

# Monmouth Town Council

Mayor's Parlour,  
Shire Hall,  
Monmouth NP25 3DY

Tel: 01600 715662

Email: [townclerk@monmouth.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@monmouth.gov.uk)  
[www.monmouth.gov.uk](http://www.monmouth.gov.uk)



## COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

**Minutes of the meeting  
held on  
Monday 7 January 2008  
Community Room, Shire Hall**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst.  
Councillor Mrs S Chivers, Councillor J Fletcher, Councillor Mrs V Mitchell  
Councillor Mrs A Were and Cllr Mrs S White

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor Mrs MC Atkins, Sarah Robson-Town Clerk,  
County Councillors Eric Saxon and Simon Haworth

A presentation was given at the commencement of the meeting by Councillor Saxon in relation to recent developments with the CCTV system in Monmouthshire. A new strategy group has been set up initially for County Councillors only, but it has since broadened its base to include members of the four Town Councils who participate in the scheme. The first meeting of the group was held on 29<sup>th</sup> November and it was agreed that monthly meetings would be held until the group was established and after that quarterly meetings of the User Group would be held. The aim of the group is to examine the failings to date and to develop the system and see the system grow. It was recognised that communication has been the biggest failing in the past. Councillor Saxon confirmed that at present there is no representative from the Police Authority on the panel but felt that this was something in time that could be included. A new officer has been appointed at MCC, Mr Chris Norman, he is an ex Police Inspector and brings a lot of knowledge and also inside contacts to the post. He has been quick to identify problems and produce a draft strategy to look at the future of the system, removing blocks and finding a way forward.

Members voiced their concern that the camera quality must be improved to ensure that film footage could be used for obtaining prosecutions. There was re-assurance that software upgrades and camera development was available and that this would be something for the group to consider ensuring that the system was effective and efficient.

A permanent loan by The Police of a van installed with a mobile CCTV unit is proving very successful and this offers a great deal of flexibility in 'hot spot' areas.

Members asked if there are statistics available as evidence that cameras do reduce crime. Councillor Saxon reported that the Police have provided information on current 'hot spots' with a view to ensure that the cameras are sited in the best locations.

Councillor Mrs Dewhurst advised the County Councillors that this committee would not be making any decisions but would await the outcome of the findings by the strategy group.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

AGENDA ITEM	DETAILS	ACTION
72.	<b><u>To Receive Declaration of Interest of Items on the Agenda:</u></b> None Received	
73.	<b><u>To Receive Apologies for Absence:</u></b> Councillor T Christopher and Councillor R Hayward	
74.	<b><u>To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> And 26<sup>th</sup> November 2007:</u></b> The Minutes were approved and signed as correct	
75.	<b><u>To Receive Action Summary:</u></b> Wyesham Notice Board - Ongoing Invitation to Red Cross for Community Grant Scheme - Completed CSAT'S Antisocial Behaviour– Ongoing Alternative accommodation for Homemakers - Ongoing It was reported that the last sale of Homemakers went well with a visit from David Davies to show his support. Some concerns were expressed regarding the criteria of acceptance of furniture and this would be investigated	VM  SC SW AD  SW
76.	<b><u>To Receive Correspondence:</u></b> <b>Norman Lewis;</b> It was agreed that an update would be given on the situation with the closure of the Jobcentre and a response regarding the Green Light Initiative <b>Freeplay:</b> This would be looked at to see if there was any information relevant to Woodland View play area in Wyesham <b>Eisteddfod:</b> Not within the remit of the Committee <b>MCC Older Peoples Strategy:</b> This would be considered when community grant scheme applications. A letter to be written to MCC suggesting that a list of local potential beneficiaries should be contacted <b>Monmouthshire Health Alliance:</b> There was concern that this was outside the remit of the committee and outside its expertise. The letter would be taken forward to the next Monnow Vale Users Group for consideration <b>Webpage Invitation:</b> It was requested that a link be made to the Town Council webpage <b>LHB:</b> Request a copy of the Annual Report to be kept at the office <b>Royal Mail:</b> Consultation information to be checked on website. It was agreed that this would be brought to the meeting of OVV on 17 <sup>th</sup> January for further discussion. Also it was agreed that Councillor Mrs Webb would be contacted in her capacity as Chair of a select committee at MCC that deal with these issues. A letter should be sent to the Royal Mail to clarify consultation dates and express serious concerns about the lack of information and the timescale of the consultation.	AD  VM  Town Clerk ALL  Town Clerk  AD/TC  Town Clerk  Town Clerk  AW AD  SW  Town Clerk

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

77.	<b><u>To confirm payment of Connect 2 Banner of £160.00 from Community Contingency Budget:</u></b> This was agreed and confirmed.	
78.	<b><u>To discuss report from Community Health Council re Gwent GP Out of Hours Service:</u></b> The committee would like to know how the free car service is being publicised (see 10.3) as per the report. A letter should be sent to request this information	Town Clerk
79.	<b><u>To consider presentation given at Full Council meeting regarding the services available at Monnow Vale Social &amp; Healthcare Facility:</u></b> Members expressed their disappointment at the presentation from the Manager of Monnow Vale. The information provided on services available was useful but there was dissatisfaction with the level of nursing provided in The Minor Injuries Unit. It is hoped that more effective communication will continue via the Council's representation at the User Group Meetings. Hopefully residents' concerns can be addressed without adverse publicity. Whilst the Committee would like it noted that it is very supportive of the service provided at the facility, there are still concerns regarding poor communication	AD/TC
80.	<b><u>To agree misc expenses for Christmas Event:</u></b> The committee wished to express it's thanks to Geoff Harris for his special efforts with the stage, sound and lighting and agreed to make a donation of £50.00 towards his expenses.	Town Clerk
81.	<b><u>To organise Part 2 of Community Grants Scheme Awards:</u></b> The committee want to invite applications through advertising in the press and the local radio. It was agreed that the closing date would be 8 <sup>th</sup> February and that applications would be assessed on the morning of Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> February by the committee. There is an amount of £3050.00 remaining to distribute to local organisations	Town Clerk
82.	<b><u>To review Christmas Event</u></b> The Christmas event was very well received despite the very poor attendance by Councillors. The impressive number of other volunteers have been thanked via local press, the radio and the notice board	
83.	<b><u>To agree content of Press Release</u></b> Information in the press release will include an invitation for applications for the Community Grant Scheme	Town Clerk
84.	<b><u>Any other Business:</u></b> Members requested that a list of correspondence and an action review be sent out with the agenda for future meetings. The members were asked for support to provide financial assistance for the purchase of 'Modbury' bags as a replacement for plastic bags which would be available for purchase at smaller retail outlets in town. The farmers market is offering £300.00 and would appreciate a donation of £500.00. The request was refused and it was suggested that the Environment Committee should be approached and the Community Grant Scheme.	

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

	It was agreed to contact members of the Nairobi support project which Monmouth Comprehensive are undertaking for an update	<b>AD</b>
<b>85.</b>	<b><u>To Agree Next Meeting Date:</u></b> Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2008 at 7.00pm	
<b>Meeting Closed at 9.00 pm</b>		

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_