

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 1st July 2019 at 7.00 pm
at the Recreation Hall, Shirenewton.

Present:

Councillors: Mr P Butterworth (Chair), Mr K Morton, Mrs L Brown.
Mrs J Smith-Haddon, Mr I Martin, Mrs J McKenna.

Also in attendance:

CSO Andrew Jones and CSO Bethan?
Three members of the public
Mrs H Counsell (Clerk to the Council)

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

1. Public Participation.

A member of the public attended to advise the Council that the pollinator/wild flower protection was going unheeded as protected bee orchids had been cut down during recent verge cutting. He had contacted Grounds Maintenance at Mon CC who investigated and found that it was not their staff that had cut them but a private contractor. Clerk to contact Mon CC to request maps of the designated protected areas, also that white marker posts are reinstated and ask whether more robust methods of marking are available.

2. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from:

Councillor B Price.

3. To consider applications for two co-opted vacancies in the Shirenewton ward.

There were no applications. Vacancies continue to be advertised on the community noticeboards, in the Parish Magazine and on the website.

4. Monthly police report

CSO A Jones attended the meeting. There had been one reported incident during the month – an illegal rave at Wentwood Forest on 30.5.19 and a road traffic accident on the Usk Road on 30.6.19 involving a motorbike and a car. CSO Jones reassured the Council that the police had found that speed was not an issue but rider error, the rider was airlifted to hospital.

Council and local residents expressed concern about a second illegal rave held in Wentwood Forest on Sunday 30th June. Loud music continued through the night until 9am. CSO Jones confirmed that no damage had been caused but the police could only monitor due to lack of resources (two officers on duty that night). The Council was disappointed with this response as there was no deterrent for future events. County Councillor Brown offered to arrange a multi-agency meeting between the police, Natural Resources Wales, the Woodland Trust, Mon CC (Environmental Health), and SCC aiming to develop a protocol with a point of contact that local people could use for a quick response. Clerk to contact NRW to advise of another illegal rave – gates not locked allowing easy access, communitysafety/noise and request details of how they intend to deter future events.

CSO Jones confirmed that traffic patrols on the B4235 were continuing, generally on Sundays and Bank Holidays. Council requested that these are recorded on the monthly police reports so that this can be fed back to residents.

CSO Jones also advised that the Police Inspector is now Inspector Hassel.

Minute 3846 - To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in listed business.

County Councillor Brown gave no opinion in relation to the planning matters considered as she is a member of the Mon CC Planning Committee. She also declared an interest in Agenda Item 9 (Earlswood Chapels).

Minute 3847 - To approve and sign minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June 2019.

The minutes were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

Minute 3848 - To consider planning matters.

1. DM/2019/00822 Ashfield Cottage, Earlswood Road, Shirenewton

Second storey extension over existing first floor to create two additional bedrooms and internal reconfiguration. Remove window to side elevation facing the road. Construct detached double garage with associated external works.

Council noted that the proposal was to add a second storey above the study and kitchen to provide two extra bedrooms, which would be under a second pitched roof in parallel with the existing roof line. This would have some impact on the street scene as the cottage is sited end on to the Earlswood Road, which at this point is particularly narrow but the cottage is on the north side of the road and thus the impact on light is less. There are no houses directly opposite on the other side of the road.

There is a courtyard to the front face of the cottage and it is further proposed to construct a double garage some 9m wide and 6m deep. The garage would be set well back from the road leaving a parking area in front for several cars. The paired garage doors are to be in oak and the front facings in stonework.

Insufficient measurements are given but as a rough assessment the increase in volume of the house appears to be less than 25%.

Council recommended approval of the application. (Voting: 3 for/2 abstentions)

If the application is approved by Mon CC, attention should be drawn to the Highways Dept. for the potential increase in vehicles accessing the courtyard parking area having insufficient room to turn in order to exit onto the road facing forwards. The Council also recommended a planning condition that all builders' vehicles park off road.

2. Proposed diversion of Footpath 34 (Planning application DC/2018/00999)

Council recommended that the proposal be refused pending clarification of the following points:

- ownership of the affected unregistered land,
- who is responsible for public liability insurance if the ownership of the land is in dispute,
- an explanation of how the diverted footpath would link with the current steps onto the recreation field and assurance that the steps would remain in use,
- who pays for the diversion costs and maintenance as the proposal is not on land registered to this Council, therefore it has no expectation to bear any costs,
- whether Footpath 30 remains open or has been discontinued.

Minute 3849 – Finance. To approve items listed for payment –

Expenditure (by Standing Order)

Clerk's salary/allowances -	June 2019	£654.20
Clerk's Pension (Council & Clerk's contribution) -	June 2019	£177.95

Items for payment

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount £	Vat £	Total	Cheque No.
Mrs H Counsell	Expenses – May 2019	69.10		69.10	101510

Mrs H Counsell	Summer planting (BKV)	105.56	7.91	113.47	101511
Distinct IT	Remote support to resolve website issues	20.00	4.00	24.00	101512
Merlin Waste	Bin emptying (May)	37.50		37.50	101513
Mon CC	Remove rocking horse, install seesaw	808.00	161.60	969.60	101514

Council resolved to make all payments as listed.

