

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the remote Council meeting held on Monday 1st February 2021 at 7.00 pm

Present:

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

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:

There were none.

2. To consider applications for a co-opted vacancy in the Shirenewton ward.

There were no applications.

3. Issues raised by members of the public

- dog waste and litter at Cadira Beeches, Wentwood. National Resources Wales assured the Clerk that their contractors pick up litter on a fortnightly basis and that they do not provide dog waste or litter bins because of the expense of emptying them. However they agreed to monitor the site and make additional collections as needed.

4. To receive the monthly police report.

Notable arrests for November/December 2020

Four arrested in the area over December/January.

Operations

Officers carried out mobile patrols concentrating on rural areas due to recent break ins to farms and outbuildings in November/December. The evenings were mainly taken up with patrols of hotspot areas, gathering intelligence, looking for drug offences, carrying out stop searches and roadside stops as part of the operational order. Special Constables also took part in the drink/drive campaign which was force wide.

The team have also carried out two drugs warrants on residential properties this month and drugs were located, persons responsible are being dealt with and we urge the public to report any suspicious drug activity to Gwent Police via 101 or control@gwent.pnn.police.uk

Any other information

There is a lot of information out there at the moment on social media about Covid 19, of course it's only natural you would want to share it! But how do you know it's been verified/from an official source and is in fact true/accurate? If you're not sure don't send it on, check on the Government website first to ensure the information you are passing on is genuine.

Latest Covid 19 scam – Scammers are trying to trick people into paying for the Covid Vaccine, the NHS doesn't need your bank details and won't ask for them.

Our Cyber department would like to remind the public the importance of strong passwords to safeguard our accounts and personal data as we enter into a new year. The best way to do

that is to set up a two-factor authentication, which will offer the most security even if your account is hacked. Follow the National Cyber Security Centre link below for information on 2FA. Setting up two-factor authentication (2FA) - NCSC.GOV.UK

[Setting up two-factor authentication \(2FA\) - NCSC.GOV.UK](#)

Our Cyber Security Team have recently tweeted about a free 8 week online Cyber Course. run by the Open University. The link is attached below for anyone who would be interested in expanding their knowledge.

[Introduction to Cyber Security - Online Course - FutureLearn](#)

5. Minute 4065- To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in listed business.

C Cllr L Brown – Item 7. Planning Matters – Member of Mon CC Planning Committee.

Cllr A Williamson – Item 7. Planning Matters.

Cllr E Nigogosian – Item 7. Planning Matters.

6. Minute 4066 - To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 4th January 2021.

The minutes were confirmed as a true record.

7. Minute 4067 - To consider planning matters.

DM/2020/01866 Pond Cottage, Usk Road, Shirenewton

Garden room with separate storage for tools.

Council noted that whilst described in the application as a garden room with separate tool storage, the plans show the inside to be divided into two, the main section being a study and gym space, and the far end section being bike and tool storage. There was no external lighting proposed.

There had been no adverse comments by neighbours on the Mon CC planning portal.

Councillors had concerns over the appearance as to both external colour and being entirely uncharacteristic of our landscape. The supplier website suggested the basic redwood material to be a bright yellow/orange hue that would not fade at all over time. The supplier can provide similar finishes which are designed to fade, one in particular to a silver grey akin to weathered wood. Whilst able to accept the structure, Council was unable to accept the visually intrusive colour and recommended refusal with a recommendation to change the colour of the building material to one that fades to silver grey to make the proposal less intrusive. (Voting: for refusal 4 / approval 2 / Expressions of interest 3).

8. Minute 4068 - Finance –

8.1. Expenditure (by Standing Order)

Clerk's salary/allowances -	January 2020	£679.17
Clerk's Pension (Council & Clerk's contribution) -	January 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 – January '21	40.99		40.99	101618
Merlin Waste Invoice No: 4407	Bin emptying – Jan	42.25		42.25	101619
Mon CC Invoice: 70172888	5000 dog waste bags	34.75	6.95	41.70	101620
Magor Printing Co Invoice: INV-1506	Printing road safety posters	40.00		40.00	101621
Local Govt. Pension Scheme	Employers pension due on Clerk's back pay of £120.90 (Oct 2020)	22.00		22.00	101622

Council resolved to make all payments as listed.

8.2 - to receive and approve the quarterly financial report (Oct – Dec 2020)

The quarterly financial report for October – December 2020 was approved. Relevant spreadsheet, bank statements and monthly lists of payments to be signed by Cllr K Dunn, being neither Chair nor a bank signatory.

9. Minute 4069 – To approve rent review on 2021/22 Annual Agreement for the Earlswood field.

Council approved the annual rent to increase from £295.00 to £310.00 from 1 May 2021. The current tenant agreed to accept the increase and to continue to rent the field.

10. Minute 4070 - To approve the response made to Mon CC's RDLP consultation.

The response made to Mon CC's RDLP consultation was approved and submitted today. Cllr Martin was thanked for his work in collating and finalising the submission.

11. Minute 4071 - Update on 20 is Plenty road safety campaign

Councillors agreed the petition document and photographs. Final document to be circulated then put online, on the website and Facebook as soon as possible. Cllr Nigogosian to contact the school and ask for the petition to be advertised in their newsletter to parents.

Judging of school road safety posters still ongoing, hope to have the results next month and display them in the windows of the recreation hall so they can be seen by members of the public while socially distancing.

12. Minute 4072 – To receive information on a meeting with Mon CC regarding the hard path around the recreation field and agree a task and finish group.

