

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the remote Council meeting held on Monday 5 July 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 J McKenna, Mrs H Adams.

Also in attendance:

Mrs H Counsell (Clerk to the Council)

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

1. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from:

Cllr E Nigogosian who requested leave of absence from Council duties due to personal reasons. Six months absence was approved, with Cllr Nigogosian to then make a further request if required.

2. Issues raised by members of the public

- parking of cars/antisocial behaviour. Council discussed this item and felt it was a police issue. Clerk to contact resident to suggest arranging a visit from the local police.
- Jet washing of war memorial – a local resident had offered to clean the war memorial, date to be arranged to meet Councillors to discuss.
- Community footpaths – a local resident had raised questions about footpaths and offered to help locate and map them. To be put in touch with Cllr Chapman, Footpaths Officer.

3. To receive the monthly police report.

No report received this month. However Sgt Chris Butt is to transfer this month and be replaced by PS Lee Smith-Stephens, who will be in contact.

4. Minute 4149 - To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in listed business.

Cty Cllr L Brown - Agenda Item 6, Planning Matters, member of Mon CC's Planning Committee. Also Item 8, grant applications.
Cllr A Williamson – Planning, Item 6.2

5. Minute 4150 - To confirm the minutes of the virtual meeting held on the 7th June 2021 as a true record.

The minutes were confirmed as a true record.

6. Minute 4151- To consider planning matters.

1) DM/2021/00655 Whitemill, Itton Court Road, Itton

Extension and alterations with associated works.

Council noted that this application lies within the adjoining community of Devauden but is on the boundary and this council had the opportunity to comment.

Whitemill is currently a 6 bedroomed residential property with natural stone walls under a slate roof. There is the main section of 2 storeys reaching a ridge height of 7m and extended to the left hand side with a slightly lower ridge height and 3 dormer windows to the upper storey at the front. The proposal is to add a two storey extension to the right hand end with one dormer window, providing an additional lounge with bedroom over. The walls would be in stone with a slate roof to match the existing building. The extension measures 5.5m long by (approx) 5m deep and approx 6.5m to the ridge, matching (just about) the left hand extension roof line. No floor area or volume measurements are given but the new build would appear to be within 30% of the existing.

Public footpath 192 runs through the site.

Recommendation: No objection, but suggest a Planning Condition that no vehicles obstruct the public footpath. Voting: 7 for (unanimous) (1 expression of interest).

2) DM/2021/00927 Argoed Farm, Upper Argoed Farm, Earlswood

Single storey rear extension to Old Farmhouse.

Council noted that the Old Farmhouse is part of a small cluster of now residential housing around the farmyard as was. The rear of the Old Farmhouse faces south west. Internal revisions involve moving the kitchen to the rear and building a large ground floor extension (possibly conservatory or orangery but with velux windows rather than a lantern roof), across the full width so as to create a lounge area. Two sets of patio doors, 5 per set, run across the outer face with cedar cladding to the end walls and central divide. The doors would lead onto a patio which sits above the ground as it falls away, with balustrading for safety. The rear garden appears to be well screened and quite private and the extension is unlikely to be seen from the road.

Recommendation: No objection, but suggest a Planning Condition to ensure external lighting is subdued. Voting: 6 for (unanimous) (2 expressions of interests).

7. Minute 4153 - Finance – Expenditure (by Standing Order)

Clerk's salary/allowances -	June 2021	£678.40
Clerk's Pension (Council & Clerk's contribution) -	June 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 – June 2021	78.22	6.17	84.39	101644
Mrs H Counsell	Summer planting	60.00		60.00	101645
Merlin Waste Invoice No: 4594	Bin emptying – June	43.33		43.33	101646

Council resolved to approve all payments as listed.

8. Minute 4154 – To consider grant applications from 2021/22 budget

The following grants to local organisations were approved:

Shirenewton PCC	Churchyard maintenance	£700
Shirenewton PCC	Carols around the Tree	£80
Caerwent Historic Trust	Geosurvey of Llanmelin Hill Fort	£250
Recreation Association	Hall maintenance	£300
Local History Society	Storage for village archive	£250
Earlswood Hall	Pest control	£100
Earlswood Valley/Hope chapels	Grass cutting and maintenance	£120
Monmouthshire County CAB	Advice to residents	£100
Shirenewton WI	Plaque and maintenance of The Spout	£100

9. Minute 4155 – Shirenewton Play area.

Council noted from the Annual Play Inspection by Mon CC that there was no remedial work required on the play equipment this year.

Councillors had met with J Wassall of Mon CC on 2.7.21 to discuss options for replacement equipment. On providing a bank of various sized swings and a Supernova, JW to check space and fall areas required. School to be contacted regarding popularity of the hopscotch and whether children would prefer a piece of play equipment instead. Council agreed that a plan be made of the equipment to be phased in so that purchases can be planned in future budgets.

10. Minute 4156 – To discuss the specialist emptying of dog waste bins.

Council had received a letter from the current providers to inform of a price increase due to increased amounts of waste to be disposed of and increased staff and fuel costs. The increase would amount to an additional £195 per year.

