

Shirenewton Community Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting of Shirenewton Community Council held on March 5th 2007 at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

Present:

Councillors:

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

Apologies:

Councillor:

C Crundwell

In attendance:

Mrs Alison Broughton
Mrs C Jones Clerk
One member of the public

Minute 1945 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 1946 To approve and sign minutes of the Council Meeting held on February 5th 2007

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

Minute 1947 Planning

The following application was received for recommendations after the Agenda had been issued. The item was discussed by Members and authority was delegated to the Clerk to report views of the meeting to Mon CC.

Ardnog, Shirenewton.

Proposed access and driveway.

Recommend refusal

There is currently a shared driveway. Members were concerned about the safety of the egress of another driveway coming out on to this very narrow lane. The proposed driveway would cross open farm land. Members felt that the existing shared driveway was sufficient.

Minute 1948 To consider Financial Matters

Bills presented for payment:-

£

Clerk's salary less Pension contribution	179.84
Pension contribution for Clerk	925.40

The Pension fund for the Clerk has now been set up The pension contribution for the Clerk is from June 2006 until February 2007. It consists of Community Council contribution £714.28 and Clerk's contribution £211.12. The Clerk's salary has been reduced accordingly. In future the payments will be made on a monthly basis.

Stationery and Expenses	12.90
External Audit fee	141.00
One Voice Wales Annual Subscription	99.00
Shirenewton & Mynyddbach Fields Association Donation	200.00
Repair to Clerk's Computer	101.50

It was resolved to make all payments

Minute 1949 To consider request from Chepstow CAB for increase in Donation

It was proposed by Cllr Bushell that consideration be given to donating 1% of the Precept to Chepstow CAB. The proposal was not seconded.

It was resolved that the Clerk write to Chepstow CAB advising them that they would consider the amount of any donation at the next Budget meeting

Minute 1950 To receive the outcome of external audit for 2005/2006

The External Auditor's Report stated that the information contained in the Annual Return is in accordance with Auditor General for Wales' requirements and there are no matters giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

The observation was made in the report that it is good practice to minute the Council's consideration of the scope of its internal audit. Although the scope of the audit was given to the Internal Auditor, this fact was not minuted that it had been discussed but Members agreed that this should be done in future years.

The Clerk will display the report on the notice boards.

Items of local Concern

Minute 1951 Village Plan

Cllr Eickhoff produced a draft of the Village Plan. Because of time constraints he had been unable to circulate it to all Members but this would be done in the next few days. He asked for comments, particularly on the Action points listed, to be sent to him within the next ten days. He will then circulate the final draft one week before the next Council meeting on April 2nd when it will be discussed.

Members acknowledged that the sub-committee had spent a lot of time and energy on this project and were to be congratulated. **C/FWD**

Minute 1952 Report to Welsh Assembly on deferred applications and breaches relating to Shirenewton Golf Club

Cllr Harvey has almost completed the report and it will be ready for discussion at the next meeting. The purpose of the report is to obtain a comment from the Welsh Assembly about whether or not good practice has been followed **C/FWD**

Minute 1953 To consider request for signs at Earlswood

It was resolved that the Clerk would follow up the request for signs to be placed at Gaerllwyd, Cock-a-roosting and West End. **C/FWD**

Minute 1954 To consider request for signs at Mynyddbach.

It was resolved that the Clerk would request that signs be put at the approaches to Mynyddbach, at the bottom of School Hill, bottom of Weyloed Lane and at the junction before the School. **C/FWD**

Minute 1955 To consider solution for complaints of dog fouling in area from Shirenewton shop to Church

It was resolved that the Clerk will contact Kate Arnold regarding a Dog Warden. It was further resolved that the Clerk will put a suitable notice in the Parish Magazine. It was further resolved that Clerk will contact Caldicot and Monmouth Councils where it is believed they operate a dog waste bin and collection service, to find extent of costs involved **C/FWD**

Minute 1956 To consider request for bollards at open space in Mynyddbach.

Cllr Saysell reported that the field had been left in a very poor state after the abandoned Land Rover had been pulled out. It was resolved that the Clerk would investigate via Mon CC possible recompense from the owner. **C/FWD**

It was felt that putting bollards in the area would detract from the pleasant aspect. Various suggestions were made for blocking off the entrance to the area but it was accepted that this would have to be moveable to allow access for grass cutters or emergency services. It was resolved that the item would be carried forward to the next meeting to seek the views of PC Mason. **C/FWD**

Minute 1957 To receive report on request for additional post box in Shirenewton

County Cllr Down was unable to attend the meeting and a report was not provided **C/FWD**

Minute 1958 To receive report on request on request for maintenance of school routes

County Cllr Down was unable to attend the meeting and a report was not provided **C/FWD**

Minute 1959 Clerk's report

Update on items carried forward from previous meetings. The Clerk provided a written report for Members as follows:-

Rubbish in field near school

The legal notice which has been issued allows 3 months from the 1st February for the owner to remove the remainder of the rubbish. It would appear that the only item left is a disused white transit van. **C/FWD May**

Footpath 121 Earlswood

Work carried out on 26th and 27th February

COMPLETED

Water Disconnection

Awaiting response to letter

C/FWD May

Planning Application procedural concerns

E mail received from David Swanson offering apologies for errors on various aspects of the administration of the planning applications process. He named the causes as being problems with the new computer system and delays in resolving staffing matters which lead to an over dependence on temporary staff. He says he has reiterated to his staff the importance of checking letters and documents before they are sent. He hopes that some changes that are being introduced will overcome these problems.

