

## SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the remote Council meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 8.15 pm

### **Present:**

**Councillors:** Mr P Butterworth (Chair), Mrs J Mckenna, Mrs L Brown, Mrs E Chapman and Mrs E Wixcey.

### **Also in attendance:**

Mrs H Counsell (Clerk to the Council)

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and apologised for having to hold another remote meeting because of the Covid-19 pandemic, he thanked all present for their attendance.

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

Councillors I Martin, J Grose and because of technical difficulties with Microsoft Teams, Cllr K Dunn.

### **2. To receive applications for a co-opted vacancy in the Earlswood ward and an advertised vacancy in the Mynyddbach ward.**

One expression of interest had recently been received for the Earlswood vacancy, Chair and Councillors to arrange to meet the applicant informally during September and invite as an observer to the October meeting (if public), with a view to co-option if suitable.

Democratic Services, Mon CC, had confirmed that there were no applications for the advertised vacancy in Mynyddbach, therefore the previously interviewed Ms E Nigogosian was co-opted to fill the vacancy. Clerk to inform Democratic Services and visit Cllr Nigogosian with relevant paperwork for signature.

### **3. Issues raised by members of the public**

There were no further issues.

### **4. To receive the monthly police report.**

#### **Crime - 14/07 – Burglary in Earlswood**

**29/07 – Shed Break in Shirenewton**

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**03/08 – Animal Stolen from Farm in Shirenewton**

**07/08 – Theft of trailer in Mathern**

**19/08 – Assault in the Earlswood area**

**25/08 – Theft of aggregate in Wentwood**

#### **Public Safety –**

The police cannot 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 give information to someone who rings you out of the blue. For more advice please contact our cyber Team at [cybercrimeunit@gwent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:cybercrimeunit@gwent.pnn.police.uk) or

check the Action Fraud website at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or ring them on 0300 123 2040 if you think you have been scammed.

### **Operations**

The police conducted a number off-road bike operation in Wentwood during this period, where the local Neighbourhood team from South Monmouthshire and Alway teamed up with specials to try and catch people using off road bikes.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

A lot of the Anti-social Behaviour calls have been Covid-19 related and the police are warning, educating and issuing fixed penalties where appropriate, as well as off road bikes in the Wentwood Area.

### **Covid 19**

There is no limit on the number of people who can be in an extended household but only two households can form part of the extended household. All the occupants of the two households will be part of the extended household, no matter how many people are in either household.

The key rules are that

- Up to four households are able to join together to form an extended household. This means all the people living in these separate households become part of one extended household for the purposes of the coronavirus restrictions.**

- Once you have agreed and joined an extended household, you cannot change this arrangement.**

- always observe social distancing**

- wash your hands regularly**

- work from home if you can**

**Stay at home if you or anyone you live with has symptoms.**

Your Voice Update - The Your Voice process has now closed and the police have processed the results. They will be in touch with partner agencies over the next few weeks to discuss the problems raised by the Community and will include them in the action week.

#### **5. Minute 4004 - To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in listed business.**

Item 7, Planning – C Cllr Brown took no part in this item as she is a member of Mon CC Planning Committee.

#### **6. Minute 4005 - To confirm and sign minutes of the meeting held on 6 August 2020.**

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

#### **7. Minute 4006 - To consider planning matters.**

##### **1. DM/2020/01053 The Larches, Usk Road, Mynyddbach**

Proposed demolition of an existing dwelling and garage and construction of a new replacement self-build dwelling and detached garage.

Council noted that the site sits below the B4555 close to the Carpenters Arms and on the outside of the bend where the topography falls away from the road, and the site is well screened from the road by trees and other green matter. The property itself currently

comprises a typical post war bungalow and garage constructed from rendered block and brick with various gable elevations. The roof is concrete tiles and the windows are white upvc double glazed units. Overall it is of no architectural value and by today's standards is not an energy efficient building.

The applicant wishes to replace the bungalow and garage with a new construction - an oak framed building by Border Oak. This is a two storey building with dormer windows, exposed oak beams and rendered and brick walls. The proposed double garage will be in similar materials. The house will be aligned to take advantage of the sun's energy which necessitates a revised layout for approaching the house. Sewerage is to be treated on site. The applicant says there are no trees or hedges affected by the proposed development. A bat survey confirms there are Lesser Horseshoe and Common Pipistrelle bats at varying locations on the existing dwelling requiring mitigation requirements.

MCC planning policy allows for replacement dwellings where there is no architectural significance and the design of the new dwelling is of a form, bulk, size and scale that respects its setting.

