

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the remote Council meeting held on Monday 2nd November 2020 at 7.00 pm

Present:

Councillors: Mr P Butterworth (Chair), Mrs J Mckenna, Mrs L Brown, Mr I Martin, Mr K Dunn, Mrs E Chapman, Mrs E Nigogosian and Mr A Williamson.

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, and welcomed Cllr Williamson to his first meeting.

1. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from:

There were none.

2. Issues raised by members of the public

There were no new issues.

3. To receive the monthly police report.

Operations

We continued to conduct a number Off Road Bike operations in Wentwood during this period, where the local Neighbourhood team from South Monmouthshire and The Rural Crime Team worked together with specials to try and catch people using off road bikes. A number of users were warned and educated.

Anti-Social Behaviour

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

We urge the public to continue to follow Government Guidelines, keep yourselves safe. As always any of the team can be contacted via email or our works phone numbers. Continue to report incidents to us via 101 or contact@gwent.pnn.police.uk

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus-firebreak-frequently-asked-questions>

Your Voice Update

As part of Our Your Voice patrols the team have over the last 6 months completed numerous local operations these have included Op Hook, Op Harley, Op Edward, Operations with Rural Crime Team and numerous actions days where the team have worked alongside Special Constables, ASU officers to target individuals for drug offences, driving offences. And also speed monitoring and enforcement checking over 550 vehicles over the last few months. The overall results have been:-

41 - Stop searches, 6 - Drug drivers arrested, 3 - Drink drivers, 5 – Breath Tests negative, 3 - Possession of class A&B, 7 - Cannabis warnings, 2 - Vehicles seized, 15 - Traffic Offences.

4. Minute 4026- 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.

5. Minute 4027 - To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 2020.

The minutes were confirmed as a true record.

6. Minute 4028 - To consider planning matters.

1. DM/2020/01414 Thorneycroft Cottage, Earlswood

Renovation of stone cottage and development of single storey rear extension to create a one bedroom holiday let.

Councillors considered planning policy H4, which states that outside town and village development boundaries, the provision of permanent serviced or self-catering visitor accommodation will only be permitted if it consists of the re-use and adaptation of existing buildings and the conversion of buildings for such uses complies with the criteria set out in Policy H4.

H4 stipulates that the conversion of buildings that are too small or are inappropriately located to provide appropriate standards of space and amenity for conversions to permanent residential accommodation will not be permitted save exceptionally where they are suitable for tourist accommodation. Where conversions to tourism accommodation are allowed then the occupancy of the building will be restricted in perpetuity to short stay tourist accommodation. In addition MCC will withdraw permitted development rights and would not expect to grant permission for any further extension or outbuilding such as a garage.

Councillors considered the impact the holiday let would have on traffic and noise, and the potential for economic benefit to our community, and whether the conversion sets an undesirable precedent given the innumerable derelict stone cottages in our area. It was also considered that the conversion would make the building presentable.

Recommendation: Approval with the following conditions:

- the site shall be occupied as holiday accommodation only,
- the site shall remain as holiday accommodation in perpetuity,
- permitted development rights are withdrawn.

(Voting: Approval with conditions (8 for).

2. DM 2020/01395 The Old Rectory, Crick Road, Shirenewton

Install 14 solar panels on the roof of detached garage.

There was no objection to this application. (Voting: 8 for).

3. DM/2020/014 Gaerllwyd Barn, Newchurch, Earlswood

To remove a section of hedgerow to gain access to the south side of the site to form a driveway. To remove approx a 2.5m opening from the centre of the stone wall to gain access to the courtyard from the driveway. To convert the garage area to form part living space. To install solar panels and thermal water storage panels into the roof.

Council felt that the permissions should have been sought under three separate applications, rather than grouped under one.

Council noted that planning consent was given in 2016 for residential conversion of these three derelict barns and the present application provided more detail on the proposed works and addressed some of the conditions in the original consent.

Council further noted the historical importance of this site, that the ground outside the proposed development should not be disturbed as a Neolithic chambered tomb is nearby which is a scheduled historic monument.

This application was approved subject to the recommendations made in the previous Highways report dated 4.1.16, plus specific permission from Highways regarding the use of the verge which is common land and not in the ownership of the applicant.

Council also felt that information given to Mon CC in responses to the 2015 application (DC/2015/00847) made on 9.9.15 and 20.10.15 still applies, as follows;

- the site is a medieval burial ground and the previous owners undertook a geo-survey which showed a large shadow (possibly a temple) under the barn;
- this is also a site of SSSI which restricts the ploughing/digging of the ground;
- the two wide verges on either side of the lane are currently common land and should remain so;
- the access to the property is across the verge, permission for this should be sought from Highways.

The Council felt that there are grounds for concern with this application and it should be given more careful consideration, with a watching brief from an organisation such as the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Society. (Voting: 8 for).

