

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

Present:

Councillors:

Mrs E McCombe
Ms B Moore
Mrs L Prosser
Mr I Moore (Chair)
Mr K Morton
Mr P Harris
Mr T Hughes
Mr P Moles

Also in attendance:

County Councillor G Down
Mrs G MacDonald
Mrs H Counsell (Clerk)
Five members of the public.

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and thanked members for their kind wishes following his recent operation.

- 1. Public participation** - There were five members of the public present. Two residents expressed their concern over the speed of traffic through Mynyddbach, especially at the 90° bend. They suggested speed restrictions and appropriate signage be installed as a matter of urgency. C Cllr G Down advised that it may be possible to carry out a speed and volume traffic survey and will follow this up. He also suggested contacting 101 to report the registration numbers of people that consistently drive unsafely.
- 2. Apologies were received and accepted from:** Councillors C Jones and D Adams.
- 3. To receive the police report.**

The police report had been distributed prior to the meeting but no officers were in attendance this month. Council noted two reports of minor road accidents and one of a suspicious vehicle, although no incident had been reported. There had been one misper call from Brookacre during the month

Minute 2980 - To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in any item of listed business.

Cllr L McCombe - Agenda item 9.

Minute 2981 - Minutes of the meeting held on 5 August 2013 were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

Minute 2982 - To consider planning applications received.

1. DC/2013/00453 Blue Bell Farm, Penywaemawr. Proposed barn conversion to provide one dwelling.
This Council recommends approval.

2. DC/2013/00600 Agricultural Notification, information only. Development of a new forest road and turning area, south area of Grondra Great Wood Shirenewton, to Rhewl Farm Shirenewton.

This Council recommends approval.

3. DC/2013/00595 Tredegar Farm, Newchurch West (LMcC)

Change of use Planning Permission. Change of use to proposed caravan park and facilities block. (Previous application DC/2011/00008)

This Council recommends refusal. Members were aware of the previous application made in 2011 which had been dismissed at appeal in March 2013. Mon CC had reported that there are currently sufficient small caravan sites in the area.

Members acknowledged that the number of caravans had been reduced by 50% and they had been sited closer to the hedges to take advantage of screening, but despite the amendments to the proposal, the caravans will still be highly visible, and the Inspector made it clear that the number of caravans might be increased at any time with or without planning consent, which would be unacceptable. Hedges may be trimmed at any time and the site could quickly become extremely intrusive.

There would be an unacceptable visual impact on the countryside. The highways issue concerns all vehicles, but particularly motorcycles, which travel much faster. The slow egress of vehicles towing caravans onto a highway that is a renowned motorcycle route for testing the capability of motorcycles, along which they travel at great speed and present a very real risk of accidents. There have been fatalities on this road, and there are regular near misses between cars and motorcycles. This situation must be taken into consideration in any decision as it involves human life and limb.

There are also concerns of light pollution in the open countryside, and water courses at the location are already contaminated at times of heavy rain.

Overall, members felt the situation has not materially altered from the original application, and recommended refusal.

Copy of a letter of objection from a local resident was given to the Clerk for the file.

4. DC/2012/00631 Hill View Cottage, Shirenewton (IM/PM)

Amendments to original application.

This Council recommends refusal. Although members recognised that amendments had been made to the original plans, there were still concerns about access and members felt that not enough of an improvement had been made to recommend approval.

5. DC/2013/00231 Change of use, Shirenewton Village Shop. Council approved the Clerk writing to the Mon CC Planning Committee meeting being held on 3.9.13 to inform them of details of the previous recommendation for refusal made by this Council. C Cllr G Down advised of his intention to attend the meeting with further information provided.

The SCC Working Group may arrange to meet, pending the decision made by the Planning Committee.

Minute 2983 - Finance - to consider items for payment

Expenditure (by Standing Order)

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

Items for payment

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount	Cheque No.
Clerk	August expenses	£88.89	101122
Clerk	Back pay Apr-July 2013	£13.52	101123
Gillett & Johnson (Croydon) Ltd	Annual maintenance church clock.	£176.40	101124

The Council resolved to make all payments as listed.

Minute 2984 - External audit report.

The final copy of the external audit report was completed and duly signed by the Chair, for return by the Clerk.

Minute 2985 - To consider proposed alteration to postcodes at Great House Farm and barn conversions, Newchurch West.

