

## SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 at 7.00 pm  
at the Recreation Hall, Shirenewton.

### **Present:**

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

### **Also in attendance:**

Mrs A Doggett  
Mrs H Counsell (Clerk to the Council)

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

### **1. Public Participation**

There was none.

### **2. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from:**

Councillors B Price and K Morton.

### **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.**

Council was advised of the appointment of a new neighbourhood sergeant at Chepstow which is PS 1437 Damien Waite, his contact email is [Damien.waite@gwent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Damien.waite@gwent.pnn.police.uk)  
Clerk to invite him to a future Council meeting.

6/1/2020- Report of damage to an ancient burial mound sometime over the Christmas period at a site on land adjacent to Bwthyn Cadwen on the Usk to Buckwell road. The damage was caused by 4x4 vehicles driving over it churning up the land.

22/1/2020 – Report of a vacant, derelict property broken into on Chapel road in Earlswood. The owner is not sure when this happened as they rarely go there. Entry was gained by forcing a door and smashing a window. Nothing seems to have been taken.

26/1/2020 – Report of an outbuilding broken into overnight at a farm just off the Usk road near Newchurch. A quantity of tools were taken from inside, A car was also taken from the property. The residents were unaware until the morning. No access was gained to the main house.

26/1/2020 – Report of off road bikes in Wentwood Forest.

28/1/2020 – Report of a vehicle skidding on ice and damaging a hedge at a property on Earlswood road. No injuries to the driver and details were given at the scene.

There were no calls to Brookacre during this time.

### **Minute 3930 - To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in listed business.**

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

### **Minute 3931- To approve and sign minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020.**

The minutes were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

## Minute 3932 - To consider planning matters.

### 1. To consider further information on the diversion of Footpath 34.

Councillors took into consideration an e-mail received on 14.1.20 from a local resident, also further information from Mr S Pritchard, Footpaths Officer at Mon CC. Mr Pritchard had asked whether this Council would agree to maintain a new section of fence when the diversion took place. Clerk to check why this could not be included in Mon CC's diversion order, also to check Public Liability insurance

Councillors felt it appropriate to remind residents that the Community Council is consulted on such applications and is able to make recommendations, but it is Monmouthshire County Council that makes the final decisions.

### 2. DM/2019/02003 Little Grondra, Shirenewton to Rhewl Farm

Change of use of part field into residential curtilage to enable vehicular access to new garage. New timber stable, new timber double garage and new decking.

Council objected to this application pending further clarification of the extent of the residential curtilage. (Voting: 5 for / 1 abstention)

### 3. DM/2019/01495 The Tan House Inn, Shirenewton. Amended plans.

Council noted that the notification letter still 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 the pub is within the conservation area, 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,
- there now appears to be no access to the properties from the parking area,
- Council felt strongly that all hedges on site should be retained. (Voting: 5 for / 1 abstention).

## Minute 3933 – Finance. To approve items listed for payment –

### Expenditure (by Standing Order)

Clerk's salary/allowances -	January 2020	£654.20
Clerk's Pension (Council & Clerk's contribution) -	January 2020	£177.95

### Items for payment

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount £	Vat £	Total	Cheque No.
Mrs H Counsell	Expenses - January	78.45		78.45	101554
Merlin Waste Invoice	Bin emptying (Jan)	37.50		37.50	101555

Council resolved to make all payments as listed.

Council noted that the request had been made that future precept requests be made in one annual payment at the end of April each year, however advice received from Kevin James, Accountant at Mon CC that payments will remain the same (three per year) as requested by the majority of Town and Community Councils.

## **Minute 3934 – To receive the quarterly financial report (Oct – Dec 2019)**

Council received the quarterly financial report and noted the Clerk's explanation of variances. Members further noted that at the yearend reserves are currently forecast to be around £11,000. The report, bank statements and payment schedules were signed by Councillor J Smith-Haddon, being neither Chair or a bank signatory.

