

## *Shirenewton Community Council*

Minutes of the Council Meeting of Shirenewton Community Council held on July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2006 at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

**Present:**

Councillors:

Ms B Moore  
J Harvey  
C Eickhoff  
Mrs S Saysell  
J Eede  
Mrs J Morgan  
C Crundwell  
Ms S Bushell

**Apologies:**

Councillor: K Moreton

**In attendance:**

Cllr G Down Monmouthshire County Council  
Police Constable Andrew Mason  
Ms Glynis McDonald  
Four members of the public  
Mrs C Jones Clerk

**Minute 1884 To Disclose personal and pecuniary interests in any item of listed business.**

Cllr Morgan declared an interest in the planning application for Seaview Nursery and left the meeting room during the discussion.

Cllr Eickhoff declared that as he lived in the area of Seaview Nursery he would abstain from any vote that may take place.

**Police Report**

PC Mason reported on three incidents in the Earlswood area.

1. Between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of June a shed/garage was broken into and a mountain bike was stolen. A pressure washer was removed but left in the garden
2. Between 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> June a quantity of spirits was taken from Earlswood Hall. It appears that the outside doors were not secured properly after an event during the evening. Two internal doors were forced and a steel cupboard broken into. Nine bottles of spirits were taken but beer and wine were left.
3. On 22<sup>nd</sup> June it was reported by a member of the public that a vehicle had been parked for some time on the Gaerllwyd road. Police checked and the owner was found to be a botanical surveyor working in the area. PC Mason made the point that in this case everything was fine but the Police welcomed calls from the public when they saw anything that may seem suspicious.

The next Neighbourhood Watch meeting is in August. Meetings are held every three months and PC Mason said he felt this helped to keep the momentum going. Cllr

Moore said she would arrange to place a list of all Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators for Shirenewton and Mynyddbach on the Community Notice Boards

**Minute 1885 To approve and sign minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on June 5<sup>th</sup> 2006**

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

1. Minute 1879 Planning. The Oaks Farm should read 'covered' not 'coved'  
Minute 1879 Planning. Barn near The Cayo should read 'providing' not 'proving'  
Minute 1877 Rubbish in field near school. The reference to the information on new legislation should be clear that it came via Once Voice Wales and was not of their making.

**Minute 1886 Clerk's report**

To consider items C/FWD from previous meetings.

**Community Council Website**

Cllr Bushell felt that the costs quoted by Cllr Eickhoff were higher than she would have expected in relation to the costs of site Chepstow Town Council runs. Cllr Eickhoff said that the figures he quoted took into account running costs as well as set up costs.

The Clerk reported that she was still waiting for a further update from MCC regarding their proposed Community website.

Cllr Harvey provided contact details of the Broadband Wales Programme Director for the Welsh Assembly who he believes is involved in setting up a system for Local Councils.

**C/FWD**

**Allotments**

The Clerk reported that she had at last been able to speak to Debra Hill-Howells after several phone calls e mails and messages. She spoke to her on Thursday of last week when she was told me that because of pressure of work she has not been able to prepare a report on our request. Debra hill-Howells said she is currently preparing a report about the sale of the land that has been pending for two years and also the Community Council request for allotments. She will then present it to whoever makes the decision and get back to the Clerk in about 21 days.

County Cllr Down said that he understood that the field may be declared an 'Owen Glyndwr' site. He has been asked to a site meeting and has requested that other Members of the Community Council attend. He will notify Cllrs of date. He said that the offer to purchase would have a covenant not to build on the land.

There appears to be a little confusion about whether the area discussed as being suitable for allotments is now included in the area of Open Space at Bleddyn Close - as the UDP map appears to show. The Clerk was asked to clarify whether or not the map is correct.

**C/FWD**

### **Repairs to Play area**

The Clerk had requested that MCC carry out the replacement of the RSJ on the rocking horse. When the men arrived to carry out the work they realised that there was so much cutting to be done they did not think they would be able to put the rocking horse back together. Tim O' Donovan has been to the site and suggests that if plates are welded to the front section then it will make it immediately safe and will extend the life for about 3 years. We should then be looking to replace the horse. The Clerk has contacted the Insurance Company to see if this is acceptable and is still waiting for a response.

