

Shirenewton Community Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting of Shirenewton Community Council held on November 2nd 2006 at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

Present:

Councillors:

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

Apologies:

Councillor:

Ms S Bushell

In attendance:

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

Minute 1910 To Disclose personal and pecuniary interests in any item of listed business.

None declared

New Member Application

The Clerk reported that Mr Mitchell had sent his apologies as he was unable to attend this meeting due to a prior engagement. He will attend the December meeting.

Police Report

PC Mason gave a report covering the period 3rd October to 6th November. He reported that there were no recorded crimes in the area.

Road Traffic

On Tuesday October 4th there was a hit and run road traffic accident. The male driver of an old green Citroen saloon car ran into the back of another car on the road from the Tan House to the Tredegar Arms. Initially the Citroen driver admitted he was at fault and both drivers agreed to go to the Tan House car park to exchange details. The driver of the Citroen did not do this but drove away. The Police would like to hear from anyone who may know the driver of the Citroen.

On Friday October 7th on the B4235 at Hillside cottage a single vehicle travelling towards Chepstow was involved in an accident when the driver dozed off and hit the side of the house. A positive breath test was recorded.

Other Incidents

On Sunday 9th October there was a complaint about a group of three bikes overtaking on the B4235. The registration numbers were recorded and letters have been sent to the registered owners.

There was an anonymous call made at 22.31 hrs on Tuesday 11th November concerning noise at the Tredegar Arms. Officers were unable to attend until 00.20 when it was reported that all was quiet.

On Sunday October 16th a black and white sheep dog bit a householder and the dog made off.

On Wednesday October 19th at 5.30 pm there was a report of a suspicious male carrying an Army rucksack outside the Tredegar Arms. He had gone by the time officers arrived but it is thought he may have been waiting for a lift.

On Monday 31st October the boundary wall of a property near the Church partially collapsed.

Cllr Eickhoff remarked that a significant number of people had expressed concerns about motorbikes on the Usk Road when completing the Village Questionnaire. He asked PC Mason if it would be possible to discuss with him ways of reducing the speed at which they travel. PC Mason said he would be happy to enter into this and spoke of an initiative he had carried out in Tintern as an example of what might be done.

Minute 1911 To approve and sign minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on October 2nd 2006

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

Minute 1912 Planning

The following applications were received for recommendations.

Pentwyn Bach Newchurch

Replacement two storey dwelling and detached garage.

Recommend refusal on the grounds that the garage was refused originally because it was considered to big in relation to the existing house. Now it appears that the footprint and height of the house are to be increased to accommodate the size of the proposed garage. The property is very prominent from the road and from a distance. The view of the Council was that the cottage should be more sympathetically restored that the current plans show.

South Grove, Earlswood

Proposed single storey extension

Recommend approval

Pandy Farm, Earlswood

Retention of change of use of outbuildings to form living accommodation ancillary to house and construction of manege.

Recommend approval with the condition that the property is only for use of owner or agricultural worker.

Cherry Orchard, Earlswood

Proposed entrance hall replacement

Recommend approval.

Shirenewton Hall

Agricultural Barn

Cllr Harvey had visited the site and spoken to the neighbours.

The Clerk advised all Members of the report that had been sent to Planning Department.

There is no objection to the Barn in principle. However it is felt that the barn should be moved through the line of trees owned by the applicant to the southern side of the avenue of trees and could then if required be situated further to the East nearer to Owl Barn if necessary. It is understood that there is a gateway at

the end of the approach track into the field to the South which would facilitate this recommendation.

Minute 1913 Clerk's report

To consider items C/FWD from previous meetings.

Allotments

The Clerk reminded Councillors that Deborah Hill Howells had previously said that she would not be able to give an answer to the request for allotments until the end of October.

The Clerk said that she has sent three e mails and left two messages on the phone during the last two weeks for Debra Hill Howells and she has not responded in any way. The e mails also reminded her that she had said she had agreed to put an order into Landscaping to tidy up the area. Cllr Down said he would contact Deborah Hill Howells. Cllr Eickhoff informed Cllrs that while working on the Village Questionnaire he had read a report from 1978 in which the Allotments were reported on. The Clerk had reported in a previous meeting that she had been told by Debra Hill-Howells that there is no record of the area in Mynyddbach ever being an allotment site.

