

# Monmouth Town Council

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## COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

### Minutes of the Community Affairs meeting held on 10 January 2011 Market Hall Priory Street Monmouth

**PRESENT:** Chairman Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst.

Councillor G Bright  
Councillor T Christopher  
Councillor Mrs J Gunter  
Councillor M Jones  
Councillor Mrs B Smith  
Councillor Mrs S White.

Councillor Mrs S Chivers  
Councillor J Fletcher  
Councillor Mrs J Hall  
Councillor C Munslow  
Councillor Mrs A Were

Donna Rose and Amanda Peters MCC gave a brief summary and PowerPoint presentation of the Draft Children and Young People's Plan, in order to give time for questions. It was made clear that individual responses were quite acceptable, rather than simply completing the questionnaire.

Members asked questions about the likelihood of the Plan being altered in response to comments and about how the work would be scrutinized.

It was agreed that our local experience is valuable and pinpointing what we deem to be essential and effective in present practice will be reported back.

AGENDA ITEM		ACTION
73.	<b>To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda</b>  Councillor Mrs White Agenda Item 81	
74.	<b>To receive apologies for absence</b>  None received	
75.	<b>To approve minutes of the meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> November 2010</b>  The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed as a correct record	

76.	<p><b>To review the Action Summary</b></p> <p>It was agreed that the new layout is much easier to read. The only action outstanding, rather than 'on going' was the request from The Open Spaces Society for local suggestions on the new definition of an open space. After discussion, it was agreed that ideas could be put in more depth via Environmental Affairs Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan under 'Items for Discussion at the following meeting'</p>	Town Clerk
77.	<p><b>To Review Committee's expenditure to date</b></p> <p>The Chair thanked members for their generosity in giving mince pies and sweets to the adult and Comprehensive School brass bands, rather than claiming as expenses. This was one of the factors in bringing down the cost of this year's Christmas candlelit event.</p>	Town Clerk
78.	<p><b>To receive correspondence</b></p> <p>All correspondence noted</p> <p>Number 5: Sophie Whiting: Gwent Police/response from David Cummings re car parking issues. The Committee agreed to assemble a list of areas where they have witnessed car parking restrictions being ignored and forward it to Ms Whiting. Also request Clerk to invite her to a Community meeting.</p> <p>Number 6: Send Community Grants Scheme details</p> <p>Number 8: MCC Mike Moran Fields in Trust. Members confirmed that no other fields had been nominated, apart from the Town Field beside the Rowing Club. In order to clarify the perimeter precisely, the Town Clerk is requested to research via Land Registry web site, or hopefully via hard copy obtained recently.</p> <p>Number 10: Gwent Police Wings to Fly Send details of Community Grants</p>	<p>TOWN CLERK /SW</p> <p>TOWN CLERK</p> <p>TOWN CLERK</p> <p>TOWN CLERK</p>
79.	<p><b>To receive reports from working parties</b></p> <p>i. <b>Carnival/Festival:</b> Enquiries about this year's Carnival (Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2011) have been coming in ever since the last one. JG and AW would try to attend next Festival/Carnival meeting, 13<sup>th</sup> Jan</p> <p>ii. <b>To receive and report to CSATS working party:</b> SW had been unable to attend last meeting. She would liaise with Sophie Whiting (Co-ordinator) over car parking issues. No report from Cllr Hackett Pain. No further matters to add. <i>see Item 78/5</i></p>	<p>JG/AW</p> <p>TOWN CLERK /SW</p>

