

Monmouth Town Council

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Environmental Affairs Committee

Minutes of the Meeting Held on 6 March 2006.

Present: Chairman Councillor D Stevens, The Mayor Councillor Mrs S Chivers, Councillor R Bond, Councillor G F W Buckland, Councillor T Christopher, Councillor Mrs A Dewhurst, Councillor J Fletcher, Councillor R Hayward, Councillor Mrs V Mitchell and Councillor Mrs S White.

In Attendance: Ms A Baker and Mrs K Lunn Monmouth Flower Project

Agenda Item	Details	Action
1.	To Receive Declarations of Interest on Items on the Agenda: Councillor Christopher declared an interest in items 10 & 11.	
2.	To Receive Apologies for Absence: Councillor Mrs C Atkins and Councillor Mrs C Pearce.	
3.	To Approve Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 23 January 2006: The minutes were duly approved. Unanimous.	
	The chairman proposed and it was agreed to discuss item 6 next.	
6.	To Consider Renewal of Contract to Monmouth Flower Project: Annette Baker was invited to give an oral report on the working group's activities for the past year and to outline their aims and objectives for the coming year. Ms Baker informed the committee that last year they had a team of 8 volunteers but has had promises of help from 11 people for this year. Annette went on to explain that the working parties biggest problem was the watering of flower tubs and raised bed displays. To resolve this problem it was suggested that the Town Council purchase a van so that a water container could be transported from place to place. Ms Baker went on to explain that if a van was purchased the maintenance of the vehicle would be undertaken by R Griffiths' garage who would provide free labour and only charge cost price for parts that needed replacing on the van, it was also suggested that sponsors could be promoted on the van.	

<p>6. continued</p>		
<p>4.</p>	<p>Town Clerks Report (For Information Only): The Town Clerk reported that she has received a letter from the Monmouth School for Boys in relation to the problem of traffic congestion in Wyebridge Street. Letter read to meeting,</p>	<p>No Further action to be taken.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Correspondence: The committee received a letter from Osbaston Church in Wales Primary School, in regard to a traffic survey that the children had undertaken within the town. The chairman suggested and it was agreed unanimously that a letter of congratulation be sent to the head teacher of the school.</p> <p>Letter from Mr Jim Keetch Tree Officer for the Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) regarding the erection of a fence around the</p>	<p>Town Clerk to write letter of congratulation.</p>

	Drybridge Park play area was also deferred to item 08.	
7.	<p>To Discuss Monmouth in Bloom and Festival of Lights: Councillor Mrs Chivers proposed that a separate meeting be arranged for this item, this was agreed. Councillor Mrs Dewhurst proposed that Mr David Cummings Chair of the Chamber of Commerce be invited to this meeting, this was agreed.</p>	Town Clerk to arrange Street Decorations Committee meeting.
8.	<p>To Consider Remaining Funds from 2005/2006 to be earmarked for Deferred Capital Spending: The chairman read a brief outline from the report by Zurich Insurance on the play area at Drybridge Park. The report highlighted the following; The removal of the space disc, the safety surface is full of moss, the safety matting around the climbing frame needs a fresh supply of sand, and the bark around the play area also needs renewing. The rest of the play equipment also needs repainting. The chairman proposed that £5,000 be vired from the match funding budget to town maintenance to carry out the necessary refurbishment of the play area. The committee agreed this proposal unanimously.</p> <p>Next the committee discussed the letter from Jim Keetch, Tree Officer of the MCC in regard to the Oak tree in Oak Crescent in Wyesham. To protect the ancient tree the MCC would like to erect a protective fence around the roundabout where the tree is situated, by undertaking this work it will prevent heavy vehicles parking under the tree, which is damaging the roots. The department responsible for this area is the Housing department, Mr Keetch explained in his letter that MCC Housing department did not have sufficient funds in their budget to meet the full cost of the fencing, and therefore he was approaching the Town Council for financial help, and suggested a match funded project. It was stated that the MCC have 2 choices of fencing; a steel fence costing £7,000 or a timber fence costing £3,350. The committee agreed unanimously that the council should match fund a steel fence, as it was felt that a steel fence would be more secure.</p>	
9.	<p>To discuss upgrading and refurbishment equipment at Drybridge Park play area. Discussed in item 08.</p>	
10.	<p>To Discuss the Position of Advertising Boards and Shop Displays Within the Town: Councillor Christopher explained to the meeting that he had approached the MCC with regard to this issue on behalf of the Monmouth Visually Impaired club (MONVIC). The Area General Manager for central Monmouthshire, Jenny Lewis</p>	Town Clerk to write to MCC supporting Jenny Lewis's letter.

<p>10. continued</p>	<p>had forwarded his complaint to the Highways department, who in turn promised to send letters to offending traders within the town asking them to remove their advertising boards and shop displays. As of today these letters had not been delivered. Councillor Christopher requested that a letter be sent from the town council to MCC to register their support for the removal of the offending advertising boards and shop displays. The committee agreed to this request.</p>	
<p>11.</p>	<p>To discuss the position of signage posts within the Drybridge ward. Councillor Christopher showed the committee a photograph of a signpost that partially blocks the pavement that leads to the Nature Park on the Rockfield Road. The committee agreed that a letter be sent to the highways department of MCC expressing the Town Council's concerns regarding the positioning of this sign post.</p>	<p>Councillor T Christopher will provide a photograph for the Town Clerk to send with the letter.</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>To Discuss Any Matters Arising: Councillor Mrs Dewhurst proposed that the signs on dog bins advising people to use carrier bags be removed, Councillor Dewhurst also proposed that the bag holders should also be removed.</p>	<p>Town Clerk to ask R Griffiths to remove bag holders.</p>
<p>13.</p>	<p>Treasurer's Report: The committee was given a brief overview of their budget. Monies remaining in budget £18,217.64p</p>	
<p>14..</p>	<p>Any other Business: Councillor Mrs Dewhurst informed the committee that she and Jenny Lewis are in the process of completing an application form for funding from the ANOB FOR THE Millennium Field. Councillor Dewhurst also asked the committee to write a letter to Jenny Lewis expressing our thanks to Jenny for her part in funding the new footpath that leads to the Skate park.</p>	
<p>15.</p>	<p>To Agree Next Meeting Date: Tuesday 18 April 2006</p>	
<p>Meeting Closed at 8.50 pm</p>		

Date: _____

Signature: _____