

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the remote Council meeting held on Monday 7th December 2020 at 7.00 pm

Present:

Councillors: Mr P Butterworth (Chair), Mrs J Mckenna, Mrs L Brown, Mr I Martin, Mr K Dunn, Mr A Williamson and Ms E Chapman from 8.00pm.

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:

Cllr E Nigogosian.

2. To receive the resignation of a Shirenewton ward councillor.

Council reluctantly accepted the resignation of Councillor Dr J Grose who represented the Shirenewton ward. Clerk to request Democratic Services at Mon CC to advertise the resulting vacancy and write a letter of thanks for his service to Dr Grose.

3. Issues raised by members of the public

- speeding traffic at Earlswood – this was reported to PCSO A Jones who offered to visit the resident to discuss the issue.

- pedestrian crossing at Clearview – Council agreed to pass this request on to Highways at Mon CC for their consideration.

Cllr E Chapman joined the meeting at this point after having technical issues with Microsoft Teams.

4. To receive the monthly police report.

Operations

A number Off Road Bike operations were conducted 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 user warned and educated.

Anti-Social Behaviour

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

Speed monitoring and enforcement checking over 550 vehicles over the last few months, 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 - Vehicle seized, 15 - Traffic Offences

5. Minute 4040- 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 4041 - To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2020.

The minutes were confirmed as a true record.

7. Minute 4042 - To consider planning matters.

1. DM/2020/01157 Red Barn Farm, Crick Road, Shirenewton

Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of replacement dwelling. Amendment details - the dwelling is now smaller with a cubic content of 407m3)

Council was aware of the history of the planning applications for this dwelling and that this Council had raised objections to previous planning applications to replace a mobile caravan of 60 sqm with a permanent dwelling, which is against Monmouthshire County Council's policy of not allowing new builds in the open countryside. Council acknowledged that the applicant had made amendments in this proposal to the style and size of the dwelling following recommendations made, however Council recommended refusal of the application on the grounds of size (407 sqm) and appearance not being a traditional farmhouse style, also pending further details on impact, landscaping and ecology. (Voting: Refusal 4/Approval 2/Abstention 1).

8. Minute 4043 - Finance –

Expenditure (by Standing Order)

Clerk's salary/allowances -	November 2020	£679.17
Clerk's Pension (Council & Clerk's contribution) -	November 2020	£241.79

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

Payments

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount £	Vat £	Total	Cheque No.
Mrs H Counsell	Expenses - November	35.75		35.75	101605
Mrs H Counsell (20's Plenty-561/563)	20 is Plenty road safety campaign	201.50		201.50	101606
P&P Pest Control Invoice: 86609	Treatment of wasps nest	50.00	10.00	60.00	101607
Merlin Waste Invoice No: 4330	Bin emptying - Nov	42.25		42.25	101608
Mr J Hughes Invoice: 029	Relacement planter for war memorial	45.00		45.00	101609
Planning Aid Wales CTC OT 55/20	Training for two Councillors on 9.12.20	60.00		60.00	101610
Wales Audit Office ARINV/004623	External Audit costs for 2019/20	313.00		313.00	101611
Mon CC	Christmas Wishes appeal	100.00		100.00	101612

All items listed were approved for payment.

The Clerk left the meeting prior to consideration of the following point:

- consideration given to awarding one annual increment to the Clerk's salary for 2021/2022.

The Clerk is currently contracted to work 15 hours per week. Council resolved to increase the Clerk's salary from 1st April 2021 by one incremental point from NJC Pay Scale SCP13 £11.76 per hour to SCP14 £12.00 per hour, as agreed between NALC and SLCC and notified on revised Pay Scales in August 2020. Council confirmed that the current monthly home/office allowance of £89.16 per month be continued and noted that the top of the salary scale is SCP 17.

The Clerk returned to the meeting.

- a three year plan of income and expenditure was received and discussed,
- Council then prepared a draft precept request for 2021/22, to be finalised and ratified at the next meeting.

9. Minute 4044 – Training

The remote training offered by One Voice Wales and the upcoming Code of Conduct training was noted. It was resolved to subscribe to the Planning Aid Wales training 'Planning - Start to Finish' at a cost of £150 for 12 months.

10. Minute 4045 – Update on 20 is Plenty road safety campaign.

Finalisation of the petition document was still ongoing. Council agreed to the purchase of banners/posters/stickers and petition costs to the value of £260.00, also to £95.00 for the purchase of vouchers from local businesses as prizes for the school road safety poster competition. Councillors Dunn, Chapman, McKenna and Wixcey offered to help with judging the competition.

Residents have expressed their gratitude that the Community Council is leading this campaign.