Weekly lists will now be available on MCC website. Planning applications with all details (plans, forms, letters, responses etc) will also be on the site.

Weekly lists of decisions will be available in the near future.

COMPLETED

Cricket Club

Meeting held on 7th February Report of meeting given to Members by Cllr Eickhoff.

Cllr Eickhoff reported that he and Cllr Harvey had met with three members of Shirenewton Cricket Club and their Legal Adviser. They maintained that they owned the land on which the shed was built but this was strongly disputed by the Council Members. Cllr Eickhoff suggested to the Members that there should be a 'Whereas' clause at the beginning of the new lease, stating the intended use of the grounds as per the original bequest.

The Clerk stated that the Council only needed to be involved in the leasing of the field. The management of the field and the responsibility of the buildings was the concern of the Recreation Association.

It was agreed that the Clerk would instruct the Solicitor to insert the following clause at the beginning of the new Lease '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.

It was further agreed that Cllr Harvey will contact the Recreation Association

C/FWD

Allotments

I have left a telephone message and e mailed regarding the status of the field etc. I requested acknowledgement of my e mail but have had no response. I hope that Cllr Down has had more success.

It was suggested that the Clerk should write a formal letter of complaint C/FWD

Tan House Planning application

No date set for hearing.

I spoke to Emma Langmaid who said that while she doesn't want to give anyone false hope, she is edging towards not supporting the application on the following grounds:-

1. She feels she cannot support the main principle (but decision has not been taken)
2. There is too much development on the site.
3. The archaeological dig.

She has written to the applicant outlining the above and is waiting for revised detail.

The applicant may be able to influence points 2 and 3 but not 1.

If she considers the application should be refused it will not go to Committee.
However Emma left MCC on March 2nd It is highly likely that the new case officer
will be Kate Young but as of 5th March 2007 the case has not been allocated to
another officer. **C/FWD**

Styles on Shirenewton Golf Club

Awaiting updated map from Gwyn Teague. I will pass to Cllr Morton on receipt
C/FWD April

Grass cutting and Moles at Shirenewton play area

Awaiting outcome of CEDS grant application. This has been deferred to April 10th.
C/FWD May

Insurance for playground

Last year's figures for Insurance were Inspection policy £304.60. Tim McDermot at
MCC would carry out this annual inspection for approximately £100. If we stay with
Allianz and Cornhill for the main policy (last year's figure £1546.77), the MCC
inspection will be acceptable for the purposes of the policy.
However I have contacted Zurich municipal who are in the process of providing a
quotation for both policies. **C/FWD May**

Overgrown hedgerow in Shirenewton

Letter written awaiting response **C/FWD**

Christmas lights

Letter written to organiser **COMPLETED**

Shirenewton Golf Club

I have spoken with the resident regarding the meeting with David Davies. He has
written to him enclosing a copy of the letter he has sent to MCC and will notify
resident when he receives a reply.

I spoke to the Enforcement Officer who said that he had attempted to call at the Golf
Club to speak to the people concerned regarding the use of washing lines.(I had sent
him a photograph provided by Cllr Eede). Unfortunately he said he could not get in
because of the electric gates! He has spoken to Beacon Estates and they will send out
a general letter reminding residents that washing lines are unacceptable.

The Enforcement Officer said that he will know within the next few days if Beacon
estates intend to appeal against the decision on the lighting or remove them.

Tredegar Arms

I was asked to check if a change of use from a Pub to a Restaurant requires planning
permission. Planning Dept say that both come into the same class and therefore would
not require an application for change of use unless there is anything in previous
documents stating that it should remain a pub. A historical check would be required to
find out if there was any such condition laid down. **COMPLETED**

Wind Turbines

Some information is provided in the Councillors Planning handbook under Renewable
Energy but for greater clarification I contacted MCC and received the attached e mail
COMPLETED

Clerk Staff Appraisal

This has been carried out by the Chairman and Vice Chairman **COMPLETED**

Minute 1960 Items of local concern

It was noted that the Village shop has closed until further notice. The shop is up for sale and it was hoped that the Community would support the new owners.

Minute 1961 to confirm the date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Council was confirmed as being April 2nd 2007

Chairman.....

Date.....