MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Shire Hall Agincourt Monmouth NP25 3DY







Tel: 01600 715662

Email: townclerk@monmouth.gov.uk
www.monmouth.gov.uk

DRAFT Minutes of the COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE Held on Monday 15th February 2021 via BT Telephone Conference

In attendance: Chair: Cllr C Blair

Cllr A Dewhurst Cllr E Bryn

Cllr K Jackson-Graham

C. Williams (Officer)

1 member of press

28. Attendance and apologies for absence.

To confirm attendance and receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Jupp. Apologies were received from Cllr Breeze and Cllr Gunter. No apologies were received from Cllr Feakins, Cllr Legg, Cllr Lucas, Cllr Roden or Cllr White.

29. Declarations of Members Interests and Dispensations.

To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

No declarations of interest were recorded

30. Minutes

To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9th November 2020.

It was **resolved** to approve the minutes as a true record

31. Public Participation

To hear comments from members of the public on items to be discussed on the agenda.

No members of public were present

32. Committee expenditure

To review budget and approve payments and committee expenditure to date.

Community Affairs Minutes Monday 15th February 2021

It was **resolved** to approve the budget, payments and committee expenditure to date.

Cllr Dewhurst questioned whether the payments description could be clearer and easier to determine what the expenditure is for.

33. Community Grants 2021-2022

To consider and confirm the timetable, application form and guidance notes for the first tranche of Community Grants for 2021-2022 and to agree the members of the Working Group that will consider all applications received.

Cllr Blair noted that the well-being goals needed to be more prominent in the application form and so it was agreed to adapt the form to ensure applicant's know the importance of meeting these goals. It was also agreed that the sum of £27,000 (75% of the budget) would be included in the guidance notes.

It was **resolved** to accept the proposed timetable, the guidance notes and application form with the above amendments and to allocate up to £27,000 for the first tranche of grants.

Working Group members: Cllr Blair, Cllr Bryn, Cllr Dewhurst, Cllr Jackson-Graham.

The Officer is to open the group to Members not present at the meeting.

34. Carbonne Twinning Association Community Grant

To consider and agree whether an extension of time for spending the community grant for 2019-2020 awarded to the Carbonne Twinning Association should be granted to allow completion of the project after COVID restrictions have been lifted.

It was **resolved** to grant an extension of time to Carbonne Twinning Association and to request a report upon completion of the project.

35. Future Events

To consider the list of future events put forward by A. Jackson and to agree any expenditure for the same.

It was **resolved** that Cllr Blair would respond to A. Jackson's email encouraging them to contact local community groups and to highlight the possibility of them applying for a grant for an event and to also contact Monmouthshire County Council to apply for permissions to hold an event.

It was **resolved** to invite A. Jackson to be a member of the Christmas Lantern Parade working group.

Cllr Jackson-Graham and Cllr Bryn agreed to contact Wyesham Women's Institute to see if they would be interested in a "Yarn Bomb". It was felt that it would be positive to encourage members of the community to run these events with the Community Grants scheme being used to support them.

36. Welsh Hearts Defibrillator Grant for Town and Community Councils

To consider and agree the purchase of an additional defibrillator using the Welsh Hearts Grant applicable to Town and Community Councils for the sum of £300 per AED.

It was agreed that the Officer would investigate the purchase of a further AED and to report back to next Committee with the potential of including one on Blestium Street toilets. It was agreed that this would be a good location with the new bike storage being installed imminently.

37. Review of CCTV Agreement (deferred from 09.11.2020)

To review the current CCTV agreement with MCC and its operation (in place until March 2022) and to consider and agree the content and requirements of the agreement.

It was noted that in the recent CCTV User Group report there were 3 CCTV cameras not working. It was agreed that the Officer would contact A. Mason of MCC to determine why this is the case.

Cllr Dewhurst also questioned the position of the camera located near the Waitrose roundabout. Cllr Dewhurst noted that it seems to miss any damage caused to the bridge, it doesn't look on to Chippenham Mead and it doesn't seem to go as far as the Sports Field. Cllr Dewhurst questioned whether this camera could be moved? It was suggested that this is put to Cllr Jupp and Cllr Smith for them to take to the next CCTV User Group meeting.

It was **resolved** to defer this item for Cllr Jupp to consider the current CCTV Agreement as the Lead Councillor for CCTV.

