

# Monmouth Town Council

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## COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the meeting  
held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2009 at 7.00pm  
in Market Hall, Priory Street, Monmouth**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst,  
Councillor G Bright, Councillor Mrs S Chivers, Councillor T Christopher,  
Councillor J Fletcher and Councillor Mrs B Smith

A presentation was given by Helen Wragg from Monmouth Film School. They are in their fourth summer of film making and they have already made 19 films using a 7 /24 age group from all three secondary schools in Monmouth. Through the year they make documentaries and the committee was given samples of DVD's. They are very keen to film ad hoc if the Town Council needs anything recording and often on a partnership basis with MonTV. They meet every Thursday at HMSG.

AGENDA ITEM		ACTION
93.	<b>To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda:</b> Councillor Mrs Dewhurst declared a personal interest in agenda item 98.	
94.	<b>To receive apologies for absence:</b> Councillor M Jones and Councillor Mrs S White	
95.	<b>To approve and sign minutes of the previous meeting dated 9<sup>th</sup> February 2009:</b> The minutes were confirmed correct and signed	
96.	<b>To review Action Summary:</b> Noted <b>Cowlins Lane:</b> A request to the MOD to suggest that delivery vehicles are encouraged to use the Inglis Bridge entrance and a request for an update regarding the closure of the gate. Further monitoring will take place by members. Also a reminder to Licensing Dept MCC that taxis should be advised not to use this road. <b>Hi Visibility Jacket:</b> It was agreed that the cost of a new jacket to replace the one that went missing should be taken from the Christmas Budget	Clerk

<p>97.</p>	<p><b>To receive correspondence:</b> Noted</p> <p><b>1. Local Health Board –Repeat Prescriptions Leaflet</b>  A response had already been forwarded offering the committee’s comments on the leaflet. It was noted that some of these had been taken on board.</p> <p><b>12. Heddlu Gwent Police: Speeding on A40 50mph zone.</b>  A letter was requested suggesting that the preliminary enquiries to measure speed could be taken at the Wye Bridge. Other observations could be made from Portal Road from on top of the Gibraltar Tunnels. It was agreed that a request for information about what use the cameras at the traffic lights are? The members wanted the Police to understand the urgency of the situation with an accident waiting to happen.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>98.</p>	<p><b>To discuss proposed Summer Play Activities and consider the committee’s financial contribution:</b>  The committee confirmed its original decision to allocate £3000.00 for this scheme. The members would like to suggest to MCC that the Development Officers from the Housing Associations and also Bridges are contacted, as it is believed that they intend to run independent play schemes, with a view to some co-operation. The committee asked whether the contribution could be used to fund an under 8’s scheme instead of as a subsidy to reduce costs for other activities. The members agreed to monitor this years’ activities and report back after the summer. The letter should also include a reminder that Attik is part of MCC’s arrangements for the activities in the summer scheme and that the financial contribution by the Town Council should be taken into account.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>99.</p>	<p><b>To consider request from Action 50 plus for additional funding for Shopmobility scheme in Monmouth:</b>  The committee voted in favour of using the balance of the Contingency budget in the sum of £414.00 to contribute towards the feasibility study for Shopmobility. It was conditional that there are regular progress reports at the committee meetings and that a copy of the final study is made available.</p> <p>For: 4                      Against: 2                      Abstentions: 0</p>	<p>Clerk/AD</p>

<p><b>100.</b></p>	<p><b>To review action taken in relation to the request for Jobcentre services in Monmouth:</b>  Members discussed their recent visit to present the petition of nearly 500 signatures with accompanying evidence to The National Assembly in Cardiff. The six Committee members who were able to go, were made very welcome and were shown round the building after a detailed explanation of the petition process. Mike German AM, Nick Ramsay AM and a member of the Petitions management were very helpful in clarifying how the matter could be relevant to the Senedd's policy on Employment and Skills. The petition will be considered formally on 30<sup>th</sup> March by the WAG Petitions Committee. Until then more evidence of hardship caused by the closure of Monmouth's Jobcentre is eligible to accompany the petition.  There has not been a response yet from S.E.Wales Jobcentreplus in Cardiff or the Jobcentreplus Chief Executive in London to our request for a facility in Monmouth one day a week. It was agreed that the next action be a letter to Mr David Davies MP with all of the information to date and ask him how he intends to get involved and help the committee. Also a letter to Mr Nick Ramsay AM to use his offices to undertake research about closures of other jobcentres in Wales.</p>	<p><b>Clerk/AD</b></p>
<p><b>101.</b></p>	<p><b>To consider consultation document for the provision of Public Passenger Transport Services ( closing date Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2009):</b>  The member's immediate response was a request to provide earlier and later bus services to Newport, Hereford and Abergavenny and planned connections with trains to Cardiff and London. Mr Ray Bassett will be asked for detailed advice at an informal meeting with Councillors Christopher and Mrs Dewhurst before completing the form.</p>	<p><b>TC/AD</b></p>
<p><b>102.</b></p>	<p><b>To review and agree committee's aims and objectives for 'Shaping our Future' – the council's four year plan:</b>  The aims and objectives were agreed (see attached appendices)</p>	
<p><b>103.</b></p>	<p><b>To consider measures to develop involvement with Monmouth Carnival:</b>  Councillors Fletcher and Bright expressed support and offered to help on the Carnival Committee with Councillors Christopher and Mrs Dewhurst</p>	<p><b>GB/JF/TC/AD</b></p>

<b>104.</b>	<p><b>To confirm arrangements for the Community Grants celebration evening:</b>  Councillor Mrs Smith and Mrs Chivers and Mrs Olive Bright will liaise with the Clerk (on Mon 30<sup>th</sup>) to organise provision of tea, coffee, juice and light refreshments. Councillors Christopher, Jones and Mrs Dewhurst will organise the short presentations and exhibitions by each of the groups</p>	<b>BS/SC/GB/AD/TC/AD /MJ and Clerk</b>
<b>105.</b>	<p><b>To review expenditure for 2008/2009 and consider earmarking reserves for capital projects:</b>  The expenditure had been reviewed under Item 99. There were no balances left from the budget to be allocated to reserves.</p>	
<b>106.</b>	<p><b>To agree contents of Press Release:</b>  Jobcentre  Community Grants  Action 50+ Shopmobility Funding</p>	<b>AD</b>
<b>107.</b>	<p><b>To agree items of business for forthcoming meetings:</b>  Jobcentre action  Carnival planning</p>	
<b>108.</b>	<p><b>To confirm date of next meeting:</b>  <b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at 7pm</b></p>	

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm**

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

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