

Monmouth Town Council

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COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

**Minutes of the Community Affairs meeting
held on
Monday 27th July 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, Councillor Mrs J Gunter, Councillor Mrs J Hall,
Councillor C Munslow, Councillor Mrs B Smith, Councillor Mrs A Were and
Councillor Mrs S White

Ann Jones, Principal Librarian and Fiona Ashley, Reading and Youth Manager, spoke regarding the temporary move of the Library from the Rolls Hall to the Leisure Centre. A grant of £200,000 has been received from CyMAL to refurbish the library for the first time since it moved to the Rolls Hall in 1992. It will be completely remodelled to include:- a quick pick micro library in the foyer with popular fiction, quick access computers and a drinks machine. The main library will have defined areas for young people, small children and talking books. There will be a family local history centre on the stage area with improved disabled access to all areas. The shelving will be fully moveable to allow use of the space for author visits and other events. A community room will be available for hire and private study along with wifi and laptops hire. The extended computer suite will be used as a drop-in centre for jobseekers, possibly with Jobcentre staff attending as at Caldicot. The library will close on August 3rd and re-open upstairs at the Leisure Centre on August 10th. Books not on display can be ordered. It will be open six days a week instead of the now five.

The Committee offered any assistance it could, possibly with publicity.

AGENDA ITEM		ACTION
25.	Standing orders were suspended to allow item 25 to be brought forward and included in the above discussion To discuss the move of the library from the Rolls Hall to the Leisure Centre:	
	Standing Orders were reinstated.	
16.	To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda: None received	

17.	<p>To receive apologies for absence: Councillor M Jones</p>	
18.	<p>To approve minutes of the previous meeting dated 15th June 2009 The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved and signed.</p>	
19.	<p>To Review Action Summary: All Actions complete except for the ongoing matters listed: Jobcentre: Continue to record problems encountered re closure Speeding on A40: Write to Roger Sweet with info re speed sign and suggest site by garage, in order to gain evidence of speeding needed by Police and WAG. Sign can be used blank to record speeds of passing vehicles and then with display so that difference can be monitored.</p>	AD/CM
20.	<p>To receive correspondence: All correspondence noted: No 6: Shelter Cymru Funding request: Send Community Grant application form. No 9: Mayor of Landerneau France: Invitation to take part in exhibition and celebration of European fortified bridges Autumn 2010. Further research for agenda item at next meeting.</p>	Clerk SW/ CM/ JG/SC/JH
21.	<p>To review progress on Jobcentre and agree further action: The WAG Petitions Committee agreed that the replies it has received from Jane Hutt (WAG Dept. Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills) and Tony McNulty (UK Dept Work and Pensions), are inadequate. They will write directly to Jobcentre Plus Wales to ask about Monmouth's share of the additional funds. They need any additional evidence from the Committee by September 11th for the Petitions Committee's next session on September 22nd. Committee members to bring any further examples for collation at next meeting on 1st September It was agreed to write to Jobcentre Wales for clarification on plans for the Monmouth Library and urge inclusion of a signing on facility for Jobseekers. Councillor Mrs Were to clarify whether Monmouth Jobcentre clients using Ross and Coleford may have to still sign on in Abergavenny.</p>	ALL AD AW
22.	<p>To consider criteria for 'Secret Millionaire' grant application: Councillor Mrs Smith has been researching this and reported a £5000 top limit. The Town Council should qualify but the deadline is 21/12/09. It was agreed to bring ideas for projects to the next meeting.</p>	ALL

23.	<p>To discuss a Civic Awards Scheme: There are likely to be problems getting sufficient sponsorship for the c £850 total cost and suitable candidates. The committee considered that once per council term would be more achievable. It was agreed to investigate the opportunities for sponsorship.</p>	SW/AW
24.	<p>To identify gaps in provision of play facilities and discuss Summer Play Activities and form action plan: Wyesham: Councillor Mrs White to obtain plans from MCC of who owns what open space to clarify the situation. Councillor Mrs Gunter will check with County Councillor Mrs Hacket Pain re her work with parents for play facilities at Woodland View Osbaston: Councillor Mrs White to obtain plans of what land is owned by MCC. Overmonnow: Councillor Mrs Chivers to cost seat and replacement equipment instead of roundabout for King's Fee. Osbaston School: Grounds for under 5s play equipment Councillor Mrs Hall and Councillor Mrs Dewhurst to record need. Carbonne Close: Councillor Fletcher to record requests for improved seating and play equipment and cost them. Could space at Overmonnow be open for use in holidays? Area behind Elstob Way and Henry V Drive may be suitable. Councillor Mrs Chivers to record requests and investigate possible open spaces.</p> <p>All proposals to be brought to the next meeting</p> <p>Summer play activities. Monmouth has places for 24 children aged 5-7 compared with Chepstow with 80 places for children 5-11. Free swimming and specific skills activities are also available.</p> <p>Councillor Mrs Were will reply to David Davies MP letter, clarifying funding history.</p> <p>It was also agreed that clarification of the funding history and reasoning for the decision to be included in Press Release report of this meeting.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that in order to liaise more successfully with MCC an invitation to the Manager of the Leisure Centre, County Councillor Mrs Hacket-Pain and Mike Moran would be sent to attend a meeting before November.</p> <p>Consider holding a drop-in session for the public to suggest how the budget should be spent next year.</p> <p>Discuss at next F & P as a proposal from AD</p>	SW JG SW SC JH/AD JF SC ALL AW AD Clerk AD

26.	<p>To review the Carnival: The Carnival was a success in spite of the weather, the market stalls were interesting but there needs to be a way to draw people onto Chippenham for next year.</p> <p>Discuss at the first meeting in 2010 the possibility of writing to voluntary groups and businesses to encourage more participation.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to register the large floats on the previous day to reduce confusion over parking.</p> <p>Appeal for photos of previous carnivals for an exhibition via a letter to the Beacon</p> <p>Write a Press Release to thank participants and organisers</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>SW</p> <p>AD</p>
27.	<p>To agree contents of press release: Library move, Summer Play Activities and the Carnival</p>	<p>AD</p>
28.	<p>To agree items of business for forthcoming meetings: Summer playscheme proposals</p>	
29.	<p>To confirm date of next meeting: Tuesday 1st September 2009 at 7.00 pm.</p>	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed: _____

Date: _____