38. Police Reports

- (i) To note the police reports received for September and October 2020 (deferred from 09.11.2020)
- (ii) To note the police reports received for November 2020, December 2020 and January 2021 and to agree any action arising from the same

Councillors welcomed the reports and noted that they were generally comprehensive and gave a good idea of what is happening in the town. Councillors noted that Drybridge includes Town and wondered whether it would be possible for the reports to separate the retail area and residential area? It was felt that this may give the resident of Drybridge some reassurance.

The Officer drew attention to the police survey that has been circulated to members.

It was agreed that the Officer would invite PCSO Joe Facchiano and/or PC Selina Haywood to a meeting as it was felt that often these discussions are very useful.

39. Working Groups

To review the Working Groups for the committee and to consider whether they are still necessary and on what basis they should continue if deemed necessary (working group or task and finish group?) and report back to the committee review task and finish group.

- CCTV User Group (RJ)- It was agreed that this group would be disbanded but Cllr Jupp would remain the Lead Councillor on CCTV matters for the Committee and that CCTV matters would be an agenda item as and when needed.
- ii. School Council Liaison (TJC, AD, RR, SW)- It was agreed that this was an important working group for the purpose of ensuring a relationship between the Council and students. This would remain an ongoing Working Group although it was accepted that it is not able to progress matters at the moment.
- iii. MTC Marketing (RR, RJ)- It was agreed to disband this group and to reinstate in the future as and when needed.
- iv. Phone Box in Agincourt Square (EB, CB, KB, KJG)- It was agreed that this would remain an ongoing Working Group although it was accepted that it is not currently active due to the COVID pandemic.
- v. Christmas Lantern Parade (EB, CB, KJG, RR)- It was agreed that this would be an annual task and finish group for each occasion.
- vi. Public Consultation Working Group (MF, KJG, RR, CB, AD, SW, AL, RJ, EB, JL)- It was agreed to disband this working group as it was unlikely that any public consultation event would be able to take place. It was noted that Councillors surgeries should be encouraged during lockdown as a form of public consultation with a discussion around holding Zoom or BT Telephone Conferencing surgeries. It was noted that Councillor surgeries could be included on the Action Review so discussions could be had as and when necessary.

40. Town Maps Stickers (EB)

To receive an update on the renewal of the town maps and to consider the addition of stickers on the Town Maps to mark where a defibrillator is stored.

It was noted that there had been no update regarding the review of the town maps. Cllr Bryn confirmed that she would investigate the purchase of stickers for the town maps as a temporary measure until the defibrillators could be included on the reprinted town maps and that Cllr Bryn would report back at the next meeting with costing information.

41. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is 29th March 2021 at 7:00pm

Meeting closed: 20:33

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23/03/2021

12:35

Monmouth Town Council Current Year

Annual Budget - By Committee (Actual YTD Month 12)

Note: 23/03/2021

		2019	/20_			2020	/21_				2021/22	
	_	Budget	Actual	Brought Forward	Net Virement	Agreed	EMR	Total	Actual YTD	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
Community Affairs												
<u>201</u>	Community Affairs											
4093	CCTV	13,984	13,056	0	0	23,383	0	23,383	13,382	13,383	0	0
4202	Larger Community Project Grant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4203	Community Contributions	20,000	18,000	0	0	20,000	0	20,000	16,000	20,500	0	0
4204	Community Grants combined	24,000	24,000	0	0	34,480	0	34,480	21,475	37,000	0	0
4205	Emergency Grant Funding	1,308	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4206	Mind Partnership	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15,000	0	0
4216	Christmas Festival/Monlight	5,508	5,508	0	0	7,000	0	7,000	1,875	7,500	0	0
4221	Events	50	50	0	0	1,500	0	1,500	1,146	0	0	0
4222	Armed Forces Covenant Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1,792	0	0	0
4223	Communication/P	2,434	834	0	0	2,400	0	2,400	0	0	0	0
4229	MTC Newsletter	0	0	0	0	1,000	0	1,000	0	0	0	0
	Overhead Expenditure	67,284	61,449	0	0	89,763	0	89,763	52,086	93,383	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve_	(67,284)	(61,449)		-	(89,763)	_ _	(89,763)	(52,086)	(93,383)		
	Community Affairs - Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Expenditure	67,284	61,449	0	0	89,763	0	89,763	52,086	93,383	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve_	(67,284)	(61,449)		-	(89,763)	-	(89,763)	(52,086)	(93,383)		