This meeting had been re-arranged for 2nd February 2021 with Mr M Moran of Mon CC and Mr P Bennett, Shirenewton Recreation Association. The Task and Finish group was agreed as Councillors Butterworth, Chapman and Williamson, with the Clerk as required.

13. Minute 4073 – Update on the planting of trees in the community.

Mrs E Ford had met with Mr N Leaworthy of Mon CC to agree a plan for planting at the Blethyn Close play area. Planting at the recreation field has not been agreed as yet. Mrs Ford has potted up the remaining saplings so that they can wait to be planted involving the community when current restrictions ease.

14. Minute 4074 - reports from the County Councillor and the Clerk

County Councillor Brown advised:

Monmouthshire County Council Budget Proposals Consultation

Details of the MCC budget proposals can be found at the following link:

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/2021/01/monmouthshire-county-council-announces-launch-of-budget-proposals-for-2021-22/>

As part of the consultation process, which is open until 17th February 2021, residents are being asked to share their thoughts on a feedback survey on the budget proposals, which can be found alongside all the proposals at [monmouthshire.gov.uk/budget-2021-2022](https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/budget-2021-2022) .

TRANSFORMING ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN GWENT

The health board has a public consultation closing on the 21st of February 2021 on the above topic with public virtual meeting dates, which can be found at the following link:

<https://abuhb.nhs.wales/about-us/public-engagement-consultation/transforming-adult-mental-health-services-in-gwent/>

Clerk's Report:

Hill View Cottage, Shirenewton (DM/2019/01614) –Enforcement case open – E19/130.

18.1.21 - Planning Officer to inform Estate Agent and thus potential new buyer of unresolved matters that have not received planning permission.

Damaged planter at Blethyn Close Mon CC to replace 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.

Bus shelter at Earlswood – front of bus shelter partially collapsed on 15.12.20. Reported to R Cook, Mon CC on 16.12.20 and shelter cordoned off with high fencing. £2188 of work to be completed by end of February 2021.

Ash dieback in trees along Crick road and Weyloed Lane - Martyn Evans from Mon CC has said that he will inspect the trees at Weyloed Lane and along the Crick road again in the spring when they are in leaf to assess the disease. He has already arranged for two diseased trees along the Crick road to be cut down.

For information from a recent Mon CC report to Caerwent Community Council -

"Ash Dieback is rapidly affecting trees in the county. Latest information is that the infection is seasonal and trees can recover although multiple infections can lead to safety issues. NRW recommends close monitoring of ash trees and to remove any trees with 50% dieback in the canopy. Sadly, we have seen ash trees decline rapidly within a growing season and are expecting circa 80-90% of ash trees to die from this disease. Given this issue, we would recommend that the trees are looked at again when in full leaf to assess the extent of the disease."

Dog waste bin request for Cadira Beeches, Wentwood – contacted NRW and Woodland Trust on 12.1.21 – response from NRW 15.1.21, not providing bins at the moment due to maintenance and frequency of emptying. Had made a site visit that day and agreed to increase frequency of litter collections.

20 mph flashing sign at Crick road entrance to Shirenewton – reported as not working on 7.1.21, working again on 13.1.21.

Reports to My Monmouthshire

8175434 – Pothole at 'Montrose', Earlswood

8175533 – Pothole at 'Springhill', Earlswood

8175560 – Pothole at Marcellus Kennels, Earlswood

8404131 - Chapel Road, Earlswood – potholes and erosion of road edges

8403404 – Argoed Road, Earlswood, potholes and erosion of road surface

8403192 – Blacksmiths Lane, Shirenewton, blocked road drain

8404479 – West End, Earlswood, damaged road sign.

(26.1.21 – all 'under review' except Blacksmiths Lane, 'with supervisor').

Mon CC Countryside team – reported blocked and impassable junction of footpaths 53/54/55 at Old Cock a Roosting. Countryside has informed Enforcement Officer. Reminded 5.12.20 – no updates as yet.

Shaun Pritchard Mon CC Footpaths Officer has reported that the bridge at Lower Lodge, Chapel Lane which had washed away (restricted byway 380/126) has been repaired, so no further action required.

Steps into Wentwood forest at bottom of Earlswood Valley (380/136) – following site visit on 6.1.21 confirmed that repairs will be made, but no timescale given.

15. Minute 4075- Items of local concern –

- Council was advised that there had been no feedback on progress of the Bogons project to bring broadband to Earlswood, there were problems with the current installation of the project.

- road drains at Mounton Court and The Row need clearing.

- complaints had been made of the noise of motorcycles using the Usk Road at Mynyddbach.

16. Minute 4076 - To receive correspondence as per attached schedule.

Council noted receipt of the following correspondence:

Covid 19 arrangements during lockdown - Various information and guidelines during the coronavirus outbreak and further Tier 4 lockdown in Wales from 21.12.21 from the Welsh Government and One Voice Wales.

Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales – Review of the Electoral Arrangements for the County of Monmouthshire (4 hard copies received). Representations may be made from 10.12.20 to 10.3.21 - No response to be made.

One Voice Wales

- **Notification of two free places for Councillors on each of the following core training modules, available until March 2021 -**
The Council as an Employer
Understanding the Law
Local Government Finance – Basic
Local Government Finance – Advanced (all sessions to be booked via the Clerk)

WG Consultations

- Carers' national plan for Wales.
- Litter and fly tipping prevention plan for Wales

17. Minute 4077 – date of next meeting

The next full Council meeting will be held on **Monday 1st March 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 8.45 pm.