

Shirenewton Community Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting of Shirenewton Community Council held on August 7th 2006 at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

Present:

Councillors:

Ms B Moore
J Harvey
Mrs J Morgan
C Crundwell
K Morton

Apologies:

Councillors: C Eickhoff

Mrs S Saysell
J Eede

Ms S Bushell

G Down Monmouthshire County Council

In attendance:

Police Constable Andrew Mason
Ms Glynis McDonald
Mrs C Jones Clerk

Minute 1892 To Disclose personal and pecuniary interests in any item of listed business.

None declared

Police Report

PC Mason reported that on the 3rd July a car was found in a forestry car park with the occupants using cannabis. On the 18th July, three radios were taken overnight from three vehicles in the Bayfield area.

There were three Road traffic incidents. A 600 cc motorcycles misjudged the corner on the road near the Carpenters Arms (B4235) and the motor cyclist suffered minor injuries.

There was a 'hit and run' incident with a telegraph pole near Prys gau Bach. A 750cc motorcycle lost grip on the rear tyre and hit a Mondeo on the bend in road near Gaerllwyd cross roads (B4235)

There was a Highways obstruction when a tree blocked the B4235 on the Chepstow side of Shirenewton. This was removed by Monmouthshire County Council.

Minute 1893 To approve and sign minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on July 3rd 2006

The minutes of the meeting were agreed and signed as a true record with the following

amendments.

Page 2. Cllr Moore wished to point out that the reference to Neighbourhood watch

co-ordinators concerned Shirenewton and Mynyddbach group.

Minute 1894 Clerk's report

To consider items C/FWD from previous meetings.

Community Council Website

No further information at this time

C/FWD

Allotments

The Clerk reported that she has spoken to Debra Hill Howells and has been told that the Community Council's request has not been progressed. The reason given is that Debra Hill Howells has been told to prioritise her work and her priority at the moment has to be the cattle market in Abergavenny. The Clerk asked Debra Hill Howells to confirm the status of the site as it appears from the new UDP plan that the suggested allotment site may now be part of the green area. At first she said the map was wrong but has now confirmed that the suggested allotment site is indeed part of the green area designated as open space. This effectively means that under policies C3 and C4 the Council will need to justify the change of use by showing the need and feasibility for an allotment site. She said she had visited the site and her concern would be about lack of water. She now says that it will be at least two or three months before she can get an answer from Cabinet. In the meantime she said she has asked landscaping to do some work there as she appreciates that at the moment the area is an eyesore. **C/FWD**

Repairs to Play area

The Clerk contacted the Insurance Company the day after the last meeting concerning the welding of plates on the horse, and was told the engineer who carried out the site visit was on holiday. She was advised to stop anyone playing on the horse. As the play area was closed anyway for two weeks this was not a problem. However on making contact again, the Clerk was told that the engineer could not remember the job and would have to make another visit. The Clerk is now awaiting a response as to any cost implication of a second site visit. Currently the horse is taped up and a notice that it is out of use.

The play area has been renovated by Shirenewton Landscapes. The hedges have been cut back, equipment painted, the area underneath the climbing frame has been cleaned out and re-filled with the required depth of bark to bring it up to standard and the flooring has been cleaned and re-sanded. The grass has been cut back but unfortunately the problem with the mole hills still remains. The Clerk is waiting for an estimate for curing this problem.

It had been initially hoped that Shirenewton Landscapes would be able to carry out the ongoing maintenance of both the Play Area and the Friends Burial Ground but this was proved to be too expensive. The Clerk agreed to approach other local people.

C/FWD

Replacement bin in Play area

This has been installed. The Clerk reported that when the old bin had been emptied it was found to contain mainly babies' nappies which made it very unpleasant for the person emptying it. She said she would put a notice on the new bin requesting that the

bin is not used for this purpose.

COMPLETED

Village Plan Questionnaire

This is ongoing. Cllr Harvey suggested that a note should be put in the Parish Magazine as a final reminder to anyone who had not returned their questionnaire. The Clerk informed Members that in conjunction with the results of the Questionnaire she is looking at the methods that other communities have used to obtain traffic calming measures and also the compilation of a list of things worthy of preserving in the area.

C/FWD

Alleged breach of planning at Shirenewton Golf Club

The Clerk has spoken to Enforcement who stated that a retrospective application was put in during June for gates and lighting. The papers were going to the case officer on the day that the Clerk contacted Enforcement and a copy will be sent to the Clerk. The Clerk was told that the delay was due to an objection being received from a neighbour with an unknown address!

The Enforcement officer is due to visit the site within the week to check on the complaint that some of the garage blocks have not been completed as per the original planning permission i.e. one garage roof was to be turfed over and the garages were to be finished in stone.

C/FWD

Stiles at Shirenewton Golf Club.

