

## ***Shirenewton Community Council***

Minutes of the Council Meeting of Shirenewton Community Council held on December 4<sup>th</sup> 2006 at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

### **Present:**

Councillors:

Ms B Moore  
C Crundwell  
K Morton  
C Eickhoff  
Mrs S Saysell  
Mrs J Morgan  
R Mitchell

### **Apologies:**

Councillor:

Ms S Bushell  
J Eede  
J Harvey

### **In attendance:**

Councillor Graham Down Monmouthshire County Council  
Ms Glynis MacDonald  
Mrs C Jones Clerk  
Four members of the public

### **Minute 1918 To Disclose personal and pecuniary interests in any item of listed business.**

Cllr Mrs Morgan declared an interest in a planning item and left the meeting room while it was discussed

### **Minute 1919 New Member Application**

Mr Robin Mitchell was welcomed by the Chairman as the new Member for Newchurch West. He completed the Acceptance of Office and Declaration of Interest forms.

### **Police Report**

PC Mason gave his report covering the period 7<sup>th</sup> November to 4<sup>th</sup> December.

#### Crimes

On Sunday November 19<sup>th</sup> a horse was taken from a field near Usk Cottages. It was subsequently found that it had been rescued by a Horse Society. However the horse has now been returned.

On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November there was damage caused and an attempted burglary at the garages at Home Farm Estates.

On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November a Land Rover Defender 90 i/n Registration number W178 NFB was stolen at 3.30am from outside the owner's address in Mynyddbach.

Road Traffic                      There were no road traffic incidents

#### Other Incidents

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 3.44am there was a report of a Peugeot car hanging around the Mynyddbach area. It was found to be linked to an address nearby and there were persons sleeping in the vehicle.

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November there was a report in the night of persons seen with a rifle entering a field in the Earlswood area - rear of Tredegar Farm. They were using a blue Nissan X-Trail but no registration number is available. It is suggested that they

were poaching deer

There were complaints of noise and disturbance at the Tredegar Arms coming from the premises and also from people leaving the premises in the early hours of the morning. The situation will be monitored.

PC Mason informed the Members that he would like to set up a monthly surgery for the Public where he hoped a Cllr would also attend on a rota basis. Cllrs agreed that they would attend and it was agreed that the Clerk would investigate the setting up of Saturday morning meetings at the Recreation Hall. The meetings would be on the same Saturday in each month. C/FWD

**Minute 1920 To approve and sign minutes of the Council Meeting held on November 6<sup>th</sup> 2006**

The minutes of the meeting were agreed and signed as a true record.

**Minute 1921 Planning**

The following applications were received for recommendations:-

Oxpool Farm, Earlswood

Conversion of existing garage and stable block into two self-contained annexe units.

**Recommend approval with the same conditions put on this replacement application as the previously approved one, i.e. that the annexe units shall not be occupied otherwise than for the purposes ancillary to the residential use of existing dwelling.**

Seaview Nursery, Earlswood.

Outline planning for erection of agricultural building to provide machinery and equipment store and workshop

**Recommend approval with the condition that existing buildings in semi-derelict condition should be removed when this building is completed**

Chapel Farm, Earlswood

To replace existing conservatory with continuous slate roofed building adjoining existing storey extension. Addition of double storey extension to west elevation of house.

**Members were informed by the applicant that these plans have now been changed to reduce the size to comply with the 50% maximum increase in footprint. Also the ridge height of the extension is to be lower than the original building. There will now be no gable end. With these changes in mind, Members would recommend approval but would expect to receive the amended plans from MCC**

Little Folly, Bluebell Road, Earlswood

Proposed replacement dwelling

**Recommend approval with the following condition.**

**As the footprint and the height of the new building is greater than the original, the visibility from West End is significant. Therefore members suggest that the elevation from West End which is to be completely rendered, should be broken up in some way, for instance with some stone work.**

**Correction to Barn near the Cayo Application**

The Clerk informed Members that at the October meeting she had told them that the planning application for the Barn near the Cayo had been passed and the date on which this had happened. The Clerk had been given this information by Planning in a phone call. Cllr Down said at this time that he thought this may be incorrect. .

Subsequently she phoned Planning on two more occasions and was given the same information by two different people.

She then spoke to the Case Officer who informed her that the application had not been passed. The reason given for the confusion was that she had spoken to temporary staff who were reading the screen incorrectly.

**The correct situation is that the application was withdrawn because there has to be a full archaeological survey and also a bat survey carried out. The bat survey cannot be done before the spring.**

The Clerk also reported that she had received two decisions on Planning applications that she had never received.

1. Tredegar Farm, Shirenewton

Proposal to provide three demountable timber lodges.

**MCC refusal because the Unitary Development Plan does not allow new build self-catering accommodation in the open countryside. Also the scale and nature of the proposal would have a harmful effect on the landscape characteristics of the Grey Hill Special Landscape Area.**

2. 14 Newton Manor, Shirenewton

Proposed conservatory to rear of property.