11. Minute 4046 - To agree website updates to comply with accessibility requirements.

Cllr Butterworth presented the new website design which included a dropdown menu of accessibility tools. Members agreed that the changes were well laid out and appeared easy to use, they agreed to the website updates and thanked Cllr Butterworth for his work. Cllr Chapman offered to help with the website administration, Clerk to arrange with Distinct IT. A photo competition for the website home page was suggested – to be discussed further when amendments complete.

12. Minute 4047 – Update on the planting of trees in the community.

Phase 1 saw the successful planting of 60 trees in the community. Phase 2 will see the planting of the remainder of 31 saplings. It was suggested that these be planted around the Recreation Field, but Councillors felt that the Recreation Association should be included in this option. Clerk to contact the Chair to arrange a meeting. It was further suggested that SAMFAL and the school be contacted in case they needed trees.

Councillors were also reminded that Cllr McKenna had planted 40 acorns, with the saplings when grown to be given to an intake of children at Shirenewton Primary School.

13. Minute 4048 - reports from the County Councillor and the Clerk

County Councillor Brown advised:

County Council

On the 3rd of December 2020, the County Council considered a number of reports including the Social Care, Safeguarding and Health Annual report, Corporate Joint Committee

consultation and an update on the Account Investment Strategy. Details of the reports can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MId=4223>

The concept of Corporate Joint Committees was introduced as a result of the Local Government & Election (Wales) Bill. They will be composed of Council Leaders of all of the Local Authorities in South East Wales area. It is expected that the Cardiff Capital Region Cabinet and staffing structure will transform into the SE Wales CJC. It will be set up to deal with 3 main issues on a regional basis:

1. Strategic Development Plan
2. Regional Transport Plan
3. Economic Well Being function.

Monmouthshire County Council Revised Local Development Plan (RLDP)

Joint Select Committee on the 10th of December 2020

The date of the non-statutory consultation on the growth and spatial options is now expected to be later. It has been reported first to the Joint Select Committee on the 10th of December 2020 in item 7, of the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=246&MId=4629>

The Easy read version is the quickest to read which indicates the MCC preference for option 5 for growth and option 2 for spatial distribution:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/documents/s27591/Appendix%203%20-%20RLDP%20Growth%20and%20Spatial%20Options%20Easy%20Read.pdf>

The purpose of the Joint Select Committee report is to feedback/comment on the RLDP Growth and Spatial Options Paper as appropriate, prior to officers seeking Cabinet's endorsement on 16th December 2020, to consult.

It is now proposed that a non-statutory consultation on the Growth and Spatial Options will take place for a 4-week period from 4th January to 1st February 2021.

Clerk's Report:

Hill View Cottage, Shirenewton (DM/2019/01614) –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.

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

Medieval burial chamber at Gaerllwyd – report of missing marker stones received from SLHS on 29.11.20. This was reported to several organisations, but later informed by CADW that the stones were not missing but hidden below undergrowth. Contact at CADW asked

that they be notified first if any further issues, and this information plus her contact details to be posted on the website.

Reports to My Monmouthshire

6841876 – Request for road sweeper through Shirenewton and surrounding roads. Under review. Reminded 27.11.20 – will arrange as soon as possible.

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 – Clerk reported stretches of rough road/potholes from Gaerllwyd Baptist Chapel to West End Cottage. Clerk checked 2.12.20 work completed, but a poor job.

14. Minute 4049 - Items of local concern –

- It was reported that two oak trees and a hedge had been taken down at Gaerllwyd Farm. Clerk to report to Planning Officer,

- a pothole was reported on the Usk road – Clerk to check and report,

- the sensors in street lights at Orchard Rise had been replaced, with the lights staying on longer at night. Clerk to check with Mon CC.

12. Minute 4050 - To receive correspondence as per attached schedule.

Council noted receipt of the following correspondence:

Covid 19 arrangements during lockdown - Various information and guidelines including the opening of community centres during the coronavirus outbreak from the Welsh Government and One Voice Wales.

Monmouthshire County Council

- Monmouthshire Replacement Local Development Plan Revised Delivery Agreement, October 2020.
- Consultation and Engagement on the Replacement LDP Growth and Spatial Options to 2033 – 4th January – 1st February 2021.
- Mon CC's Draft Budget Proposals 2021/22 - Virtual meeting on 2nd February 2021 at 6.30 pm.
- 'Christmas Wishes' request from Mon CC for a donation towards providing a Christmas gift for 300 care leavers and vulnerable young people – it was agreed to donate £100 to this cause.

WG Consultations

- Adoption absence for local authority councillors.
- Performance and governance of local authorities: draft guidelines.
- Terms and conditions for agricultural workers.
- Building Regulations Part L and F Review – Stage 2A.

13. Minute 4051 – date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 4th January 2021 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 9.30 pm.