PC A Jones and WPC L Thorpe.

There had been three reports of minor incidents.

During July there had been 9 misper calls from Brookacre and one of loud music/noise. Councillors discussed levels of control and conditions of registration that were required. C Cllr Down agreed to confirm these at the next meeting.

Statistics on the number of people using the mobile police station were discussed and it was agreed to bring this point to the future meeting with the Assistant Police

Commissioner. WPC Thorpe stressed the importance of police visibility within the community

WPC Thorpe advised of a new initiative of providing house plaques for properties that are difficult to find by emergency services/delivery vehicles. Signs can be ordered at a cost of £6.00 each (this includes a donation of £1.00 to Neighbourhood Watch). A poster is to be included in the Parish Newsletter.

C Cllr G Down left the meeting at this point.

Minute 2968 - To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in any item of listed business.

Cllr Adams - Planning - Agenda item 6 (1)

Cllr Moles - Planning - Agenda item 6 (2)

Minute 2969 - Minutes of the meeting held on 1 July 2013 were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

Minute 2970 - To consider planning applications received.

1. DC/2013/00468 Rehabilitation of former dwelling to provide a single dwelling house. Golden Valley Cottage, Home Farm, Shirenewton.

This property was found to be beyond the boundary between Shirenewton and Caerwent Community Councils so will be passed on to Caerwent. However, because Shirenewton Councillors have local knowledge, they visited the location and made observations on the application, these will be passed to the Planning Officer and Clerk of Caerwent CC.

2. DC/2013/00540 Retention of decking area. 18 Blethyn Close, Mynyddbach. Council recommended refusal of retention as the decking is intrusive due to its height and overlooks the neighbouring property. The fence should be lowered, the decking stepped and enclosed underneath to prevent water ingress.

3. DC/2013/00571 Outline Planning Permission. Land at Mounton Road, Chepstow. Residential development comprising up to 200 dwellings, highway access, open space and landscaping.

Council recommended refusal of this application on the following grounds:

- The A466 is the western edge of the green wedge between Chepstow and Pwllmeyric and should be retained;
- Traffic impact - there are already serious delays and traffic issues on the approach to St Lawrence roundabout at peak times and on race days, there needs to be a detailed transport assessment to assess traffic implications and clearly identify highway improvements that would create acceptable traffic conditions.
- The A48 to Hardwick Hill is an Air Quality Management Area with nitrogen dioxide pollution, this needs careful assessment and should not be exacerbated.

4. DC/2013/00132 Proposed change of use Shirenewton Shop.

County Councillor G Down informed the Council that at their site visit on 5.8.13, officers of Mon CC were recommending refusal of this application.

Minute 2971 - Finance - to consider items for payment

Expenditure (by Standing Order)

Clerk's salary/allowances - July 2013 £437.68
Clerk's Pension (Council & Clerk's contribution) - July 2013 £108.31

Items for payment

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount	Cheque No.
Clerk	July expenses	48.90	101119
Mon CC	Play area annual inspection	90.00	101120
Cllr C Jones	Best Kept Village Competition purchases	148.17	101121

The Council resolved to make all payments as listed.

Minute 2972 - To discuss local commemoration of World War 1.

Cllr Jones reported that she hoped the school, church, WI and other local groups would be involved in this event which may be held on Armistice Day 2014. She will contact the organisations and report back to the October meeting.

Minute 2973 - Update on telephone kiosk.

Cllr Jones reported that she is currently pursuing the costs of a formal lease to secure the future of the kiosk, also the possibility of a maintenance grant. She will report back to the October meeting.

Mrs G MacDonald left the meeting before discussion of the following item.

Minute 2974 - Update on maintenance of war memorial.

Cllr Jones reported that the cost of restoring the lettering in black would be £960 (inc vat). T J Davies, Stone Masons will be undertaking the work which should be completed in 4 - 6 weeks. Councillors gratefully accepted the offer of a local resident to fund this restoration.

Cllr Jones also advised that the war memorial steps need re-pointing and possibly relaying and that a local resident has offered to complete this work at no cost. Councillors expressed their thanks for this offer.

She further advised that the squeeze belly gates needed attention/oiling and Cllr P Moles offered to find someone to undertake this work.

The aim is that all work will be completed by Armistice Sunday.

Mrs MacDonald returned to the meeting.

Minute 2975 - To consider the Mon CC play area annual inspection report dated 9.7.13 and subsequent maintenance costs.

Council agreed that the listed maintenance work needs to be undertaken and that Mon CC undertake the first 4 items, but that the Clerk obtain a second quote for the remainder of the listed items.

Minute 2976 - Items of local concern (from last month)

- Ridge House Stables - Clerk to request an update from Cllr I Moore on the Planning Committee meeting held on 2.7.13.

