

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 4th November 2019 at 7.00 pm
at the Recreation Hall, Shirenewton.

Present:

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

Also in attendance:

Ms E Farnsworth
Mr & Mrs J Eede
Mr P Brabon
Mrs E Ford
Mrs H Counsell (Clerk to the Council)

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. He announced a short adjournment of the meeting whilst members discussed a point of business in private.

1. Public Participation

Mrs Ford spoke of the Woodland Trust Tree Campaign and the need for people to pledge to plant new trees, also a need to plan the planting of native trees in the community. She was supportive of bringing people together to implement this and influence the next generation. Mrs Ford suggested contacting local landowners to incorporate trees into both private and agricultural land. Saplings can be ordered from the Woodland Trust for next year. Cllr Smith-Haddon had spoken to Mr D Lloyd of the Gwent Wildlife Trust regarding the alder patch in the SAMFAL field and he also suggested growing standard trees from the hedgerows. Cllr Brown advised that the funding gained from sales at the civic amenity site shops is to be used for planting trees – Clerk to check how this is administered. Council to consider further, along with Mon CC's response to the climate emergency.

Mr Brabon informed the Council of transporters and military vehicles using the narrow lane past the church attempting to locate Caerwent Training Area by satnav. There is no access and the vehicles have to reverse back to the centre of Shirenewton to turn around. Clerk to contact Mr P Davies at the base, also raise at the MoD meeting on 20.11.19 that relevant signage needs to be located on the Usk Road and the A48 at Crick.

Mr & Mrs Eede attended to discuss the proposed diversion of Footpath 34 and distributed copies of their maps of the boundaries. Council to meet this weekend to check boundaries against copies of Mon CC's plans (date and time of meeting to be confirmed).

Ms Farnsworth attended as the Council had made a donation towards her international trip earlier in the year and she gave an interesting presentation on her activities in the arctic.

2. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from:

Councillor I Martin.

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

No incidents had been reported during the month and no calls from Brookacre. Inspector Hassel to attend the December meeting.

Minute 3897 - 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 3898 - To approve and sign minutes of the meeting held on 7th October 2019.

The minutes were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

Minute 3899 - To consider planning matters.

1. DM/2019/01618 Pond Cottage, Usk Road, Shirenewton

Detached garage with office at rear.

Council noted that this application superseded the previously approved application DM/2018/01104. Council recommended approval of this proposal on the condition that it meets current bat regulations, also that a planning condition is applied so that the garage cannot be used for residential purposes. (Voting: 5 for / 1 abstention).

2. DM/2019/01614 Hill View Cottage, Shirenewton

Non-material amendments to planning consent DC/2012/00631 (appeal decision) - 2no. velux rooflights to outbuilding, 2no. slated canopies over front doors and 1no. slated canopy to side elevation over side entrance.

Council approved the slated canopies as it was felt that they improved the appearance of the properties, but recommended refusal of the velux rooflights on the outbuilding as it was felt they detracted from the visual appearance of the centre of the village, it being a conservation area and there are no other velux rooflights within the vicinity. (Voting: Slated canopies – 5 for / 1 abstention. Velux rooflights – 2 for / 3 against / 1 abstention).

Minute 3900 – Finance. To approve items listed for payment –

Expenditure (by Standing Order)

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

Items for payment

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount £	Vat £	Total	Cheque No.
Mrs H Counsell	Expenses - October	83.59		83.59	101540
Mrs H Counsell (Magor Printing)	Printing of A2 forms	25.00	5.00	30.00	101541
Mon CC (Invoice 70152638)	Grounds maintenance 2019/20	1302.24	260.45	1562.59	101542
RBL Poppy Appeal	Wreaths and donation	70.00		70.00	101543
Gillett & Johnson (Croydon) Ltd	Annual maintenance of church clock	150.00	30.00	180.00	101544
Merlin Waste	Bin emptying (Oct)	37.50		37.50	101545

Council resolved to make all payments as listed.

Cllr Price left the meeting at this point.

