

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 2nd September 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,
County Councillor L Brown.

Also in attendance:

CSO A Jones

5 members of the public

Mrs H Counsell (Clerk to the Council)

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. Council members introduced themselves to the public and the Chair brought forward agenda items 11 and 12 to accommodate those present.

1. Public Participation

a) Proposed diversion of Footpath 34 – a resident explained his objection to the proposal and that he had met with R Hoggins, Head of Highways at Mon CC and given him historical documents relating to the original footpath and highway. S Pritchard, Rights of Way Officer at Mon CC has issued an amended diversion proposal for consultation. The resident requested that County Councillor L Brown question the planning application form procedure, on doing so the Planning Officer indicated that the resident could add any comments to the paperwork submitted to Mon CC.

b) Proposed provision of Padel Tennis at Shirenewton – a resident circulated information on the history of Padel Tennis and explained his proposal for the first Padel Tennis courts in Wales. Council to consider further. (County Councillor L Brown took no part in this discussion as it may be subject to a future pre-planning application).

c) Road safety on the B4235 at Mynyddbach – a resident explained that there are still concerns about road safety and asked, following an article in the South Wales Argus in July, what this Council is doing to educate motorcyclists regarding the dangers of this stretch of road. The Chair explained that he had been misquoted in the article and that it is not the role of the Council to educate motorcyclists, but to work in conjunction with the police and Motorcycle Association for this to take place.

It was suggested that the police be vigilant and ensure enforcement of the speed restriction and double white lines, resulting in prosecutions as a deterrent to bad driving behavior. CSO A Jones confirmed that regular patrols take place along the B4235. Other suggestions were the police using unmarked cars with in-car cameras and, if a lack of police resources, the use of average speed cameras along the B4235. Council to contact Sergeant Callard and Inspector Hassel to highlight the problems and make the above suggestions. Also to request safe motorcycling leaflets and a link to information on the police website.

2. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from:

Councillors J Smith-Haddon and B Price.

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

No applications had been received, one expression of interest to be followed up at the October meeting.

4. To receive the monthly police report.

The police report had been circulated prior to the meeting and CSO Jones was in attendance.

16/8/19 – Report of a 4x4 vehicle off-roading in Wentwood Forest near Pen-y-cae-mawr. Details of the vehicle passed to NRW.

25/8/19 – Report of a substantial amount of black bags containing the remnants of a cannabis cultivation dumped in a layby on the outskirts of Earlswood towards Pen-y-cae-mawr/Wentwood. The council/NRW informed to remove.

26/8/19 – Report of off-road bikes in the Pen-y-cae-mawr area into Wentwood. Observations were made in the area but no bikes were seen at that time.

29/8/19 – Report from the fire service that a small refuse fire near the Wentwood Forest Centre had occurred. Plastics had been burnt at the site. No other details known.

There had been no calls to Brookacre recently.

High visibility police patrols have been carried out on the B4235 Usk road on the last two Sundays (25th August and 1st September) with no offences seen or calls reported.

Minute 3867 - 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 3868 - To approve and sign minutes of the meeting held on 5th August 2019.

The minutes were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

Minute 3869 - To consider planning matters.

**DM/2018/02087 Green Acres, Usk Road, Mynyddbach
New annexe with replacement garage and all associated works.**

Council noted Green Acres comprised a detached house in substantial grounds, sitting below the B4235 at Mynyddbach. It had a basic constructed double garage joined at right angles to the main house on its front left hand side. It comprised kitchen, lounge, dining room and study plus downstairs loo, and 5 bedrooms upstairs. The proposal was to convert (ie. rebuild) the existing single-storey garaging into a two-storey extension of the house. There was to be a new single-storey double garage.

The new extension was shown as a separate building linked by an enclosed single storey entrance. The new building provided an office, snug and 2 bedrooms. Members were concerned that in a nutshell this is a self-contained house capable of independent living.

Measurements were not provided on the scale drawings but initially the new building appeared to increase the residential floor area (excluding the existing garage footprint) by around 50%, although this was later revised to 16%.

