

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 7th October 2019 at 7.00 pm
at the Recreation Hall, Shirenewton.

Present:

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

Also in attendance:

1 member of the public
Mrs H Counsell (Clerk to the Council)

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.
Council noted that Inspector Hassel had cancelled his visit this month and had provisionally booked to attend the December meeting.

1. Public Participation

Proposed diversion of Footpath 34 – Mr Hughes explained his objection to the proposal and reiterated the history of the footpath, the turning circle and the boundaries. He advised that he had spoken to the Planning Department at Mon CC and suggested that the application to divert the footpath be rescinded because of inconsistencies in the completion of the application and that Mr P Thomas at Mon CC was investigating this as a complaint. He further advised that he had lodged a complaint against Mon CC with the Ombudsman in August 2019.

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.

No applications had been received.

4. To receive the monthly police report.

9/9/19 – Report of fly tipping in the Red House Lane area. A quantity of household waste and paperwork were left. The rural crime unit and the local council will make enquiries in a bid to identify the offenders.

21/9/19 – Report of a quad bike going off road and driving erratically through woods in Wentwood. No other details given apart that it was blue and white.

21/9/19 – Report of a house broken into during the day in Mynyddbach while residents were out. A rear window was forced and entry gained. An untidy search was made of the property but it is believed that nothing was taken.

22/9/19 – Report of an attempted break to a property in Mynyddbach. Possibly done at the same time as the above as the residents had been away and reported it on their return. No entry was gained.

No calls to Brookacre since the last meeting.

Minute 3882 - To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in listed business.

County Councillor L Brown took no part in the discussion or voting on planning matters as she is a member of Mon CC's Planning Committee.

Minute 3883 - To approve and sign minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September 2019.

The minutes were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

Minute 3884 - To consider planning matters.

1. DM/2019/01405 Buckwell Farm, Old Road, Penycemawr.

For Information Only - Installation of a 15m monopole mast painted brown on a concrete base accommodating 2No shrouded antennas and 2No 300mm colour matched transmission dishes for the EE Emergency Services Network (ESN).

Although this application was not for consultation, Council responded to ensure that the proposal did not affect Footpaths 380/153/1 or 365/6/1.

Minute 3885 – Finance. To approve items listed for payment –

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

Items for payment

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount £	Vat £	Total	Cheque No.
Torfaen CBC Pension Fund	August payment not made due to insufficient funds in bank a/c	177.95		177.95	101532
Hereford County Council	Annual Wye Valley AONB Tour	15.00		15.00	101533
Mrs H Counsell	Expenses – September 2019	54.60		54.60	101534
Mrs H Counsell	Printing of 2019 survey results	480.00	96.00	384.00	101535
Distinct IT	Annual website hosting costs + domain renewal	135.99	27.20	163.19	101536
J Hughes	Repair of Shirenewton noticeboard	25.00		25.00	101537
Merlin Waste	Bin emptying (Sept)	37.50		37.50	101538
Mrs H Counsell	September salary – not paid due to insufficient funds in bank a/c	654.20		654.20	101539

Council noted that the August payment to Torfaen Pension Fund was not made as insufficient funds in account (£177.95 paid on cheque no: 101532). Also September salary to Clerk not made (£654.20 paid on cheque no: 101539), bank charges had been refunded.

Council resolved to make all payments as listed.

Minute 3886 - To approve and accept the External Audit Report for 2018/19.

Council approved and accepted the Annual Return for 2018/19. It was noted that the information contained in the Return was in accordance with proper practices and no matters came to the Auditor's attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met. Minor matters not affecting the Auditor's opinion were noted, but did not require an action plan.

Council further noted that the required audit information, including the Notice of Conclusion of Audit, had been displayed in community noticeboards and on the Council website since 26.9.19.

Minute 3887 - To ratify decisions made at informal meeting on 13.9.19.

Council ratified the following decisions:

1. To attend the Delegated Panel meeting on the Greenacres planning application – County Cllr Brown reported that she had attended the meeting earlier that day and Mon CC had approved the application. The application for Hilltop had also been approved and the planning condition for ancillary use only was agreed.

2. Proposed diversion of Footpath 34 - to respond to Mon CC advising of no further objection as the amended proposal did not impact on the recreation field. Council recommended a condition that at no time should the footpath be blocked by vehicles that prevent public access.

3. The provision of Padel Tennis in Shirenewton – to check Council leases and meet with the Recreation Association to discuss. The Chair reported that the meeting had been held on 3.10.19 and that the Recreation Association also had reservations on the proposal and all felt that Shirenewton recreation field was not an appropriate location for this venture. Council leases had been checked and did not allow commercial enterprises on the field. Council resolved not to pursue the proposal. (Voting: 5 against/1 abstention).

Minute 3888 - To receive an update on distribution of the survey results & 5 year plan.

