

Shirenewton Community Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting of Shirenewton Community Council held on April 2nd 2007 at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

Present:

Councillors:

Ms B Moore
C Eickhoff
J Eede
J Harvey
Mrs S Saysell
Mrs J Morgan
Mr R Mitchell

Apologies:

Councillor:

C Crundwell
K Morton
Ms S Bushell

In attendance:

Councillor Graham Down, Monmouthshire County Council
Ms Glynis MacDonald
Mrs C Jones Clerk
Five members of the public

Minute 1962 To Disclose personal and pecuniary interests in any item of listed business.

None declared

Police Report

PC Mason was unable to attend the meeting and the Police report was not provided.

Minute 1963 To approve and sign minutes of the Council Meeting held on March 5th 2007

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

Minute 1964 Planning

1. Quarry Cottage, Great House Farm, Earlswood

Retention of change of use from agricultural land to residential curtilage

Recommend approval

2. Lower Lodge, Earlswood

Single storey extension (2.5m x 3.7m) to existing house; to be used as hallway and downstairs bathroom

Recommend approval

3. Quarry Cottage, Earlswood

Retention of change of use from agricultural land to residential curtilage.

Recommend approval

Members wished to note their concern that as this area would be considered to be brownfield if the application was passed then it may be easier to obtain planning for a building in the future. They requested that a condition may be

imposed that the land is retained as a garden to Quarry cottage.

4. Laurel Cottage, Westend, Earlswood

Conversion of barn to one bedroom dwelling

Recommend approval by a majority vote with the condition that this dwelling remains ancillary to the main property and the finish is compatible with Laurel Cottage

5. Rocks Cottage, Earlswood

Extension to an existing dwelling and conversion of an existing double garage to related residential use.

It was agreed that Cllrs Harvey and Mitchell would visit the site and provide further information to the Clerk. Authority was delegated to the Clerk to respond after this information was provided.

6. Golf Club Retention of lamp posts. Appeal against a refusal

Notice of the appeal was received too late to provide copies of grounds of appeal and give Members sufficient notice to formulate response. It was agreed that Members would respond to Clerk with their comments on the seven points of the Appeal within a week. Authority was delegated to the Clerk to collate the responses and respond on behalf of the Community Council

Minute 1965 To consider Financial Matters

Bills presented for payment:-		£
Clerk's salary less Pension contribution	367.50	
Pension contribution for Clerk (Council & Clerk contribution		102.82
Stationery and Expenses		33.94
Azimuth Land Surveys (maps for village plan)	199.38	
Payment made from grant monies direct to C Eickhoff in recompense for payment already made.		

It was resolved to make all payments

All Members had been previously e mailed by the Clerk regarding the proposed change of External Auditor by the Wales Audit Office. Members confirmed that they had no objections and there would be no conflict of interest.

Items of local Concern

Minute 1966 To consider final draft of Village Plan

The content of the Plan which had been e mailed to members one week previously was approved with some minor adjustments. Members made a vote of thanks to Cllr Eickhoff who has spent many hours on the project. Cllr Eickhoff in turn thanked Cllr Eede for his invaluable help.

The grant received should cover colour printing for 350/400 copies but there may be a shortfall of up to £50. Members agreed that if required this would be paid from Council funds.

It was resolved that the date for presenting the plan to the Community would be Monday 18th June at 8pm at the Recreation Hall.

Minute 1967 Report to Welsh Assembly on deferred applications and breaches

relating to Shirenewton Golf Club

Cllr Harvey reported that he had been seeking to determine what guidance had been given to determine planning applications on listed buildings and conservation areas. It would appear that none has been given.

However a panel has now been constituted to determine a proper system and interpretation of legislation. There appears to be no proper procedural work as to how Local Authorities should process planning applications. A meeting is to be held on the 9th June which Cllr Harvey will attend.

The specific complaints about the Golf Club can be referred to MCC once policy has been determined. We need to know the grounds on which to challenge.

Cllr Harvey has all the issues documented and will circulate copies to Members.

C/FWD

Minute 1968 To consider request for barrier at open space Mynyddbach

Two Members of the public spoke in support of having some sort of barrier in place, with a locked gate for access for grass cutting machines and emergency vehicles.