23/03/2021 **Monmouth Town Council Current Year** 12:35 **Annual Budget - By Committee (Actual YTD Month 12)**

Page 2

Note: 23/03/2021

				Note: 23/03	3/2021							
	2019/20				2020/21					2021/22		
_	Budget	Actual	Brought Forward	Net Virement	Agreed	EMR	Total	Actual YTD	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward	
Total Budget Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Expenditure	67,284	61,449	0	0	89,763	0	89,763	52,086	93,383	0	0	
vement to/(from) Gen Reserve_	(67,284)	(61,449)		-	(89,763)	-	(89,763)	(52,086)	(93,383)			

23/03/2021	21 Monmouth Town Council Current Year Nominal Ledger Report by CENTRE						
12:33							
A/c Code	4093 CCT\	V		Ar	nual Budget	23,383	
Centre	201 Comr	munity Affairs			Committed	O	
Month	Date	Reference	Source	Transaction Detail	Debit	Credit	
				Opening Balance	0.00		
2	04/05/2020	5221	Cashbook	CCTV 1/4 20-21	3,345.60		
4	22/07/2020	5245	Cashbook	CCTV Jul-Sept 20	3,345.60		
7	23/10/2020	5162	Cashbook	CCTV Oct-Dec 10	3,345.60		
10	18/01/2021	017	Purchase Ledger	CCTV Jan - Mar 21	3,345.60		
		Account CC	ΓV	- Account Totals	13,382.40	0.00	
				-	<u> </u>		
		Centre Cor	nmunity Affairs	Net Balance Month 12	13,382.40		
A/c Code	4203 Comr	munity Contributi	ons	Ar	nual Budget	20,000	
Centre	201 Comr	munity Affairs			Committed	(
Month	Date	Reference	Source	Transaction Detail	Debit	Credit	
				Opening Balance	0.00		
4	28/07/2020	5247	Cashbook	Cmty contribn to CAB	10,000.00		
8	24/11/2020	5173	Cashbook	MCC sum childs act hubs & pack	6,000.00		
8	24/11/2020	5173X	Cashbook	MCC sum childs act hubs & pack		6,000.00	
8	24/11/2020	5174	Cashbook	MCC sum childs act hubs & pack	6,000.00		
		Account Cor	nmunity Contributi	ions Account Totals	22,000.00	6,000.00	
		Centre Cor	nmunity Affairs	Net Balance Month 12	16,000.00		
A/a Cada	4204 Comm	itu Cronto oo	mala in a al	Δ.,	unical Dividuos	24.400	
A/c Code		munity Grants co	mbinea	Al	nnual Budget	34,480	
Centre		munity Affairs			Committed	C	
Month	Date	Reference	Source	Transaction Detail	Debit	Credit	
				Opening Balance	0.00		
3	01/06/2020	5226	Cashbook	Parkinson's Support Gp grant	175.00		
3	01/06/2020	5227	Cashbook	Mon Tennis Club grant	154.50		
3	01/06/2020	5228	Cashbook	growing Spaces Grant	1,875.00		
3	01/06/2020	5229	Cashbook	Mon Sports Assn grant	1,260.00		
3	01/06/2020	5230	Cashbook	Cmty Champions grant	750.00		
3	01/06/2020	5231	Cashbook	Bereavment Supt Gp grant	331.00		
3	25/06/2020	5238	Cashbook	Cmty Gt Mon-Carbonne Tw.Assn	405.00		
6	11/02/2020	5120X	Cashbook	Cmty grant award Choir		1,700.0	
6	22/09/2020	5272	Cashbook	Cmty grant 19/20 reissue chq	1,700.00		
8	24/11/2020	5177	Cashbook	Comm Grant 20/21Tranche 2	1,998.00		
8	24/11/2020	5178	Cashbook	Comm Grant Tranche 2 20/21	2,688.00		
8	24/11/2020	5179	Cashbook	Comm Grant Tranche 2 20/21	3,780.00		
8	24/11/2020	5180	Cashbook	Comm Grant Tranche 2 20/21	2,958.00		
9	08/12/2020	8/12/2020 5186 Cashbook Community Grant		4,125.00			