She has contacted Dave Bowen of Shirenewton Landscaping and received an estimate. She met with him at the playground area and gave him a written breakdown of what was required.

Painting of Equipment

Repair to play house roof

Clean and re-sand 'astro turf' flooring

Cut hedges

Cut grass

Install new bin

Impact bearing material under climbing frame

Also

Replace bolt on Mynyddbach Community notice board

His hourly rate is £12.50 He currently carries out work for Cadw and has Insurance cover.

The total quote for £2,250. This however does not include the same type of impact bearing material previously quoted for by MCC under the climbing frame but allows for 12" depth of wood chip bark. Dave Bowen would give a separate estimate for this but said it would be a couple of thousand pounds. Cllr Harvey said he had made enquiries about a quote for the same material that MCC had quoted for but had not had a response.

The work will take about two weeks to complete

Members agreed that the Clerk should arrange for Shirenewton Landscapes to carry out the work. They further agreed that, providing it is acceptable to the Insurance Company, the Clerk should instruct MCC to weld the plates to the RSJ on the rocking horse. They requested that the Clerk look into the possible replacement of the rocking horse.

Currently the climbing frame area is dangerous. The Clerk reminded Councillors that there was a claim against this Council in 1998. The Insurance Company said then that it was difficult to defend the case as inspections were not carried out on a weekly basis. To this end Cllr Morgan has devised a safety check list which either she or a designated member of playgroup will carry out on a weekly basis. The completed list will then be e-mailed to the Clerk. The designated person will also empty the playground bin. Members agreed that a donation should be made to playgroup for both tasks. For the weekly playground check a donation of £100 per annum was agreed, to be paid immediately, and a figure for the emptying of bins will be agreed in six months time when Cllr Morgan will report how often this is carried out. The Clerk will formalise these arrangements by letter to the Playgroup.

**C/FWD**

### **Replacement bin in Play area**

The Clerk has purchased this and installation is included in quote from Shirenewton Landscapes. There will be a cement base with a pin up through base of bin to secure.

**C/FWD**

### **Village Plan Questionnaire**

Cllr Eickhoff reported that only 140 out of the 421 questionnaires delivered had been returned/collected. He called upon Cllrs to re-visit houses where they had not been able to contact anyone to collect the questionnaire.

The questionnaire had not yet been analysed but one of the main issues which concerned people is traffic speed through the village. Cllr Eickhoff said that a local retired police officer has offered to work with the Community Council on this aspect in an advisory capacity. He will look at what is practical, less intrusive but effective. Cllr Eickhoff said he felt that this would be a local person with the expertise required who would be able to balance what people want with what is feasible. Members agreed that this would be a good idea and initially Cllr Eickhoff will work with him.

Cllr Moore said that she had attended a Neighbourhood Watch meeting where the speaker was a Police Officer. Most questions to him from the floor were from people in small villages concerning traffic speed. He said that people should ring the Police traffic department when they witnessed speeding even if they could not provide a registration number. All calls are logged at Police Headquarters. Councils would then be able to ask for these statistics in support of traffic calming measures they may wish to introduce in the future.

Cllr Crundwell suggested that the Clerk could investigate the means by which Devauden and St Arvans were successful in obtaining traffic calming measures.

**C/FWD**

### **Alleged breach of planning at Shirenewton Golf Club**

The Clerk is still awaiting a response from Enforcement regarding retrospective planning for lamp-posts. Also queries on one garage to be turfed over and finished in stone and on-going tipping on site.

