

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 6th July 2020 at 7.00 pm
by remote attendance due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Present:

Councillors: Mr P Butterworth (Chair), Mr I Martin, County Councillor L Brown,
Mrs J McKenna.

Also in attendance:

Mrs H Counsell (Clerk to the Council)

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for their remote attendance. He had intended inviting four applicants for co-opted vacancies on the Council to observe the meeting but unfortunately, due to technical issues with Microsoft Teams, they were unable to be present.

1. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from:

Councillor Dr J Grose (due to technical issues with Microsoft Teams).

2. To accept the resignation of Cllr J Smith-Haddon from 2 June 2020 and record the death of Cllr K Morton on 24.6.20.

Council reluctantly accepted the resignation of Mrs Smith-Haddon from 2.6.20. The Clerk had informed Democratic Services at Mon CC who had advertised the vacancy with no applications being received. The vacancy is now able to be filled by co-option.

Council had sent condolences to Mrs Morton on the sad loss of Cllr Ken Morton on 24.6.20. Members had been pleased to see Cllr Morton when he attended June meeting remotely. He was the longest standing member of the Council and will be greatly missed.

3. To consider applications for vacancies on the Council

Four applications had been received and it was hoped that the applicants could attend this meeting remotely, however due to technical issues it was not possible. Councillors Butterworth, McKenna and Martin to meet informally while socially distancing with the applicants on the recreation field on Monday/Tuesday the 13/14 July at 7pm.

4. To receive the monthly police report.

A new style report was received this month which Councillors felt was more proactive and provided more information.

Crime

22/06 /20 – Break in at a farm in Shirenewton – CCTV captured images but no one identified at this point.

Public Safety – A few calls for people being scammed over the phone across South Monmouthshire. We can't stress enough the importance of not giving personal information over the phone. If you have any concerns in relation to your bank account being hacked, or money supposedly being removed from your account. Hang up the call and ring your bank directly they can advise you. Never given information to someone who rings you out of the blue. For more advice please contact our cyber Team at cybercrimeunit@gwent.pnn.police.uk or check the Action Fraud website at www.actionfraud.police.uk or ring them on 0300 123 2040 if you think you have been scammed.

Operations - Police conducted an off road bike operation in Wentwood on the 29th of June, where the local Neighbourhood Team and eight special officers were based in the area for the day to catch people using off road bikes for the day, one person was warned and a number of others made off from us.

5. Minute 3971 - To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in listed business.

County Cllr L Brown took no part in the discussion or voting on the planning applications as she is a member of Mon CC's Planning Committee. She also declared an interest in Item 11 – applications for grant aid due to, on occasion, preaching at the local chapels.

6. Minute 3972 – To consider the appointment of a Vice Chair

It was agreed to leave this appointment vacant until the Annual Meeting planned for September 2020.

7. Minute 3973 - To confirm and sign minutes of the meeting held on 1st June 2020.

These minutes were confirmed as a true record by e-mail response, to be signed by the Chair when draft confirmed.

8. Minute 3974 - To consider planning matters.

DM/2020/00645 6 Tan House Court, Shirenewton

Demolition of small side extension. Construction of extensions on front and side elevations and internal elevations.

Council noted that whilst the new gable roof is to be tiled to match the existing roof it is unclear what the new front elevation materials are to be; the drawings imply some sort of cladding to the new bedroom section and obscure glazing to the front door section. This would not however deviate significantly from the appearance of the other dwellings in Tan House Court, and the applicant site sits outside the conservation area. It was felt that the proposal was not out of keeping with the existing street scene and the recommendation was for approval. (Voting: for 3/against 0).

DM/2020/00624 Woodland View, Old Road, Penywaemawr

Proposed single storey extensions to provide additional bedroom.

Council noted the previous planning applications for this property which enlarged it from one, to two and now to three bedrooms. Whilst the significant enlargement would ordinarily be a concern to this Council, the proposal is both modest and sympathetic and has minimal impact on the local scene. Council also noted that there is adequate on-site parking space for vehicles.

Council would recommend a planning condition that Footpath 184 which runs through the site is kept open and accessible to the public at all times. (Voting: for 3/against 0).

9. Minute 3975 – Finance

To approve the following payments:

Expenditure (by Standing Order)

Clerk's salary/allowances -	June 2020	£659.02
Clerk's Pension (Council & Clerk's contribution) -	June 2020	£236.95
(Includes £58.33 towards £700 pa LGPS pension deficit)		

Payments

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount £	Vat £	Total	Cheque No.
Mrs H Counsell	Expenses – June 2020	43.89	0	43.89	101573
Mrs H Counsell	Summer planting costs	65.00	0	65.00	101574
Merlin Waste Invoice 4155	Bin emptying - June	39.00	0	39.00	101575

Council approved all payments as listed.

10. To receive information from the Clerk on online banking.

As Cllr J Smith-Haddon left the Council on 2.6.20, it was agreed that Cllr J McKenna be an additional signature on the bank mandate, Clerk to arrange the paperwork, also to investigate the process for online banking and arrange a meeting with bank staff.