The Chair confirmed that the survey results had been circulated around the community with the October issue of the Parish Magazine and also posted to the Council website. The finalised five year plan will consist of three pages and will be included in the November Parish Magazine. It will also be available to residents at the Coffee Morning on 19.10.19 and be posted to the Council website.

Minute 3889 – To consider a community speed watch scheme.

To be considered after the five year plan has been distributed and feedback received.

Minute 3890 - To receive information on community defibrillators.

To be considered when Cllr Smith-Haddon has the relevant information.

Minute 3891 - To make arrangements for a Coffee Morning at the Village Market on Saturday 19th October 10.30am – 12.30pm.

- An A2 sized copy of the five year plan to be available for display and discussion.

Minute 3892 - To receive the attached Clerk's Report.

Refurbishment of Tan House pub –On 26.9.19 information received from Helen Hinton, Planning Officer - two invalid planning applications currently submitted, DM/2019/01046 conversion of part of pub to holiday let (this has since been withdrawn and will not be considered by Mon CC) and DM/2019/01495 construction of two dwellings and car parking (applications do not correlate).

Hill View Cottage, Shirenewton –A Pankhurst, Planning Officer carried out a site visit in June and spoke with the owner who was submitting a Non Material Amendment application by end of June for the velux roof lights. Update on 12.8.19 – Planning Officer to contact applicant and give a time limit for when the application has to be received. Chased 12.9.19 – Planning Officer to inform Estate Agent of outstanding planning issues.

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 and 25.7.19 and 23.9.19.

Fence at Old Cock-a-Roosting – planning application DM/2019/00749 received on 17.5.19 – Council recommended refusal at June meeting. Delegated Panel meeting on 26.6.19 approved the application. Disappointment submitted to M Hand on 11.7.19, chased 5.8 and

26.8.19. Mr P Thomas has investigated and gave reasons for approving the application by e-mail on 3.10.19.

Grass verge at Old Cock-a-Roosting – long grass surrounding the wildflower patch at the triangle reported 18.7.19 – Report No: 4101564. Chased up 26.8.19 and advised cutting it. On 3.10.19, N Leaworthy advised they will send out a team.

Reporting of Footpaths -

- a) FP 89 (School House) reported as impassable (Report: 09890),
- b) FP114 (Hope Chapel to Latimer Farm) reported as needing signage at Latimer Farm (Report: 15633),
- c) FP 25 (Pear Tree Cottage, Mynyddbach to the Tan House Pub, Shirenewton) – reported a strand of barbed wire on top of the left hand fence along the footpath. (Report: 15361).

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 – Jim Keech, Tree Officer, Mon CC, advised that the landowner has applied for a WG grant to replace the hedge. If application is unsuccessful or goes on too long, JK will issue a replanting notice, which the landowner is entitled to appeal. JK monitoring. Chased up 23.9.19 – advised no progress as yet.

Refurbishment of play area – Requested quote from Mon CC to refurbish the playhouse/slide as replacement item is very similar (costing £4,000 - £5,500), if all board walls were replaced with polyethylene sheets, this would remove the need for total replacement. Cost of replacement walls/floors = £810 + vat (plus painting of metal parts). Council resolved to accept the quote to refurbish the playhouse.

Remembrance Sunday –10th November. Wreaths ordered for SCC, Shirenewton Church and Earlswood Hall. Chair to lay wreath at Shirenewton.

Mobile Post Office – Caldicot Post Office organises the mobile service. The request for a mobile service in Shirenewton seems likely to be successful, subject to an acceptable mobile signal in the rec hall car park – made assessment of site on Tuesday 8.10.19 and will get back in touch. Not likely to happen before Christmas.

Amazon locker – have made initial enquiries regarding the provision of a locker at the Hall.

Repairs to Shirenewton noticeboard – J Hughes completed. Noticeboard is likely to only last another 12 months.

Future Coffee Mornings – Council agreed to attend the 19th October and 21st December Village Markets to engage with residents and allow them to discuss the results of the community survey.

Minute 3893 - Matters of local concern

- Funeral path – it was reported that there is no metal railing at the top of the path – Clerk to contact Mr J Saysell for advice, also to arrange for the path to be cleared of moss, along with the Memorial path.
- AONB Study Tour – Cllr Morton reported that the Tour was interesting and had mainly concentrated on flooding in Tintern and methods to alleviate it, which will be tested this winter. Also the problem of invasive Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam.
- The question was asked - where do the police patrols take place in our area and where are speed cameras placed? It was suggested that the layby at Gaerllwyd would be a good location, as would the picnic site on the Usk Road.
- It was reported that Chepstow Town Junior Football club is now using the Recreation field for training on a Sunday morning.
- Draft National Planning Framework consultation (Closing on 1.11.19). County Cllr Brown encouraged the Council to submit a response. Cllr Martin to draft.

Minute 3894 – Correspondence

Council noted receipt of the following correspondence:

1. Notification of meeting regarding the future of Health Services in Monmouthshire at the Arts Hall, Chepstow School on Weds 9th October 2019 at 5.30pm.