**C/FWD**

### **Stiles at Shirenewton Golf Club.**

The Clerk has spoken to Ruth Rourke who told her that the situation has changed. Last month the landlord agreed to purchase the stiles and get all the paper work completed. Now he has said he does not want to pay all of the cost and has referred everything to his Solicitor. Ruth has contacted the Solicitor but he was in Court all last week and unable to deal with the situation. She expects some sort of reply by the end of this week. Apparently she has received a number of complaints about the stiles and also about the Caretaker who has threatened to set his dog on people. She has told the landowner that he has to speak to his caretaker to stop this or MCC will take action. She said the enforcement process has begun but this is obviously a slower way to sort out the matter and people will need to be patient.

**C/FWD**

### **Mynyddbach Play Area**

The Clerk stated that she expects a response from CEDS regarding the grant that she applied for a table and benches in mid-July

The Clerk said she had spoken to Debra Hill Howells regarding the erosion, by car parking, of the green area. She promised to do a site visit on Thursday or Friday of last week and get back to her. She said MCC will look to stop the erosion of this site but it will be difficult to enforce. She suggested that putting stones on the verge may be an option. However Debra Hill-Howells didn't contact her despite the Clerk telephoning her office again.

County Cllr Down said that Debra Hill-Howells told him that she had been on a site visit but was unable to determine exactly the area being spoken about as she had visited during the day and there were no parked cars. County Cllr Down told Debra-Hill Howells that he will visit the area in the evening and take some photographs.

**C/FWD**

### **Mynyddbach Footpaths in Green Wedge Area**

The Clerk spoke to Ruth Rourke who confirmed that MCC **had** paid for the clearing of the footpath at Yew Tree cottage Mynyddbach. She said the landowner wanted to put up fencing and they couldn't stop him doing this but they thought that if they didn't clear the designated footpath before he put the fence up people would not be able to walk there at all. MCC wanted to do this before the end of March because of birds nesting etc. Members asked Cllr Down to look into this matter to see if it was an appropriate use of Council funds.

Cllr Crundwell, as the Council representative on the Fields Association, will contact Mike Sayce for an update on the position regarding the other footpaths in the area and report back to the Council. Cllr Crundwell was unable to attend the last meeting of the Fields Association.

**C/FWD**

### **Rubbish in field near school**

Despite many attempts the Clerk said she had been unable to obtain an address for the owner of the field. Cllr Crundwell said that he believed that he was refurbishing a cottage in Mynyddbach and worked there most days. However there was no postal address for the property. Members agree that the Clerk should write a letter requesting the removal of the cars etc and hand deliver it to this property.

County Cllr Down suggested speaking to John Clements at High Trees for advice and the clerk will follow this up.

**C/FWD**

### **Best Kept Village**

The Clerk stated that her husband had strimmed half way around the outside of the Church wall. Cllr Harvey said he would do the other half.

An invitation has been received to be present at the Celebration evening to be held at County Hall on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm. Numbers are restricted to 2 per organisation. Cllr Harvey said he may be able to attend.

**C/FWD**

### **New bolt on Notice Board in Mynyddbach**

Included in estimate from Shirenewton Landscapes

**C/FWD**

## **Minute 1887 Action List (arising from last month's meeting)**

### **Letter to Parish Magazine**

Cllr Eickhoff has sent a letter to the Magazine setting out the arrangements for reporting of Community Council meeting. Members were very sorry to hear of Bob O'Keefe's illness and hope he is feeling much better shortly. Members felt that it was laudable that Stuart Dutton had agreed to take over the production in Bob O'Keefe's absence. Stuart has asked that any e mails sent to Bob can be re-sent to him. The magazine will be produced but may be a little later than usual. **COMPLETED**

### **Forestry Commission Amenities.**

Cllrs reported that they had not yet been to visit the site to suggest possible ideas to be put forward to the Forestry Commission but will do so before the October meeting. Cllr Harvey suggested that some picnic tables and benches may be a good idea.

