

## SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the remote Council meeting held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at 7.00 pm

### **Present:**

**Councillors:** Mr P Butterworth (Chair), Mrs L Brown, Mr K Dunn, Mrs H Adams.

### **Also in attendance:**

Mrs H Counsell (Clerk to the Council)

**Apologies:** Cllrs I Martin, A Williamson, J McKenna.

The Chair welcomed all to the second Council meeting in August 2021 to discuss the relocation of the current substation to a larger capacity one in Clearview. He thanked all present for their attendance.

The Chair explained the background to this issue and that although it had arisen suddenly during August, consultation responses to Monmouthshire County Council needed to be submitted by 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021. He explained that several residents had lodged complaints over the proposed relocation of the substation with this Council, with County Councillor L Brown and with Mon CC. He further noted that Councillor I Martin had attended a meeting with C Cllr Brown, Mon CC and Western Power; Cllr Dunn had attended two residents meetings; C Cllr Brown had attended a further meeting and both had met with the Tree Officer for Mon CC.

Western Power's (WP) current lease on the substation will end on 31.3.22 and it needs to be relocated from a resident's garden. WP's preferred options are:

- a) Purchasing a piece of grass verge within Clearview from Mon CC.
- b) Relocation to the grass bank at the entrance to Clearview.

Residents had strong objections to Option a) as the new substation would sit on a concrete pad 3m x 2.1m x 2.65m high, this would be unsightly and obtrusive.

Option b) also had strong objections from residents as it could mean adversely affecting a mature sycamore tree to install an eyesore, if it is not located outside a radius of the tree.

Following detailed discussion this Council had strong reservations on both options which members considered would be intrusive and unacceptable, a) to the residents of Clearview and b), to the wider community as it would scar the vista of the conservation area. Council felt that alternative options had not been fully explored, such as

- a) behind the wall at the Tan House pub;
- b) land behind Clearview at Lower House Farm (Council was aware that the landowner had not been approached by WP);
- c) square of tall trees behind The Spout.

Council resolved to respond to Western Power and the Mon CC consultation on the sale of the verge and request that the decision is postponed until all options have been fully explored by WP and detailed feedback received.

Meeting closed at 8pm.