The Clerk has spoken again to Ruth Rourke who had again contacted the Solicitor but up to Thursday of last week had not received a response. Ruth Rourke agreed that if she had not had a response by Friday 11th August she will serve notice that the work will be carried out by MCC and the owner will be billed for the work. She said the work would then be carried out as soon as she has someone available to do it. Ruth Rourke promised to e mail the Clerk on Friday with her decision.

C/FWD

Mynyddbach Play Area

The Clerk reported that the Council were successful in their bid for a grant to replace the picnic table and a bench. The grant application was for £1400 but all revenue bids were capped at £1000. The Grant is from the Community Economic Development Scheme. Two of the conditions attached are that the wood used is from Wentwood Timber Centre and that a local person is employed to make the items. The Clerk is waiting for quotes.

C/FWD

The Clerk stated that after much difficulty she had spoken to Debra Hill Howells concerning the erosion of the green area by the parking of cars. Debra Hill Howells

suggested a possible solution would be to place large rocks at the edge of the green area but was concerned that if cars then parked on the road it would cause problems as it was very narrow. Members agreed that a site visit should be carried out. Cllrs

Harvey, Morton, Crundwell and Moore will meet at the site at 8pm on Thursday and e mail the Clerk of their findings.

C/FWD

Shirenewton and Mynyddbach Fields Association

Cllr Crundwell reported that the Association has been advised to apply to become a charity to maximise on grants. It is to set up a public limited company. The long term aim is to become a charity, apply for grants and bring the area back into community use allowing public access. The Association would be quite happy to have footpaths running through.

Cllr Crundwell also reported that the member of the public who was pursuing the problems with footpaths in the area believed she was making good progress with the assistance of the Rambler's Association.

Cllr Down had been asked at a previous meeting to check on whether the footpath that runs by Yew Tree Cottage that Monmouthshire County Council had paid for was considered to be good use of funds. As Cllr Down was unable to attend this meeting, this item will be carried forward to the October meeting.

C/FWD

Rubbish in field near school

The Clerk reported that she had received written confirmation from the Enforcement Officer that he will visit the site.

C/FWD

Best Kept Village

The Clerk reported that while Shirenewton did not win the 'Best Kept Village' this year, St Thomas a Becket Church had won the 'Best Kept Churchyard' section of the competition with a Certificate and a prize of £50. The Judges marks and comments were read to the Members and they agreed it should be published in the Parish magazine.

COMPLETED

New bolt on Notice Board in Mynyddbach

COMPLETED

Minute 1895 Action List (arising from last month's meeting)

Forestry Commission Amenities.

It was agreed by members that the site was probably too far away from the villages to be of use. It was therefore agreed that the Clerk would liaise with the Forestry Commission on the previous suggestion that rent could be paid every 10 years instead of annually (75p per annum). It was further suggested that the Clerk obtains a ten year management plan for the site before the rental agreement is made. **C/FWD**

Highways

Upper Tump Farm

The Clerk reported that Highways have issued a works order to clear the debris from the bottom road which will be carried out shortly with some grading works on the lane to alleviate some of the worst areas of damage. The Engineer has added this site to the list of planned minor works schedule and in the meantime will carry out further survey and investigation to decide the best form of re-instatement for this location with longevity in mind.

C/FWD

Taliesin, Earlswood

The Enforcement Officer will visit the site re alleged breach of planning. **C/FWD**

Minute 1896 Planning

All planning applications were available for inspection by all Councillors between 7.15 and 7.30

DC 2006/00569 SCC 371 Cherry Orchard, Earlswood
Proposed garden room extension

Recommend Approval

DC 2006/00572 SCC 372 White Horse Farm, Penywaemawr
Certificate of lawfulness: continued occupation of dwelling in non-compliance with the agricultural occupancy condition.

Recommend refusal on the following grounds.

The owners knew of the condition when they purchased the property. This illustrates that enforcement has not been carried out properly in the past. Members believe it is important to retain the stock of agricultural homes.

Minute 1897 Financial Matters

Bills presented for payment:-	£
Clerk's salary	390.96
Stationery and Expenses	6.95
Shirenewton Landscapes	2380.00
J Saysell	540.50
BJH Services	100.00
Shirenewton Playgroup	100.00
Internal Auditor fee (Phil Brabon)	
Donation to Noah's Ark Appeal	50.00

Minute 1898 Items of Local concern

Vacant seat

C/ FWD

Verges at Cock-a-Roosting and Gaerllwyd

COMPLETED

Churchyard maintenance at St Thomas a Becket

C/FWD

Minute 1899 Items of local concern information only

Cllrs asked for the following items to included in the next Agenda

Additional post box in Shirenewton	Cllr Ms Moore
Possible use of fields near school for parking	Cllr Crundwell
Inaccessible footpaths in Earlswood	Cllr Morton

Change of name: Kauai House, has changed to Ash Grove, Earlswood, NP16 6AS

Minute 1900 to confirm the date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Council was confirmed as being October 2nd 2006

Chairman.....

Date.....