They felt that it was a possibility that Travellers could descend on this open area.

Quite a lot of damage was done last month when a 4x4 became stuck in the sodden ground and had to be pulled out. Members were told that there are other car tracks on the field but no one has seen the vehicle.

The Clerk informed the meeting that she had contacted Asset management at MCC concerning the damage and it was agreed that the field would be repaired. The cost of this would be passed on to the owner of the 4x4 if he/she could be identified. The Clerk will obtain these details and pass to MCC.

It was resolved that the Clerk will approach MCC with a request for a barrier and lockable gate, all in keeping with the rural area.

Minute 1969 To consider entry into Best kept Village

It was resolved that Shirenewton would be entered into the competition.

It was further resolved that the Clerk would organise with help from Councillors.

Minute 1970 To receive report on additional post box in Shirenewton

Cllr Down reported that a survey was being carried out to determine the need for an additional post box. He is awaiting response.

C/FWD May

Minute 1971 To receive report on request for maintenance of school routes

Cllr Down reported that he had arranged for a meeting to be held after Easter when school routes will be one of many issues discussed. He will report at the next meeting

C/FWD May

Minute 1972 To consider siting of notices in view of shop closure

While the shop is closed there seems little point in placing notices on the Board there.

It was resolved that the Clerk will place notices on the Recreation Hall Board.

The Clerk was requested to look at the original clause in the planning permission of the houses and shop to see how long the shop had to remain before it could revert to a residence

C/FWD May

Minute 1973 To receive report regarding the suitability/safety of stiles on Golf Course

In the absence of Cllr Morton, Cllr Harvey reported that there were quite a few areas of concern. Cllr Morton had walked the paths and many way markers were uprooted and lying on the floor. Dinham valley track has had builders materials dumped on it. It was resolved that Cllr Harvey would investigate further and provide photographs to form part of a report to the Rights of way enforcement officer.

C/FWD May

Minute 1974 Clerk's report

Update on items carried forward from previous meetings.

The Clerk provided a written report for Members as follows:-

1. Water Disconnection

Letter received from Dwr Cymru stating that as a result of my last letter they have contacted the persons involved for details of time scales involved for the installation of generation at both water pumping stations. It has been confirmed that the project is now in the maintenance programme for delivery in the new financial year.

Two companies have provided quotes and they are currently 'normalising' the quotes to ensure the specifications are the same. Details of the equipment and site layout at Prysgu Bach have been sent to the Forestry Commission and they are awaiting their response. Once the project engineer has the information a programme of works will be forwarded.

C/FWD May

2. Allotments

Before putting in a formal complaint against Debra Hill Howells about the lack of co-operation/contact from her, I e mailed Cllr Down on March 6th to ask if he had made contact with her as previously agreed. Shortly after this I received a telephone call from Debra Hill-Howells. She told me that she is preparing a report to go to Committee and thinks the area will either be able to be used for allotments or part of it will be sold to the resident who has applied for this. She said this would take about 3 weeks. I e mailed her on March 29th but did not have a response. I telephoned on April 2nd and was able to speak to her. She told me that she has had to prioritise her work and deal with the housing stock situation. She said she will try and write the report this weekend She has promised that she will e mail me on April 11th to tell me whether or not she has been able to write the report and when it will go to Committee.

C/FWD May

3. Tan House Planning application

The new case officer is Tony Grenow. When I spoke to him he said he had only had a chance to have a cursory look at the application. He does not know the area of Shirenewton and agreed to come and look at the village pubs. I agreed to contact him for an update mid April.

Since speaking with him I have had contact with the Area Manager of Enterprise Inns (Tredegar Arms) He has told me that the TA will be closed for a little while for refurbishment. It will reopen as a 'foodie pub' There will only be a small bar area in what is now the restaurant. The existing bar will be given over to an eating area.

I have e mailed this information to Tony Grenow as it means that the Tan House will be the only traditional pub in the village.

C/FWD May

4. Grass cutting and Moles at Shirenewton play area

Awaiting outcome of CEDS grant application. This has been deferred to April 10th.

