

## SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019 at 7.00 pm  
at the Recreation Hall, Shirenewton.

### **Present:**

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

### **Also in attendance:**

Police Inspector M Hassell  
Three members of the public  
Mrs H Counsell (Clerk to the Council)

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, particularly Councillor Grose on his return to the community, and thanked them for their attendance.

### **1. Public Participation**

Mrs Doggett attended to inform the Council of her objection to the current proposal for the diversion of Footpath 34 as it brought the footpath nearer her property and could cause a privacy issue if walkers chose to use the top of the bank, rather than the designated footpath. The Chair explained the reasons for the decisions taken and advised of the Council's long term plan for a hard path around the recreation field. Clerk to contact the Footpaths Officer at Mon CC to suggest that a handrail be installed on the Church House side of the path and steps to ensure the safety of walkers and to deter them from using the top of the bank.

### **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.**

5/11/19 – Report of a red Honda quad bike stolen from an outbuilding overnight at a property on Bluebell road in Earlswood. The lock was cut off the building to gain entry.

8/11/19 – Report of a property near Brooms' horse yard broken into whilst owners were away for a couple of hours. A rear window was forced/smashed to gain entry and silver items and expensive china was taken.

13/11/19 – Report of a small shed on fire on land just off the A48 in Crick. The fire service attended and believe it was done deliberately.

There had been no calls to Brookacre during the month.

Inspector Hassell advised that he is trying to formalise a standard police report to all councils that feeds back more detailed information on crimes and action taken on local priorities.

**Crime** - He reported on crime levels in the Shirenewton area as:

From April 2019 - 56 crimes, 16 reports of antisocial behaviour.

Last year 53 crimes, 8 reports of antisocial behaviour. He advised that crime volumes had been similar for the last five years and consisted of mainly thefts from sheds/garages and burglaries and that they generally happened at night.

**Traffic matters** – he advised that complaints about motorcycles on the B4235 spike around Easter and that the police have a tactical operation system that is triggered by the number of complaints from the community.

Inspector Hassell explained his previous experience on the education of drivers by linking with schools around Chepstow on safety issues, seatbelt campaigns, maintenance of tyres, posters etc, encouraging speed to be kept down.

There followed a question and answer session which included the members of the public.

It was noted that local safety and education campaigns were good but did not address tourist traffic which needs visibility and deterrents to spread a wider message.

Inspector Hassell advised that Community Support Officers are restricted in powers and that unmarked police cars with cameras can be used, but do not see a marked reduction in incidents. He advised that several strategies can be used, some day to day and some dynamic regarding speed enforcement. He further advised that as Mon CC will become responsible for parking issues there needs to be a joint approach between the police and Mon CC.

He encouraged the use of social media to report incidents and residents to complete the 'Your Voice' survey in January 2020.

The Chair thanked Inspector Hassell for attending and participating in the meeting.

**Minute 3912 - 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 3913- To approve and sign minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019.**

The minutes were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

**Minute 3914 - To consider planning matters.**

1a) Report of the meeting with the Recreation Association 23.11.19 on Footpath 34 diversion.

The Chair reported that the Recreation Association had no further objection to the proposed diversion of the footpath, providing that the design, implementation and maintenance terms and conditions were strictly adhered to.

1b) To note the Council's response to the proposed diversion of Footpath 34.

Council noted the response made to Mon CC as follows:

The need to protect the field's surface if equipment needed to be placed on the field for the construction the new steps and removal of the old steps, the Community Council recommended the following conditions:-

- 1) That no equipment be placed on the field until the field has dried out,
- 2) That the field must be protected by matting at the location of the work and also along the traversal line across the field from the access point to the location of the work.
- 3) Plus the previous condition that that at no time should the footpath be blocked by vehicles that prevent public access.

**2. DM/2019/01495 The Tan House Inn, Shirenewton**

Construction of 2 number dwellings together with formation of car parking for ex public house.

Council noted that the notification letter described the Tan House as an 'ex public house', which is incorrect as there has been no change of use.

Council was concerned about the development of the site as part of the grounds are within the conservation area, the pub is an historic part of the village and should be retained as a village amenity. Members would prefer to consider the future plans for the whole site, rather than piecemeal applications.

The main reasons for refusal of this application were:

- the proposed four bedroomed houses are potentially not affordable to local people,
- access to the properties is through the pub car park, no private access,
- Mon CC's policy is to provide one parking space up to a maximum of 3 bedrooms per new build, therefore each house should have 3 spaces, not 2 as proposed,
- no fauna surveys have been provided.

**Minute 3915 – Finance.** To approve items listed for payment –

**Expenditure (by Standing Order)**

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

**Items for payment**

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount £	Vat £	Total	Cheque No.
Mrs H Counsell	Expenses - November	34.45		34.45	101546
Llanvair Landscapes	Grounds maintenance of play area/FBG/paths	1050.00		1050.00	101547
Wales Audit Office	External audit 2018/19	203.70		203.70	101548
Merlin Waste	Bin emptying (Nov)	37.50		37.50	101549

Council resolved to make all payments as listed.

**Minute 3916 - To receive short reports :**

- a) County Councillor's Report – none this month due to election purdah.
- b) Clerk's Report

**Clerk's Report – December 2019**

**Refurbishment of Tan House pub** –DM/2019/01495 application received for construction of two dwellings and car parking. Enforcement is investigating unauthorised works on site. Response of refusal made at this meeting.

**Hill View Cottage, Shirenewton** –Enforcement case open – E19/130. Non Material Amendment application for velux roof lights and slated canopies received 18.10.19. Community Council approved canopies but recommended refusal of velux rooflights on 4.11.19. (Still under consideration by Mon CC).

