

Shirenewton Community Council

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

Present:

Councillors:

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

Apologies:

Councillors:

Mrs J Morgan
J Harvey
Police Constable Andrew Mason

In attendance:

Councillor Graham Down Monmouthshire County Council
Ms Glynis MacDonald
Mrs Alison Broughton
Mrs C Jones Clerk

Minute 1901 To Disclose personal and pecuniary interests in any item of listed business.

None declared

Police Report

As PC Mason was unable to attend the meeting, the Clerk read out his prepared report.

Burglaries and thefts from Motor vehicles

Thursday 21st September, a garage was entered and a lawn mower stolen overnight.

Sunday 24th September, four cars entered overnight whilst on private driveways and property stolen.

Thursday 28th September, garage entered and lawn mower and strimmer stolen overnight.

Friday 29th September, garage entered and vehicle trailer stolen overnight.

Road traffic incidents

Monday 25th September, accident involving two vehicles on the Crick Road, slight injuries.

Thursday 29th September, single vehicle accident where a driver lost control, left the road and went into hedge - minor injuries

Friday 29th September, vehicle failed to stop, was traced and details exchanged - no injuries

Other incidents

Monday 25th September, Police officers were called to the Tredegar Arms Public House following a complaint of noise.

Cllr Moore a Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator reported that she had been advised that a Welsh water van had been broken into. The only item taken was the I.D card of the driver, ANDREW SPARKS. If anyone is approached by someone with this ID they should dial 999 immediately.

Minute 1902 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 4 paragraph 2. Cllr Moore also agreed to attend the site meeting.

Minute 1903 Planning

There were no planning applications received.

The Clerk provided Members with an update on decisions made on applications processed by MCC since their new computer system was installed. Also included were three outstanding applications which are due to be determined in the next few weeks.

<u>PROPERTY</u>	<u>SCC RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>MCC DECISION</u>
Oxpool Farm Argoed Road SHIRENEWTON	REFUSAL	APPROVED
The Oaks Farm, Red House Lane SHIRENEWTON	APPROVAL	APPROVED
Barn near The Cayo SHIRENEWTON	APPROVAL	APPROVED
Marls Barn Usk Road SHIRENEWTON	APPROVAL	APPROVED
Seaview Nursery EARLSWOOD	APPROVAL	REFUSED
T'yr Ywen Weyloed Lane MYNYDDBACH	APPROVAL	APPROVED
Cherry Orchard EARLSWOOD	APPROVAL	APPROVED
White Horse Farm Penycaemawr EARLSWOOD	REFUSAL	TO BE DECIDED
Golf Club (retrospective) SHIRENEWTON	REFUSAL	APPROVED
Brook House EARLSWOOD	APPROVAL	TO BE DECIDED
Barn 4 Pen-yr-heol Farm (Amended plan) EARLSWOOD	REFUSAL	TO BE DECIDED ON 3 RD OCTOBER

The Clerk provided all Cllrs present with a copy of 'A community and Town Councillors Handbook: The Land Use Planning System In Wales'

Minute 1904 Clerk's report

To consider items C/FWD from previous meetings.

Community Council Website

Cllr Eickhoff reported briefly on a meeting arranged by Monmouthshire County Council that he had attended with Cllr Bushell. He spoke about four possible options for a website for the Community Council.

1. The local channel. Adverts would be put on this site by the company and a percentage would be paid to the Community Council
2. Town Crier. This is a local publicity company who have Google hits so access should be simple.
3. Vision ITC. Also have Google hits. Costs anticipated by them to be £200-£250. They would set up a temporary site free of charge for us to see the potential.
4. Monmouthshire County Council. They are still thinking about hosting a site for Community Councils. Currently they anticipate the cost may be about £500 per Council. However they do not consider that anything will be running before Spring 2007.

Members felt that the website should wait until next year when we have further details from Monmouthshire County Council and can compare costs for all options.

Allotments

This is carried forward to the next meeting as The Clerk has agreed to wait until the end of October for a response from Debra Hill Howells regarding the feasibility of an allotment site.

Debra Hill Howells told the Clerk during their last conversation in August that she would ask landscaping to clean up the area as she appreciated that the area was an eyesore. Cllr Saysell said that this had not been done and the situation was worse as there had been further tipping of rubbish. The Clerk will follow this up. **C/FWD**

Repairs to Play area

The repair to the horse in the Play area has been completed at a cost of £140 and the Clerk is awaiting the bill from Monmouthshire CC.

The mole hills in the play area continue to be a problem. The Insurance Company have suggested that the Council obtain specialist advice. Cllr Morton will investigate ways of getting rid of the moles. However it was felt by some Members that the Insurance Company were being rather demanding. It was suggested that the Clerk checks with other Insurance companies and also approach Martin Woodford at MCC who deals with insurance. **C/FWD**

The Clerk has approached several local people to cut the grass in the play area and also in the Friends Burial Ground but has not been successful yet. She will continue to look for someone. **C/FWD**

Village Plan Questionnaire

Cllr Eickhoff that only a small number of people had responded to the additional notices placed in the Parish Magazine. In total 160 questionnaires had been returned out of 430 delivered. This represents approximately 38%. Cllr Eickhoff has almost completed the analysis of those returned and hopes to meet with the sub-group in the next few weeks. The Community Council hope to apply for a grant to cover the costs of printing the results of the survey. Cllr Down will check to see if there is a requirement for the document to be bi-lingual. **C/FWD**

Alleged breach of planning at Shirenewton Golf Club

The Clerk reported that she had notified the Enforcement officer of several alleged

breaches and she read out the answers she had received.

With regard to the garages, the Enforcement officer states that he is awaiting further correspondence regarding the turfing over of the garages. He said as things stand at the moment it has been suggested that some artificial surface may be applied instead, as actually laying turf on this surface may cause further problems and it may not bed in well. He says he will await any further thoughts on this matter to hopefully reach an agreement satisfactory to everyone.

The materials used for the garages were approved in a further application (M/12452) for altering the layout of the garages

The Clerk raised seven other points and reported on the response.

1) Washing lines are being used at the properties that have been sold. It is understood that non-use of outside washing lines was a condition laid down

Response: At the time of my visit no washing lines were noted at the rear of the properties, the only structure present in this area was a table & parasol which was not permanently attached to the ground. There was as you state a condition restricting this & action can be taken if washing lines are erected in this area in the future.

2) The outside space surrounding the building now has boundary hedges dividing the area into separate gardens. It is understood that keeping the area open may also have been laid down as a condition.

Response: The hedging was approved between the units on the approved landscaping scheme for the site & can again be inspected if necessary.

3) The new gateway obstructs a right of way.

Response: Complaint passed to rights of way department.

4) The lighting to the west of the building is very powerful, unshielded and is on from dusk until dawn. They are approximately 25-30 feet high and represent considerable light pollution over a wide area of previously unspoilt countryside.

Response: The lighting referred to is I presume the lamp posts that have been previously erected & are the subject of the current application (DC/2006/557)

5) A large tarmaced area measuring 500 square yards has appeared on either side of the road on its eastern aspect. (This is not shown on any plans including the retrospective application) This is in violation of the 1971 Town and Country Planning Act.

Response : see 6

6) Further tarmacing has been added to the southern entrance leading into field number 7434/7539 on the 1.2500 O/S map 1996 - again this in violation of the 1971 Town and Country Planning Act

Response: 5 & 6 I was unsure about where exactly this referred to & did not note any area of this size having been tarmaced as I drove through the site. I can investigate this matter further if you can provide me with where exactly these areas of tarmaced land are.

7) All scrubland has been removed along with a further long section of hedgerow adjacent to the new right of way from Cwm Lane and opposite the entrance to Newton Edge

Response: Complaint passed to countryside dept.

The Clerk reported that she has already contacted the Enforcement officer regarding points 1,4,5 and 6 and also has contacted Rights of Way and Countryside

Departments. She is awaiting responses.

C/FWD

Stiles at Shirenewton Golf Club.

The Clerk reported that an inspection was carried out today by Gwyn Teague of the Rights of Way Department. Nothing has been done. He said that the last time he spoke to the land agent he said he thought the stiles complied with regulations but could not quote the regulations. He said he would be seeking advice. Gwyn Teague has heard nothing and the work of installing gates will now be done by MCC in the next week or so and the owner charged for the work.

C/FWD

Mynyddbach Play Area

The new picnic table and bench are now in place. It was agreed by Members that Vyv Noakes who had been employed to make and install the furniture had done an excellent job. The Clerk informed the Council that the once the receipt for payment had been received from Vyv she would be able to forward it to CEDS and then they would then pay the grant money of £1000 to the Community Council. Members agree that the Clerk should write a letter of thanks to Vyv for his work which is much appreciated.

COMPLETED

Cllrs Morton and Moore made a site visit to the play area at Mynyddbach to consider the erosion of the green area by the parking of cars. They reported to the members that they felt the original line of the green area should be reinstated. A suggestion was made that the Clerk write a letter to all householders concerned stating the Community Council's wishes but inviting them to attend the next meeting to make any representations.

C/FWD

Rubbish in field near school

The Clerk reported that she had received written confirmation from the Enforcement Officer that the owner of the field has 28 days from 11th September to remove rubbish. Cllrs reported that some of the rubbish has already been removed.

C/FWD

The Clerk reported that bed and burnt out car had been removed from the Car Park after a visit fro the Enforcement Officer

COMPLETED

Forestry Commission

The Clerk has contacted the Forestry Commission regarding their suggestion that they pay the annual rent of 75p per annum 10 years in advance. It was suggested by Members at the previous meeting that if this is agreed then the Forestry Commission should provide a ten year management plan. The Clerk reported that they only do five year plans and she is awaiting details of this.

C/FWD

Highways

Upper Tump Farm

Highways had agreed last month to carry out some work to alleviate some of the worst area of damage. Cllrs Morton and Eickhoff reported that an excellent job was done, the road was graded and the rubbish taken away. Unfortunately Cllr Morton reported to the meeting that three days later a yellow vehicle arrived and dumped tarmac scrapings there. The area is now no better than it was. The Clerk will contact Highways regarding this and also the results of the survey and investigations that Highways said they would carry out for a long term solution.

C/FWD

Taliesin, Earlswood

The Enforcement Officer visited on August 17th and confirmed that the building is in Compliance with approved plans. **COMPLETED**

Minute 1905 Action List (arising from previous month's meeting.)

Rights of Way

The Clerk said that she had spoken to Ruth Rourke and given her the numbers of the two paths that Cllr Morton mentioned that require marking (120 and 121). Ruth Rourke said that she will try to get them marked but the problem is that there are only three field workers. However within the next month MCC hope to set up a volunteer system with communities. Initially this will be to put up way-markers but could be expanded to ensuring pathways are clear. In Magor and Undy for instance, the Community Council employs a grass cutter to ensure stiles are kept clear. Half of the cost of this is paid by MCC. Ruth said she is looking for more volunteers who will be trained to carry out the job. Anyone who is interested should be put in touch with her. Cllr Morton stated that he felt the owners of the land crossed by rights of way 120 and 121 did not want walkers on their property. Some people had been deterred from using the footpaths by abuse from owners. He said that in one case there is a notice that says people will be liable for prosecution. The Clerk will contact the Path Enforcement officer **C/FWD**

Minute 1906 Financial Matters

Bills presented for payment:-	£
Clerk's salary	390.96
Stationery and Expenses	22.63
Room Hire	180.00
Vyv Noakes (in lieu of grant monies)	1000.00

Minute 1907 Items of Local concern

Churchyard maintenance

Cllr Saysell made a request to the Community Council for financial help towards the maintenance of the grounds at the Church of St Thomas a Becket, Shirenewton. She said she had been told that it was the practice of many other Community Councils to help with the maintenance of the Church grounds in their area. It has been the usual practice for this Council to give a grant to all the Churches in the area to use as they wished. Members felt that if there was an increase in the grant to Shirenewton Church then there should be an increase in the grants given to other Churches in the area. Cllr Saysell stressed that the Church was asking for financial help specifically for maintenance of the Church grounds. The Clerk was requested to find out what the other Churches in the area paid for their ground maintenance and also if other local Community Councils helped to fund the ground maintenance for their local Churches. **C/FWD**

Vacant seat

Only one person has shown an interest in the vacant seat representing Newchurch West and it was agreed that the Clerk would write and invite him to attend the next meeting in November. **C/FWD**

Additional post box in Shirenewton.

Cllr Moore raised the issue of an additional post box preferably sited in the vicinity of the shop. This had been raised in a previous year and had arisen because of complaints that the post box outside the old Post Office was full on occasions. The situation was left with the Royal Mail agreeing to monitor the number of letters being posted in Shirenewton post box but there had been no contact with the Royal Mail

since. County Cllr Down agreed to look into the issue with the Royal Mail.

C/FWD

Dog fouling in Mynyddbach

Cllr Saysell reported that the amount of dog fouling at the open spaces site in Bleddyn Close was becoming a horrendous problem. It was decided by Members that signs should be erected. Cllr Moore has some signs available and the Clerk will arrange to have them erected in prominent positions.

C/FWD

Golf Club to Welsh Assembly

At the last meeting it was the suggestion of Cllr Harvey that a report should be made to the Welsh Assembly on the handling of the Planning application concerning the Golf Club. As Cllr Harvey was unable to attend this meeting it was agreed to carry the item forward to the next meeting.

C/FWD

Daffodils

County Cllr Down had again donated a bag of daffodils for distribution around the area. A working party consisting of Cllrs Morton and Eede will plant the bulbs in suitable locations. The Members thanked Cllr Down for his gift.

