

## SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the remote Council meeting held on Monday 7 June 2021 at 7.00 pm

### **Present:**

**Councillors:** Mr P Butterworth (Chair), Mrs L Brown, Mr K Dunn, Mr A Williamson, Mr I Martin, Mrs E Wixcey, Mrs H Adams.

### **Also in attendance:**

Mrs H Counsell (Clerk to the Council)

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and thanked all present for their attendance.

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

Cllrs E Chapman and J McKenna.

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

- data request from resident. Internal Review completed and sent to applicant on 27.5.21.
- use of footpath at Upper Tump Farm lane by motorbikes – Cllr J McKenna to contact Mon CC Footpaths Officer.
- ideas on Facebook for the hard path project at the recreation field – several suggestions were already being considered, residents to be encouraged to check the meeting minutes and Parish Magazine for updates. A Public Meeting will also be held to gain ideas before final decisions are made.

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

Council noted the police report for this community as follows:

CO291 Jo Cooper is looking at a Road Safety project for South Monmouthshire, getting the local Community Children involved & thinking about road safety by designing posters that can be displayed locally representing their school. This collaborative work involves linking in with the Schools Police Officer, NxtGen Officers to include Heddlu Bach (mini Police) along with GoSafe. As part of this piece of work the Neighbourhood team will carry out speed checks, mobile phone/seatbelt action days linking in with South Wales Fire & Rescue Service which has proven successful in the past.

We continue to patrol areas for off-road bikes around the Wentwood and Tintern areas on Sundays at peak times, along with areas in Chepstow we receive calls for off-roaders.

### **Your Voice Update**

The team are working on the priorities that came from the public vote. A lot is going on behind the scenes with meetings conversations with partners. For this area we have Chepstow RFC ASB/Drugs & rural burglaries. Arrangements have been made for our Design Out Crime Team to meet with us in June to carry out site meetings. They will then provide us with a report/recommendations which can then be discussed with yourselves/MCC/Chepstow RFC and anyone else who may need to be involved to look at what we can all do to improve the situation/area for those visiting or living close by.

### **4. Minute 4135 - To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in listed business.**

Cty Cllr L Brown took no part in the discussion or voting on Agenda Item 7, Planning Matters, as she is a member of Mon CC's Planning Committee.

### **5. Minute 4136 - To confirm the minutes of the virtual Annual and Ordinary meetings held on the 10th May 2021 as true records.**

The minutes of both meetings were confirmed as true records.

### **6. To inspect the play area with a view to deciding on replacement play equipment.**

As this was another virtual meeting, a date will be arranged in the next two weeks to inspect the play area.

## 7. Minute 4137 - To consider planning matters.

### 1) Planning Appeal – APP/E6840/A/21/32744383, Bushes Farm, Earlswood

Removal of condition 1 from planning consent 2314 (Date of Decision: 01/09/1975):-  
Occupation of the proposed bungalow shall be limited to a person employed or last employed wholly or mainly locally in agriculture as defined in Section 290(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971, or a dependent of such person residing with him.

As responses had already been made to Mon CC, this Council had no further comment.  
Response to be made to the Planning Inspectorate to inform them of the dates responses had been made.

### 2) DM/2021/00774 The Milking Barn, Little Grondra Farm, Shirenewton

Erection of an oak gazebo within the garden of the property.

This application relates to the conversion of the Milking Barn at Little Grondra Farm, Councillors noted that they had previously approved the building conversion works. The structure is intended to use high quality materials which match those used on the barn during conversion. The roof will be hipped and covered in slate. The gazebo will measure 4m x 6m and 3.98m high, some 6m away from the building. Whilst set well away it would be visible from the road. Recommendation: No objection. (Voting: 6 for (unanimous)).

Cllr Brown gave an update on the recent Mon CC Planning Committee meeting -  
The Tan House pub – application for 2 four bedroom dwellings in the car park approved.  
Gaerllwyd Farm – application for change of use of barn to B1 Use approved.

## 8. Minute 4138 - Finance –

### 8.1 Expenditure (by Standing Order)

Clerk's salary/allowances -	May 2021	£678.40
Clerk's Pension (Council & Clerk's contribution) -	May 2021	£250.99
(Includes £58.33 towards £700 pa LGPS pension deficit)		

### Payments

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount £	Vat £	Total	Cheque No.
Mrs H Counsell	Expenses – May 2021	48.75		48.75	101638
Merlin Waste Invoice No: 4557	Bin emptying – May	43.33		43.33	101639
Mr P Brabon	Internal audit of 2020/21 accounts	100.00		100.00	101640
Mr P Butterworth 222055393	Memory upgrade of Clerk's pc	31.66	6.33	37.99	101641
Information Commissioner's Office Z3252462	Annual data protection renewal	40.00		40.00	101642
Planning Aid Wales	Planning Enforcement training (AW)	30.00		30.00	101643

Council resolved to approve all payments as listed.

