

## SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 4 November 2013 at 7.30 pm  
at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

### Present:

#### Councillors:

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

### Also in attendance:

WPC L Thorpe and PC A Jones  
Ms G MacDonald  
Mrs H Counsell (Clerk)

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

1. **Public participation** - There were no members of the public present.
2. **Apologies were received and accepted from:** Councillors P Moles, L Prosser, I Moore, T Hughes, C Jones and County Councillor G Down.

### 3. To receive the police report.

The police report had been distributed prior to the meeting and WPC L Thorpe and PC A Jones attended. There were minor incidents reported and one misper call from Brookacre during the month which had been resolved safely.

Members noted that there has been a considerable drop in incidents in recent months and PC Jones explained that this was due to better communication between the policing team and the community, also the Neighbourhood Watch and OWL initiatives.

**Broadband presentation** - Mr Richard Williams attended the meeting to present information on the community broadband project in Llangwm and Llansoy. Website address is [www.llangwmbroadband.co.uk](http://www.llangwmbroadband.co.uk)

He explained the background of the scheme and that 90% of Wales is to receive faster broadband, although neither Llangwm, Llansoy nor Shirenewton are included in this upgrade. BT has limitations in rural communities as costs are so high. Welsh Government funding is available to 2015 for broadband delivery to the other 10% of Wales but it relies on how many people in the community register an interest. Currently any property receiving less than 2mb can be included in receiving £1000 per property to improve broadband delivery and communities all over the UK are coming to their own solutions. BT is the only provider in the public funding scheme and if government funding is obtained either BT, or a contractor, would do the work, although government funding may not cover the whole of the cost of the work.

In response to a question Mr Williams said he would be prepared to talk to Shirenewton residents, but that someone with an interest in taking the initiative forward would need to be found locally.

Mr Williams was thanked for his presentation and the Council agreed that this item should be included in the Parish Newsletter to gauge the amount of local interest in

taking this further.

**Minute 3004 - To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in any item of listed business.**

There were none.

**Minute 3005 - To consider planning applications received.**

1. DC/2013/00863 'Hillside', Usk Road, Shirenewton  
Demolition of existing porch and erection of single storey garden room.  
***This Council recommends approval.***

2. DC/2013/00829 'The Old Coach House', Shirenewton  
Proposed new entrance gates.  
***This Council recommends approval.***

3. DC/2013/00763 'Yew Tree Cottage', Usk Road, Shirenewton  
Retention of existing walled entrance splay with electric gates.  
***This Council recommends approval, subject to the ongoing Rights of Way investigation by County Councillor G Down.***

The Clerk informed members of the receipt of Appeal Ref: E6840/A/13/2206372, Planning Application DC/2013/0023. Appeal against a refusal for Change of Use, Shirenewton Village Shop.

An informal hearing is to be held at County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk on 29.1.14 at 10 am. This item will be considered at the next Council meeting on 2.12.13.

**Minute 3006 - Minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2013** were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

**Minute 3007 - Finance - to consider items for payment**

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

**Items for payment**

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Reason for expenditure</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Cheque No.</b>
Clerk	October expenses	£28.60	101131
Open Spaces Soc.	Annual subscription	£45.00	101132
British Legion	Wreath and donation	£50.00	101133
One Voice Wales	Community Engagement Training 3.10.13 (£15 bursary claimed).	£15.00	101134
Merlin Waste	Specialist bin emptying - Sept	£17.82	101135

The Council resolved to make all payments as listed.

**Minute 3008 -** The annual precept for 2014-2015 was considered and agreed. It was resolved to make annual donations to local organisations the same as last year:

	<b>£:00</b>
Shirenewton Rec Hall	300

Earlswood Hall	300
Shirenewton PCC	150
Shirenewton Playgroup	100
Earlswood Methodist	60
Earlswood Hope	60
Gaerllwyd Baptist	60
St Peters Newchurch	60
Mon County CAB	60
Village Carol Service	50

This leaves a balance of £300 to be donated to local organisations, upon request, before the end of the financial year.

**Agenda Items 9, 10 and 11** were unable to be considered due to the absence of Cllr Jones. As she has also given her apologies for the December meeting, Clerk to contact to ask for a written report for December.

#### **Minute 3009 - Items of local concern**

- Destruction of the verge and bank on the corner of Bluebell Lane by heavy lorries accessing Blackbird Farm. Also 'Old Road' widened by 6" each side due to caterpillar track vehicles accessing the field entrance to Blackbird Farm. This issue has been reported to CC G Down.
- Complaints from residents regarding road erosion at Weyloed Lane and Spout Hill/ Mynyddbach junction. Clerk to inform CC G Down.
- Residents request for signage at top and bottom of Weyloed Lane to aid emergency services. Clerk to inform CC G Down.