7. Minute 4029 - Finance –

Expenditure (by Standing Order)

Clerk's salary/allowances - October 2020 £679.17

Clerk's Pension (Council & Clerk's contribution) - October 2020 £241.79

(Includes £58.33 towards £700 pa LGPS pension deficit)

Payments

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount £	Vat £	Total	Cheque No.
Merlin Waste Invoices 4284/5/6	Bin emptying Aug/Sept/October	120.25		120.25	101601
Mrs H Counsell	Expenses - October	97.64		97.64	101602
Mon CC Invoice: 70169753	Grounds maintenance/ play inspection 2020	1202.79	240.56	1443.35	101603
Shirenewton Local History Society	Contribution to Martha Gellhorn blue plaque	75.00		75.00	101604

Council resolved to make all payments as listed.

- to receive the quarterly financial report (July – Sept 2020)

The report was received and approved, it will be signed by a Councillor who is neither Chair nor a bank mandate signatory.

- to receive and approve the Notice of Conclusion of Audit and Audit Report from external auditors.

Council received and approved the Notice of Conclusion of Audit and the 2019/20 Audit Report. It was noted that the Notice had been posted on the website and community noticeboards from 26th October 2020. It was further noted that the Annual Return was in accordance with proper practices and no matters came to the Auditors attention giving cause for concern. There was no requirement for an Action Plan to correct issues. Council thanked the Clerk for her work on the audit requirements.

8. Minute 4030 – Feedback from informal meeting held on 21.10.20.

- Traffic issues – Council noted the latest information from Highways at Mon CC, but agreed to continue with the 20mph campaign for Shirenewton and Earlswood villages and co-ordinate it with the national Road Safety Week from 16 – 22 November in order to prove the local support for this issue - Online petition to be developed; introductory article to be placed in the November issue of the Parish Magazine; banners and stickers to be purchased; support to be sought from the school, local organisations and individuals; article/photos to be developed for local press. Informal meeting agreed for 11.11.20 at 7pm.

- LDP – C Cllr Brown explained that she had asked questions in the County Council regarding the growth and spatial strategy which had been postponed due to Covid-19. Statistics for population growth are to be re-examined as the original ‘flat growth’ had changed to a 4000 increase to 2023. Further report to come on population projections and demography.

- Website accessibility updates – Cllr Butterworth explained that there is a statement of conformance on the website that it is not totally compliant but working towards it. He presented members with a redesigned demonstration website to show updates recently made to comply with accessibility requirements, this involved changes to contrast, colour, text font, using the tool ‘Site Improve’. The current Wordpress theme dictates the background colour, etc and changing the theme gives a different view of each page. Further updates to be made. Cllr Butterworth was thanked for his continuing work on the website.

-.No Cold Callers stickers – stickers had been received by Cllr Chapman from Environmental Health and had been distributed to residents in Orchard Rise and Tan House Court, spare stickers to go in telephone kiosk for residents to pick up if needed

9. Minute 4031 – To agree website updates to comply with accessibility requirements.

This item to be raised at a future meeting when updates are completed.

10. Minute 4032 - To note the date of Remembrance Sunday as 8th November 2020.

It was noted that because of the current coronavirus pandemic and lockdown in Wales there would be no church service this year.

11. Minute 4033 - To consider a donation to the Martha Gellhorn blue plaque fund.

Council agreed to donate £75.00 to this fund.

12. Minute 4034. – To receive information on upcoming training.

- Code of Conduct (January 2021)

- Planning – Planning Aid Wales ‘Start to Finish’ (remote training) to be booked individually.

13. Minute 4035 - Reminder of consideration of 2021/22 precept at the December meeting.

The Clerk reminded Councillors that budget and precept considerations for 2021/22 will take place at the next meeting.

14. Minute 4036 - Reports from the County Councillor and the Clerk

County Councillor Brown advised:

Cabinet

On the 21st of October 2020 the Cabinet considered budget and garden waste matters. The Cabinet Report can be found in the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MId=4621>

Garden Waste Collection

The printed Cabinet decision for garden waste supported Wheelie Bins at a capacity of 240 litres per bin on a fortnightly basis at a cost of £28 per bin annual collection charge. The current bags are 80 litres so if you had 3 bags a week the annual charge for bags is currently £18 x 3 = £54 a year. To have the same amount of garden waste collected on a fortnightly basis would be 2 wheelie bins at an annual charge of £28 x 2= £56 a year. One wheelie bin a fortnight at an annual cost of £28 would be equivalent to one and a half bags a week, meaning that it would be more than the £18 a year for one bag but on a proportionate basis the current charge for 1.5 bags would be £27 but for the Wheelie bin will be £28. It means that there will be just a marginal change in cost of collection.

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/documents/g4613/Decisions%2021st-Oct-2020%2014.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=2>

Recycling

MCC are gradually changing different areas over Monmouthshire to reusable canvas bags to replace the purple and red plastic bags. No notification for our ward area has yet been received but will happen in the not too distant future.