**8.2** - Council approved the quarterly financial report (Jan – March 2021). The report, bank statements and supporting monthly lists and invoices to be signed by Cllr K Dunn who is neither Chair, nor a bank signatory.

**9. Minute 4139 – External Audit for 2020/21**

- the Internal Audit Report for 2020/21 with its recommendation from the Internal Auditor was received and the recommendation noted,
- the Statement of Accounts and bank reconciliation for 2020/21 were approved,
- the Annual Return to external auditors was approved – form to be countersigned by the Chair,
- Councillor’s remuneration for 2021/22 was discussed, with opt in/out forms to be completed at the first face to face Council meeting.

**10. Minute 4140 – To approve an updated Contract of Employment for the Clerk.**

The updated model NALC contract was considered and approved.

**11. Minute 4141 – Update on 20 is Plenty road safety campaign**

- School Road Safety poster competition winners are on display in the windows of the Recreation Hall.
- there was no update available for the number of petition signatures.
- the petition and map will be presented to Full Council on 24<sup>th</sup> June by County Councillor Brown.
- Cllr Dunn to circulate a press release with photographs for approval before being sent to local press and Mon CC’s Press Office next week.

**12. Minute 4142 – Update on Local Biodiversity Action Plan**

No further progress, Cllr Williamson is contacting potential partners.

**13. Minute 4143 – Update on Hard Path Project**

M Moran of Mon CC had advised on 7.6.21 that potential costings were still being finalised. Council discussed the options of a boardwalk over the boggy corner of the field which would need drainage improvement and how this may be achieved, or the path being raised in that corner to lift it above the boggy area. To await costings report before making any decisions.

**14. Minute 4144 – To receive reports from the County Councillor and the Clerk**

County Councillor Brown advised the following:

**Change in Leadership of Monmouthshire County Council (MCC)**

Cllr Richard John had been appointed in place of Cllr Peter Fox as Leader of the Council. Cllr Peter Fox had been elected as the Senedd member for the Monmouth Constituency in the Welsh Parliament. Peter Fox MS is also the Shadow Minister for Finance. The Cabinet for MCC is now gender balanced.

**Adults Select on the 25th of May 2021**

The Committee considered a report on Homeless Transition Plan- Progress Update, the report can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/documents/s28815/210517%20Final%20-%20Report%20to%20Adults%2025.05.21%20-%20Homeless%20Transition%20Plan%20Update.pdf>

There is a shortage of accommodation for the homeless and this means that unfortunately the council still needs to supplement its accommodation with Bed and Breakfast. There is also a shortage of private landlord accommodation albeit the council endeavours to encourage private landlords.

**Cabinet 9th of June 2021**

There are various reports to Cabinet on the 9th of June including the levelling up fund. It is disappointing to see nothing mentioned in it being considered as potential council projects for the Chepstow area, albeit there are tight deadlines, the reports can be seen at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MId=4666>

### **Welsh Water**

A Teams meeting took place in mid- May 2021 with Welsh Water representatives, the County Councillor, the EHO and a representative/s from both of the community councils in Shirenewton ward. The meeting was about the continuing concerns about the main sewerage pipe which serves the villages of Pwllmeyric, Mathern, Moun-ton, Shirenewton and Mynyddb-ach. The water board has spent 100k on pipe lining/ repairs and has a further sum to undertake more repairs to deal with the infiltration problem. A further meeting is proposed for November 2021.

### **Recycling - Red and Purple Bags**

Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) is starting to rollout more reusable recycling bags to other parts of Monmouthshire. They have letters going out to 2400 households to explain they will be receiving reusable bags shortly.

There are 3 collection rounds in this phase, one covering parts of Shirenewton, Mynyddb-ach and small parts of Caldicot and Rogiet). Another covering parts of Govilon, Llanelly Hill and Clydach. And the third covering Wyesham in Monmouth.

### **Key points:**

New reusable bags will be delivered to these addresses during the week of 7th June. Collections using the new bags will start the week of 14th June. The collection days will stay the same. The reusable recycling bags will replace single use plastic bags for weekly recycling collections. When the bags are delivered residents have/ will also receive a leaflet explaining how to use the service. The letter tells the resident to contact MCC if they have not received their bags by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June. There is an online form for residents to do this or they can contact us via phone or at the Hubs.

