**SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 11 June 2012 at 7.30 pm

at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

**Present:**

 **Councillors:**
Ms L McCombe (Chair)

 Ms B Moore

 Mrs C Jones

 Ms L Prosser

 Mr K Morton

 Mr T Hughes

 Mr P Harris

**Also in attendance:**

 County Councillor G Down

 Mrs G MacDonald

 Mrs H Counsell (Clerk)

 3 members of the public

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

**1. Public participation -** 3 members of the public attended.

**2. Apologies:**

 Cllr D Adams, Cllr P Moles.

**3. Police report**

No police report had been received and PC Thorpe was not present at the meeting.

**Minute 2756 - To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in any item of listed business.**

Cllr K Morton - Planning item 2.

**Minute 2757 -** Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 14 May 2012 were approved as a true and accurate record subject to one amendment - that C Cllr G Down had not been in attendance. Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on the same date were approved as a true and accurate record subject to one amendment - **Minute 2746,** the Public Inquiry had been held around 1971 not 1961 as recorded. The minutes for both meetings were signed by the Chair.

**Minute 2758 - Planning.**

1. DC/2012/00153 Tredegar Court, Newchurch Court, Earlswood

Subdivision of Tredegar Court into 3 separate dwellings (semidetached barn conversions). Council to consider curtilage, parking and access only.

**This Council recommended approval with an observation of concern regarding the potential increase in traffic using the access point in view of a previous application approved for a crèche.**

2. DC/2012/00305 The Uplands, Earlswood

Detached residential garage and store.

**This Council noted that the garage is not residential and recommended approval.**

3. DC/2012/00449 Home Farm, Shirenewton

Agricultural Notification of new agricultural building.

**This Council expressed concern about the status of this application as an ‘Agricultural Notification’ and recommended review of status by Mon CC.**

C Cllr G Down advised councillors of a planning application that has been submitted, but not yet received by this Council, to develop the car park within the school grounds at Shirenewton Primary School. C Cllr Down requested that consideration be given to the application before the next Council meeting, if possible, as work would need to be carried out during the school summer holidays. C Cllr Down also declared an interest in this application as he is a governor at the school.

**Minute 2759 - Village Green Public Inquiry update**

Cllr Jones advised that a response was expected between 6 - 8 weeks from the Inquiry, we are 11 weeks in at present and no response has been received as yet. She further advised that she has contacted both Mon CC Legal Dept and the Inspector and has been told the decision should be made by the end of the month.

**Minute 2760 - Traffic calming in Shirenewton**

Cllr Jones gave a verbal report on the history of contact with the Highways Dept at Mon CC and a letter recently received from a concerned resident. She suggested reinforcing the proposal in the Traffic Calming document that was produced a few years ago - to reduce the speed limit through Shirenewton to 20mph. She also suggested requesting a meeting with Paul Keeble of Highways for local residents.

C Cllr Down responded with the following:

* He wrote to Shirenewton residents in January with the results of a speed survey and asking for comments, he had a low but positive response on the following suggestions:
* Moving the speed restriction sign on the Crick side of the village nearer to the start of the built up area,
* A gated entrance to the village (similar to that at Caerwent) on the Crick side of the village.
* A vehicular activated sign to be installed on a rota basis.

Councillors also expressed concern at the speed of traffic at Mynyddbach and the approach to the recreation hall entrance.

C Cllr Down advised that he will be meeting with Mr Keeble next week and will raise Shirenewton issues, he agreed to report back to the Council.

**Minute 2761 - Queen Elizabeth 11 initiative**

Cllr Moore advised that the application is progressing. Councillors agreed that the plaque for successful applications looked attractive.

**Minute 2762 - Recreation Hall lease**

Cllr Prosser reported back on a sub committee meeting that had been held recently.

The original 22 year lease had been reduced to 7 years. Clarification needs to be made and formalised on the ownership of buildings on the site eg. Recreation hall, cricket shed, etc) which should be in the ownership of the Recreation Association, ownership of the ground is not in dispute. Clerk to arrange a meeting with the solicitor and Cllr Moore to check there would be no detriment to the Council to offer a longer lease.

**Minute 2763 - Village Shop survey**

Cllr Morton confirmed that there had been two recent surveys to the majority of residents.

Cllr Moles was not present, so unable to confirm whether he had contacted local businessmen regarding financial support for the proposal of a village shop. Clerk to check and ask Cllr Moles to report back to the next meeting.

C Cllr Down confirmed that one Housing Association was still pursuing the proposal.

Cllr Hughes suggested forming a sub-committee to consider future proposals from the community that are accompanied by a business plan. This was agreed, sub-committee to consist of Cllrs Hughes, Prosser and McCombe.

**Minute 2764 - to receive the Clerk‘s Report**

1. **Best Kept Village Competition 2012 -** Cllr Jones reported back on the work that has been undertaken in the village by several public spirited residents before the judging takes place this month. She further suggested that after the results are announced, she form a Committee of interested residents and advertise in the Parish News prior to future Competitions to request plant donations and sponsors for village planters.

2. **War memorial grants** - Cllr Jones advised that the original applications cannot be traced, although they had been received. She offered to re-apply for both memorials, Councillors thanked her and were in agreement with this.