<p><b>80.</b></p>	<p><b>To discuss progress with Job Centre service in Monmouth</b></p> <p>Having had no response from MCC Paul Matthews, to the letter dated September 28th 2010 and its follow-up, we have now received a full apology. This was received by return, to the chair's e-mail sent today. (Both included in Correspondence). The Committee were very pleased to hear that Mr Matthews is meeting with representatives of the Department of Work and Pensions next week. He 'will continue to do all we can to support unemployed people in Monmouth'.</p> <p>A reply should be sent from this committee.</p>	<p><b>TOWN CLERK/AD</b></p>
<p><b>81.</b></p>	<p><b>To discuss possible closure of Trevor Bowen Court</b></p> <p>Councillor Fletcher summarised the concerns of many of the residents. A note had also been received (Late Correspondence number 9) It is clearly understood that the present accommodation is below acceptable standards e.g. shared bathrooms. However there is concern that the possibilities of improvement rather than demolition and rebuild, are not being given thorough consideration. Residents are being interviewed, meanwhile to find out only, where they would prefer to be moved. An invitation to visit has been received from one of the residents. A phone call has also been received from Mr David Morris of Monmouthshire Housing Association, offering to meet the Committee (Late Correspondence )</p> <p>It was agreed that Councillor Fletcher would co-ordinate a visit to one of the bed sits by local ward town councillors</p> <p>It was also agreed to invite David Morris to a full Town Council meeting, (14.02.11) rather than a committee meeting</p>	<p><b>JF</b></p> <p><b>TOWN CLERK</b></p>
<p><b>82.</b></p>	<p><b>To review the Christmas event</b></p> <p>Members agreed that the event had been very successful and the chair thanked everyone who had worked so hard, particularly taking on the Road Closure training as well. It had been a real community event. Members checked that all local volunteers and professionals had been properly thanked. Numbers were down, mainly due to the weather and musical participants being older, i.e. secondary age brass players rather than primary age choirs. Next year we hope to involve both. The emergency retreat under the Shire Hall arches because of the bitter wind, had meant that passers by had felt excluded. Next year either use the more open 'Punch House end' of the Shire Hall or weather-permitting, use the cobbled area around the tree.</p>	

83	<p><b>To discuss and finalise arrangements and agree booking of the Priory for the Community Grants Scheme.</b></p> <p>Chair in consultation with the Town Clerk had extended the closing date by a week, as many groups' meetings had been postponed due to the snow. Dates now agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ end of Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February last day to receive applications</li> <li>▪ 9.30am Wed 9<sup>th</sup> February Committee members meet to allocate monies</li> <li>▪ 24<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> March Presentation Evening</li> </ul> <p>(Preference for Shire Hall rather than the Priory, depending on costs and availability.)</p>	<b>TOWN CLERK /AD</b>
84.	<p><b>To agree method of replying to MCC's Draft Children Young People's Plan</b></p> <p>It was agreed that all those who wanted to respond to the draft document, would do so to the chair by Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January who would collate and forward to MCC by 7<sup>th</sup> February. The clerk is requested to e-mail the draft document to all members, (except GB and MJ) There were enough hard copies for those not on e-mails who required a copy.</p>	<b>AD</b> <b>TOWN CLERK</b>
85.	<p><b>To discuss ward notice boards and communication with each ward</b></p> <p>It was agreed that one member would be responsible for each ward notice board and display Town Council business and meeting schedules. Town Clerk requested to supply coloured copies.</p> <p>Wyesham (outside the shop) Cllr Mrs Gunter  Osbaston (outside the primary school) Cllr Munslow  Drybridge (Kingswood Road) Cllr M Jones  Overmonnow does not have a notice board. Cllr White will investigate the siting for one.</p>	<b>JG/CW/ MJ/SW TOWN CLERK</b>
86.	<p><b>To agree Press release</b></p> <p>Thanks for Christmas event  Parking actions  Day in the Life reminder</p>	<b>AD</b>
87.	<p><b>Items for discussion for future meetings</b></p> <p>Notice board for Overmonnow and communication with each ward  Community Grants</p>	
88.	<p><b>To confirm date of next meeting</b></p> <p>Allocation of Grants meeting 9<sup>th</sup> Feb at 9.30am  21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2011 Market Hall 7.00pm</p>	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm