

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 2 December 2013 at 7.30 pm
at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

Present:

Councillors:

Mrs E McCombe
Ms B Moore
Mr I Moore (Chair)
Mr K Morton
Mr P Harris
Mr D Adams
Mr P Moles

Also in attendance:

County Councillor G Down
Mrs H Counsell (Clerk)

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

1. **Public participation** - There was one member of the public present.
2. **Apologies were received and accepted from:** Councillors L Prosser, T Hughes, C Jones.

3. To receive the police report.

The police report had been distributed prior to the meeting, but no officers were able to attend. The report contained a number of minor issues which were noted.

Minute 3013 - To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in any item of listed business.

CC G Down - Personal interest in Minute 3014, Planning (4).

Minute 3014 - To consider planning applications received.

1. DC/2013/00540 18 Blethyn Close, Mynyddbach
Amended scheme to decking and fencing.
As the applicant had requested guidance from the Planning Officer and amended the proposal accordingly, this Council recommended approval.
2. Appeal Ref: E6840/A/13/2206372, Planning Application DC/2013/0023
Appeal against a refusal for Change of Use, Shirenewton Village Shop.
Representations to be made to the Planning Inspectorate by 5.12.13. Informal hearing to be held at County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk on 29.1.14 at 10 am.
Clerk to submit representations by 5.12.13.
3. DC/2013/00949 'Hillside House', Usk Road, Shirenewton
Subdivision of existing dwelling into two separate dwellings.
There being no problem with access, this Council recommended approval.
4. DC/2013/00959 'Yew Tree Cottage', Shirenewton
Demolish garage and rear shed. Erect new building for home office and gym.
This Council recommended approval with the following observations:
 - That the structure does not exceed the proposed height;

- That there is no restriction of the existing parking area.

The Clerk informed Councillors of the receipt of planning application DC/2013/00925, Buckwell Farm, Penycyemawr which had been received too late for consideration at this meeting and would be on the agenda for 6 January 2014.

Cllr L McCombe declared an interest in this application and Cllr I Moore agreed to deal with it.

Minute 3015 - Minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2013 were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

Minute 3016 - Finance - to consider items for payment

Clerk's salary/allowances - November 2013
£441.06
Clerk's Pension (Council & Clerk's contribution) - November 2013 £109.39

Items for payment

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount	Cheque No.
Shirenewton Rec Hall	Annual Donation	£300	101136
Earlswood Hall	" "	£300	101137
Shirenewton PCC	" "	£150	101138
Shirenewton Playgroup	" "	£100	101139
Earlswood Methodist	" "	£60	101140
Earlswood Hope	" "	£60	101141
Gaerllwyd Baptist	" "	£60	101142
St Peters Newchurch	" "	£60	101143
Mon County CAB	" "	£60	101144
Village Carol Service	" "	£50	101145
Clerk	November expenses	£92.75	101146
One Voice Wales	Training (£15 bursary received)	£45	101147

The Council resolved to make all payments as listed.

Minute 3017 - To receive an update on the Traffic Management Group

CC G Down explained that South Gloucestershire CC had been slow in producing the names of villages that had successfully installed traffic management schemes. Paul Keeble (Mon CC) is pursuing this. CC Down also expressed concern that the Shirenewton initiative could lose impetus by the delay. Councillors felt that such a delay of 2 ½ months was not good enough. Clerk to also contact Mr Keeble.

Minute 3018 - To discuss local commemoration of World War 1.

Report received from Cllr Jones - the intention is that we mark the centenary of the beginning of WW1 on Remembrance Sunday which will be November 9th in 2014.

We will not really get going on this until January/February. It is hoped that there are relatives still living locally of the men who are named on the War Memorials in Shirenewton and Earlswood - a notice in the Parish magazine will go out in February. Cllrs in both Shirenewton and Earlswood to ask people in their wards. Cllr P Harris to provide Cllr Jones with a list of the names on the Earlswood memorial.

Minute 3019 - To receive an update on the telephone kiosk.

Report received from Cllr Jones -

Refurbishment: The kiosk will have to be refurbished on site because of the danger of damage if it is moved. The cost of sandblasting, undercoating and painting will be £450. This will include scaffolding to go around the kiosk to make it a safe area to work in. Glass cutting and fitting is going to be around £450. This includes the removal of the plastic panes that are there now. In total there are 24 large and 48 small panes plus four oblong 'telephone' signs at the top of the kiosk. Both jobs would be carried out by local companies. The cost of a full set of glass panes is £299 plus VAT without fitting.

Lease:

If the Lease is to run for more than 7 years then it has to be registered with Land Registry which will cost £40.

The cheapest quote for a Lease is approximately £250. There are suitable Leases that can be downloaded from the Internet for free and I would suggest that this may be the way forward. I have spoken with the owner and he is in agreement with a downloaded Lease. Discussions over the extent of the Lease are still ongoing.

Usage of the kiosk:

It would seem at this point that the most likely way to attract funding would be to use kiosk as notice board/ information centre for locals and walkers, maintained by members of the Community (History Society have already agreed to set up a rota).

Funding:

Application to be made to BL 'Awards for All' because it seems we may meet their criteria. Cllr Jones to meet with Joanne Gillard on December 4th to discuss the application.

Councillors felt a long lease was the most desirable and discussed various options for the future of the kiosk.

Minute 3020 - To receive an update on maintenance of war memorial.

Memorial Stone:

This lettering on this has been completed and a very good job was done. There have been several complimentary comments from people in the village.

Steps:

Unfortunately there has been a delay in the re-laying of the stones on the steps. The weather has not been good enough and several days of dry weather are needed so it may not be completed now until the spring.