Council recommended refusal pending further clarification of several unclear points from the Planning Officer.

**DM/2019/01198 Hilltop, Earlswood Road, Earlswood
Conversion of existing stable/storage building to form garden store and home gym,
enclosure and elevation of existing canopy to house hot-tub.**

Council noted the following:

Hilltop is a detached house with a large garden. There is an existing stable block, end on to and within 5m of the Earlswood Road. It comprises some 5 stable bays plus store, though

the applicant's labelling appears to show all of the bays are now storage. At the back is a covered entertaining area including a hot-tub and barbeque.

The application is to convert to form a garden store, home gym and entertainment area comprising a hot-tub and bbq. The existing building/covered area is some 20m x 5.3 with a ridge height around 3m. It is unclear whether the new building will be an entirely new structure or a modified version of the existing stable but the ridge height is significantly higher at some 5m and the walls are considerably thicker. The new building is to be equipped with a shower/toilet, lounge area, an entrance area and gym, and garden store /plant room. The roof will be slate, exterior finish cedar or larch cladding and grey joinery. No details are given of the utility supply routes or foul and surface water drainage.

The application does not disclose whether horses are still kept at Hilltop and Councillors were concerned at the apparent lack of alternative stabling. Councillors were also concerned that as the stable block comprises a separate building it might form the basis of a residential annex or separate dwelling.

Council recommended refusal of the application for the following reasons:

- a) the application wrongly stated that the proposal was not visible from the highway.
- b) the plan provided is inaccurate as it does not show the existing garage and gym.
- c) there are no notices locally to advise of the application.
- d) there are no ecological reports.

Minute 3870 – Finance. To approve items listed for payment –

Expenditure (by Standing Order)

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

Items for payment

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount £	Vat £	Total	Cheque No.
Mrs H Counsell	Expenses – August 2019	55.25		55.25	101530
Merlin Waste	Bin emptying (July)	37.50		37.50	101531

Council resolved to make all payments as listed.

Minute 3871 - To receive the quarterly financial report (April – June 2019)

The quarterly financial report was received and approved. The report, bank statements and supporting paperwork for the period were signed by Cllr J McKenna, being neither Chair nor a bank signatory.

Minute 3872 - To receive an update on distribution of the survey results.

Due to time constraints it was agreed to consider this item further at an informal meeting on Friday 13th September 2019 at 2pm.

Minute 3873 - To discuss the provision of Padel Tennis in Shirenewton.

This item was discussed in 'Public Participation' above.

Minute 3874 – To consider a community speed watch scheme.

In the absence of Cllr Smith-Haddon this item referred to next meeting.

Minute 3875 - To receive information on community defibrillators.

In the absence of Cllr Smith-Haddon this item referred to next meeting.

Minute 3876 - To consider having a group photograph of Council members.

After some discussion and following reservations on personal safety Council decided against photographs at the present time.

Minute 3877 - To receive the attached 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. Further update received 14.8.19. G Delamere advised that he had made contact with the agent and an invalid planning application has been received for part conversion to a holiday let. Agent advised that applicant wishes to apply for permission for 2 dwellings on the site and is awaiting a survey drawing before submitting a planning application (which would include a change of use application).

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.

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.

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 now investigating.

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.

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.

Proposed diversion of Footpath 34 – update from S Pritchard, Footpaths Officer on 14.8.19 (including info on F/paths 30/34/35) – much interest from residents, also information to review on FP 34. May result in a revised proposal. SCC will be consulted before final decision is made. (See Public Participation above).

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.

Illegal raves in Wentwood Forest in May and June – Following complaint to NRW, response from Jo-Anne Anstey, Local Area Manager East on 5.7.19 – she has put forward security recommendations to the Woodland Trust. Multi-agency meeting held on 18.7.19 – notices of contact details put on website, Parish Mag and notice boards for residents to report any problems.

Steps at the Spout – following concern regarding the condition of the steps, Clerk contacted Mr J Saysell for his advice, he considered that no repairs are necessary.