Minute 3901 - To receive the quarterly financial report (July – Sept 2019)

Council received and approved the report, noting the following information from the Clerk:

- Although no allowance had been made for refurbishment of the play area and there

is likely to be a £1000 overspend, this will be offset by not having any maintenance costs on the current equipment this year.

- There will be an overspend of £300 on the 2019 community questionnaire/survey.
- Other planned expenditure is as expected.
- At this stage, the yearend forecast of reserves is £9,500.

The report, bank statements and supporting paperwork for the period were signed by Cllr J Smith-Haddon, being neither Chair nor a bank signatory.

Minute 3902 - To receive an update on distribution of the 5 year plan and feedback on Coffee Morning held on Saturday 19th October.

The Five Year Plan had been circulated in the October issue of the Parish Magazine and posted on the website. It was available at the Coffee Morning with some residents showing interest in it. A resident asked the Clerk to report blocked drains causing road flooding in Earlswood. Next Coffee Morning to be held at the Village Market on Saturday 21st December, 10.30am – 12.30.

Minute 3903 - To consider findings from Highways meeting held on 28.10.19 (PB)

Cllrs P Butterworth, K Morton and L Brown plus the Clerk, met at the Recreation Hall with Mr P Keeble of Mon CC. The following points were raised by Councillors and discussed:

- Lack of white lines at Shirenewton centre - not being treated as 'shared space' area,
- Confusing 20/30 mph signage,
- Speed of traffic through Shirenewton and Mynyddbach,
- Poor visibility when turning right at Shirenewton centre,
- Making 20mph compulsory speed limits through Shirenewton and Mynyddbach.
- Making the centre of Shirenewton a one way system (down to The Row and up to Blacksmith's Lane for improved visibility when accessing Earlswood Road,
- Advice on setting up a Community Speedwatch scheme.

Mr Keeble to arrange a post review of the traffic calming scheme, to include a risk assessment on the lack of white lines at Shirenewton centre.

He also advised that Welsh Government will be introducing a compulsory 20mph speed limit in residential areas from early in the newyear. Mon CC Highways will then hold a review of speed limits, Councillors requested that Shirenewton and Mynyddbach are made a priority. He also agreed to check visibility at the Old Cock a Roosting triangle and request G Kinsella to forward information on a Community Speedwatch Scheme to the Clerk.

Minute 3904 - To receive short reports previously circulated:

a) County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Brown advised:

County Council on the 24th of October 2019

- The County Council covered various matters at the last county council meeting including a climate emergency strategy and modern day slavery and exploitation protocol, the motion on Mounton House School was postponed due to being within the statutory notice consultation. The full agenda can be found in the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MId=3878>

Planning –Monmouthshire County Council's approach in relation to future development

Monmouthshire county council in various documents continues to put forward the desire and vision for ambitious growth both in relation to population, housing and employment sites. Whilst, the Welsh Government will currently not allow new settlements in any area except if joint settlements across local authorities. The Welsh Government's draft national development

framework consultation document did not see Monmouthshire as a high growth area and argued for growth being centred on Newport and Cardiff in the South East region of Wales, to make transport and jobs co-terminus, it had a green belt north of the M4.

<https://gov.wales/draft-national-development-framework> (**Draft National Framework consultation-consultation ending on the 15th of November**).

However, the Welsh Government Minister would like to see 50% affordable housing on publicly owned land. The response from the council is that most of its publicly owned land is located within the proposed greenbelt and argues strongly against the green belt in our area. Most of the council owned farms are in the Shirenewton/Portkeswett area and it says how these are used to assist the council with its capital receipts for the 21st century school programme (which to date have not assisted Chepstow schools).

Individual Cabinet Member Decision 23rd of October 2019

- **MCC Consultation response to the Draft National Planning Policy Framework**

It can be found at item 2 including the map:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=147&MId=3909>

Appendix 1 gives the Council response which ends by saying that as currently drafted Monmouthshire county council cannot support the draft National Development Framework.

