

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 2nd March 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, Mrs B Price.

Also in attendance:

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:

Councillor 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.

New neighbourhood sergeant Damien Waite will be attending the Council meeting on 2.6.20.

31/1/2020- Report of 2 outbuildings broken into overnight at a property on Bluebell road. The outbuildings were searched and items including a gas diving cylinder, a grinder and a router were amongst items stolen.

31/1/2020- Report of off road bikes in Wentwood in the Hendre Lane area.

Two reports of off road bikes using a bridleway near West End in Earlswood. Patrols have been made in the area when able to try to deter this. We are hoping that the highways and partner agencies will put up new signage so that it is signposted as a bridleway to help deter this activity.

13/2/2020 – Report of a 2 vehicle, minor injuries rtc on the Cwm Mill to Shirenewton road. The road was blocked for a couple of hours while the incident was dealt with and vehicles recovered.

19/2/2020 – Report of lead flashing stolen from part of the roof overnight at Shirenewton Primary School. This caused extensive water damage to the ceiling and classroom below.

20/2/2020 – 1 call to Brookacre.

Minute 3943 - To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in listed business.

County 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 3944- To confirm and sign minutes of the meeting held on 3rd February 2020.

The minutes were confirmed as a true record and duly signed by the Chair.

Minute 3945 - To consider planning matters.

1. DM/2020/00137 Pantycosyn Farm, Earlswood

Change of use from a barn conversion holiday let to a single dwelling.

Council noted that there would be no change to the exterior of the building and that parking arrangements were already in place. Council further noted and fully supported the applicant's Supporting Statement that the application was 'for change of use for the unit so that it can be occupied as a long-term short-hold let by local people' and felt that this should remain as a condition if the application is approved. This Council recommended approval. (Voting: 6 for/1 abstention).

2. Town and Country Planning Act 1990 – Section 257 Pre-Order Consultation. Revision B Public Footpaths Nos. 34 (part) & 30(part), Shirenewton

Council considered a revised schedule and plan detailing the proposed changes of Revision B from Mr S Pritchard, Footpaths Officer at Mon CC, which included an additional handrail and a small section of new fence. Council had no further comment to make on the revised proposal, and advised that it was not aware of any equipment that would be affected by statutory undertakers but suggested contacting Mon CC or the applicant.

Council also noted the contents of an e-mail on this subject received on 2.3.2020 from a local resident.

Minute 3946 – Finance. To approve items listed for payment –

Expenditure (by Standing Order)

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

Items for payment

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount £	Vat £	Total	Cheque No.
Mrs H Counsell	Expenses - February	51.80		51.80	101556
Cllr J Smith-Haddon	Bee friendly signage	12.00		12.00	101557
Merlin Waste Invoice	Bin emptying (Feb)	37.50		37.50	101558
One Voice Wales	Subscription 2020/21	167.00		167.00	101559

Council agreed to make all payments as listed.

It was noted that Merlin Waste had advised of a price increase from April 1st, 2020. The cost of emptying bins will rise by 15p per empty to **£3.90** per bin (one additional bin ordered, to be sited at Blethyn Close, Mynyddbach).

Minute 3947– To consider matters discussed at the informal meeting on 28.2.2020.

- **To plan the VE75 Bank Holiday weekend (8/9/10 May 2020).** Council agreed to hold a picnic/barbecue on the Recreation Field on Bank Holiday Friday 8th May. Clerk to book the hall and field and, with Cllr Smith-Haddon, to contact local organisations that may wish to be involved.
- **To hold a stall at the summer fete in June** – agreed, Clerk to book.
- **Keep Wales Tidy Spring Clean (20 March – 13 April)** – agreed, Clerk to contact

Scout group.

- **Local Places for Nature package** (closing date 6.3.20) – Council agreed not to take this up at the present time.

- **Hard path around recreation field.** Responses from GAVO and M Moran at Mon CC offering support with design, planning and grant applications. Recreation Association Committee to be asked to be involved with this project.

- **Recreation Association Committee** – Council was concerned at the number of likely resignations from the Committee at the AGM on 19th March. Cllr B Price to attend the AGM as the Council representative and report back. Clerk to obtain a copy of the Recreation Association lease.

- **Employer pension contributions** – the LGPS Pension Fund manager had made contact to advise of a deficit in payments since 2015. An agreement had been reached with the Head of Finance at Mon CC at that time that this Council could pay the same employer pension rate as that paid for Mon CC staff. Clerk to request a breakdown of the Actuary's calculations and arrange a meeting between this Council, the Pension Fund and Head of Finance at Mon CC.

- **Mon CC's RLDP Preferred strategy** – C Cllr Brown had copies of the strategy document and advised that by 2033 Mon CC aimed to:

- Build 7483 – 8232 new homes
- Of which 2115 to be affordable homes
- Also increase jobs by 4695.
- Council noted that no infrastructure was mentioned, also it would cause an urban sprawl from Chepstow to Caldicot.

Minute 3948 - To receive monthly reports from the County Councillor and the Clerk.