2. E-mail from E Ford regarding the Woodland Trust's plea for everyone to pledge to plant trees in their bid to plant at least one tree per person in the UK by 2025. Public and private spaces are needed to plant trees, also tree saplings (woodland trust can help with this) and volunteers to help plant and also to look after them (watering when it's dry) whilst they're small. Can the Council get involved? Cllr Smith-Haddon had responded.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/sep/23/call-for-1m-people-join-uk-biggest-mass-tree-planting-campaign>

3. E-mail from Earlswood resident regarding new property allocation in Earlswood. Clerk to advise that there is none and suggest he contact Planning Dept. at Mon CC.

Monmouthshire County Council

1) Notification of Public Consultation on Draft Rights Of Way Improvement Plan 2019 – 29. Consultation closes on 26.11.19.

2) Notification of Monmouthshire Climate Emergency which commits Mon CC to reducing carbon emissions to zero by 2030, but also to support and encourage communities, businesses and others to play their part in reducing carbon too.

An action plan will be taken to Council on the 24th October. Mon CC would value any feedback or offers of help towards helping to deliver some of the actions at a local level. A number of town and parish councils across the UK have also declared a Climate Emergency, including Monmouth Town Council.

The link to the Response to the Climate Emergency, which will form the basis of the action plan next month is

at: https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/documents/s22468/Climate%20and%20Decarbonisation_Draft%20Response_v0.6.pdf

3) Notification of the proposed closure of Mounton House Special School, the statutory objection period closes on 5.11.19.

Welsh Government Consultations

- National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management.
- Strategic Equality Objectives 2020 – 2024.
- Safeguarding Children against Child Sexual Exploitation.

Minute 3895 - To receive short reports from County Councillor and meetings attended:

County Councillor Brown advised:

Mounton House School, Pwllmeyric

- The Cabinet on the 18th of September decided to follow the recommendation to publish notices of closure on the 7th of October, with this statutory notice consultation closing on the

5th of November. The timetable of the statutory notice can be found at the following link:
<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/schoolreorganisation/>

County Council

- **Leisure centres**

At the last meeting of County Council on the 19th of September, a number of topics were dealt with including the MonLife Business plan with proposals in the next 5 years to invest £5.5m in updating Caldicot Leisure centre (subject to the business case) and £8m in Abergavenny Leisure Centre. I voted against the plan due to the fact that there was no investment sum proposal for Chepstow Leisure centre in the next 5 years, just a note on refresh fitness equipment and redesign café and reception area.

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/documents/s22398/1c.%20Appendix%20C%20MonLife%20Commercial%20and%20Investment%20strategy%20and%20Action%20plan.pdf> (see page 18 of this link).

- **Planning and the Strategic Development Plan**

Monmouthshire council agreed on the 19th of September to provide representation on the Cardiff Strategic Development Plan (SDP) involving 10 Local Authorities

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/documents/g3869/Public%20reports%20pack%2019th-Sep-2019%2014.00%20County%20Council.pdf?T=10>

In terms of an approximate hierarchy of different levels of consideration on planning, a village or town plan has to align with the revised LDP, the LDP has to align with the National planning framework and a later SDP in 2025 would sit above the LDP which would then have a lighter touch. For example, if MCC did not obtain its desired housing growth options in the LDP due to having to align to the national planning framework then it is likely to try to aim to do so through the Strategic Development Plan in 2025.

The draft national planning framework is currently out for consultation which ends on the 1st of November. This draft national planning framework does not envisage Monmouthshire as a housing growth area and also suggests green belts in this area. Green belts, last from one LDP plan to another unlike green wedges. So if you prefer our South Monmouthshire area not to be overdeveloped with housing due to current traffic congestion, it's important to respond to this consultation which can be found at the following link:

<https://gov.wales/draft-national-development-framework>

Archaeology and Planning

- In the near future there will be a consultation on sensitive areas in MCC including villages, which need to be mapped for an Archaeology Planning advice note

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/documents/s22596/4.%20Archaeology%20PAN%20ICMD%20report%20September%202019.pdf>

Museums

- The forward plan for Museums is being reviewed in order to improve visitor experience:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/documents/g3869/Public%20reports%20pack%2019th-Sep-2019%2014.00%20County%20Council.pdf?T=10>

Litter and waste matters

- There is an update on litter and waste collection issues at a Special Stronger communities Select Committee on the 15th of October (including lessons learnt with the change of collection days), the reports can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=4185>

Lower Wye Committee

- The agenda for the Lower Wye Committee for the meeting on the 16th of October at 10am at the Chepstow Leisure Centre covers the hospital, policing, roads and rail. Details can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=150&MId=3984>

Minute 3896 - Date of next meeting Monday 4th November 2019 at 7.00pm at the Recreation Hall, Shirenewton.

Cllr Martin gave his apologies as he is unable to attend this meeting.

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