Minute: 3850 - To consider applications for grant aid from the 2019/20 budget.

Council had precepted £2,000 in the 2019/20 budget. Funding requests were considered and agreed as follows:

St Thomas a Beckett Church PCC	- £500	
" " Christmas Tree	- £50	
Recreation Association	- £300	
Local History Society	- £100	
Earlswood Hall	- £350	
Earlswood Chapels	- £120	
St Peters Church, Newchurch	- £60	
Shirenewton Playgroup	- £200	
Monmouthshire County CAB	- £100	
Shirenewton Toddlers	- £95	
SHaMBLE Illumination Project	- £130	Total: £2005

An application from Shirenewton Cubs will be considered when/if received.

Minute: 3851: To receive an update on the Village Plan Survey.

25+% of survey forms had been returned, with 340+ comments made, such as speed of traffic, motorbikes, post office, shop and making the recreation field more user friendly. Councillors to meet on Friday 19th July at 2pm to study the trends and suggestions, draw up a report for residents and start to develop a five year plan.

Minute 3852: To discuss the Be Proud of Your Community Gwent Award.

As the criteria for the Best Kept Village Competition had changed significantly to the above Award with very little notice, Council agreed not to enter this year. Cllr Smith-Haddon to report back on the changes and the viability of entering the new competition in the future. If agreed to enter, Council to consider setting up a preparation work group, to include residents.

Minute: 3853 - To receive an Informal Resolution Protocol for adoption.

This resolution was received by the Council for adoption at the Annual Meeting in May 2020.

Minute: 3854 - To consider basic online learning modules from One Voice Wales.

The 7 online training modules were allocated, with Councillors to feedback within 6 months –

Code of Conduct	Cllr Grose
Council as an Employer	Cllr Butterworth
Diversity & inclusion	Cllr Smith-Haddon
Health & Safety	Cllr McKenna
Induction	Cllr Price
Local Government Finance	Cllr Martin
Understanding the Law	(training already attended by Cllr Martin)

Councillors were given the login and password details for the OVW website.

Minute: 3855 - To receive the Clerk's Report

Refurbishment of Tan House pub – owner confirmed on 15.10.18 that internal work is taking place. There is currently an Enforcement case open – E18/340. Update requested 3.6.19, G Delamere advised that he had made contact with agent and a planning application was imminent. Chased 24.6.19 – application to be in by end of June.

Hill View Cottage, Shirenewton – response from A Pankhurst, Planning Officer on 5.6.19 - No notice has been served on this property. However, she has carried out a site visit and spoken with the owner who will be submitting a Non Material Amendment Application shortly for the velux roof lights. Chased 24.6.19 – no application received as yet.

Damaged planter at Blethyn Close - Mon CC agreed to remove and replace the damaged concrete planter at their own cost as it is on their land – reminder sent 28.5.19.

Fence at Old Cock-a-Roosting – planning application DM/2019/00749 received on 17.5.19 – Council recommended refusal on road safety grounds at June meeting. Delegated Panel meeting on 26.6.19 recommended approval. Clerk to contact M Hand, Head of Planning to express concern.

Removal of hedge on Earlswood Road – asked Mon CC if the landowner had permission to remove the hedge on 17.5.19. Report no: 3782089. – request passed to Jim Keech, Tree Officer, Mon CC to pursue - .he is contacting landowner for more info. Chased 24.6.19 – is considering information received from landowner.

Continued refurbishment of play area - Mon CC carried out annual safety inspection w/c 3.6.19 and reported that no remedial action is required this year. Also requested a quote to refurbish the playhouse/slide as replacement item is very similar (costing £4,000 - £5,500) and if all board walls were replaced with high density polyethylene sheets, this would remove the need for total replacement. Chased 24.6.19, no response as yet.

Grass cutting costs – Following complaint made to N Leaworthy on 14.5.19, the grass was cut weekly until the Fete on 8th June. However, the problem is caused by the grass being cut fortnightly and not collected. Current fortnightly cost= £1,300. NL suggested weekly cuts next season – would cost £2,600. Haines Bros costs for similar = £200 weekly, £160 fortnightly.

Steps at the Spout – following concern regarding the condition of the steps, Clerk contacted Mr J Saysell for his advice.

Feedback on litter pick held on 26.6.19 - 3 Councillors and 5 adults with children attended along with 25 cubs and 2 leaders collecting 8 partial bags of litter in all. 4 of the 7 walking routes were completed. If this is made an annual event, it needs better advertising beforehand.