**MCC approval**

The Clerk informed Members that she had telephoned David Swanson to complain about not receiving applications and also the problems she had experienced with the Barn near the Cayo. He told her that from the records it looked as if plans had been sent out on September 5<sup>th</sup> for Tredegar Farm but he said no plans had been sent out for Newton Manor. He apologised for this and said the Department was experiencing many difficulties with the new computer system and this may have led to the plans for Tredegar Farm being sent to another Council. He could offer no explanation for the plans not being sent out for Newton Manor.

It was suggested that the Clerk put the concerns of the Council in writing to David Swanson

**C/FWD**

### **Minute 1922 Clerk's report**

To consider items C/FWD from previous meetings.

#### **Allotments**

The Clerk has at last received a response from Debra Hill-Howells. In this she states that she will endeavour to prepare a report for consideration in January and will advise the date it is to be considered as soon as she is able. She also stated that there are no other landholdings available for an allotment site. She said that she had met with colleagues from Landscaping on site and agreed what works were to take place. She had assumed the work had been carried out but will now chase this up. **C/FWD**

Cllr Down had also made contact with Debra Hill Howells. He said that Mon CC felt there were several options open to them concerning the whole site. He felt that the original agreement to designate the area as an Owen Glyndwr site should be honoured and he will make a case for this. The Clerk will also write to Steve Greenslade.

**C/FWD**

### **Village Plan**

Cllr Eickhoff informed Members that the Council had been successful in obtaining a grant for £1700 which must be spent by the end of March. A meeting of the sub-

committee will be convened in February. Some quotes have been received from printers and Cllr Moore will also obtain a quote from her contact. **C/FWD**

### **Alleged breach of planning at Shirenewton Golf Club**

The Clerk informed members that she had made more enquiries about the tarmac area, lighting and roof covering. Last week Planning received retrospective applications for the tarmac area and lighting. All of the enquiries she has made will form part of Cllr Harvey's report to the Welsh Office which has been diarised for February. The applications should be received shortly and the Clerk will pursue the issue of the garage roof covering.

Mon CC will also be pursuing the re-location of a sign and removal of a padlock to ensure that the correct path alignment along the driveway is available. **C/FWD**

### **Stiles at Shirenewton Golf Club.**

The Clerk has been informed by the Enforcement Officer that at the time of the last inspection five of the seven gates had been installed and work was underway to install the remaining two. The route would be inspected this week to ensure that the work had been completed. **C/FWD**

### **Mynyddbach Play Area**

There has been no response from the resident who attended the November meeting. **C/FWD February**

### **Rubbish in field near school**

Although most of the rubbish has been removed, some still remains including a large white van. There has been no movement for the last month. The next stage is for the Enforcement Officer to issue a 215. The Clerk is now waiting for confirmation that this has been issued along with the date that the rubbish has to be moved. The Enforcement Officer will need to re-visit the site. **C/FWD**

### **Highways**

#### **Upper Tump Farm**

The work has still not been carried out and the Clerk will chase this up. **C/FWD**

### **Rights of Way**

**120.** The Clerk reported that the Enforcement Officer had stated that Public Footpath 120 is gated and way marked through Ridge House stables. Where the land passes from Ridge House stables the path is served by steps and is then accessible through a wooded area and along a track until it terminates on the road outside Hillside Cottage. He therefore believes this route to be open and available. That said it is noted that whilst the track leading from the wooded area to Hillside Cottage is available, a small diversion order may be needed to bring the definitive map alignment of the track together properly. This, he says, is a small anomaly and unlikely to be addressed as a priority. **C/FWD**

**121.** A proposed solution to legally divert Public Footpath 1221 has been rejected by one of the landowners. Instead it has been alleged by this landowner that the definitive map was wrongly recorded and that the footpath is shown on the incorrect alignment. The Enforcement Officer has advised the landowner that a Definitive Map Modification Order application supported by sufficient evidence is required if this is to hold water and that Mon CC will now seek to reopen the route on the alignment

shown on the definitive map. A date will shortly be arranged for the work to be done. The Enforcement Officer will only return to examine the alleged alignment of such an application is received. **C/FWD**

**Additional post box in Shirenewton.**

Cllr Down reported that he had written twice to Cardiff and received no response. He has now written to the Supervisor for the area in Chepstow. He will continue to follow this up. **C/FWD**

**Daffodils**

Cllrs Morton, Eede and Eickhoff have planted the donated daffodils near the Spout, at the entrances to Earlswood, around the Chapel area and at the bus stop. It is hope that the few remaining will be planted at Cock-a-roosting. **COMPLETED**

**Maintenance of school routes.**

Cllr Moore had contacted Mon CC and they had carried out some work but it is only a temporary measure. A longer term solution is required. Cllr Down will continue to press for this. **C/FWD**

**Minute 1923 Financial Matters**

Bills presented for payment:-	£
Clerk's salary	390.96
Stationery and Expenses	8.40
A Haines (erection of dog signs)	65.80
A Haines (clearing of War Memorial path)	76.38
SLCC (planning system books)	60.00

It was agreed that a donation of £50 would be made towards the annual Community Christmas Carol Concert which is held in the Tredegar Arms Car Park.