Page	/2021 Monmouth Town Council Current Year							
User :PAUL		ITRE	Nominal Ledger Report by CENTRE					
				nbined	nunity Grants com	4204 Comn	A/c Code	
					nunity Affairs	201 Comn	Centre	
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	21,474.50	Net Balance Month 12		munity Affairs	Centre Com			
7,00	nnual Budget	An		nlight	tmas Festival/Mor	4216 Christ	A/c Code	
	Committed				nunity Affairs	201 Comn	Centre	
Cred	Debit		Transaction Detail	Source	Reference	Date	Month	
	0.00	— Opening Balance						
	300.00		Granny Browns	Cashbook	5189	08/12/2020	9	
	1,180.00	Parade	willow Archway Lan F	Cashbook	5190	08/12/2020	9	
	375.00	Parade	Steve Kaos Ent Lan F	Cashbook	5191	08/12/2020	9	
1,199.9		Parade	willow Archway Lan F	Cashbook	5190X	08/12/2020	9	
1,180.0		Parade	willow Archway Lan F	Cashbook	5190X	08/12/2020	9	
	1,199.99	ern Parade	willow Archway Lante	Cashbook	5190X	08/12/2020	9	
	1,199.99	ern Parade	willow Archway Lante	Cashbook	5190	16/12/2020	9	
2,379.9	4,254.98	Account Totals	nlight	stmas Festival/Mo	Account Chris			
	1,874.99	Net Balance Month 12		munity Affairs	Centre Com			
1,50	nnual Budget	An			S	4221 Event	A/c Code	
	Committed				nunity Affairs	201 Comn	Centre	
Cred	Debit		Transaction Detail	Source	Reference	Date	Month	
	0.00	Opening Balance						
	1,146.00		20070029/1/Rem Sur	Purchase Ledger	001	19/11/2020	9	
0.0	1,146.00	Account Totals		nts	Account Even			
	1,146.00	Net Balance Month 12		munity Affairs	Centre Com			
	nnual Budget	An		nt Funding	d Forces Covenar	4222 Armed	A/c Code	
	Committed			201 Community Affairs			Centre	
Cred	Debit	_	Transaction Detail	Source	Reference	Date	Month	
	0.00	Opening Balance						
1,792.0			AFC grant remaining	Journal	221	01/04/2020	1	
0.3			Balnce of AFC grant	Journal	224	01/04/2020	1	
1,792.3	0.00	Account Totals	nt Funding	ed Forces Covena	Account Arme			
		_						

Agenda item 7 Tom From: Caitlin - Monmouth Council To: Cc: Emma Bryn Subject: Re: Monmouth rambling and Hillwa; Iking Club 40th Anniversary 19 March 2021 14:01:08 Hello Caitlin Thanks for your response. No need to apologise, you've been very quick. Yes, please put us on the agenda for the next meeting. We will, of course, return any underspend. Rest assured we will spend money only on the three items listed in my previous emails and I'll keep receipts for audit purposes. As the revised proposal will be less visual, I would like to enhance the virtual aspect. That is, I'd like to spend some of the grant on producing the internet links to local walks and maps for use by visitors to the town. There may be Ordnance Survey fees or domain fees, for instance. I wouldn't expect this to exceed £300. Could you please include this in the agenda item so that the committee have the full story. I'd be pleased to have a copy of the agenda and I confirm I'm more than happy to attend the meeting (virtual, I presume). Thanks and regards, Tom On Fri, 19 Mar 2021 at 13:40, Caitlin - Monmouth Council <caitlin@monmouth.gov.uk> wrote: Good afternoon Tom, Apologies for the delay in responding to your email. It is a shame that permission was not granted for your initial idea, especially as it was such a lovely one. In terms of your new proposal, I would be happy to put this on the agenda for the next Community Affairs Committee meeting which is due to take place on 29th March 2021. The change of the project would need to be approved by the committee as it is quite different from the initial proposal. If permission is granted, please note that any underspend for the project would need to be returned to MTC or further permission would be required to spend the funds on a different proposal. If you are content with this way forward, I will provide you with a copy of the agenda when it is issued next week and perhaps you would be able to attend the meeting to present your changed proposal? Kind regards Caitlin Williams **Administration Officer**

From: Tom

Sent: 17 March 2021 14:28

To: Town Clerk, Monmouth Council <townclerk@monmouth.gov.uk>;

Emma Bryn

bryn.wyesham@gmail.com>

Subject: Monmouth rambling and Hillwa; lking Club 40th Anniversary

Hello Caitlin and Emma

You will recall that my walking club successfully applied to Monmouth Town Council for a grant to pay for a display at the Shire Hall to commemorate our 40th anniversary. However, the planning department has refused to allow us to put in place the display we described in our application.

After looking at various options we have come up with an alternative display and I'm writing to check that the town council would be happy for us to spend the grant on this alternative. Our proposal is in three parts as follows:

I think the cost of all three would be less than the grant money but, if not, we'd drop item 3.

- 1. A permanent display board on the toilet block at Blestium Street as the attached sketch. I have applied to MCC for a "Consent to advertise" which I understand is the process by which the other signs on the toilet block were permitted. Informal discussions with MCC have been quite positive so I'm hopeful of getting permission.
- 2. Display of a sign similar to the one at the toilet block but in a stick-on laminate on one of the windows at the Market Tavern building in Agincourt Square. The owners have granted us permission to display our sign for 3 months but I'm hopeful this could be extended.
- 3. A temporary, freestanding display in the arcade area of the Shire Hall, in front of the white doors. The MCC planners have said this would be acceptable and could be in place for two months but it could then be moved to the Leisure Centre which they have also said would be acceptable.

I'm conscious that this is a departure from our initial proposal but I'm sure we meet all the aspirations of that earlier proposal and I hope the town council will be happy to approve it. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or comments.

Regards,		
Tom		

Monmouth Rambling and Hillwalking Club

Tel.

Agenda item 8

MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Shire Hall Agincourt Square NP25 3DY

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Date: 25.03.2021

Report to Community Affairs Committee 29th March 2021

Subject: Kings Fee Notice Board

Prepared by: Caitlin Williams

In October 2019, the committee approved the recovering of the noticeboard in Overmonnow. The board was covered in a material suitable for outside use but unfortunately the recent bad weather has caused the material to lift. As you can see from the photograph below, the board beneath the material is, also, significantly damaged.



The material cannot be tacked to the back of the board, as the board cannot be removed from the frame. A temporary solution has been offered by Monmouth Fabrics (tacking the material to the edge of the board with heavy duty tacks). This solution, however, is unlikely to resolve the issue long-term.

It is with this in mind, that Cllr Treharne as suggested the purchase of a new noticeboard for the area. The following quotes have been obtained for a suitable replacement:

Earth Anchors

Single door notice board 9 x A4 1050mm h x 750mm w (earth-anchors.com)



Tradition Notice Board 1050mm height x 750mm width x 30mm depth (9 x A4 sheets)

Manufactured for the outdoors and comes with a 5 Year Manufacturer's Guarantee, Lead time 3/4 weeks from date of order

Traditional Outdoor Notice Board suitable for Councils, Schools, Parks, Hotels, Restaurants etc.

- Single sided, single door notice board finished in anodised or colour coated aluminium. Waterproof elastomer seal. 4mm polycarbonate glazing which is both UV and vandal resistant. Lockable door with 2 keys provided.
- Wall Mountable (simply order the notice board without posts)
- 9 magnets supplied for holding A4 sheets onto galvanised steel backboard (white finish)

Price: £176.00 exc VAT

Green Barnes (recommended supplier from OVW)

AF30 Range A2 Lockable Single-bay Aluminium External Noticeboard (greenbarnes.co.uk)



The AF30 range of aluminium noticeboards is positioned to offer the perfect balance of economy and practicality. Don't be misled by their comparatively low prices; these are extremely practical boards, well suited to a wide range of everyday applications. We keep prices low by keeping things simple, so if you're looking for a wider range of options such as headers, or larger sizes, you may wish to explore our AF58, A-Multi and A-Max ranges. If, however you're looking for a sound but basic noticeboard, then look no further!