#### **Minute 3010 - To receive the Clerk's Report**

##### **Issues being pursued by the Clerk:**

- **Poor Land field** - Clerk and Cllr Hughes have supplied Mark Hoare (Solicitor) with relevant information for registration of the field and Mr Hoare has visited the location. Clerk has advised him that Council would like this registration in place before the end of the year. Clerk sent reminder on 28.10.13, Mr Hoare confirmed there was no response from Land Registry at 1.11.13.
- **Play area** - Mon CC has completed the remedial work as requested. Cllr Moles still to complete other jobs (on leave until 7.11.13).
- **Communal Web Portal** - no progress as yet (reminder 28.10.13).
- **Reminder of Remembrance Sunday on 10 November 2013.** War memorial path has been cleaned by Mon CC, but Clerk has been informed that they may not have the resources to do this in the future. Cllr Morton to lay the wreath in the absence of the Chair.
- **MoD joint meeting to be held in Shirenewton on 28 Nov 2013 at 6.00pm** - invitations have been sent out to other local organisations. Final numbers of Councillors attending given to the Clerk.
- **Replacement hedge at Mynders Farm** - Clerk has contacted Karen Bury, Enforcement Officer, who confirmed on 28 Oct that she visited the site with Jim Keech, Tree Officer, and has written to owner requesting replacement of dead saplings in this planting season (Oct 2013 - March 2014).

- **Should new road sign read 'Ditch House Lane'?** - Clerk to request in Parish Newsletter for local residents to come forward with information and written proof as evidence, or the issue will not be pursued.
- **Registration of Blethyn Close by Green Spaces** - Nicola Hodgson, Open Spaces Society, responded - 'as Inspector found use not to be 'as of right' it would be difficult to satisfy that requirement now'. No further action.
- **Overgrown hedge** - Ditch Hill Lane (Kirrin House) - Clerk contacted Highways 25.10.13 (Ref: 012576). Hedge notice issued to resident on 29.10.13).

#### **Issues being pursued by County Councillor Down**

- **Earlswood Hall directions signs** - CC Down reported that Mon CC will not pursue due to cost, although they recognised that signage to Earlswood needed improving.
- **Chevrons outside school** - CC Down reported that the chevrons will be replaced with wooden posts, work to start 4.11.13.
- **Noise/Speed monitoring equipment** - the equipment provided to specific residents by Mon CC to monitor traffic speed and noise was inappropriate and impractical for outside use. This issue to be pursued again in the spring.
- **Road repairs on Mynyddbach Road** - CC GD e-mailed notes to the Clerk for distribution on 29.10.13 - work not deemed to require urgent attention.
- **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 two footpath stiles** making them difficult to negotiate - stiles have been repaired - no further action.

#### **Minute 3011 - To receive items of correspondence.**

1. SLHS Event Programmes for 2013 - 2014 (2 copies available from the Clerk).
2. E-Mail from Glenda Genner, Assistant Director, GAVO, informing of a Community Co-ordination Event taking place in Caldicot at the Leisure Centre on 14 November 2013, 1.30 - 3.15pm (circulated 21.10.13). No-one available to attend.
3. Notification of Urdd National Eisteddfod, Meirionnydd, 26 - 31 May 2014 and request for a financial contribution towards its success.
4. E-mail from Debra Simmonds, GAVO, informing of the MAPS Project (Monmouthshire Action Plans for Sustainability), an invitation to join a small working group to create an action plan, plus future study tours. (circ 25.10.13).
5. E-mail from Luned Evans, Development Officer, Welsh Government, advising of a new £6 million Nature Fund. Looking for ideas for a project relating to nature by 22.11.13. (circ 29.10.13).

#### **Minute 3012 - To present short reports from meetings attended.**

- Mon CC's Community Events held throughout the county during October 2013 to look at ways the local authority could save/not waste money - a wide variety of points were raised by the public in the following areas -

- Highways                      Outsourcing
- Transport                     Health
- Waste                          Education
- Leisure                         General

- The Lower Wye Valley Area Committee meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> October was very interesting and a way of local perspective feeding into future policy. Issues discussed were local policing; the future of the Severn bridges (the companies that own them are giving up their stakes in 2017); strategies Mon CC could put in place to save/not waste money - food for thought that Mon CC could translate into action.

- Reminder of One Voice Wales/Mon CC Charter Liaison meeting to be held on Thursday 7.11.13. No-one available to attend.

**Date of next meeting:**

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

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