## **Minute 3935 - To receive monthly reports from the County Councillor and the Clerk.**

### **County Councillor's Report –**

County Councillor Brown advised:

#### **Cabinet**

- The MCC Cabinet on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January sadly, confirmed the expected decision to close Mounon House School Pwllmeyric. Consultees have subsequently been informed of the closure date of the 31 January 2020. Please see the following link at item 3c:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MIId=3859>

#### **County Council**

- The County Council on the 16 January considered a number of reports and motions as can be seen from the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MIId=3880>

- The above included a report on the refurbishment of Caldicot Leisure Centre and Chepstow Gym and Café upgrade study. The remodelling of Caldicot Leisure Centre proposes to convert 2 squash courts to soft play.
- A motion was supported at 9c in the above link for the Leader and Cabinet to support making representations to the Welsh Government on the funding floor in view of the fact that Monmouthshire consistently receives the worst funding per head of population of any of the 22 Welsh Authorities.

#### **Budget**

- The council has been consulting on its budget proposals, which include a 4.95% increase in Council Tax and unfortunately additional car parking charges. Unfortunately the Council is left in a tight budget position due to the budget pressures such as an increase in looked after children and having the lowest contribution per head of population of all the Local Authorities in Wales. Details on the budget proposals can be found in the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=140&MIId=3931>

#### **Planning**

- It is expected that the preferred growth strategy for the whole of Monmouthshire for the next LDP- Local Development Plan will go to Council in March 2020. However, the National Welsh Development Strategy for the whole Wales is not expected to be published until April 2020

#### **Adults Select Committee**

- The Adults Select Committee had a meeting on the 21 January which considered the scrutiny of the disabled facilities grant and also budget matters relating to adults:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=140&MIId=3931>

#### **Children and Young People Select Committee on the 28 January 2020**

- The meeting considered the budget proposals for 2020/21 and savings as shown in the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MId=3954>

- The draft savings and pressure budget can be found in the following link, which includes a 2% reduction in individual school budgets;

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/documents/s23740/Children%20and%20Young%20People%20Select%20Committee%20-%20Draft%20Savings%20and%20Pressures%20summary.pdf>

- The individual mandate forms provide further detailed information on these draft savings and pressures including impact on individual schools and the ALN pressures can be found in the following link :

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/documents/s23739/Children%20and%20Young%20People%20Select%20Committee%20-%20Individual%20Draft%20Budget%20Mandate%20Forms.pdf>

### **Lower Wye Committee on the 23 January 2020**

- The agenda for this meeting can be found at the following link and covered, metro, road and rail issues;

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=150&MId=4136>

On the Chepstow general road study the second stage appeared to have the commitment to go ahead. There were discussions about transport issues and we were told of a proposal to locate the bus station next to the railway station. There was an agreed response that it was best for the bus station to be kept in the centre of Chepstow but with links to the railway station. The High Beech roundabout idea of additional lining was going ahead and the Welsh Government highways would be looking into more detailed proposals for High Beech roundabout. The next agenda is expected to include an item from the Community Health Council on an overview of its role and future proposals.

- An item was presented on playing out sessions which are temporary road closures to let children play safely and freely in the street and has been successfully tried in the Sudbrook area on a street located there.

### **Welsh Water**

- The sewerage pipe lining works for the main sewerage pipe covering the villages of Pwllmeyric, Mathern, Shirenewton and Moun-ton were repaired last year. However, it was discovered that there is still some outstanding work needed but in view of winter conditions, the Water board expect these to be in the spring/summer months and are being asked for updates. This does not impact planning issues on new developments in the area, as the pipe has capacity but is in need of the completion of the repairs.

### **Clerk's Report**

**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 December 2019 meeting. Amended planning application again refused at tonight's 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 at November 2019 meeting. Application refused 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 put on works schedule w/c 27.1.2020.

**Play area** – refurbishment of playhouse, decision needed on seat in playhouse and part replacement of play area fence. Quote received from Mon CC - 6 metres of green

galvanised and powder coated bowtop steel fencing supplied and installed including the removal of old chain link and timber fencing Total of £323.00 + vat. Council agreed to accept this quote.

**Removal of hedge on Earlswood Road** – e-mail from Jim Keech, Tree Officer, Mon CC on 18/12/19 to advise that a grant has been approved by WG from the Small Grants Project to replant the hedge by the end of April 2020.

**Mobile Post Office** –. All installations for wifi signal improvement completed. Clerk contacted Caldicot Post Office on 11.12.19 to request further site visit – will not be made until the New Year. Chased up 7.1.20 and 21.1.2020.

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

### **My Monmouthshire reports**

**Potholes** - Springhill, Earlswood – Report No: 4905227 – work completed.

Montrose, Earlswood – Report No: 4905247 – work completed.