All further information and FAQs are on the webpage which is written on the letter and leaflet - <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/reusable-recycling-bags/>

### **Clerk's Report:**

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

Amended planning application received for velux roof lights (rear to remain, front to be removed). Council had no objection to the proposal.

**Mobile Post Office** – mobile service now running following lockdown. Contacted the Manager at Caldicot PO and advised that the whole of the mobile service is being re-assessed. Will make contact when results are available.

**Footpath 320/30 – Earlswood Road to School** – Council members met with Mon CC on 7.6.21 to look at footpath repairs and replaced boardwalks. Councillors suggested including a kickboard along both new boardwalks to make them safer for pedestrians. Upgrade of the pedestrian entrance to the Recreation field will be included in the repairs, also 'Footpath' signage at Earlswood Road end and replacement fencing and gate at the Tan House Court end of the path. All to take place in this financial year.

### **Bus shelters:**

**Earlswood** – rebuild completed and barriers removed 3.6.21. **West End** – resident informed Clerk that high winds had damaged the roof pine end and tiles. Mon CC to inspect on 4.6.21, any required repair work to be actioned during June 2021.

**Play area at Shirenewton** – Metal liner ordered for Glasdon litter bin at Recreation Hall. Members to inspect play area in June to decide on replacement equipment. Date to be set.

**Martha Gellhorn Purple Plaque** – to be installed at Kilgwrrwg on Friday 2 July 2021 at 2pm, SCC to receive one invitation to attend (if still limited to 30).

**Summer planting** – village troughs planted up, ‘triangle’ still to be completed.

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

**8404131** - Chapel Road, Earlswood – potholes and erosion of road edges – done, requested a revisit 23.4.21.

**8403404** – Argoed Road, Earlswood, potholes and erosion of road surface – done, requested a revisit 23.4.21.

**8403192** – Blacksmiths Lane, Shirenewton, blocked road drain – actioned.

**8722853** – Under road drain at ‘Montrose’

**8722992** – flooding manhole at Mounton Court – actioned.

**8723101** – flooding manhole at The Row, Shirenewton – actioned.

**9332742** - blocked culvert between Bushes Farm and Cherry Farm, Earlswood – under review.

**8845210** – damaged Keep Left sign at Shirenewton centre – under review.

**9152188** – parked cars in Shirenewton, informed on 19.3.21 that hope to respond within 28 days.

**9649325** – ‘Tan House Court’ signage – reported 26.4.21

Reported missing finger post footpath sign at Tan House Court on 6.4.21

**9925099** – Clearview signage reported 19.5.21

#### **14. Minute 4145 - Items of local concern –**

- recent Welsh Water meeting in May to discuss the hydraulic pressure in the sewer pipe serving Shirenewton, Mounton and Pwllmeyric and the ingress of water into the pipe from Mounton Brook, which has been a long standing issue. Sections of the pipe have been relined (especially under the brook) but water is still infiltrating through manhole covers with vertical pipes, which are to be sealed. The Water Board is monitoring the situation after each job and progressing to the next problem. Problems are caused in Mounton and Pwllmeyric, rather than Shirenewton. This community council keeps a watching brief.

- **Burst water pipe at Ashfield Cottage, Shirenewton** – the through road was closed for a week causing disruption to the bus service and the garden waste collections.

- deep dip in lane alongside Montrose, Earlswood – Clerk to report.

#### **15. Minute 4146 – Meetings attended.**

Meeting with Footpaths Officer on 7.6.21 (see Clerk’s Report on Page 4)

#### **16. Minute 4147 - To receive correspondence as per attached schedule.**

Council noted receipt of the following correspondence:

**Covid 19 arrangements during pandemic** - Various information and guidelines during the coronavirus outbreak and lockdown and recent easing of restrictions from Tier 2 to Tier 1 from the Welsh Government and One Voice Wales.

#### **One Voice Wales - Monmouthshire Community Boundary Review**

Update received on 24.5.21. OVW waiting for the Review to be signed off by Welsh Government Ministers. One Voice Wales requests that the Council consider the implications of the Review for the Council and set out any issues and questions that arise. No further comment to make as this community had minimal impact.

#### **Welsh Government Consultations**

- Curriculum for Wales enabling Pathways guidance

**17. Minute 4148 – date of next meeting – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July 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 8.40 pm.