There is a third party comment that the track down to the site, which is also footpath 16 is incorrectly shown as being within the boundary. The footpath gives access to the Woodland Trust Whitemill Common and the redundant Whitemill Water Treatment Works.

Recommendation : Approval (Voting: 3 for/1 abstention).

**2. DM/2020/00861 Bluebell Farm, Blackbird Farm Road, Earlswood**

Proposed alterations and single storey extension.

Council noted that Bluebell Farm is tucked away on the far (northwesterly) side of the Castroggi valley and approached by its own drive. The house is a large two storey building and currently has a glass conservatory on the rear elevation off the games room. The proposal is to replace this conservatory with a larger more permanent single storey addition approx 6x3.5m and opening up the games room to provide kitchen dining and sitting area. The flat roof is to be manufactured slate and the walls finished in render and stonework in keeping with the existing building. The total increase in ground floor area is not given but is estimated at less than 20%.

As the roof is solid (apart from some velux units the light impact on nocturnal fauna should be minimal, though inevitably there will be some spillage from the large expanse of patio doors.

Footpath 156 runs through the site but does not appear to be affected by the application.

Recommendation: Approval (Voting: 4 for).

**8. Minute 4007 - Finance - To approve the following payments:**

**Expenditure (by Standing Order)**

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

**Payments**

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount £	Vat £	Total	Cheque No.
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Mrs H Counsell	Expenses - August	74.55		74.55	101589
Distinct IT Invoice: 19661	Remote amendment of e-mail addresses	60.00	12.00	72.00	101590
Distinct IT Invoice: 19851	Website/email hosting and domain renewal	141.99	28.40	170.39	“ “
Blitz Media Ltd Invoice: B104345	COVID-19 signage for play area	27.50	5.50	33.00	101591
Merlin Waste Invoice: 4231	Bin emptying (July)	39.00		39.00	101592

Council resolved to make all payments as listed.

Council noted that the Clerk had responded to a request for further information from the external auditor.

Also noted was the receipt of £661.57 from HMRC, a credit of PAYE overpayments to 31.3.20.

Council further noted receipt of the 2020/21 NJC National Salary Award, effective from 1 April 2020. Clerk to calculate back pay from 1<sup>st</sup> April and amend bank Standing Order forms for signature at next meeting.

**9. Minute 4008 – To receive and approve the quarterly financial review (April – June 2020)**

The report was approved and will be signed by Cllr McKenna, being neither Chair nor a bank signatory.

**10. Minute 4009 – To receive the Annual Play Inspection Report and information on costings for replacement play equipment.**

Council noted from the report that Mon CC is to fund the adjustment of pinch points in the play house; that the bark needs topping up beneath the climbing frame and that the trees overhanging the swings need cutting back. The Clerk reported that the landowner is happy for the trees to be cut back.

The Clerk had met with Mr J Wassall of Mon CC regarding the placement and costings of play equipment and after some deliberation Council decided that as no major maintenance was due, not to purchase new equipment this financial year but to carry over the available £5,400 to next year when it would be possible to purchase a more suitable piece of equipment with the increased funding.

**11. Minute 4010 - To consider taking part in the Keep Wales Tidy Litter Pick to take place between 11 – 27 September).**

Due to the current Covid-19 restrictions and the likelihood of residents not wishing to take part, it was agreed not to join this year. Council agreed that activities need to be planned for when the current restrictions are lifted.

**12. Minute 4011 - To consider a response from Mon CC on traffic issues.**

Council debated a response and their disappointment following site meetings in Shirenewton at the lack of positive assistance on traffic issues over a long period from Mon CC.

The latest response being – ‘The traffic team are not aware of any reported accidents at this location (Shirenewton village centre) and with this scheme being cited as a good example to encourage better driver behaviour and safer environment for pedestrians we do not propose any further review or changes to this arrangement at this time.

With regard to the new proposed 20mph limit, I can report that we are still awaiting WG to introduce the new legislation however indications are that this will be 2022.' (Note: now 2023).

County Cllr Brown advised that the proposed Welsh Government 20 mph speed limit will only apply to villages with street lights, villages without street lights had not been taken into account. She further suggested that when restrictions are eased in 2021 this would need to be considered further.

### **13. Minute 4012 - To consider a response to the Boundary Commission consultation regarding electoral arrangements for Monmouthshire (closing date 28.9.20).**

As there was minimal change to the Shirenewton community boundary, Council agreed that no response was required.