Mon CC had advised in the past that if the current provider discontinued the service, they would step in and provide it, however they were unprepared due to the speed of this issue. They had found another provider but at a similar cost to the current one. In the circumstances, Council resolved to accept the price increase and continue with the current specialist bin emptying service. Mon CC is looking into alternatives.

11. Minute 4157 – Update on defibrillators in the community

A report from November 2019 was circulated of the locations and persons responsible for the defibrillators. It was noted that all defibrillators have been registered with NHS Ambulance Service Wales. It is part of the Ambulance Services responsibility to check whether the AED's are serviceable. Because of his past experience with St John's Ambulance, Cllr Dunn could assist with training, if required. Clerk to list locations of defibrillators in the Parish Magazine.

12. Minute 4158 – Update on 20 is Plenty road safety campaign

Cllr Dunn thanked all Councillors for their involvement in this campaign. The press article had received a good response from residents and both the MP and SM had supported the campaign. Clerk to contact M Hand at Mon CC for some indication of a timescale when the speed reductions would take place.

13. Minute 4159 – Update on Local Biodiversity Action Plan

No further progress, Cllr Williamson is contacting potential partners. One Voice Wales had appointed a Local Places for Nature Officer to help with funding for environmental and biodiversity projects, Council agreed that Cllr Williamson make contact with her. It was agreed that a plan needs to be published in the near future.

14. Minute 4160 – Update on Hard Path Project

Costings report still not received from M Moran of Mon CC. This report is needed before any further progress can be made. In the meantime, Clerk to cost picnic tables/benches, basketball, football wall and adult gym equipment.

15. Minute 4161 – To receive reports from the County Councillor and the Clerk

County Councillor Brown advised the following:

Recycling and Waste- Red and Purple Bags

If you are having problems with the size of the new bags, it is possible to attend in person at the Chepstow Community Hub or telephone the general council number and select the Recycling option to request a smaller bag.

Speed limit reduction Petition

At the County Council meeting on the 24 June, I was pleased to present the online petition signed by over 200 people (85% of which was from local postcodes) showing the high level of local community support for the reduction in the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph in Shirenewton and Mynyddbach villages.

Both the Shirenewton community council and I have campaigned over a number of years on this issue. I am pleased to say that this is in the budget for the financial year for 2021/22. This was reported in the press at the following link:

[Residents want 20mph speed limit in villages near Chepstow | South Wales Argus](#)

RLDP- Revised Local Development Plan

The County Council meeting included a report on the Preferred Strategy, as well as reports by the Chief Education Officer and on Climate Change. The report on the RLDP on the preferred strategy can be found at item 5d in the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MId=4725>

The preferred strategy is for 8,366 new houses across Monmouthshire with an extra 10% allowance on the original figure of 7,605 new houses in case there is a shortfall. The growth and spatial strategy underwent a non-statutory consultation but this is followed by a **statutory consultation on the growth and spatial strategy which starts on the 5th of July 2021 until midnight on the 31st of August 2021 and can be found at the following link:**

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/plan-preparation/preferred-strategy/>

Cabinet on the 7 July 2021

There are various reports to Cabinet on this day, with some Leisure Centre upgrades including for Chepstow Leisure Centre at item 3c in the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MId=4667>

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. No news on 30.6.21. Devauden is still receiving the mobile service.

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, probably late summer.

Bus shelter:

West End – resident informed Clerk that high winds had damaged the roof pine end and tiles. Mon CC inspected on 4.6.21 - advised on 1.7.21 there was a swallows nest in the shelter, work will be completed when the young have flown.

Play area at Shirenewton – Agenda item 9.

Martha Gellhorn Purple Plaque – to be installed at Kilgwrrwg on Friday 2 July 2021 at 2pm, SCC received one invitation to attend (no Councillors available).

Summer planting – completed 12 June 2021.

Temporary road closure – Mounton Road, Bayfield from 28 – 30 July 2021.

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.

8722853 – Under road drain at 'Montrose' – with supervisor.

9332742 - blocked culvert between Bushes Farm and Cherry Farm, Earlswood – under review. Both above reports taken up with Graham Hyde (Highways Area Supervisor (South)) on 30.6.21, responded that there is a very long list of drainage issues being dealt with asap.

8845210 – damaged Keep Left sign at Shirenewton centre – under review. Taken up with G Kinsella, Mon CC on 30.6.21, who has passed on to Street Lighting Team.

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

9925099 – Clearview signage reported 19.5.21

16. Minute 4162 - Items of local concern –

- Potholes and erosion at Earlswood – already reported to Mon CC, which has long delays in road repairs.

17. Minute 4163 - 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 the Welsh Government and One Voice Wales.

Revised Local Development Plan 2018 – 2033

Preferred strategy consultation and second call for candidate sites – paper documents are available by appointment at the hubs for public consultation from 5 July – 31 August 2021.

18. Minute 4164 – please note change of date of next meeting to Wednesday 4th August 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 9.00 pm.