County Council

On the 22nd of October 2020, the County Council considered a number of reports including the Corporate Plan annual report, audit statements and the MCC Revised local development plan, the reports can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MId=4222>

Monmouthshire County Council Revised Local Development Plan (RLDP)

The current timetable for the RLDP is as follows:

- Growth and Spatial Options - Dec 2020- January 2021
- Preferred Strategy Consultation and Second Call for Candidate Sites- May-July 2021
- Deposit Plan- Political Reporting- July 2022
- Deposit Plan- Consultation- July – September 2022
- RLDP Submission to Welsh Government – February 2023
- Examination- Spring 2023
- Inspectors Report-Autumn 2023
- Adoption- Autumn 2023

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/documents/s26883/3.%20Revised%20DA%20and%20Evidence%20Review%20Council%20Report%20October%202020.pdf>

RLDP – C Cllr Brown explained that she had asked questions in the County Council meeting regarding the growth and spatial strategy for the Revised Local Development Plan (RLDP), which was expected to be re-consulted on at the start of December 2020. The re-consultation was due to the population statistics for 2014 changing to the latest ones in 2018. Statistics for population growth are to be re-examined as the original ‘flat’ in the 2014 projections had changed in the 2018 population projections to an approx. 4,000 population increase to 2033 for the Monmouthshire Local Authority area.

Joint Select Committee

There is a Joint select committee on the 2 November to discuss the early stages of a car parking review. The details of the report can be found in the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=246&MId=4627>

Chepstow Transport Study

Quoted from Roger Hoggins- MCC Highways:

“..The Chepstow Transport Study Exhibition and Consultation event goes live on the 2nd November and continues until the 13th December.

It is a ‘virtual’ exhibition so by going on line the public can visit an exhibition room where they will find numerous boards describing the various options that are being considered in the study and have the opportunity to provide feedback and complete a questionnaire. Those that visit the exhibition can ask questions using the webchat function. Although electronic feedback is preferred for those that do not use the internet the information and questionnaire are available in hard copy and this is being advertised in the press.

It has been named the Chepstow Transport study and it does refer to local travel issues on both sides of the Wye but it also looks at regional travel including the traffic congestion that has been encountered by traffic movement funnelled through Chepstow. So whilst the study is of particular relevance to Chepstow, Bulwark, Tutshill, Sedbury residents it is also of interest to commuters and motorists that travel through Chepstow to their destination (hence the wider distribution to members in the South East of the county).

The options discussed in the exhibition include generic issues such as behaviour change as well as active travel (walking, cycling), better public transport (local and regional – bus and rail). It also looks at road based options – a by-pass.

I write simply to bring the event to your attention should you not read of the event advertised elsewhere. You may also wish to bring the event to the attention of your constituents; the outcome of the consultation will form part of the final report and will influence the recommendations arising from the report.

This is the link to the website: <https://virtualengage.arup.com/chepstow-transport-study> (live on Monday) “. From Monday the 2nd of November 2020.

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.

Asset maintenance – repair of squeeze belly gates at the war memorial completed and gates reinstated. Also further small set of railings 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 and in place by Remembrance Sunday.

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 23.7.20 – only emergency repairs due to Covid restrictions, but will address when working at the school in the near future.

Active wasps nest – in the play area reported to P&P Pest Control on 12.10.20, treated when checked on 14.10.20.

Reports to My Monmouthshire

6837487 – Ash die back in trees along Crick/Shirenewton road – Report updated on 12.10.20 with – ‘Survey completed. Owners of dead trees written to to remove. Further works to be done in looking at new leaf growth next spring.’ Martyn Evans reported back on 20.10.20 that he had inspected trees on Crick Road and would look at Weyloed Lane.

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

Mon CC Countryside team – reported blocked and impassable junction of footpaths 53/54/55 at Old Cock a Roosting. Countryside has informed Enforcement Officer.

7516974 – reported stretches of rough road/potholes from Gaerllwyd Baptist Chapel to West End Cottage.

11. Minute 4037 - Items of local concern –

- Cllr Williamson explained the current Bogons fibre broadband project in Earlswood.
- revisit the plan to have a hard path around the recreation field. Clerk to contact M Moran at Mon CC and M Moore at GAVO as they had both offered support.

12. Minute 4038 - To receive correspondence as per attached schedule.

Council noted receipt of the following correspondence:

Covid 19 arrangements during lockdown - Various information and guidelines on the second lock down in Wales (23 October – 9 November 2020) during the coronavirus outbreak from the Welsh Government and One Voice Wales.

- Letter from Cerebral Palsy Cymru explaining their work and requesting a donation.

Monmouthshire County Council

Mounton Road road closure on 28th and 29th January 2021 between 9.00am and 5.00pm for telecommunications works.

WG Consultations

- Coronavirus Act 2020 and social care in Wales.
- The Welsh Government is conducting a public consultation on the policy approach to establish regulations on the procedure for preparing Strategic Development Plans

(SDPs) and associated matters. The Regulations will be called the Town and Country Planning (Strategic Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2021 and will establish the procedure for SDPs to be prepared across Wales by Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs).

To view the policy approach on the procedure to establish SDPs, please visit the Welsh Government website and respond by answering the questions set out in the consultation document: <https://gov.wales/consultations>. The consultation will close on 4 January 2021.

- A manufacturing future for Wales: a framework for action.
- Sustainable farming and our land: simplifying agricultural support.

13. Minute 4039 – date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 7th December 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 9.40 pm.