### **11. Minute 4013 – Reports from the County Councillor and the Clerk**

**County Councillor Louise Brown advised the following:**

#### **Residents views on the Future of Garden Waste Collection**

An online survey with closing date of the 25 September 2020 has been sent to customers who use the chargeable garden waste collection service due to the cost of it being more than is charged. The survey mentions wheelie bins which have 3 times the capacity of garden waste bags being used on a fortnightly collection rather than weekly basis. The survey link can be found here:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=eQBnLCzFs0uzytjQ8ba31Qs94Av2qd5PpArae\\_B-yNNUOUtEUFo2SVRYTFZKNVc2NEVZVIJVM1VZUS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=eQBnLCzFs0uzytjQ8ba31Qs94Av2qd5PpArae_B-yNNUOUtEUFo2SVRYTFZKNVc2NEVZVIJVM1VZUS4u)

#### **Monmouthshire County Council Revised Local Development Plan**

The consultation on the preferred strategy has been postponed due to Covid19, it was expected that a report would go to the County Council in September 2020 with a new delivery timetable to be agreed with the Welsh Government, but this has now been amended to later in 2020:

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/planning-policy-current-consultations/>

#### **National Development Framework Plan**

It is expected that a new draft of the NDF will be laid before the Senedd for a 60 day scrutiny period from the 21 September. The NDF will be renamed the **Future Wales- the National Plan 2040**, following consultation with children and young people.

There will be a revised timetable for public participation as a result of Covid 19 found in the following link with the current expectation of the final version being published in February 2021:

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-09/national-development-framework-statement-of-public-participation.pdf>

In the meantime the Minister has issued the following statement which links into the Building Better Places document:

<https://gov.wales/national-development-framework-ndf-update>

The reason the NDF is important is because revised LDP's should follow this National Plan.

#### **County Council**

The County Council on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2020 is covering the confirming of the appointment of councillors to council committees and outside bodies, as well as an audit annual report:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MIId=4221>

#### **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. Residents to be asked if they would rather have a grit bin instead. Clerk to cost one.

**Installation of steps alongside The Spout** – work completed.

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

Agreed at August meeting to replace planter at war memorial, replacement to be made locally. Replacements last summer cost £50 each.

**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, reminded 23.7.20.

**Wall at Tredegar Arms Car Park** – concern expressed from local resident at the dangerous condition of the wall, the Community Council has Land Registry map which proves ownership and has written to the TA tenants drawing their attention to its need for repair, also to the owners, the EI Group plc at Solihull, with no response. Emailed M Hand at Mon CC for support on 1.9.20.

The Chair reported that the tenants had contacted a local builder to repair the wall on behalf of the brewery.

#### **Reports to My Monmouthshire**

6767581 – Rusted posts at 'Shirenewton' village sign, top of Mounon Court.

6767713 – Rusted posts at T Junction sign at war memorial.

6767802 – Rusted posts at T Junction sign at Blacksmiths lane – replaced 18.8.20.

6798902 – Grit bin at top of Mounon Court, below 'Shirenewton' village sign.

6837487 – Ash die back in trees along Crick/Shirenewton road.

6841876 – Request for road sweeper through Shirenewton and surrounding roads.

#### **14. Minute 4014 - Items of local concern –**

- Council was reminded by Cllr McKenna that as part of the VE75 celebrations (which did not take place in May because of the pandemic) it was agreed to plant an acorn to give a tree to each reception child in Shirenewton Primary School. Cllr McKenna has planted 40 trees in pots with the aim to give them to the children at the end of their first school year.

Cllr Grose, as school governor, to be asked to take this forward with the school and Emma Ford to be notified.

-Bridleway53/54/55 opposite Cock a Roosting reported as impassable as path filled with stone/rubble. Clerk to report.

#### **15. Minute 4015- To receive correspondence as per attached schedule.**

Council noted receipt of the following correspondence:

**Covid 19 arrangements during lockdown** - Various information and guidelines on holding remote/public meetings during the coronavirus outbreak from the Welsh Government and One Voice Wales.

#### **One Voice Wales**

E-mail from OVW with the first of 10 Best Practice Guides (Circulated 13.8.20)

## **WG Consultations**

- Mandatory quality standards for new homes.
- Ban on third party sales of puppies and kittens.
- Marine Strategy Part Two: UK proposed marine monitoring programmes.
- Representatives for young people, and parents of children, lacking mental capacity.

**16. Minute 4016** – The next meeting will be held on **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 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 9.50 pm.