**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 and 25.10.19 – J Wassal, Mon CC to make site visit w/c 28.10.19.

**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: 15631). No action taken as yet, low on priority list.

**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. Chased up 25.10.19, 25.11.19 still waiting for WG decision. Council suggested that if replacement has not started by 1.3.2020 then enforcement action should be started.

**Damaged road sign, Shirenewton** – reported 25.10.19 – Report no: 4587967 – rectified 26.11.19.

**Bushes Farm** – blocked drain causing flooding. Report 4570123 – gullies cleaned and jetted 27.11.19. Further issues to be investigated.

**Handrail on funeral path and rotted squeeze belly gates** – on 22.10.19 held site visit and requested quotes for both from J Saysell. Quotes received and considered earlier in meeting.

**Refurbishment of play area** – Play house refurbished w/c 18/11/19. Complaint made as work incomplete – J Wassal, Mon CC to investigate.

**Mobile Post Office** –. All installations for wifi signal improvement completed. Clerk to contact Caldicot Post Office to request further site visit.

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

**Future Coffee Mornings** – Council agreed to attend the 21<sup>st</sup> December Village Market to engage with residents and allow them to discuss the 5 year plan. Only Clerk and Chair able to attend.

**Minute 3917: To receive short reports on meetings attended.**

**MoD joint meeting with Shirenewton and Caerwent CC's on 20.11.19.**

Major Mahoney reported on the following:

- 2700 troops trained in 2019 at Caerwent Training Area and the Rogiet range.
- Moving into Army 2020, two training courses to merge and MoD will be relying heavily on using the Caerwent Training Area in the future.
- Major exercises will take place on 9th February and 9th March 2020.
- Car rallies will take place on 1 Feb, 29 Mar, 28 June, 23 August, 27 Sept 2020. Notices of rallies not being received by CC's from the Car Club - Peter to chase.
- The Wormtech site is improving every quarter, Environmental Health is monitoring, there is no risk to the environment.
- P Davies, MoD confirmed that the railway line has been sold within the last 4 months and the sale is currently with solicitors.
- Following a request from the SCC Clerk, P Davies to arrange 'No MoD vehicles' signage at Crick and the Usk Road accesses to Shirenewton village.

**Informal Council meeting – 22.11.19.**

Precept discussions took place but no decisions made.

**Minute 3918 – Consideration of Precept 2020/21**

1. Council allocated £300 for possibly two remuneration requests as there are currently two vacancies on the Council. All current members of the Council opted out of the scheme.
2. The quote from Mon CC of £1,334.80 for grounds maintenance for the 2020 season (16 cuts of the recreation field) was accepted.
3. Council considered and accepted the quote from Mr J Saysell of £1,300 (plus vat where appropriate) for provision of additional railings at the funeral path and repair of the squeeze belly gates at the war memorial.
4. Council considered the annual review of the Clerk's salary from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 and resolved to increase the Clerk's salary from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 by one incremental point from NJC

Pay Scale SCP12 (£11.22 per hour) to SCP13 £11.45 per hour (15 hours per week), as agreed between NALC and SLCC and notified on revised Pay Scales in December 2018. Council confirmed that the current monthly home/office allowance of £89.16 per month be continued. Council noted that the top of the salary scale is SCP 17.

5. Following the above budgetary decisions and consideration of the three year financial plan Council resolved to request a precept from Mon CC of £29,455.00 for 2020/2021. Council recognised this was an increase on last year's request but it aligned with last year's expenditure and allowed for continued refurbishment of the play area and maintenance of Council assets.

6. Future payment methods of precept by Mon CC were considered and Council resolved to request one annual payment on the last working day of April.

### **Minute 3919 - To consider reporting on Section 6 – the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty.**

Council noted that 'public authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and in doing so promote the resilience of ecosystems'. Cllr Smith-Haddon presented a report on current and future possibilities for increasing biodiversity in the community and will continue her research.

### **Minute 3920 - Items of local concern** (information only)

- Current position of transfer of SAMFAL field – Cllr Smith-Haddon reported that a meeting had been held with the Gwent Wildlife Trust Reserves Manager, with the Chair to put forward SAMFAL requirements for ratification. She confirmed that if GWT ceases to exist or decides to sell the SAMFAL field, the first offer will be made to SAMFAL, as it will stay in business. If not in existence then the field will be offered to the Community Council. Community Council to have sight of transfer documents when available.
- Small wall at back of Honeysuckle Cottage in poor state of repair – Clerk to establish ownership of the wall.
- Report from resident that wall around Tredegar Arms car park is in a poor state of repair – Clerk to establish ownership.

### **Minute 3921 - To receive correspondence as per attached schedule.**

Council noted receipt of the following correspondence:

29.11.19 – E-mail from Power for People requesting support for the Local Electricity Bill.

### **Monmouthshire County Council**

27.11.19 – Letter received to notify community and town councils that the Appropriate Sum under Section 137(4) (A) of the Local Government Act 1972 Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2020-21 is £8.32.

### **Welsh Government Consultations**

- A More Equal Wales: strengthening social partnership white paper.
- A More Equal Wales – commencing the socio-economic Duty (Equality Act 2010 – Part 1, Section 1). Consultation closing date 17.1.20.
- National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) (Wales) Regulations 2020.
- Draft Housing Support Grant practice guidance.

**Minute 3922 - Date of next meeting Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7.00pm** at the Recreation Hall, Shirenewton. Council resolved to cancel this meeting unless urgent matters arose.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.25pm.