C/FWD

Clearing of Right of Way at corner of recreation field

Cllr Saysell wished to know who was responsible for keeping this right of way clear. The Clerk informed Members that this is cleared every year before the fete. In the past few years it has been cleared by her husband and Cllr Eede. The Clerk had checked with Rights of Way at MCC and been told that if the obstruction is growing up on the right of way - in this case - the steps then it is the responsibility of MCC. If the obstruction is growing in from the sides then it is the responsibility of the owners of the field - the Community Council - but as they lease it to the Recreation Association who should keep the area in good order according to the lease, it could be argued that it is the responsibility of the Recreation Association. However Cllr Eede informed the meeting that he was prepared to ensure that the right of way was kept clear.

COMPLETED

Signs at entrance to Earlswood

Cllr Eickhoff suggested that signs should be put at the entrances to Earlswood. Members recalled discussing this at some time in the past but no action had been taken. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Highways with a request for three 'Earlswood' signs to be erected at Garellwyd, Cock-a-roosting and West End.

C/FWD

Tredegar Arms Variation of licence.

The Clerk reported that she had returned the objections on behalf of the Community Council, as previously agreed with Councillors, via e mail and has received an acknowledgment. She has since received notification that the Licensee is willing to reduce the opening hours of the original request to 10.am to 01.am Monday to Saturday. The notification states that this will allow them to sell alcohol until 12.30am ensuring that the customers are dispersed and the premises closed at 01.00am. Cllr Eickhoff said he will do his best to attend the Licensing meeting on October 10th at County Hall and the Clerk will also attend.

Some Members raised the issue that they had been told by some individual objectors that they had not received an acknowledgment of their objections. The Clerk was asked to notify the Licensing Officer of this.

C Cllr Down informed the Members that he was expressly forbidden to express any

School Fields car park

Cllr Crundwell raised the issue of the on-going problem with parking at Shirenewton School and the possibility of acquiring the nearby field to alleviate it. It would appear that this problem has arisen because of several reasons. When the school was built the amount of parking was not envisaged to be as great as it is today. The catchment area of the school is considerably outside the area. Up to 40 children come by car.

A Health and Safety Inspection picked up on the problem last year. County Cllr Down reported that Monmouthshire County Council would not have the funds to buy the field even if it was available. In his view he said that the congestion may in itself act as a safety measure because it meant that cars could not travel fast on the road outside the school when children were leaving the premises.

Cllr Eickhoff said he believed that one of the problems was caused by cars reversing on the school premises. He felt that the Community Council should get involved as it appears from the Questionnaires that many people are concerned about this problem.

Shirenewton School Governing body.

County Cllr Down reported that Caerwent Cllr Murphy is intending to stand down from his position as Governor. The term of office ends in April but he would be happy to stand down now if he was sure of a successor. It would normally fall to Shirenewton to provide a Representative in April 2007.

It has always been understood by the Members that the position of Governor is shared by Caerwent, Devauden and Shirenewton Community Councils with each Council taking a turn to provide a Representative for a four year term. County Cllr Down was asked if anyone in Caerwent was prepared to take on the position until April 2007. He said that the term of four years relates to the individual Cllr not the Community Council that he represents. It was pointed out that during this last four year term Cllr Murphy is the second Cllr who has represented Caerwent. C Cllr Down said that this should not have been the case. The Clerk clarified with him that the next Shirenewton Representative should be prepared to continue for four years or the position of Representative would pass to the next Community Council, in this case Devauden. Cllr Saysell expressed an interest in representing Shirenewton Community Council.

C/FWD

Safe Routes to School

It was brought to the attention of the Members that some of the routes to school are overgrown. Also the route from Tan House Court, over the bridge in the field frequently gets washed away. Cllr Down said he would make enquiries into the maintenance of these routes.

C/FWD

Minute 1908 Items of local interest (information only)

Bicca Common

The Clerk has received an e mail from Caerwent Community Council stating that they have written to Aberystwyth University to ask if a post-graduate student would be interested in carrying out research re Mark Roberts claim.

Roger Edwards Charity house to let

The Clerk advised Members of details of a one bed roomed house to let at a cost of £55 per week. She will advertise it on the notice boards.

Shirenewton Cricket Club

Cllr Eede informed Members that he had received a telephone call from a member of Shirenewton Cricket Club concerning a letter the Club had received from Shirenewton Recreation Association relating to the shed that they use on the Recreation field.

Members felt that this was not a matter for Community Council discussion at this stage.

Minute 1909 to confirm the date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Council was confirmed as being November 6th 2006

Chairman.....

Date.....