Opposite The Huntsman Hotel on the Usk Road – Report No: 4905260 – completed.

**Damaged road sign** at West End, Earlswood – Report No: 5020558.

### **Minute 3935 - To receive an update on Land Registry boundaries for St Thomas a Beckett church and the Tredegar Arms pub.**

Council noted the Land Registry boundary for the church and having confirmation of the boundary, agreed to write to the owners of the Tredegar Arms asking them to undertake a structural survey regarding the poor state of repair of the wall surrounding the car park.

**Minute 3936 - To receive a report on planting of trees in the community.** Councillor Smith Haddon reported that 105 saplings had been received from The Woodland Trust (whips to be received in September) and that she and Mrs Ford were currently contacting local landowners requesting sites for planting. Planting is likely to take place at the Green Lane, Blethyn Close, possibly the corner of the recreation field and the SAMFAL fields. Cllr Smith-Haddon and Clerk to meet to draft an environmental policy.

### **Minute 3937 - To consider manning a stall at the summer fete.**

This item to be considered at the informal meeting on Friday 28.2.2020.

### **Minute 3938 - To consider the continued rental of Earlswood Recreation Field.**

Councillors considered the current Annual Agreement and agreed to offer the field to the current tenant for 2020/21 at the same annual rate of £295.00. (Agreement and rate to be reviewed in 2021).

### **Minute 3939 - To plan the VE75 Bank Holiday weekend (8/9/10 May 2020).**

This item to be considered at the informal meeting on Friday 28.2.2020.

### **Minute3940 - Items of local concern** (information only)

- It was reported that there is a parking problem on Sunday mornings from 10am – 12 noon when football matches are held on the recreation field. The Chair of the football club is mindful of the situation and it was suggested he ask permission to park on the green lane or the Tredegar Arms car park. He offered to cut the grass on the field when required.
- Heddlu Bach – children aged 9 – 11 years that are engaged in community issues. Cllr Grose to check via Governors whether the school is involved with this organisation.
- Green Valley is a community organisation in the valleys that advises on reducing carbon emissions, community energy co-ops and community owned car points.
- Cllr Butterworth reported back on a planning application process training session that he attended and advised that some councils have a separate planning sub-committee that meets separately but reports back to the full council and some

councils have two meetings a month to get through the paperwork.

**Minute 3941 - To receive correspondence as per attached schedule.**

Council noted receipt of the following correspondence:

24.1.20 – letter and Annual Review document from Wales Air Ambulance informing of their work and requesting financial support.

30.1.20 – e-mail from Mynyddbach resident requesting a dog waste bin on the green at Mynyddbach. Council agreed to the provision of one additional bin.

**Monmouthshire County Council**

23.1.20 - Letter from Mon CC, informing of the decision to close Mounon House Special School, Chepstow on 31.8.2020.

**One Voice Wales**

29.1.20 - Information from OVW on the results of Mon CC's boundary review and requesting a response on whether this Council is satisfied with the results or wish for a fresh review to be carried out. Council agreed that they would not pursue a fresh review, but were not satisfied with the potential reduction of Community Councillors from the current 10 to 7.

**Welsh Government**

**20.1.20 - Information regarding proposed SuDS amendments:**

a) SUSTAINABLE DRAINAGE SYSTEMS (SUDS): PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE SUSTAINABLE DRAINAGE (ENFORCEMENT) ORDER 2018.

b) SUSTAINABLE DRAINAGE SYSTEMS (SUDS): PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE SUSTAINABLE DRAINAGE (APPROVAL AND ADOPTION) (WALES) ORDER 2018

**WG Consultations**

- Technical Advice Note 15: Development, flooding and coastal erosion.
- Mandatory reporting of online National Reading and Numeracy Test results.
- Changes to disabled students' allowances
- Managing the Transition from Children's to Adult's Healthcare Services.

**Minute 3942 - Date of next meeting Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 at 7.00pm** at the Recreation Hall, Shirenewton.

Cllrs I Martin and J McKenna gave their apologies for the meeting on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April as they will be unable to attend.

Informal meeting to be held on Friday 28 February at 2pm at the Garden Centre. Points for consideration:

- a) Manning a stall at the fete
- b) Planning the VE 75 Day celebrations (8 – 10 May)
- c) Planning a hard path around the recreation field.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35 pm.