- Earlswood Hall direction signs - C Cllr G Down advised that highways had offered renewed direction signage to Earlswood (at Mon CC's cost) and a sign at the Village Hall (Contribution from SCC). However, signage to the Hall was required - C Cllr Down to take this back.

- Damage to the road from Cock-a-Roosting to Gaerllwyd - Council requested the Clerk to enquire of Mon CC whether damages had been claimed from the offending contractor.

- Reflector posts on the school verge - P Keeble of Mon CC has asked whether the Council will contribute towards the cost of installation.

- Scaffold at 'The Barn', Shirenewton village, has been removed.

- Speed of traffic at 90° bend in Mynyddbach to be raised at Traffic Working Party meeting on 10.9.13.

New items of local concern

- Cllr Hughes was in possession of a copy of the original lease for the Recreation Field, which he gave to the Clerk for safe keeping.

- It was reported that the church clock is not keeping time and needs repair. Mrs MacDonald has successfully gained grant funding of £1500 from the Lower Wye Valley Committee and £500 from the Welsh Church Fund but there is a shortfall of £500. The Council recognised their responsibility towards this war memorial and agreed to fund up to £500 to complete the work.

- Report was made of the difficulty of emergency services and delivery vehicles finding properties on 'Old Road', Newchurch West.

- Council's attention was brought to the Open Spaces article on the registration of village greens - Clerk to make an initial enquiry about a further attempt at registering the green at Blethyn Close.

- It was reported that the signage from the road works at Earlswood had been left behind - Clerk to contact Highways to request removal.

- Councillors expressed disappointment at the MoD tour of Dinham being cancelled because of a low take up.

- A new road sign had been installed at 'Ditch Hill Lane' and Councillors reported that this should read 'Ditch House Hill Lane'. Clerk to contact Highways.

Cllr P Moles left the meeting at this point.

Minute 2977 - To receive the Clerk's Report

1. **Poor Land field** - Maps of field received from Mon CC, letters and receipts collected. Council resolved to use Mark Hoare (Solicitor), Clerk to contact and arrange an appointment to discuss registration of the field.
3. **Damaged bollard** - Mon CC has confirmed that the Keep Left bollard was replaced on 29.6.13.

4. **Best Kept Village** - judging took place in June and results should be known in September.
5. **Play area** - urgent repairs undertaken early July - see agenda item.
6. **'Tidy Towns' application for funding** - dog bins can be supplied free of charge under this funding. This Council would undertake costs of emptying. Merlin Waste, Lydney are used locally, charge £2.97 per bin per empty. Can be emptied either weekly or two weekly. Probably emptied on a Tuesday on the Caerwent run. Council resolved to apply to 'Tidy Towns' for initial funding of 3 bins and committed to the ongoing emptying costs. Bins to be located at rear of church, pedestrian entrance to Rec field and near Pear Tree Cottage, Mynyddbach.
7. **Replacement chevrons at the school** - Paul Keeble has responded to ask whether this Council could assist with funding. C Cllr Down to respond before start of autumn term
8. **Communal Web Portal** - Mon CC to hold half day workshops on the development and support of a website. Clerk booked on to the am session on 13.8.13 in Monmouth. Council agreed the information to be included on a website and various links to other local websites. Clerk to enquire about future maintenance costs.
9. **Yew Tree Cottage - Footpath 51**, Cllr Morton confirmed that the footpath is not accessible. Clerk to contact Mon CC.

Minute 2978 - To receive items of correspondence.

1. E-mail received from Alan Browne, Area Services Officer, Mon CC on 23.7.13 (circulated 28.7.13), informing of Car Park Workshops to be held between 5 - 19 August to consider the future management of car parks in the five Monmouthshire towns. There will be one place available for each Community/Town Council.
2. E-mail from Teresa Norris, Mon CC on 11.7.13 (circulated 28.7.13) - Mon CC's Stage 1 Improvement Plan 2013 - 2016 detailing five specific objectives (four on service delivery and one on internal organisation and culture of the council).
3. E-mail from Martin Stone, Development Plans Manager, Mon CC on 9.7.13 (circulated 10.7.13) on Mon CC's LDP Consultation on Amended and Additional Sites. Consultation period ends on 21.8.13.
4. Summer Newsletter from Shelter Cymru, plus a letter giving details of their surgeries across Wales and the number of people helped, also a request for financial support.

Minute 2979 - To present short reports from meetings attended.

- Cllr McCombe reported on the One Voice Wales Area Committee meeting and AGM held on 11.7.13 - report previously distributed by e-mail.
- Cllr Morton reported on the joint meeting between CADW, Shirenewton and Caerwent Community Councils held on 3.7.13 - notes of meeting previously distributed.

Date of next meeting:

Monday 2 September 2013 at 7.30pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.35 pm.