The theme of ambitious growth in our area is reiterated in the following Cabinet report on the 6th of November at item 3e:

Cabinet 6th of November 2019

- **Vision 2040: Economic Growth and Ambition Statement (item 3e)**

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MId=3857>

Planning – general supplementary planning policy:

- The Planning committee on the 5th of November are recommended to endorse the latest version of the supplementary planning guidance on infill development as detailed in the following link (albeit that the date of March 2019, at the start of the document has yet to be amended):

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/documents/s22837/2d%20Appendix%203%20Infill%20Development%20SPG%20-%20Latest%20Version.pdf>

b) Clerk's Report

Refurbishment of Tan House pub –DM/2019/01495 (invalid application for construction of two dwellings and car parking). Chased up 25.10.19 – no valid application received as yet. Enforcement is investigating unauthorised works on site.

Hill View Cottage, Shirenewton –Non Material Amendment application for velux roof lights and slated canopies received 18.10.19. Council approved the canopies but recommended refusal of the velux rooflights at this meeting.

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.

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. (Advised on 19.10.19 that P Price, local resident has cut the verge). P Keeble to check visibility.

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.

Blocked drain at Bushes Farm, Earlswood causing flooding – reported 21.10.19 -Report No: 4570123. Now cleared.

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

Handrail on funeral path and rotted squeeze belly gate – on 22.10.19 held site visit and requested quotes for both from J Saysell.

Ashfield House road blockages – several e-mails/calls to Planning Officer regarding road blockages, PO to contact applicant.

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.

Chased up 25.10.19 - J Wassal to make site visit w/c 28.10.19 (also checking damaged wire fence).

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

Reminder of joint MoD meeting with Caerwent CC on Wednesday 20th November at 2pm at Caerwent Training Area to meet the new Commander.

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. Cllr Butterworth has made a heat map of signal strength in various places in the Hall and there are only 2 suitable places. Recreation Assoc to pay for equipment to upgrade signal, and install with Cllr Butterworth. Hope to improve signal in car park to allow the mobile post office to provide a service.

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

Future Coffee Mornings – Council agreed to attend the 21st December Village Market to engage with residents and allow them to discuss the 5 year plan.

Minute 3905 - To receive information on community defibrillators

Cllr Smith-Haddon reported that AED's cost in the region of £1000 each, cabinets £500. There are six defibrillators in the community which are all registered in the holder's names. Five are available at all times, one within school hours. All are in unlocked cabinets, except the one at The Huntsman Hotel. All were installed in 2018 and batteries will be due for renewal in 2020 – 2023. All holders have been on the user training course.

Mr P Moles has offered to replace pads and batteries when required and all holders have his contact details.

Minute 3906 - Woodland Trust Tree campaign (J S-H)

Dealt with under Public Participation above.

Minute 3907 - To consider VE Day 75 celebrations – May 2020.

It was agreed to contact other community organisations to co-ordinate activities for the weekend.

Minute 3908 - Matters of local concern

- Council to make representation to Mon CC over not having received information on the current Hardwick Hill proposals.
- C Cllr Brown advised that she will circulate information passed on from MCC (Principal EHO) from NRW and the Woodland Trust on further security measures regarding raves at Wentwood.

Minute 3909 – Correspondence

Council noted receipt of the following correspondence:

1. Copy letter from a resident regarding his response from Mon CC on the proposed diversion of Footpath 34 (considered under Public Participation above).

Monmouthshire County Council

1) 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

Welsh Government Consultations

- Food and Nutrition in Older People Care Homes.
- The future of Welsh Law: Classification, consolidation and codification.
- Home Education: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities and handbook for home educators.
- Draft keeping learners safe.

Minute 3910 – Short reports on meetings attended.

Highways meeting on 28th October dealt with under Minute 3903 above.

Minute 3911 - Date of next meeting Monday 2nd December 2019 at 7.00pm at the Recreation Hall, Shirenewton.

Informal meeting arranged for Friday 22nd November at 2pm at the Garden Centre.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55pm.