Standard specification includes:

- Slim, 30mm deep aluminium frame
- Silver anodised finish
- Galvanised steel back panel with white lacquered finish for use with magnets
- 4mm, vandal-resistant, Plexichoc glazing
- Side-hinged doors which can be reversed for left or right-hand opening
- Waterproof elastomer seal
- Tamper-proof locks supplied with 2 keys per board

Price: £154.13 exc VAT

Noticeboard Company

<u>Tradition 30 Wall Mounted External Notice Board | School Notice Boards | Lockable | Signage (noticeboardcompany.com)</u>



The Tradition 30 Wall Mounted External Notice Board has a 30mm deep aluminium frame with single side hinged door glazed with 4mm plexishock and is supplied with two keys. The board has a rapid swap door system which allows you to replace the door easily should it become damaged without the use of tools or removing the poster display. The board has an elastomer seal, anti-condensation vents and zinc electroplated steel backboard for use with magnets.

Tradition 30 Wall Mounted External Notice Board - Painted Frame

- 30mm deep aluminium frame
- Zinc electroplated steel backboard for use with magnets
- Side hinged door with 4mm plexishock glazing
- key lock with two keys supplied
- Choice of frame colours
- Optional magnetic title plate
- 5 Year Guarantee

Price: £209.00 exc VAT

Attempts have been made to find local companies for the supply of a noticeboard but to no avail, unfortunately.

Budget

There is the full £2400.00 remaining in the Communication budget (4223) for 2020/21 that could be used should the committee approve the purchase of the noticeboard.

Agenda item 9

MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

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Date: 25.03.2021

Report to Community Affairs Committee 29th March 2021

Subject: Monmouth Music Festival 2021

Prepared by: Caitlin Williams

<u>Introduction</u>

Unfortunately, Monmouth Music Festival for 2021 has been cancelled as a result of the current COVID-19 restrictions. The Festival Committee is hopeful that the festival will return bigger and better in 2022.

Proposal

In light of the above announcement and following a very difficult 18 months for the residents of Monmouth, the committee may be minded to consider approaching the festival committee regarding a smaller event later in the year when restrictions will hopefully be relaxed entirely. This could be an evening of music, the reintroduction of the busking festival on Monnow Street or a showcase of musicians from the schools. The committee could contribute to the funding of such an event from the Community Grants 2021-22 or Contributions if there were sufficient funds.

COVID-19 restrictions

At present, there are still strict restrictions in place that would prevent any event taking place. It is also difficult to know when restrictions in Wales will allow for an event to happen. As such, any suggestions will need to be well planned and organised and able to take place at short notice. Outside events are likely to happen before indoor but then there are issues with weather reliability.

Conclusion

Members may feel that organising an event in the current climate is not wise and this may be true. Focussing on the needs of the residents of Monmouth, however, it may be beneficial to open the lines of communication with the festival committee to see whether there could be the potential of a smaller event in late summer/ autumn 2021.

Agenda item 10

MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Shire Hall Agincourt Square NP25 3DY

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Date: 23rd March 2021

Report to Community Affairs Committee 29.03.2021

Subject: Policing in Monmouth

Prepared by: Caitlin Williams on behalf of Cllr T Christopher

Cllr Christopher has requested the following agenda item for consideration by the Community Affairs Committee on 29th March 2021:

To consider and agree writing a letter to the Chief Inspector of Gwent Police regarding the lack of police presence in Monmouth on the weekend

This request follows Cllr Christopher's observations at the Two River Meadow on Sunday 21st March 2021.

Cllr Christopher attended Two River Meadow on the above date and found there to be a considerable amount of rubbish and drug paraphernalia in the area. He had a discussion with PCSO Joe Facchiano later in the day who told him that on the evening of Saturday 20th March 2021, there was a gathering of approximately 70 young people in Two River Meadow and at the Sports Ground. Unfortunately, on this occasion, PCSO Joe and his colleague were the only Officers in Monmouth and were, therefore, ill-equipped to deal and manage such a gathering.

Furthermore, during his time at the Two River Meadow, Cllr Christopher experienced a lack of social distancing with groups of people sitting on the benches.

Cllr Christopher is concerned that the lack of Police presence in the area, particularly on the weekend, is allowing anti-social behaviour in the town as well as a lack of enforcement for COVID-19 regulations.

Cllr Christopher would like the Community Affairs Committee to consider writing to the Chief Inspector to obtain an explanation as to why there is a lack of police presence in Monmouth and how this can be improved in the future. Cllr Christopher is keen to stress that this report is not intended to criticise those Officers that already attend the town regularly but instead to highlight the lack of provision and support these Officers have.