C/FWD May

5. Insurance for playground

I have made contact with Zurich Insurance but I am waiting to hear if they would accept the Inspection report carried out by MCC or if they would insist on their own . This will make a difference to the overall cost comparisons. **C/FWD May**

6. Recreation Lease

I have contacted Francis & Co. and the Lease can be ready this week. The cost will be £125. (The same cost as the last lease)

I have spoken to the Recreation Committee regarding the added clause as discussed at the last meeting. This Clause suggested by the Chairman was included in the 1972 Lease. The Recreation Committee are in agreement with this but would ask that the whole of the Clause be included i.e. 'a parcel of land is held in Trust by the Landlord for the benefit of the residents of the Shirenewton community area and for the purpose of sporting, recreational and social activities *in such manner as the Committee of management from time to time shall think fit.*'

Cllr Harvey to report on his contact with the Recreation Association.

Cllr Harvey stated that he had not made contact with the Recreation Association

7. Application for larger donation Chepstow CAB

Letter written informing them that all donations will be reviewed in Budget meeting

COMPLETED

8. Earlswood/ Mynyddbach signs

Response received from Brian Cleary. Both requests have been added to list for possible inclusion/consideration

C/FWD June

9. Correction to signs of Welsh spelling of Shirenewton

Response from Brian Cleary that change is with projects section and will be done as soon as possible in the new financial year.

C/FWD June

10. Highways

Report received from Highways as follows:

Upper Tump Farm - pot holes repaired/debris removed 12/03/07

Members reported that the pot holes have been very badly repaired - just filled in with some tarmac but not even up to road level

Pant-y-cosin Lane - carriageway safe. No action required at present other than

renewing damaged salt bin

Lay by at Gaerllwyd - used by Highways as a temporary storage area.

Material

will be removed by the Spring

Golden Hill, Earlswood - potholes repaired 09/03/07 and referred to engineer for more permanent work

Members reported that the pot holes have been repaired badly and a lot of rubble has been put in the wood there, terracing down the escarpment.

It was also mentioned signs in Shirenewton, roads approaching Shirenewton

Stones Road
C/FWD

- Will arrange for repairs asap

12. Dog fouling

I contacted Kate Arnold who has agreed to put up signs in the village (should be in place by today) The problem lies in the siting of signs as there are few lamp posts. Kate agreed to visit the village on random occasions. She is empowered to impose an on the spot fine of £75 to pet owners who allow their dogs to foul any areas. If the case goes to Court a fine of up to £1000 can be imposed. It is Kate's purpose to educate dog owners rather than imposing a fine.

I was unable to speak with Kate before the deadline date for the Parish magazine last month but I will put a notice in this month's Parish magazine advising that the Dog Warden will be visiting the village.

C/FWD

Monmouth Town Council employs a Company to empty dog waste bins at a cost of £2.50 per bin as MCC no longer have anyone to provide this service. They have 28 bins which are emptied weekly.

Caldicot Council employs the same firm. They currently have 10 bins but are about to install a further 11.

The costs involved if we wished to install bins would be as follows.

Purchase of bin (45 litres) and pole	£167
Detection test to see if area was suitable	30
Installation per bin (concrete or grass)	7.50
Total cost for each bin would therefore be	£204.50
Ongoing weekly costs for each bin for removal of waste	2.50

It was resolved that it would be too costly to supply and maintain bins.

13. Community Council website

I have chased up Mon CC regarding their previous proposed plan to host a web site for all Community/Town Councils. Members had previously agreed to wait for the outcome of MCC's decision before looking at setting up our own website. The most information I was able to obtain from MCC is that the Chief executive made a decision last week and will be writing to all Councils. The person I spoke to was aware of the result of the decision but was not prepared to let me know what it was.

C/FWD May

14. Rubbish in field near school

All rubbish removed

COMPLETED

Minute 1975 Items of local concern - information only

It has been observed that some of the road signs are in poor condition e.g at Mynders Farm the sign has been turned around 90 degrees. Members will provide a list of signs and Clerk will contact Highways

C/FWD May

Minute 1976 to confirm the date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Council was confirmed as being the Annual Meeting on May

14th 2007. This will be followed by the Ordinary Meeting.

Chairman.....

Date.....