C/FWD

Repairs to Play area

Cllr Morton and Cllr Eede told the Members of various methods of removing moles, some successful some not. However it was agreed that particular care had to be taken as the problem was in a children's' play area. The Clerk said she had spoken to Playgroup regarding the levelling of the mole hills when they carry out the weekly safety inspection and it was agreed that this would be done and this would be shown on the weekly report.

The Clerk said she was prepared to get quotes for an artificial surface the same as currently covers a large part of the play area. She would then source grant monies for this project.

It was generally felt that if the moles are banished from one area they will surface in another area such as the Recreation field and cause a problem there. It was agreed that as long as the mounds are levelled as they appear, they will not be a Health and Safety risk.

The Clerk reported that the final grass cut of the Season for the Play area and the Friends Burial ground was carried out by Haines Bros and they have also given an annual quote to her for next year. She is still in the process of obtaining quotes for next year.

C/FWD to January

Village Plan Questionnaire

The Chairman reported that the sub-committee met to discuss the structure of the plan that they intend to create. They have another meeting in two weeks time. They have applied for a grant to cover the cost of production. Cllr Eede said that he understood that the grant applications are to be decided on 14th November and we should hear soon after that. It is hoped that the results of the Questionnaire will be produced in the Spring of next year. Cllr Crundwell said that the intention is to present the information in an interesting way and show what we as a Community Council can do to meet local needs.

C/FWD

Alleged breach of planning at Shirenewton Golf Club

The Clerk reported that she had again been in contact with the Enforcement officer who had told her that the developers are seeking to plant a mixed hedgerow in front of the garages in place of turfing over. Cllrs made the point that in the original plan the turfing over of the garages was seen as a strong point to enhance the site in a

conservation area.

With regard to the large tarmaced area it appears that in the plan DC/557 it was indicated that there would be some passing place/hard standing although the Enforcement Officer concedes that this may be larger than originally intended. He will take this up.

The Enforcement Officer has e mailed the Developer informing him that the lampposts are presently unauthorised.

The Clerk will follow up these points.

C/FWD

Stiles at Shirenewton Golf Club.

The Clerk reported that there is apparently a new plan of action. Gwyn Teague has told her that the landowner has been in contact with him. The new plan is that MCC will install one kissing gate so that the Landowner can see the standard required. He will then install the others. The Clerk asked for a date when this will begin and Gwyn Teague promised to phone her with details but has not done so. The Clerk will contact Gwyn Teague again for a firm date for the start and completion of the work. **C/FWD**

Mynyddbach Play Area

The Clerk sent letters to the residents around the green play area at Mynyddbach. One letter from a resident had been received. One other resident attended the meeting and gave his views on the situation. Apparently this area has been used in this way for sixteen or seventeen years but Members were told that during the summer two skips had been in place at different times and this had caused some damage to the grass area but grass has begun to grow in the area now that the skip has been removed. It was agreed that the resident would speak with neighbours to find out what the consensus of opinion was. Some Cllr felt that if the boundary line was not re-instated it may be better to make the area that is currently used for parking into a hard standing which would make the area look neater. **C/FWD**

Rubbish in field near school

Quite a lot of the rubbish has been removed but a large transit van, a horse box and oddments still remain. The Clerk has been in contact with the Enforcement Dept who has written again to the owner acknowledging that he has removed some rubbish and stating that they will monitor the situation. The Clerk will follow this up. **C/FWD**

Forestry Commission

The Clerk is still waiting for the five year management plan

C/FWD

Highways

Upper Tump Farm

The Clerk has reported to Highways Cllrs comments last month and they have stated that the road will be re-graded again as soon as possible. Cllrs Eickhoff and Morton will inform the Clerk if the work is carried out. **C/FWD**

Rights of Way

The Clerk informed the Members that Gwyn Teague had contacted both landowners involved in footpath 121 at Primrose Hill, Earlswood setting out the definitive alignment of the path and a proposed solution to reopen the path on a more practical alignment by virtue of a diversion order. A site visit has been arranged with the owners of primrose Hill and he is in continued correspondence with the owner of the adjoining field. **C/FWD**

Insurance for playground

The Clerk is still investigating alternative Insurance for the playground for next year.