### **Highways**

The Clerk had contacted Highways and received a report on the following:-

1. Pot holes on approach road to Shirenewton have already been identified and Works order issued.
2. Cwm Lane. The road is falling away but is being monitored at present.
3. The 30mph signs at the approach to Shirenewton are obscured by hedgerow which will be cut back shortly.
4. The fly-tipping at Gaerllwyd lay-by has been cleared.
5. The road conditions at Upper Tump Farm are poor. A site visit has been made by the Engineer. County Cllr Down was present. The outcome of the meeting was that it was acknowledged that work was required and will be fitted in to Highways programme but it is unlikely that it will be done this year. It appears that one suggestion is to put in a cattle grid. Members said that this is used as a bridle way and therefore a cattle grid may be unsuitable. Cllr Down said he would mention this point to Highways.

**C/FWD**

### **Taliesin, Earlswood**

The Clerk had been asked to look into the plans because it seems that the old cottage has been demolished and it was believed that the old cottage formed part of the planning application.

Planning Department has confirmed that there is only one planning application on file and that is for an extension to the existing cottage. They will ask the Enforcement officer to visit the site.

**C/FWD**

## **Minute 1888 Planning**

Cllr Bushell had attended a Planning seminar at MCC which she told members she had found very interesting. She said that during the day they looked at an overview of the planning system. She reminded Cllrs that they need to be mindful of the UDP, which Councils are bound by, when discussing planning applications.

Cllr Harvey said that he felt that there is a need to identify items that enhance the

Community and the reason we need to preserve them. It was agreed that a list should be drawn up of items in village such as walls and aspect views of the Church. While not listed by Cadw they can be listed by the Village. It was agreed to do this as part of the analysis of the Questionnaires

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

The following applications were discussed:-

1. **T'yr Ywen, Weyloed Lane.** Alterations and Extensions

Recommend approval with the following observation:-

The 4<sup>th</sup> bedroom in the extension will overlook the master bedroom of the neighbouring property.

2. **Seaview Nursery** Barn conversion to residential

Recommend approval with conditions, by a majority vote (3 for, 2 against, 2 abstentions)

a) The Council would wish to see the hedgerow remain to preserve wildlife. If the hedgerow has to be removed to ensure that visibility from the driveway on to the main road is not compromised then Members would like to see the hedgerow replaced a little further back from the roadway.

b) The caravan currently on the site should be removed.

c) There should not be excessive lighting.

d) That the limited size of the building is considered when a decision is made. The Members of the Community Council feel that the size of the building may not provide adequate living accommodation.

e) The Community Council have recommended approval on the assumption that this application meets the criteria as a barn conversion as stipulated in the UDP.

**Minute 1889 Financial Matters**

Bills presented for payment:-	£
Clerk's salary	390.96
Stationery	35.27
Expenses	6.63

**To consider the attendance of Clerk at SLCC one day conference**

The cost is £40 and this was agreed by Members.

**To complete new Bank mandate**

The Clerk reported that she was unable to obtain any details about the accounts as her name was not on the mandate. On checking with the Bank she found that the Bank is only holding four names as signatories and two of those have not provided identification to the Bank and therefore are not authorised signatories. The Clerk has told the Bank that they are accepting cheques signed by unauthorised signatories. The Bank has recommended that a new mandate be completed. The Clerk will be included in this mandate for ease of obtaining information but will never act as a co-signatory

**Minute 1890    Items of Local concern**

The Clerk will be on holiday at the end of August and beginning of December. It was therefore agreed by Members that a meeting would not be held in September.

**Vacant seat**

No Electors have contacted the Returning Officer so The Council must now co-opt a new Member for Newchurch West. Cllr Eickhoff has been approached by someone in the Earlswood area. Members agreed to defer this item until the October meeting.

**C/FWD**

**Verges at Cock-a-Roosting and Gaerllwyd**

It was reported that these verges require cutting back. The Clerk will contact Highways.

**C/FWD**

**Churchyard maintenance at St Thomas a Becket**

Cllr Saysell asked if the Community Council would support the Church in the maintenance of the grounds. She said that other Community Councils supported the churches in their areas. It was agreed to put this on the Agenda for October as Cllr Saysell will be on holiday for the August meeting.

**C/FWD**

**Minute 1891    to confirm the date of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Council was confirmed as being August 7<sup>th</sup> 2006

Chairman.....

Date.....