County Councillor's Report –

County Councillor Brown advised:

- **County Council**

County Council on the 5 March 2020 will consider a number of reports which can be seen from the general following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MIId=3881>

- **Budget**

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. It can be seen from the following link how Monmouthshire county council received the lowest funding increase out of all of the 22 local authorities in Wales from the Welsh Government and the Minister refused the request for a funding floor:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/documents/s24149/6b.%2020200305%20Council%20-%20Council%20Tax%20Resolution%20and%20Budget%20report%202020-21%20-%20Appendix%203b%20Final%20Settleme.pdf>

Details of the budget amounts for each council tax band for the County Council plus Town/Community Council plus Police and Crime Commissioner (Policing precept) can be found in the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/documents/s24147/6.%2020200305%20Council%20-%20Council%20Tax%20Resolution%20and%20Budget%20report%202020-21%20-%20covering%20report.pdf>

- **Planning- The next Local Development Plan – LDP**

The report on the preferred growth strategy for the whole of Monmouthshire for the

next LDP- Local Development Plan will be considered by Council on the 5th March 2020. This report can be found at item 11 with additional appendices to it. It includes looking at potential spatial developments at Bayfields Chepstow, 2 areas close to the High Beech roundabout Chepstow and development at Severnside, which also impacts the Chepstow area.

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MIId=3881>

It is expected that there will be a 6 week consultation on this preferred growth strategy which is scheduled to start on the 9 March 2020 until the 22 April 2020.

There will also be a local public consultation meeting at Chepstow Drill Hall on the 24th of March from 1pm to 7pm.

The Council report is putting forward a growth option of 8,232 homes, which means finding sites to an extra 3,568 homes as shown on table 5 (see pages 64 to 66, of the following link). It says it will create 4,695 jobs but there is no evidence as to where the jobs will come from. SCC noted that there was no mention of infrastructure at this stage, it may cause an urban sprawl from Chepstow to Caldicot.

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/documents/s24162/5a.%20Appendix%201%20RLDP%20Preferred%20Strategy%20March%202020.pdf>

It is based on option 5A+ which is a growth option which aims to increase the number of young people in the county. However, it is not clear where these young people will come from since the whole of the UK has an ageing population. A comparison is made with the younger average age in Cardiff but no account is taken of the fact that this is a city rather than a rural local authority and has a high non- working younger student population.

In addition the latest demographics for 2018 can be found at the following link showing that the population projection between now and 2033 shows a decline in the population numbers for Monmouthshire.

<https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Projections/Local-Authority/2018-based>

The revised timetable for the next LDP can be found on page 7 of the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MIId=3881>

However, the amended National Welsh Development Framework for the whole Wales is not expected to be published until 20 April 2020 (with the final version published in October 2020 following scrutiny by the National Welsh Assembly). However, it is difficult to see how this fits in with the draft national development framework in view of the green belt recommendations.

The initial draft National Development Framework for Wales also did not see Monmouthshire as a growth area and the draft as opposed to the final version can be found at the following link:

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/Draft%20National%20Development%20Framework.pdf>

However, the evidence for the draft NDF was published in February 2020:

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-02/evidence-compedium-national-development-framework-2020-2040.pdf>

The consultation itself is expected to be on the Monmouthshire County Council website from the 9th of March 2020.

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 – Clerk to request update.

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 – quote received from Mon CC for 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 resolved to accept this quote.

Installation of steps alongside The Spout – quote of £250 received from Mr J Saysell to install steps at the left hand side of The Spout. Council resolved to accept this quote. £50 to be contributed by WI.

Mobile Post Office –. All installations for wifi signal improvement completed. Clerk contacted Caldicot Post Office several times and signal successfully tested on Weds 26th Feb. Good mobile phone signal and card machine in Mobile PO fully functioning. Hope to have the service available 'in a few weeks'.

Dog Fouling – additional dog waste bin requested for Mynyddbach. Clerk met with S Parkinson, Environmental Health, Mon CC on 3.3.20 to agree location, after talking with local dog walkers, this was agreed at Blethyn Close. Clerk to attend Dog Fouling meeting at County Hall, Usk on 5.3.20.

Asset maintenance – work has started on the repair of the squeeze belly gates at the war memorial, also provision of additional handrail at the top of the funeral path.

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

My Monmouthshire reports

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

Minute 3949 - To receive and approve a Financial Risk Assessment and updated Standing Orders and Financial Regulations for adoption at the Annual Meeting in May. Council received and approved the above documents.

Minute 3950 - To consider the continued rental of Earlswood Recreation Field. The current Annual Agreement was reviewed and updated for 2020 and it was agreed to investigate further changes to the agreement prior to its expiry next year. Agenda in January 2021.

Minute 3951 - Items of local concern (information only)

- Planting of trees – Cllr Smith-Haddon to produce a map showing where it is intended to plant 129 whips.
- Highways reports – slab of tarmac the size of a table lifted up at Brookacre;

potholes all the way from Brookacre to Penycaemawr; road washed away completely on one side (10' x 3') near Well House, Earlswood. Clerk to report all.

Minute 3952 - To receive correspondence as per attached schedule.

Council noted receipt of the following correspondence:

Monmouthshire County Council

Notification of temporary road closure for Dwr Cymru repairs at Bluebell Road, Earlswood from 16 – 20 April 2020.

Welsh Government Consultations

- Charitable rates relief for schools and hospitals in Wales.
- Air Quality and Soundscape: Review of TAN 11.
- Permitted development rights for allotment holders.
- Amendments to the Organ Donation Regulations.

Minute 3953 - Date of next meeting Monday 6th April 2020 at 7.00pm at the Recreation Hall, Shirenewton. Cllrs I Martin and J McKenna gave their apologies for this meeting as they will be unable to attend. Clerk to check meeting will be quorate nearer the date.

Informal meeting to be held on Friday 27 March at 2pm at the Garden Centre. Points for consideration:

- VE75 Day celebrations on Bank Holiday Friday 8 May 2020
- Keep Wales Tidy Litterpick
- Hard path around recreation field

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.