Churchyard maintenance

It appears that the churches we donate to understand that they can use the money as they think fit. This is used for the upkeep of the Church. Caerwent Council support all 5 of their churches to the tune of £1080 towards churchyard maintenance but there is no other grant given. Shirenewton gives £390 in total to the five churches in its area but this is from a much smaller precept than Caerwent. It was agreed that this item will be discussed in the December meeting when the precept figures for 2006/2007 are agreed.

C/FWD

Additional post box in Shirenewton.

Cllr Down told Members that he had contacted Royal Mail to see if a decision has been reached after the monitoring of mail posted in the Shirenewton box. He has not yet received a reply.

C/FWD

Dog fouling in Mynyddbach

The Clerk reported that signs have been erected.

COMPLETED

Daffodils

Cllr Eede, Morton and Eickhoff have determined where they will plant the daffodil bulbs and will now go ahead with the planting.

C/FWD

Signs at entrance to Earlswood

The Clerk has requested that Highways put 'Earlswood' signs at the three entrances to the village, at Gaerllwyd, Cock-a-roosting and West End. It has been added to Highways list of works.

C/FWD to February

Tredegar Arms Variation of licence.

Cllr Eickhoff reported on the meeting that both he and the Clerk had attended along with several interested parties. Written and verbal representations were received. The Sub Committee approved the application with the following restrictions:-
Ladies Nights and Casino Nights not to be included in the operating schedule.
Objectors were told that they had twenty one days to appeal to a Magistrates' Court. It was felt by people who attended who lived in the vicinity that the best course of action was to wait and see if any problems occurred.

COMPLETED

Shirenewton School Governing body.

Cllr Down reported that Cllr Murphy has not yet made up his mind if he is going to stand down as a Governor but we will be advised as and when he does.

COMPLETED

Maintenance of school routes.

Cllr Down has not yet made enquiries into this but will report to the meeting in December

C/FWD

Minute 1914 Financial Matters

Bills presented for payment:-	£
Clerk's salary	390.96
Stationery and Expenses	25.59
Llanfair Landscapes	180.00
Mon CC (repair to horse)	164.50

The Clerk reported that this year's accounts had been internally audited by Phil

Brabon and he has signed them off as being accurate. In order to comply with legal requirements proper opportunity must be provided for the public to view the accounts. They must be available for viewing over a period of twenty days. It was agreed that people will have to make an appointment with the Clerk and she will put up a notice to this effect on the notice boards and also in the Parish Magazine.

The Clerk advised the Members that the external audit for 31st March 2005 had been received. There were no issues raised and they had been signed off.

The Clerk also advised the Members that the external auditors are required to select a 5% sample of local councils each year for intermediate audit and we have been chosen this year. Additional information is required such as copies of all Bank statements and also an analysis of reserves identifying general fund and any earmarked reserves.

The Clerk informed the Members that the precept for 2007/2008 should be determined this month. She had previously circulated the last four years precept figures and proposed figures to be discussed. It was agreed that she would circulate actual expenditure for the last few years. Figures for the precept will be determined at the December meeting. **C/FWD**

Minute 1915 Items of local concern

Cllr Harvey is in the process of formulating a factual case on the handling of the Golf Club Planning application to the Welsh Assembly. He feels that when a response is received the Community Council can seek a meeting with the Chief Executive of Mon CC. He estimates that the letter to the Welsh Assembly will be available in about twelve weeks **C/FWD to February**

Cllr Morton raised the issue of the creeping development at Great House Farm. There are a small number of outbuildings which have now been developed. Apparently what is purported to be a garden shed has its own address, telephone line and shower. There is concern by the owner of Great House Farm that there is no enforcement to stop this type of development. It was agreed that a separate meeting should be arranged for Friday 10th November between the owner of Great House Farm and Cllrs Morton, Harvey and Eickhoff **C/FWD**

Minute 1916 Items of local concern (information only)

Cllr Moore informed the meeting that Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators did not want their details put on the local notice boards. However Cllr Moore as Area Co-ordinator is happy to have her name and contact telephone number advertised on the notice boards and in the Parish Magazine. The Clerk will do this. **C/FWD**

Minute 1917 to confirm the date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Council was confirmed as being December 4th 2006

Chairman.....

Date.....