3. **Data Protection** - after clarification from C Cllr Down, the Clerk will pursue registration for the Council.

4. **Feedback on Diamond Jubilee event.** Very successful evening, weather was good and around 250 - 300 people really enjoyed themselves. Adults Jubilee Quiz and children’s treasure hunt were held on the night. Beacon went well and fireworks were very impressive. On the advice of C Cllr Down a funding application has been submitted to the Welsh Church Fund for £250. Councillors expressed their appreciation to the Clerk and Cllr Prosser for organising the event.

5 **Annual insurance cover -** Clerk checked with Came & Co, as advertised in Clerks Councils Direct, and Zurich Municipal, as well as current insurer, Aon Ltd, which held prices to 2011/12 costs at £1,442.70, which compared favourably. Council to re-insure with Aon Ltd.

6.  **Bus timetables, Earlswood & West End -** Damien Weekes of Mon CC chased up, currently finalising Monmouthshire Bus Guide, then timetables will be put in shelters.

7. **Co-option of Councillor for Mynyddbach** - closing date 20.6.12, no applicants as yet. Councillors agreed to approach suitable residents.

8. **Code of Conduct training** - Clerk has contacted Murray Andrews, Mon CC on 3 occasions to ask whether MCC will be offering training on this, C Cllr Down now pursuing. Clerk at Devauden is arranging joint OVW training for Councils in this area. Councillors agreed to support both training sessions, if held on convenient dates.

6. **Discussion took place on the timing/length of meetings** and it was agreed by Councillors to read planning applications on line to speed up the presentation of applications. A Planning sub-committee was suggested and will be considered again at the next meeting. General agreement was that meetings should end by 10pm.

7. **Recreational space, Blethyn Close** - Clerk to request Mon CC to ensure that any damage to the ground by heavy vehicles is repaired and the ground left in good condition.

8. Request for electoral roll forms completed by Councillors and to be returned by the Clerk.

9. Clerk has requested T O’Donovan, Mon CC to carry out the annual play area check, he has confirmed that this will take place in early July.

**Minute 2765 Finance - to consider items for payment**

**Expenditure (by Standing Order)**

Clerk’s salary/allowances - May 2012 £402.20

Clerk’s Pension - May 2012 £ 97.72

Inland Revenue - May 2012 £ 78.26

**Items for payment**

Aon Ltd (SCC’s annual insurance) £1,422.70

Clerk’s May expenses £ 73.41

Mrs H Counsell - Costs for Jubilee event (with receipts) £ 157.98

Mrs C Jones - planting of flowers etc, for BKV Competition £ 139.90

 (with receipts)

It was agreed that 5 Councillors be signatories on future bank mandates - Chair, Vice Chair, plus 3 Councillors - the mandate was signed as agreed.

**Minute 2766 to adopt the Community Council Accounts for 2011/12**

Council agreed to adopt the Accounts for 2011/12 subject to the correction of a typing error by the Clerk, who will re-issue the information.

Sections I and 2 of the Annual Return of external auditors, Mazars, were approved and the form was countersigned by the Chair. Clerk to submit the information.

**Minute 2767 - To receive items of correspondence.**

1. Notice of One Voice Wales 2012 Conference and AGM on Sat 13.10.12. October 2012 at Pontrhydfendigaid, Ceredigion. £75 per member, registration form to be returned with payment by 27.7.12. Member councils may propose a maximum of 2 motions for debate at the AGM and they must be submitted by 29.6.12.

2. Letter from Nick Ramsay AM offering to attend a Council meeting during the summer recess to explain the role of the Assembly and his work as the local Assembly Member.

3. Letter from Garth Tyre & Auto Services advising of the Caerwent Midsummer Motor Rally taking place at the Caerwent Training Area on Sunday 24th June 2012.

4. Letter of thanks from Noah’s Ark Appeal for £50.00 donation.

**Minute 2768 - Items of local concern**

* The Clerk was requested to write to ex-Councillors that were not re-elected to thank them for their support of the work of the Council during their term.
* Cllr Harris expressed his concern at a violent and threatening incident that had recently taken place at Brookacre, Councillors were disappointed that there was not a police presence at this meeting to discuss the issue further. C Cllr G Down agreed to write to the Care Standards Inspectorate regarding this concern.
* C Cllr Down reminded Councillors about the skateboarding presentation that had been made to Council last year and the commitment to support in principle and help find a location for a suitable site. He advised that young people are meeting with Mike Moran of Mon CC next week and are hoping to take the proposal forward. Clerk to add to agenda for July meeting.

**Minute 2769 - to discuss rental of the community field at Earlswood.**

Cllrs Morton and Hughes had checked that the fences are stock proof, but a gate is required. There is a good crop of mowing grass on site but no water supply. Cllr Hughes to contact interested farmers and arrange sale of the grass. Clerk and Cllr Hughes to check on annual commercial rent and report back to next meeting.

**Minute 2770 - To discuss play facilities at Earlswood**

Cllr Morton reported that there was no suitable ground readily available.

**Minute 2739 - Short reports on meetings attended.**

There were none.

**Date of next meeting:** Monday 2 July 2012 at 7.30pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

Meeting closed at 10.10 pm.