BKV (Be Proud of Your Community) and future – Cllr Smith-Haddon looking at changed BKV criteria, does the Council need to set up a working group to include residents for future plans? Should we have a Shirenewton in Bloom, organised by SCC instead?

Mobile Post Office – visited Devauden Mobile and Caldicot Post Office on 30.8.19 which organises the mobile service. The request for a mobile service in Shirenewton seems likely to be successful – Manager to contact Clerk.

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

Future Coffee Mornings – Council agreed to attend the October and December Village Markets (subject to permission) to engage with residents and encourage them to discuss the results of the community survey.

Financial Regulations action plan – The clerk passed a backed up copy of the external hard drive of the Council pc to the Chair for safe keeping off-site.

Enforcement cases: None this month.

Minute 3878 - Matters of local concern

- Correspondence received by CC L Brown expressing concern over overgrown verges, hedges and road signs in the Earlswood area - Clerk to report. Also lack of white lines in Shirenewton centre – Clerk to request site visit with Mr R Hoggins, Head of Highways to raise several highways issues.
- Felling of large tree at Old Cock a Roosting – Clerk to report to Tree Officer at Mon CC.

Minute 3879 - To receive correspondence as per attached schedule.

Council noted receipt of the following correspondence:

1. Copy letter dated 29.7.19 from a resident to Mon CC objecting to the diversion of Footpath 34. Plus letters/e-mails/scans from resident, S Pritchard and R Rourke, Mon CC relating to the history of the same.
2. Letter dated 31.7.19 from Homemakers Community Recycling, Abergavenny informing of their work and a sewage installation project for which they request financial support.
3. Invitation to the Wye Valley AONB Tour on Friday 20th September 2019 from 9.30am to 4pm. Bookings to be made by 9.9.19. Cllr Morton to attend.
4. Information from One Voice Wales of a major spatial planning survey. Cardiff University and Queen's University Belfast launch major survey of what people think about the planning systems in Wales, N Ireland & Rep of Ireland. The project aims to collate and analyse the

views of as many individual stakeholders in the planning system as possible, across a wide range of organisations. The final report will inform discussion about change in the governance, scope and delivery of planning to address current and future challenges. Responses to be made by 30.9.19. Cllr Martin to draft response.

Welsh Government Consultations

- Substance Misuse Delivery Plan 2019 – 2022.
- Increasing the minimum notice period for a no fault eviction.
- Food and nutrition in older people care homes.
- Developing Wales Food and Drink Sector.
- Measuring Social Services performance: Code of Practice.
- National Development Framework for Wales 2020 - 2040.
- Together for Mental Health Delivery Plan 2019 – 2022.
- Animal exhibits (licensing scheme).

Minute 3880 - To receive short reports from County Councillor and meetings attended:

County Councillor Brown advised:

County Council

- At the last meeting of County Council on the 18th of July, the Cabinet Member announced a half million pound for Chepstow Comprehensive school. The draft minutes giving the details can be found in the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/documents/g3868/Printed%20minutes%2018th-Jul-2019%2014.00%20County%20Council.pdf?T=1>

Replacement LDP (Local Development Plan) Growth and Spatial Options

- There has been a recent Monmouthshire County Council consultation of the LDP Growth and Spatial options for the replacement LDP. The results are being analysed and expected to be reported on in approximately November.
- However, Local Authority plans need to take account of the draft National Framework policy in terms of where housing is located in Wales and there is an important consultation on this topic which ends on the 1st of November 2019:

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

Cabinet

- On the 31st of July 2019, Cabinet decided to investigate whether there is a business case for the provision of the refurbishment of the Caldicot Leisure Centre

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/documents/g3846/Decisions%2031st-Jul-2019%2014.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=2>

Mounton House School Pwllmeyric

- The results of the Monmouthshire county council consultation on the proposal to close the school are expected to be on the 10th of September, with the report being considered by the Children and Young People Select committee starting at 10am on the 17th of September, with the Cabinet making a decision at a special meeting starting at 2pm on the 18th of September.

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MId=4171>

Minute 3881 - Date of next meeting Monday 7th October 2019 at 7.00pm at the Recreation Hall, Shirenewton.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.20 pm.