Community defibrillators – notification received from a resident that not all defibs are registered on the NHS website. Cllr Smith-Haddon to check with defib location hosts whether they are registered and are regularly checking they are available for use.

Minute 3856 - Items of local concern (information only)

- The length of grass edges around wildflower patch at Cock a Roosting triangle – Clerk to report.

Minute 3857 - Correspondence.

Council noted receipt of the following correspondence:

1. Letter from a resident regarding concerns over the diversion of Footpath 34. Considered under Item 7.2 above.
2. Letter from the Gwent Federation of Young Farmers Clubs explaining their voluntary organisation with a request for funding.

Monmouthshire County Council

Invitation to ALL Councillors to attend the Chepstow Cluster meeting on Thursday 4th July 2019 at 6pm at Chepstow Hub to consider Mon CC's LDP revisions.

Welsh Government Consultations

- Draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plans Regulations (Wales) 2019 and guidance.
- Curriculum for Wales 2022: guidance.
- Marine and fisheries policies for Wales after Brexit.
- National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management.

Minute 3858: To receive short reports from meetings attended:

26.6.19 – Clerk attended a Clerk's Council meeting at County Hall. Speakers were from OVW, Head of Law & Monitoring at Mon CC, Ombudsman's Office, Welsh Audit and the Local Government Association. Council agreed to purchase a recommended book, NALC - Local Government Explained at £14.99 + postage.

County Councillor's monthly report –

County Councillor Brown advised the following:

County Council

- At the last meeting of the County Council on the 20th of June, the Council passed a motion on the need for better road infrastructure and transport issues which included the Chepstow area to ask for the Welsh Government support for improvements, the motion itself can be found at the following link at item 5a:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MId=3875>

I have continued to lobby Nick Ramsay AM and David Davies MP to ask them to ask the Welsh Government to support road infrastructure in the Chepstow area including improvements to High Beech roundabout and an M48 link.

Cabinet

Monmouthshire Revised Local Development Plan (LDP).

- The Cabinet had various reports in their meeting on the 3 July including changing the Monmouthshire Revised LDP visions and objectives paper of June to take account of the climate change motion passed by the Council (item 3d).

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MId=3853&Ver=4>

Monmouthshire Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) Growth and Spatial Options Consultation -8 July to the 5 August:

- Also this Cabinet report of the 3 July included the Monmouthshire Replacement Local Development Plan Growth and Spatial Options, it is to allow for a non-statutory 4 week consultation on the preferred strategy. It will come up with the options of how many houses should be built in Monmouthshire in the next plan period and whereabouts in very general terms, so it is an important consultation. The item 3e and appendices can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MId=3853&Ver=4>

The 4 week consultation timetable is as follows:

03 July – Cabinet to endorse consultation on Growth and Spatial Options

08 July to 05 August - 4 week consultation (non-statutory).

The link to this 4 week consultation can be found here:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=150&MId=4056>

There is a drop in session at Usk County Hall from 1pm to 7pm on the 16 July. Also it is on the agenda for the Lower Wye Committee on the 17 July at 10am at Chepstow Leisure centre, the public are welcome to attend:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=150&MId=4056>

The argument is based on different growth options and in very general terms what the strategy is as to where it should be developed in the County area, but not at all site specific, because that follows on from what is the adopted strategy. It is an interesting fact that only 3% of land in Monmouthshire is developed but 80% of that is in the South of the County.

Hence, the 4 week consultation is available on the Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) website on the 8 July to respond to.

In February 2019 there was a register of sites submitted by any landowners but not assessed by planning. Sites considered at a later stage will take account of the adopted growth and spatial strategy when sites are later consulted upon. The list of sites can be found at the following links:

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/?s=february+2019+sites>

The index of sites can be found at the following link including new settlements:

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/candidate-sites/monmouthshire-replacement-ldp-candidate-sites-register-february-2019/index-of-candidate-sites-for-development-redevelopment>

The site proposer for a potential new settlement in the Portskewett/Shirenewton area is MCC, as MCC owns a number of Council farms in this area (with up to 6000 houses).

Other new potential settlements are Magor with Undy (up to 8000 houses) and in Raglan (up to 1500 houses).

The location of these potential new settlements can be found in the following link:

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/app/uploads/2019/02/New-Settlements-1.pdf>

List of candidate sites for Shirenewton Ward can be found in the following link:

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/app/uploads/2019/02/Shirenewton-Ward-1.pdf>

No decisions or consultations are yet being considered for the list of candidate sites as a growth and spatial options consultation is being undertaken for 4 weeks from the 8 July to determine what the adopted growth strategy will be. Candidate sites are considered and consulted on after the strategy has been adopted.

Minute 3859: Date of next meeting – Council agreed to cancel the August meeting and resolved that if any planning applications are received beforehand a response can be decided by three Councillors.

Next meeting Monday 2nd September 2019 at 7.00pm at the Recreation Hall, Shirenewton.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