Cllr McCombe had declared an interest and took no part in this discussion. Members discussed an e-mail received from Mon CC detailing delivery and emergency service difficulties with several properties in the area having the same postcode. A number of households did not wish to have alterations made to their address/postcode. C Cllr Down to contact and discuss with residents.

Minute 2986 - Items of local concern from previous meetings plus new issues

- Brookacre - C Cllr Down advised that he had written to CSSIW, he also confirmed that in Feb 2011 the accommodation was for up to four children, up to the age of 16 with learning disabilities, plus the relevant staff. The criteria was changed in Aug 2011 to increase the age limit to 18 years and include 'emotional and behavioural difficulties'. C Cllr Down will check that all young people accommodated are in these categories and not a 'criminal' category. He advised that there is to be a meeting between himself and the Area Manager for Key Education on 18.9.13, one Council member was invited to attend and, at the suggestion of the Chair, Cllr Harris took up this offer, subject to commitments.
- Earlswood Hall directions signs - no further progress.
- New road surface from Huntsman Hill to Shirenewton centre - a resident had spoken to the Clerk to express her thanks for the work being undertaken and to mention how pleasant and patient the workmen had been.
- New road sign should read 'Ditch House Lane' - Clerk to contact Highways.
- Registration of Blethyn Close by Green Spaces - no further progress.
- Chevrons outside school - no further progress.
- Noise/Speed monitoring equipment - names have been passed to Environmental Health and CC GD will check when monitoring will take place.
- Road repairs on Mynyddbach Road - CC GD was asked whether this is in the current repair programme. He confirmed that it is not and will find out when the repairs are due to be made.
- 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 to pursue with Enforcement

Officer.

- Damage to road surface towards Gaerllwyd - a contractor has damaged more of the road since the last report.

Minute 2987 - To receive the Clerk's Report

1. **Poor Land field** - Clerk passed an OS map to Mark Hoare (Solicitor) on 22.8.13, to check status of field with the Land Registry. Cllr Hughes to arrange to meet with Mr Hoare regarding Declarations for the Land Registry.
2. **Best Kept Village Competition** - invitation received 30.8.13 to Presentation Evening at Chepstow Garden Centre on Friday 20.9.13 from 6pm. Cllrs Jones and Hughes to attend.
3. **Play area** - Mon CC has undertaken remedial work on four major items of equipment, as agreed - Clerk has contacted regarding standard of work. Second quote for remaining maintenance requested from Peter Such - not able to undertake the work. Cllr Moles will contact Clerk with further names.
4. **Dog waste bins** - application made to 'Tidy Towns' for £810 funding for the supply of three bins. Clerk visited proposed bin locations with Alison Howard on 22.8.13, all acceptable and bins installed 23.8.13. Also requested a further £120 for litter bin for Earlswood to replace damaged bin opposite Cherry Orchard - this was agreed, total funding of £930.
5. **Replacement chevrons at the school** - no further news.
6. **Communal Web Portal** - Clerk attended half day session on 13.8.13 and draft initial website to be available within a week, not received as yet but have sent reminder. Council to make observations and amendments until happy with the result. There will be no cost for several years then, if a charge is made, no more than a nominal £20 per annum.
7. **Yew Tree Cottage - Footpath 51**, Mon CC Footpaths Officer has responded to say Enforcement Officer reports no obstruction.
8. **MoD supper to be held in Shirenewton on 28 Nov 2013** - Clerk to contact local groups to invite representatives to attend.
9. **Notification of Clerk's annual leave** - 9 - 16 October 2013

Minute 2988 - To receive items of correspondence.

1. Letter from the Forresters Car Club - Notification of Patriot Stages Car Rally on Sunday 29 September 2013 at Caerwent Training Area. Marshals to enter by the East Gate at Crick and competitors by the West Gate, Caerwent from 6.00 - 8.00 am and leave at around 5.00 pm.
2. E-mail informing of the Annual Wye Valley AONB Study Tour on 27 September 2013. Starting at Redbrook at 9.30am. Cllr Morton to attend.
3. E-mail from Assistant Chief Constable (distributed 29.8.13) advising of a community engagement workshop for Monmouthshire at The Sessions House, Usk at 5pm on Tuesday 24.9.13. One place available per Council - Cllr I Moore to attend.

Minute 2989 - To present short reports from meetings attended.

- Cllr McCombe advised that she will be attending the One Voice Wales/Mon CC Charter Liaison Committee meeting on 5.9.13.

Date of next meeting:

Monday 7 October 2013 at 7.30pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

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