It was agreed by Members that the donations listed in the precept figures for 2006-2007 should be made. However it was felt by some Cllrs that in future this should not be an automatic payment. Some Cllrs felt that in future the local organisations should apply for funds for a particular project. Other Cllrs felt that some local organisations needed the donation to help with day to day running costs and donations should be made in the same way as in previous years. It was agreed by all Members to enter a total sum for donations in the precept requirement and decide at a later date how the money would be distributed.

The precept figures for 2007-2008 were agreed as follows:-

	£
One Voice Wales & SLCC subscriptions	200
Audit fees	200
Training	200
Church Clock maintenance	136
Insurance premium	1550
Play area maintenance	600

Meeting Room Hire	180
Donations to local organisations	1175
Computer maintenance	100
Administration	750
Running costs	500
Best Kept Village	50
Clerk's salary	4692
Clerk's pension	892
 Total precept to be applied for:	 11225

### **Minute 1924**

Action List arising out of previous month's meeting

#### **Advertising NHW co-ordinator**

Cllr Moore's details have been advertised in the Parish Magazine and on relevant notice boards. **COMPLETED**

### **Great House Farm**

Cllrs Eickhoff, Harvey and Morton met on site to discuss the complaint about unauthorised building. They noted such things as a stable with a double glazed patio door. The condition of the road is very poor since the development of the site and hedgerows have been completely ripped out. The Clerk will contact the Enforcement Officer. **C/FWD**

### **Minute 1925**

#### **Items of local concern**

##### **Burial Path**

A request had been made by the Church through Cllr Eickhoff for permission to lay pipes under the burial path. The Clerk explained that she had previously advised Members in the March meeting that the ground does not belong to the Community Council. She had spoken to the Rights of Way and Legal Departments at that time. The Council does not hold a deed for this land. The church needs to check to see if they do. Even if the pathway is not included Church deeds the Legal Department feel that the Church would be responsible for its upkeep, cleaning etc. Cllr Saysell was going to check with PCC at their next meeting. **COMPLETED**

### **Golden Hill Farm**

The Clerk had received an email which she had assumed was from a Cllr but no one present at the meeting had sent it. The e mail states that extremely large lorries were going up the narrow lane that is Old Road, tearing down the verges and wearing away the side of the road. It also stated that there is so much mud on the road surface that small cars slide sideways across the road. The lorries approach Golden hill from either end of old Road and are despoiling its whole length.

The Clerk will contact highways **C/FWD**

### **Recreation Association Lease**

The Clerk informed the Members that if they were happy with the existing terms of the lease then a new lease could be agreed with the same terms. However the Lease states that the Recreation Association will be responsible for all the buildings and currently there appears to be a problem with the shed. The shed was erected and paid for by the Cricket Club, with the permission of the Recreation Association, and they are now claiming that they own the land beneath it. The Clerk has copies of two

letters from the Cricket Club stating this. The Clerk has confirmed with Robert Tranter at legal Department that the Cricket Club do not own the land. The Recreation Association wish to have control of all the buildings for which they are responsible. The Clerk will explore this matter further. **C/FWD**

**Broken fence in playground**

This was done accidentally by a mother at playgroup. She apparently reported it but it was also captured on CCTV. Although we own the fence, the Recreation Association put a new one up when they were carrying out all their works. Cllr Morgan informed the meeting that her husband, Graham Morgan would repair the fence if the piece of wood was purchased and he estimated that this would be a small amount of money. The Clerk will investigate costs for wood. **C/FWD**

**Recreation Hall Car Park**

It was reported that during the wet weather the Car park was retaining the water. The Clerk will contact the Recreation Association to see if this can be remedied. **C/FWD**

**Disconnection of Water**

Concerns were aired regarding the fact that the area was without water for twelve hours. This situation apparently has arisen because the Water Board has chosen to decommission the reservoir above Mynders Farm. Water now has to be pumped up directly from below. The pumps are electric and if there is even a short break in the electricity supply, the water is also cut off until the pumps are re-set. Members thought this was unacceptable and requested that the Clerk write a letter of complaint outlining the concerns of the Community Council. **C/FWD**

**Mynyddbach Signs**

Cllr Saysell has been approached regarding signs to show the entrances to Mynyddbach. Members have previously agreed to signs for Earlswood which Highways were requested to put on their list of works. **C/FWD**

**Dog fouling**

Cllr Saysell that the new ‘no dog fouling’ signs at Mynyddbach appear to be effective. She has been approached by a resident complaining that the area from the shop up to the Church is full of dog excrement. The Members agreed to consider this situation at a later meeting **C/FWD**

**Minute 1926 to confirm the date of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Council was confirmed as being January 8<sup>th</sup> 2007

Chairman.....

Date.....