

Monmouth Town Council

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Environmental Affairs Committee

**Minutes of the meeting
held on 23 January 2006
In the
Community Room Shire Hall.**

Present: Councillor R Bond, Councillor G F W Buckland, Councillor T Christopher, Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst and Councillor R Hayward.

In Attendance: Mr David Cummings Chair of Monmouth Chamber of Commerce.

In the absence of the chairman Councillor R Bond chaired the meeting.

Agenda Item	Details	Action
1.	<u>To Receive Declarations of Interest on Items on the Agenda:</u> None received	
2.	<u>To Receive Apologies fro Absence:</u> Councillor D Stevens, Councillor Mrs C Atkins The Mayor Councillor Mrs S Chivers, <u>Councillor J Fletcher, Councillor L Robson and</u> Councillor Mrs S White.	
3.	<u>To Approve Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on: 12 December 2005.</u> The minutes were approved correct.	
4.	<u>Town Clerks Report:</u> Coach Parking: The Town Clerk has written a letter to the Headmaster of the boys school in regard to coach parking in Wyebriidge Street, we are awaiting a reply from the Headmaster.	Town Clerk: As we have not received a reply to our original letter from the headmaster please send a follow up letter to the Headmaster informing him that the Town Council has for many years tried to resolve this particular problem and that we would welcome any comments or actions that he would like to put forward.

	<p>Somerfield: The Town Clerk has received a response from Somerfield in regard to the signage in their car park. Somerfield pointed out in their reply that any concerns about signage in their car park should have been raised at the planning stage. It was pointed out by members that the Town Council had raised concerns about the traffic flow into the car park at the planning stage.</p>	<p>Councillor R Bond to approach the Area Manager of Somerfield to discuss our concerns.</p>
5.	<p>Correspondence: Correspondence was discussed during the Town Clerk's report.</p>	
	<p>It was proposed by Councillor Hayward and seconded by Councillor Christopher that item 8b; to discuss the format of meeting re Christmas lights for the year 2006 be discussed next, so that Mr David Cummings Chairman of the Monmouth Chamber of Commerce could have an input. This was agreed.</p>	
8b)	<p>There was a discussion regarding the Christmas lights in which Mr Cummings was advised that the Town Council had set aside an amount of money to purchase new lights The Town Council desire that the traders of the town would have more of an input, Mr Cummings agreed to carryout a survey of traders to establish who would be interested in working in partnership with the Town Council on this project. It was agreed that a sub-committee be established with members of the Town Council and traders. It was also suggested to Mr Cummings that the council would also like to encourage traders to make a financial contribution to this project.</p>	<p>Mr Cummings will report back to the committee the results of his survey by 6 March 2006. He will also forward a copy of the proposed survey to the Town Clerk.</p>
	<p>It was decided by the committee to continue discussing Item 8.</p>	
8a)	<p>The provision of Loop Induction system for the hearing impaired. Councillor Christopher informed the committee that in his opinion the council are not adhering to the Disability Discrimination Act. He thought that perhaps the Monmouthshire County Council might have the responsibility for providing such a system as they are owners of the building, although the Town Council have users rights. Councillor Christopher informed the committee that he had contacted The Royal National Institute for the Deaf. (RNID) They would be willing to make a site visit to advise on suitable solutions to the poor acoustics of the meeting room.</p>	<p>Town Clerk: To write to Sarah Codling expressing our concerns about the lack of a Hearing Loop. In the letter will you please invite a representative from the County Council to attend the proposed visit from RNID.</p>

8c)	To review water irrigation system and watering costs. It was agreed to agenda this item for the meeting between the Street Decorations Committee and the Monmouth Flower project working party to be arranged for 13 February 2006.	
6.	<p><u>To Consider Committee Budget for Next three Years:</u> Item 6. To consider committee budget for the next 3 years. Councillor Hayward explained to the committee that the Finance and Policy committee would like the council's committees to think of projects that maybe viable for the council to undertake in the future. Members will think of projects to submit to the Finance and Policy committee.</p>	
7.	<p><u>To Consider the Renewal of the Monmouth Flower Project Agreement:</u> The committee decided that a meeting should be arranged with the working party to discuss their plans for the coming year and to receive a report on their activities during last year. A meeting date of 13 February 2006 was proposed and agreed by the committee.</p>	
9.	<p><u>To Receive Treasurers Report:</u> Nothing to report.</p>	
10.	<p><u>Any Other Business:</u> Councillor Hayward reported that there is a dropped kerb in a parking bay in Whitecross Street. The committee agreed that a letter should be written to MCC highlighting that it is necessary to put lines on the road to stop people from parking where the dropped kerb is. The present situation means that disabled access across the road at the point of the dropped kerb is being hindered due to cars parking there. Councillor Hayward also asked that a letter be sent to MCC asking for costing for keeping old people in homes for one year. The reason for this request was that people think that the hospital should be turned in to a home for the elderly when it closes. And at the moment we do not have any idea of costing for any such project that we can discuss with anyone who wishes the hospital to be made in to a home for the elderly.</p>	<p>Town Clerk: To write letter requesting further information, please consult with Councillor R Hayward.</p> <p>Town Clerk to write to MCC to request what the policy is regarding the outsourcing of care to the elderly. Information is needed on the criteria of what the costings were based on, and whether or not this was the cheaper option.</p>
Meeting Closed at 8.25 pm		

Date: _____

Signature: _____