Minute 3021 - Items of local concern

- the repair or replacement of Mynyddbach notice board has been discussed previously and Cllr B Moore obtained a quote from the workshop at Usk Prison - unglazed = £71.68, Perspex glazed = £81.68. Members agreed that Cllr Moore

pursue the glazed quote.

- CC Down updated members on the draft proposals for the review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements - Shirenewton Community Council to become two wards 1) Shirenewton and Mynyddbach, 2) 'Wentwood' (Earlswood and Gaerllwyd). The number of councillors to be reduced from the current 10 to seven.

A consultation meeting will be held at Usk on 7 January 2014 at 6pm. Cllr I Moore to attend (subject to commitments).

- CC Down advised that the Mon CC draft budget is not available as yet. Members felt the proposals seemed rushed and although there is some merit in taking on local issues, Councils need guidance from Mon CC on potential costs and assurance of continued support from the local authority. There was concern of a possible lack of consistency between councils.

Minute 3022 - To receive the Clerk's Report

Issues being pursued by the Clerk:

- **Poor Land field** - Clerk has advised Mr Hoare that Council would like this registration in place before the end of the year. Declaration received from Mr Hoare on 28.11.13 - Clerk to obtain signature from another solicitor, then return for submission to Land Registry.
- **Play area** - Cllr Moles will arrange completion of other work week commencing 2.12.13. Broken bolt on playhouse reported to Mon CC on 26 Nov and repaired by 2.12.13.
- **Communal Web Portal** - draft website received (and circulated) 25.11.13. Clerk to arrange to meet with Jo Goodwin, Mon CC w/c 16.12.13, after receipt of CD of village photographs from Cllr Jones.
- **New road sign should read 'Ditch House Lane'** - Clerk included this in Parish Magazine for December and requested residents that wanted the name changed, to make contact - with evidence, or the issue will not be pursued. No contact made as yet. Issue to be dropped if no response by end of month.
 - **Overgrown hedge** - Ditch Hill Lane (Kirrin House) - Clerk contacted Highways 25.10.13 (Ref: 012576). Hedge notice issued to resident on 29.10.13). Contacted Martyn Lewis, Mon CC on 25.11.13, who confirmed that price is to be obtained and action taken at end of the month's notice.
- List of meeting dates in 2014 issued to Councillors - list also placed in notice boards.
- 10 copies of 'Picturesque' Wye Valley AONB Newsletter distributed.

Issues being pursued by County Councillor Down

- **Earlswood Hall directions signs** - CC Down reported that Mon CC recognised that signage to Earlswood from Gaerllwyd crossroads needed improving.
- **Chevrons outside school** - Clerk checked 19.11.13 and chevrons have been replaced with wooden posts. No further action.
- **Noise/Speed monitoring equipment** - this issue to be revisited in the spring.
- **Road repairs on Mynyddbach Road** - CC GD e-mailed notes to the Clerk for

distribution on 29.10.13 - the work was not deemed to require urgent attention, although Cllr Prosser had fed back local residents concern at this.

- **Reported footpath obstructions** on 119/120 (Ridge House Stables) and 51 (Yew Tree Cottage) - members complained that these reports had either not been followed up by Mon CC, or were incorrect. CC GD continuing to pursue with Enforcement Officer.
- **Alterations to post codes at Great House Farm/'Old Road'** - CC Down contacting Stacey Harris, Mon CC for relevant addresses with the intention of visiting residents.
- Complaints from residents regarding road erosion at Weyloed Lane and Spout Hill/ Mynyddbach junction has been reported.
- Residents request for signage at top and bottom of Weyloed Lane to aid emergency services will be actioned.
- Destruction of verge and bank on corner of Bluebell Lane from use of heavy lorries going to Blackbird Farm. Also Old Road widened by 6" each side from caterpillar track vehicles using field entrance to Blackbird Farm. This has been reported.

Minute 3023 - To receive items of correspondence.

1. Welsh Government consultation on the proposed Gwent Levels M4 motorway - forwarded from Magor with Undy Clerk (circulated 11.11.13). Closing date 16.12.13. Councillors to respond individually.
2. E-mail from Alan Browne, Mon CC, forwarding information on 'Grow Wild', also the application form and guidance on applying for funding. (circ 19.11.13).
3. Letter from Mon County CAB giving update of merger of Citizens Advice Bureaux in Monmouthshire, also advising of special meeting on 4 December at the Caldicot Bureau, 5a Church Road, Caldicot from 6.30pm to explain new structure. (E-mailed 25.11.13).
4. E-mail from Alan Browne Mon CC regarding the discussion document for T&CC's on Transfer, Collaborate, Contribute (circ 28.11.13). Clerk to request a Mon CC officer to attend next Council meeting on 6.1.14 to discuss further.
5. E-mail from John Pearson, Local Democracy Manager, Mon CC regarding draft proposals for the review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements. (circ 2.12.13) Representations to be submitted by 28.2.14. (See minute 3021 above - Cllr I Moore to attend).

Minute 3024 - To present short reports from meetings attended.

- Joint meeting with Caerwent CC and the MoD on 28.11.13 - this was seen as a positive initiative to help develop good relationships. Much of the discussion was on Caerwent items, Clerk to advise of future joint meetings in time for consideration of Shirenewton items to be added to agenda.
- Cllr I Moore reported that he had attended a 'Chairing Skills' training course on 13.11.13 and encouraged other Councillors to take up training sessions. Clerk to

circulate list of OVW training dates, when available.

- Cllr Harris reported that there had been no response as yet to the broadband article in the December issue of the Parish Newsletter. He has contacted Nick Ramsay AM who needs the level of local response to feed back to BT Wales.

Date of next meeting:

Monday 6 January 2014 at 7.30pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40 pm.