11. Minute 3976 – To consider applications for grant aid from the 2020/21 budget.

The following grants were approved:

Shirenewton PCC - £700
 Shirenewton PCC - £50 (Carols around the Tree)
 Recreation Association - £400
 Local History Society - £100
 Earlswood Hall – None requested.
 Earlswood Valley/Hope Chapels - £120
 St Peters, Newchurch - £200
 Shirenewton Playgroup - £300
 Monmouthshire County CAB - £100
 Shirenewton Toddlers - £95
 ShAMBLE Illumination Project - £130

12. Minute 3977 - Code of Conduct consultation on a review by the Local Government Association – deferred to next meeting.

13. Minute 3978 – Reports from the County Councillor and the Clerk

County Councillor Louise Brown advised the following:

Garden Waste Collection

It is now possible for new customers to purchase garden waste bag permits at £18.00 a bag and for existing customers to purchase additional bags. The situation, at the start of July is the same as the June report with regard to the booking system for residents with hazardous waste only at the Household Recycling centres. Any updates can be found on the Monmouthshire County Council website.

Garden Waste information:

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/recycling-and-waste/garden-waste/>

Household Waste Recycling Information:

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/recycling-and-waste/household-waste-recycling-centres/>

There is a FAQs section on recycling and waste at the following link, including where recycling bags can be obtained:

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/recycling-and-waste/recycling-corona-virus-faqs/>

Libraries

A new click and collect booking system for books is being provided, as well as residents being able to access a digital library. Details can be found in the following link:

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/2020/06/council-launches-new-request-collect-library->

[service/](#)

Woods

National Resources Wales (NRW) have opened up some of the closed car parks to allow residents to exercise outdoors on a local basis, updates can be found on their website; <https://naturalresources.wales/days-out/coronavirus-open-and-closed-page/?lang=en>

Monmouthshire County Council Revised Local Development Plan

The public consultation on this revised LDP was postponed due to the Covid-19 and no decision has been made yet on when there will be a revised closing date.

However, as indicated in the report to Cabinet on the 17th of June 2020, the intention is to keep the vision, objectives and strategy exactly the same despite the likely economic downturn and job losses as a result of Covid-19.

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MId=4204>

For example, no amendments are being proposed to any of the issues, which are all seen to be still relevant:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/documents/s25979/Appendix%20%20RLDP%20Issues%20Revisited.pdf>

Clerk's Report:

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 – Play area locked, hall and car park still closed to the public because of the current pandemic. Permission given to Mon CC on 8.6.20 to undertake annual inspection. Checked with police and Mon CC on 9.6.20 when car park and play area can reopen as Playgroup hoping to restart in July. Mon CC to produce Covid-19 signage for all play areas in the County, not likely until end of July.

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 contributed towards costs by WI. Work still in hand.

Asset maintenance – work still ongoing on the repair of the squeeze belly gates at the war memorial, should be completed during July. Also further small set of railings to be installed at the Funeral Path to fill a gap in the railings.

Mobile Post Office – mobile service no longer running in current COVID-19 lockdown.

Footpath 30 – Earlswood Road to Newton Manor – poor condition of top part of path reported to Mon CC Footpaths Officer on 16.3.20. Report No: 09961. Footpaths Officer agreed and will arrange repair. Checked 23.6.20 - not taken place as yet.

Footpath 35 – Eddystone/The Chantry – reported electric fence across path 27.5.20. Report no: 16131. Enforcement Officer visited 11.6.20, Clerk checked 24.6.20, obstruction removed.

Replacement hedge at Mynders Farm – response from WG on 9.6.20, the work has been give an extension to September 2020 because of the current pandemic.

Wales Regional Training Seminar 23.9.20 at Coldra Court Hotel – postponed until

22.9.2021 because of pandemic. Registered and paid £90 in May 2020, Council agreed to roll over the payment

Noticeboard – Council agreed to order a replacement for Shirenewton from Earth Anchors at a cost of £350 - £500, including installation.

14. Minute 3979 - Items of local concern –

- Concern was reported on Facebook regarding dog fouling on the Coxes Well footpath to school. Cllr McKenna to add a post reminding dog walkers to use the bins provided.

- It was suggested that gates be added to the entrance of the Recreation Hall car park, but this suggestion was not approved.

15. Minute 3980 - To receive correspondence as per attached schedule.

Council noted receipt of the following correspondence:

Covid 19 arrangements during lockdown - Various information, amended regulations and guidelines on holding virtual meetings, finance and governance during the coronavirus outbreak from the Welsh Government, Wales Audit Office, One Voice Wales and departments of Mon CC.

30.6.20 - E-mail from resident regarding Mon CC's draft Local Development Plan and its effect on the community if the five locations put forward for development are accepted. Flyers are being distributed to householders suggesting they contact Mon CC, the Community Council or their County Councillor with their views. (Circ 30.6.20). Council felt it preferable for residents to either register, or submit responses to Mon CC during the revised consultation period.

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15.6.20 – e-mail from C O'Connor, Head of Planning with information on the delivery of the Planning service and working arrangements during the coronavirus pandemic lockdown.

Welsh Government Consultations

- Changes to listed building consent applications
- Active travel guidance
- Relaxation of school reporting requirements

16. Minute 3981 – Change of date of next meeting to Thursday 6th August 2020 at 7.00pm at the Recreation Hall, Shirenewton if the lockdown is lifted, if not, the meeting will be by Councillors remote attendance.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.